



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



On Preservation:

When we think about cemeteries, we're often thinking about conservation—after all, one reason to choose a cemetery rather than burying our loved ones out in the backyard (aside from the legal issues) is that a cemetery is designed to preserve the memory and histories of the people who are buried there. Here at Woodland, it's included in our Mission Statement:

"...commemorate the dead, entrusted to our service with care and dignity. Comfort the bereaved with understanding in a tranquil, beautiful, natural landscape. Preserve the heritage and wonder of Woodland in perpetuity..."

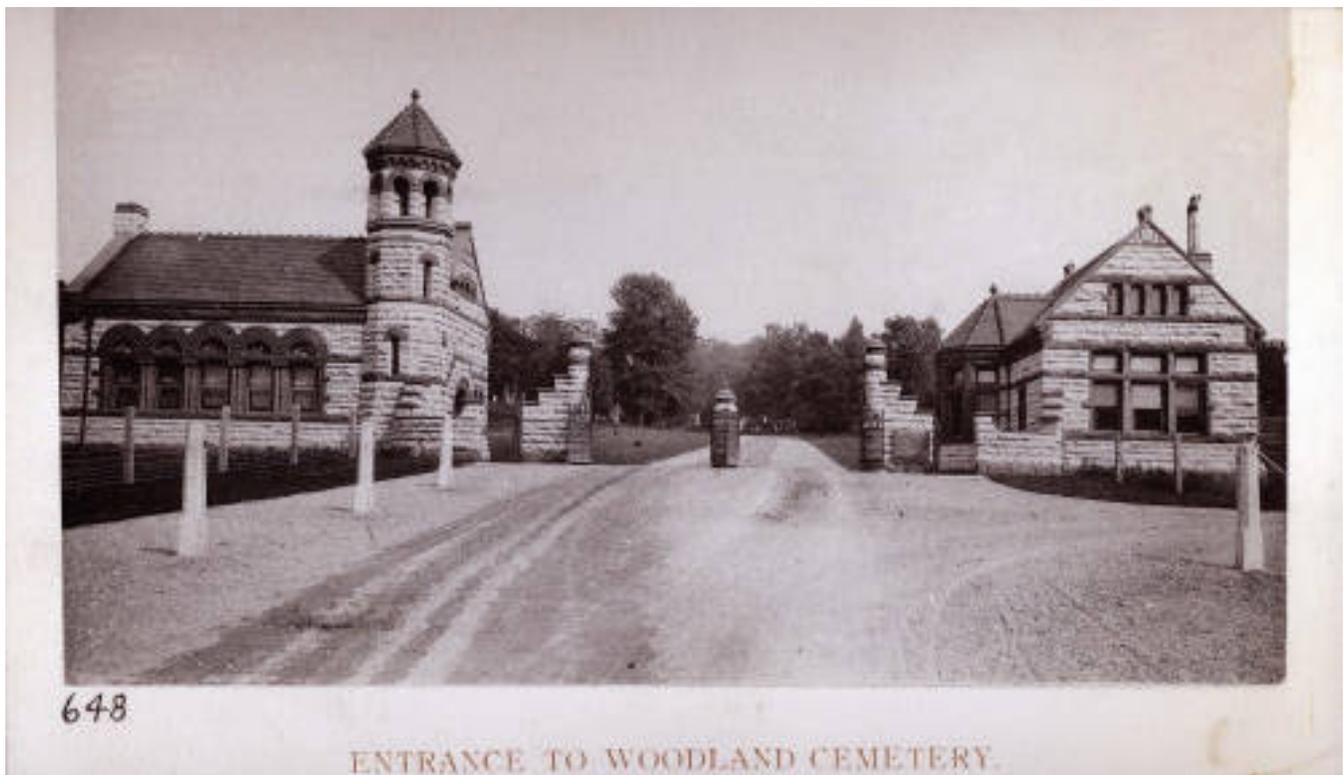
What precisely are we preserving?

When we talk about ‘preserving the heritage and wonder’, we have to remember that Woodland is more than just a very hilly place with lots of headstones in it. Because it’s not just about headstones—to preserve the Woodland Cemetery we know and love, we have to think about things like landscaping, record keeping, road repair, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training’s (or the NCPTT, for short) recommendations for best practices.

The primary goal of conservation professionals (like the NCPTT) is the preservation of ‘cultural property’. Cultural property can refer to irreplaceable individual objects, structures, or collections that are significant for artistic, historical, scientific, religious, or social reasons.

How do we know what's 'significant'?

Below Photo: Taken by William Lutzenberger before 1898; one of the earliest photos of Woodland Cemetery. Courtesy [Lutzenberger Collection](#) at *Dayton Metro Library*.





Sometimes that significance is obvious: Woodland is a National and State Historic Landmark.

Completed in 1889, the iconic 'Richardsonian Romanesque' gateway, chapel (housing one of the finest original Tiffany windows in the country), and original main office are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Clearly, many people have recognized that these structures are both irreplaceable and significant. Additionally, Woodland is one of the oldest rural garden cemeteries in the country and a Level II Arboretum home to several State Champion trees. As a green oasis in the heart of a pretty darn urban environment, it isn't hard to understand its

ecological significance, or why people who study local ecology want to preserve it. Old cemetery records are invaluable research tools to those who wish to study genealogy or mortality rates over time. Partnering with Wright State University's Special Collections & Archives, Woodland's records are safely stored in order to preserve them.

Cemeteries in general fit the definition of 'cultural property' for several reasons. Acting as windows to the past, cemeteries offer a unique perspective of the people who lived in an area; who they were, what they thought was important, and how the people who loved them were affected by their loss. (This makes them both historically and socially significant, for anyone at home keeping score.)

Monuments and other grave markers are artistically significant in part because they can show us how culture changes through time. For example, do you recognize this style of marker?



It's called a 'bolster', and was very popular for a brief period at the beginning of the 20th century—you could even order one through the Sears catalogue.

In the same way you can identify a hairstyle from the 1980's or bellbottom jeans from the 1970's, it is possible to estimate when a person lived and died by the style of their grave marker. By preserving monuments and other grave markers, we ensure that future Daytonians don't lose access to and knowledge of their city's history.

Want to learn more?



Spearheading the effort here at Woodland is our Manager of Preservation & Community Outreach, Misti Spillman. Officially joining the team in March of 2023, she began volunteering as a tour guide in 2011, then began conducting preservation workshops in 2018. Misti earned her master's degree at Wright State University, writing her thesis on the importance of cemeteries in local history. As the owner of Reviving Cemeteries, LLC, Misti has had plenty of experience preserving, cleaning, and repairing cemetery materials.

Stay tuned for next week's Woodland Minute, where we will explore some materials and methods used to keep Woodland around for the centuries to come.

Upcoming Events!



Military Tribute Tour

This guided tour through Woodland honors our fallen and military service heroes from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War.



Tree Tour

Home to more than 3000 trees, Woodland Cemetery is also an accredited Level II Arboretum. Join tour guide Kay Linden as he

Click [here](#) to register!



Cemetery Symbolism Tour

Have you ever wandered through the cemetery and wondered about the designs carved on gravestones?

While many of these tombstone symbols have fairly simple interpretations, it is not always easy to determine their meaning and significance.

Upcoming Tours:

6/25 @ 10am

6/27 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!

gives you an enlightening tour of the Arboretum at Woodland Cemetery.

Click [here](#) to register!



Clas Luminaries of Dayton Tour

On this tour, you'll visit the gravesites of people resting peacefully in Section 101 of Woodland Cemetery including:

the Wright Brothers and family, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Medal of Honor recipient Charles Goodwin Bickham, lawyers, brewery owners, reverends, and more!

Upcoming Tours:

7/13 @ 10am

Click [here](#) to register!

Share Your Story With Us!



Here at Woodland, we love to share stories of those who rest within our grounds.

It is most often thanks to family members or newspaper articles that those stories reach us, which allows us to include their loved ones in features like this.

Does your relative have a story we should be telling? Let us know by sending an email to ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org

Come Visit Us!



Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

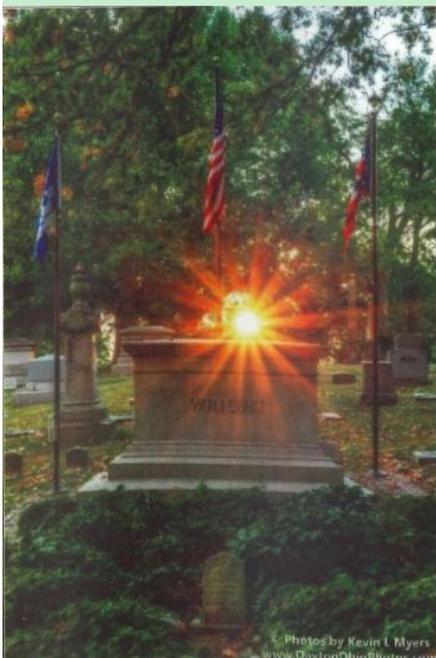
Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries!

Or check out our [virtual tours!](#) (if you really don't want to go outside)

DONATE ONLINE!



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

Committed to providing dignified and caring funeral services and burial options to families of all faiths since 1841.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
woodlandcemetery.org

Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...



Discover the men and women who made it great in Dayton on a guided walking or bus tour. Self-guided tours are available on our mobile app.

For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail info@woodlandcemetery.org

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](#)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | 118 Woodland Ave., Dayton, OH 45409