

Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...



WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

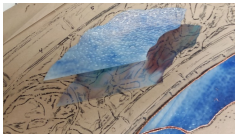
Chapel Update: Tiffany windows restoration and preservation

Dear Friends of Woodland,

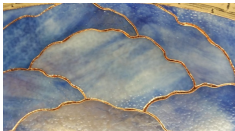
As we continue our pursuits of restoring and preserving the Chapel at Woodland, we would like to share with you the progress made on the restoration of the Tiffany windows. It was an exciting summer to see the signature Tiffany window removed from its opening where it has been encased for the past 115 years.



We are grateful for the expertise and care that BeauVerre/Riordan Studios in Middletown, Ohio has taken in the removal of 15 windows thus far in the Chapel. Visits to their studios have left many of our staff members in awe of the meticulous work they are doing to restore and preserve the windows.



As you can see, we have made significant progress. Woodland's needs are still great and we continue to reach out to all for support of our endeavors. Thanks to organizations, foundations and individuals like you, we have raised \$3,033,327 to dates towards a goal of \$5,000,000 for the restoration and preservation of Woodland's Entry: the Chapel, Administration Building and Entry Gates.



We humbly request that you consider a gift to Woodland to assist in the completion of this unique, historic and worthy restoration project.

Sincerely,
The Trustees of Woodland Cemetery, Arboretum and Foundation

Uncovered History of Woodland and the Chapel

The search for the history of Woodland is always ongoing and this time we found some undiscovered articles in The Dayton Herald newspapers in the late 19th century. While there are no photos or drawings, we get a sense of the projects from the writer's descriptive words. The articles first line states that "Woodland Cemetery is to have a new entrance on the road leading from Brown street."



***The Dayton Herald
Wednesday, July 14, 1886***

The design plans were put on display in a store window for all to see and review. "It promises [to be] one of the most elegant architectural improvements Dayton has yet had placed to her credit."

The goal was to build a new office for the superintendent and directors and also a small waiting room or chapel. And here we get our first taste of the writer's descriptive narrative. "The situation at the head of the avenue with the hills and rich foliage of the cemetery for a back ground, offers an unusually happy site for a picturesque building and evidently the designers have made the most of this opportunity." The writer goes on to describe the waiting room or chapel as 95 feet long and 20 feet wide. "The main part of the building will be of Dayton stone, freely trimmed with rich red sandstone. Just beneath the cornice mold which will be of copper, comes a long low frieze of inlaid work in stone of different colors."

He describes the belfry on the left of the Chapel along with the roof. "In this the bell will be placed, which gives notice of the approach of a funeral cortege. The roof will be of antique dark red tiles with cresting and finials of terra cotta." And here he describes the gates and the interior of the building. "Highly artistic wrought iron gates will close the driveway and pedestrian passages when required. The interior finish will be of hard wood throughout."

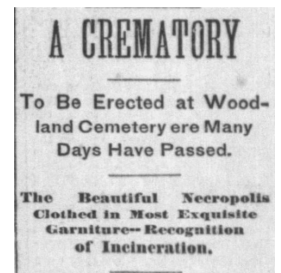
"In style of design the structure is novel and very attractive, being a free treatment of the Romanesque style, now so popular through the east, and which by the most cultivated architects and critics is pronounced the coming style for American architecture... The first introduction of this style of work in the city is in the new public library by the same architects, Messrs. Peters & Burns."

That article was written in July 1886 and much progress had been made from then to October of the same year when a Notice to Contractors was published asking for sealed proposals for "the erection and completion of a new entrance, with offices and waiting room at Woodland Cemetery."

Let's jump a decade ahead and find out what was being planned in June 1897.

This article states that the Woodland Cemetery Association were considering building a crematory due to the increase demand and advocacy of cremation. The Trustees visited the crematory in Cincinnati and afterwards began the initial steps toward building a crematory on site at Woodland.

"The chapel at the main entrance of the cemetery has many times proved itself inadequate to hold the crowds that have gathered to attend funeral services held there." And thus a new addition to the Chapel was being built at that time. The article goes on stating that a basement on the addition will be used as a vault and "the old vault will be abandoned." It also describes the elevator lift that will allow the raising and lowering of caskets from the basement to the Chapel. And lastly it states that the foundation of the basement has been built to allow retorts to be put in at any time and that this option would be completed in "a matter of a short time."



*The Dayton Herald
Saturday, June 5, 1897*



*The Dayton Herald
May 3, 1898*

Of course, we know that did not happen and Woodland would not receive its crematory until 1969 and it then being the first crematory in the city.

The last paragraph of this 1897 article gives a lovely description of our revered place. "Woodland cemetery is now sublimely beautiful. The smooth, rolling sward, as it stretches over the hill, the now white tombstones rising solemnly and reverently above it, and the pretty flowers, Nature's own adornments, all combine to make this necropolis one of exquisite beauty, a fitting memorial to those who sleep beneath the sod."

Moving forward eleven months and on May 3, 1898, the headlines tell us that Woodland is changing its Chapel yet again. This time bringing art to the building.

Now those were some headlines! And the beautiful descriptions of Woodland and its art continue to be printed.

"The natural advantages and position of Woodland Cemetery make it one of the most beautiful and picturesque in Ohio. Since the cemetery association was first organized more than half a century ago, improvements and additions to the surroundings have been made in keeping with the growing beauty of the hills, and the hallowed feeling of respect for the resting place of our relatives and friends."

By now, the Chapel addition has been completed and it now comfortably seats 150 persons. The "trap door" that was used to describe the elevator or bier was operated by an oil pump.

Probably the most shocking of news items found are the descriptions of the "new art windows" that were installed. We don't believe anyone knew that there was another window on the north side of the Chapel where the current Tiffany window is in place now. It was called "The Ascension" and we'll give you the article writer's description here.

THE ASCENSION.

"It is portrayed in mosaic glass in a most elegant and artistic manner. The colorings are rare and perfectly blended. The figures are formed of thousands of pieces of glass, fastened together by lead tubes winding in intricate curves and lines. The other windows have been changed to blend and harmonize. It is a beautiful and inspiring sight that meets the visitor's gaze upon stepping into the chapel. The window is in the rear of the pulpit, and the perfect formation of the large figures, so life like, impress one very firmly. Every detail of dress, hands and feet are vividly shown, and one could sit and admire the window for hours at a time. It is a work of art- "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

"The cost of the window was \$1,000 and was purchased of a large New York firm. This same company placed the magnificent windows in the Congressional Library at Washington, which have been admired by artists from every country in the world. Mr. Robert C. Schenck selected the purchased window after an inspection of examples of the art of window pictures in a number of large Eastern cities. It is certainly the most handsome and attractive in Dayton, and its addition to the cozy little chapel reflects great credit upon the Cemetery trustees."



This piece of art is called "The Ascension," and could represent what the original window may have looked like.

We did not find any additional articles regarding the Chapel until the interior was changed again in 1905. Now we have named the Tiffany Studio as the contractor of the updates to the Chapel. "Artisans of the Tiffany studio, of New York City, have completed the interior decoration of the mortuary chapel at Woodland Cemetery. Since April these artisans, encaustic and mosaic tile layers, stone workers, draughtsman, painters, decorators, etc. have been employed by a person whose name is withheld, in prosecuting his efforts to make the chapel the most unique and a artistic structure of the sort in this section of the country. Its hitherto plain and unvarnished interior has been magnificently elaborated upon, with splendid pictorial effect. Italian marble floors, paneled walls, oaken pews, hand painted ceilings and memorial windows, all of peculiarly agreeable design, separately and distinctly beautiful, yet delicately blended in an appealing color scheme unite to catch and delight the eye. It is estimated that nearly ten thousand dollars have been expended by the unknown builder."

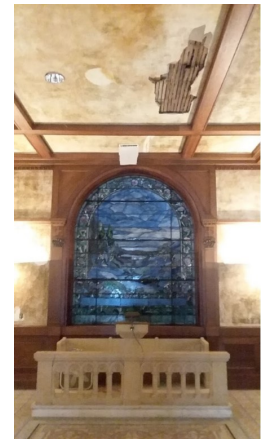


What we do know about these last few paragraphs are that it did cost \$1050.00 for the current signature Tiffany window as indicated by a receipt in our possession. The benefactor of the "re-decoration" was Henry Lowe of Lowe Brothers Paint Mfg. who re-decorated the Chapel in memory of his daughter, Marianna who passed away in 1903. We do have a quantity of the "oaken pews" and have restored two of them to their original finish. Unfortunately, the painted ceilings no longer exist but we are doing our best to return the Chapel to the "beautiful and inspiring site" that it once was. With your help, we are reaching our goal.

Sometime in the late 1980s/ early 1990s, (left) the Chapel once again sustained another "re-decoration." This time, all of the plaster walls that once were painted with frescoes were covered up with a wall covering and the frescoes were never seen again.

During the current restoration, (right) the wall coverings were removed and there was no visible sign of the once ornately painted frescoes on the walls.

Based on the historic photos we have of the Chapel showing the painted frescoes, we are working to recreate a stencil that will allow us to paint the frescoes back on the walls and ceiling.



Cemetery and Community Programs - CANCELED

Unfortunately, we have canceled all programming both at the cemetery and in the community through the end of the year, December 31, 2020.

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our normal tour schedule and community presentations in 2021.

We thank you for your continued support of Woodland and the programs we offer.

Walking and Virtual Tours at Woodland

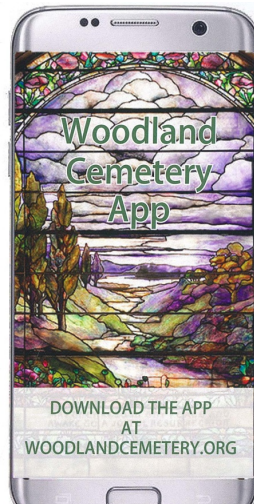
You can take your own walking tour at the cemetery or a virtual tour from the comfort of your couch by visiting our website at: woodlandcemetery.org/tours.

From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

Whether you are on our website or using our app, you can always find your loved ones by clicking on the Locate a Loved One bar. You can search for your loved one by First, Middle, or Last Name and even year of birth or death. And once you find your loved one, you can click on the link to find their location and even add your own photos and memories.

Go to woodlandcemetery.org for more information and to share memories of your loved ones.

Woodland Cemetery Mobile App



Memories of a loved one should last for generations.

Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
- Share stories about your family
- Upload photos and video
- Share memories with your family on Facebook

Your loved one's memorial page is automatically created when you make cemetery arrangements with our office. You may also share and upload information by using our burial database via our website (woodlandcemetery.org) (please contact our office if you need assistance).



Click Here to download!



Looking for a fun activity to do at the Cemetery with your kids or friends?

Try finding markers, monuments and landmarks in our Scavenger Hunt or play Cemetery BINGO with our multiple BINGO cards.

Just click on the activity below to download a game sheet. Have fun exploring Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

[Scavenger Hunt](#)
[Cemetery BINGO](#)



Thank you for your support of the Woodland Arboretum

You can donate, any time of year, to our Horticulture Fund, Arboretum Fund or Chapel Restoration Fund.

The **Horticulture Fund** assists in the creation of scenic, reflective and beautiful gardens and grounds to honor those that have gone before us. This includes the distinctive floral displays in the chapel area in our Mausoleum. A unique theme and design is chosen during the Easter, Memorial Day and Christmas holidays.

Our **Arboretum Foundation** continues to focus on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio.

The **Chapel Restoration Fund** is designated for the restoration and preservation of the historic chapel, gates and administration office built in 1887. The Chapel houses 17 Tiffany windows, a hand-cut Tiffany tiled floor and hand painted Tiffany frescoes. All three structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Your gift makes an immediate impact on the horticulture, arboriculture, and restoration efforts urgently needed to maintain one of Dayton's most historic and beautiful outdoor museums.

All 110,000 souls, entrusted to our care, thank you for your generous donation to one or all of our funds.

If you would like to send in a check, [click here](#) for a downloadable form to mail in your donation.

Prefer to give online? [Click here](#) to go to our secure online giving account.

Your gift is a tax deductible donation to a 501(c)3 public charity.



The hand that holds the heart gives of himself.

Support Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum

Are you a ClubDLM or Kroger Plus Card holder? Would you like to support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation by doing your normal grocery shopping? You can when you register your shopping card to our organization! **Remember, you must sign up for this opportunity each year but you can sign up during anytime of the year.**



Go to www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow and link your Kroger Plus Card to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum #JJ851. Please note that our organization was updated with a new account number from Kroger.



Go to www.dorothyane.com/club-dlm/good-neighbor-program and link your ClubDLM number to Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum #821.

Our Foundation continues to focus on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio. Thank you for your continued support!

Woodland Cemetery is proud to partner with the following organizations: National Aviation Heritage Area, Aviation Trail, Inc., Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park, Ohio Cemetery Association, ArbNet, American Alliance of Museums and Ohio Museums Association.



Connect and follow us on our social media pages.

