



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



National Honey Bee Day

August 17, 2024

Beekeeping, or ‘apiculture’, was first recorded in ancient Egypt nearly 4.5 thousand years ago, and is still vitally important today. The United States Department of Agriculture reported in 2022 that honeybees are a primary pollinator of crops in the United States—adding more than 18 billion dollars in revenue to food production every year. Bees also provide one of the world’s favorite flavors; honey.

Home to several beehives, Woodland Cemetery is the final resting place of the “Father of American Beekeeping”; Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth. To celebrate his contributions to the art of apiculture, and to honor the humble honeybee, this week’s Woodland Minute is vaguely sticky and making an ominous buzzing noise.

National Honey Bee Day

National Honey Bee Day was established in 2009, and is celebrated on the third Saturday of August. Though National Honey Bee Day is (relatively) new, the relationship between humans and honeybees is not. Historians believe that humans have been 'honey hunting' from wild bees for at least 10 thousand years. In nature, wild honeybees use hollow trees or rock crevices to build their nests—making it difficult and occasionally downright dangerous to collect honey or wax. Naturally, people started thinking of ways to simplify things.



Help Protect Bees:

- * Plant a pesticide-free [pollinator garden](#).
- * Provide a [water source](#)
- * Got a swarm? Call a [removal expert](#), not an exterminator.



Above: 8000 year old cave art found near Valencia, Spain, depicting honey gathering. Image courtesy [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Early manmade beehives were shaped like a barrel or a bell, and had no internal structures. They were made of materials like wood, clay, or straw woven like a basket and could not be taken apart.

In order to extract the honey, beekeepers had to break the hive open, cut the combs of wax free, and press the honey out of the comb. This system was not ideal; the honey produced was cloudy and waxy. Eggs and larvae could not be separated out and a lot of the hive's inhabitants died in the process. Bees, like most living creatures, object to having their homes smashed apart by giants. Keeping a close eye on the health of a hive was next to impossible.

Apiarists continued to refine the practice of beekeeping for centuries—then, in the 1850s, along came Langstroth, who was about to change the game.

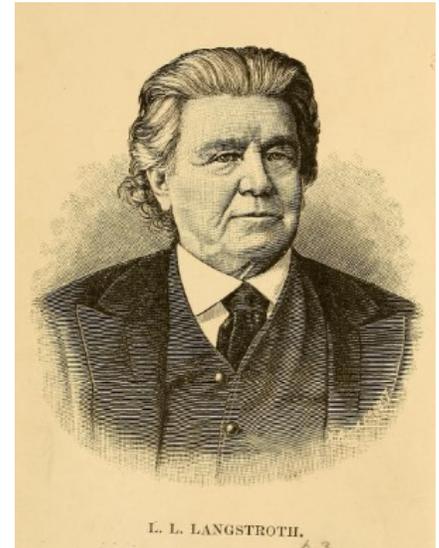
Rev. L.L. Langstroth

Born in Philadelphia in 1810, Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth was an apiarist, clergyman and schoolteacher.

A lifelong sufferer of what he referred to as 'head troubles' (today we might call that 'depression'), Langstroth found solace in the art of beekeeping.

The "Father of American Beekeeping" is credited with utilizing 'bee space' to create what would become known as the 'Langstroth Hive'.

Right: Langstroth ca. 1880's. Image courtesy: [Library of Congress](#).



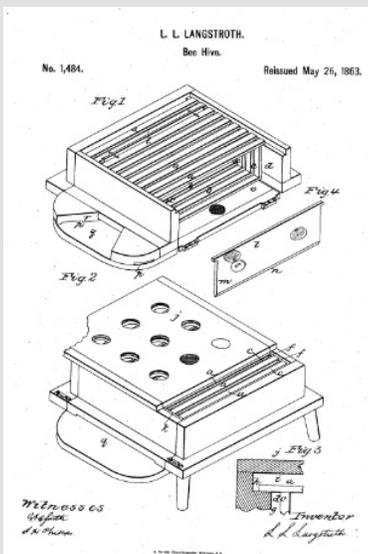
The Langstroth Hive

Langstroth and other bee scientists learned that if a space of the right size was left open between the hive and an internal frame, bees would neither glue the space closed nor fill it with combs.

Rev. Langstroth theorized that he could place frames inside of a hive which would hang freely; these could be inspected, moved, and honey harvested without damage to the bees or their home.

In 1852, Langstroth moved to Oxford, Ohio where he brought his idea to life. Later that same year, he applied and received a patent for his stacking, moveable-frame beehive.

Left: Langstroth's [patent](#), re-issued in 1863

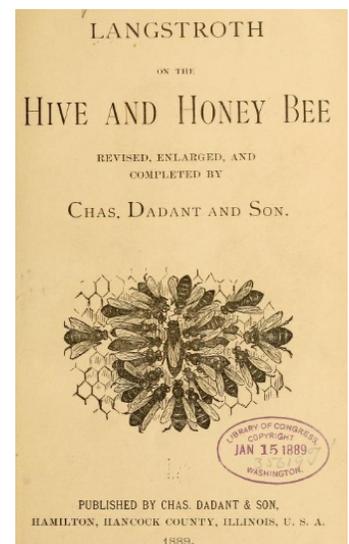


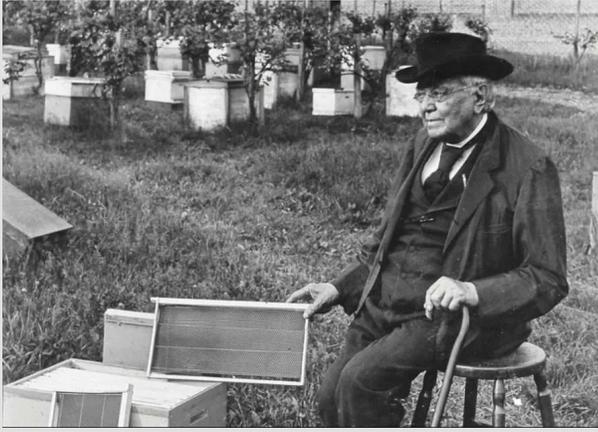
The Hive and the Honey-Bee

During another bout of 'head troubles', a friend suggested that Langstroth write a book about his new hive and system of hive management. *Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey-Bee* was published in 1853. Full of practical advice on the subject of beekeeping; a hundred years and forty editions later, it is still in print today.

Beekeepers around the world were quick to adopt the 'Langstroth Hive', despite its namesake's efforts to stop patent infringements. Though further refinements have been made since Langstroth's day, his stacking, movable-frame hives are standard equipment for beekeepers around the world.

Right: *Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey-Bee*, 1889. Courtesy: [Library of Congress](#)





As an older man, Rev. Langstroth moved to Dayton, Ohio with his eldest daughter Anna and her family. While delivering a sermon at the Wayne Ave. Presbyterian Church, Rev. Langstroth died at the age of 84. He was buried at Woodland Cemetery in section 103, lot 2634.

His epitaph reads as follows:

Sacred to the memory of
Rev. L. L. Langstroth,
"Father of American Bee-keeping."
By his affectionate beneficiaries in the art who in
remembrance of the services rendered by his
persistent and painstaking observations and
experiments with the honey bee, his improvements
in the hive, and the charming literary ability
shown in the first scientific and popular book
in the subject of bee-keeping in the United States,
gratefully erect this monument.

Rest thou in peace, thy work is done,
thou hast wrought well, thy fame is sure;
the crown of love, which thou hast won,
for useful deeds shall long endure.

"Blessed are the dead, which die in the lord;
that they may rest from their labors, and their
works shall follow them."



Upcoming Events!



Sports Legends Tour:

Everyone loves a good sports story and we have plenty!

Learn about legendary local athletes including:

Sprint Car racer--Johnny Shackelford;
Inventor of the metal baseball bat--William Shroyer;

Race Car driver--Earl Kiser;
UD Basketball Coach--Tom Blackburn;

Harlem Globetrotter--Albert Tucker;
Rodeo Champion--Marguerite Doane
Plus many more!

Upcoming Tours:

8/27 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!



Luminaries of Dayton:

Explore our mausoleum and grounds during this new tour!

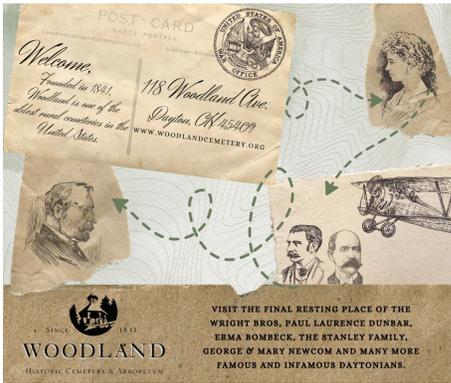
Hear stories about some of the most influential and notable African Americans interred here at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

Upcoming Tours:

8/14 @ 6pm

8/28 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!



Historic Woodland Tour:

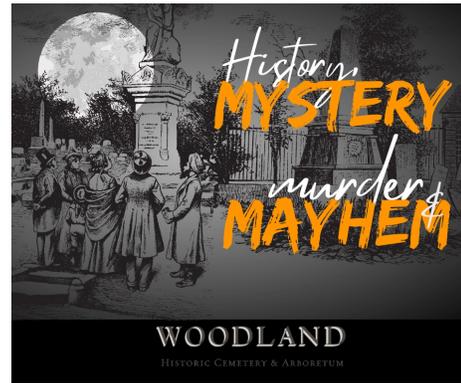
Founded in 1841, Woodland is one of the oldest rural cemeteries in the United States.

Explore the grounds and visit the final resting place of the Wright Brothers, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Erma Bombeck, James Ritty, the Stanley Family, the Mead Family, George Newcom and many other famous and infamous Daytonians.

Upcoming Tours:

8/12 @ 5:30 pm
8/15 @ 11 am
8/20 @ 6:30 pm
8/21 @ 6 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



History, Mystery, Murder & Mayhem:

Whose deathbed confession solved the murder of 18-year-old Christine Kett? Did a serial killer really walk the streets of Dayton?

Who did Jacob Harvey escape prison to kill? Learn about Woodland's brushes with the law in these true stories of History, Mystery, Murder & Mayhem!

Upcoming Tours:

8/13 @ 6:30 pm
8/15 @ 6 pm
8/23 @ 6 pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Please Note:

This tour takes approx. 2 hours, and is sometimes described as "strenuous"; young children or elderly persons may struggle with the terrain. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a water bottle if needed. Tours will launch rain or shine, except in the event of thunder or lightning.

This tour relates actual accounts of murders that took place in Dayton. Content may not be appropriate for all audiences—participant discretion is advised.

Share Your Story



ere 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!



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.

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!

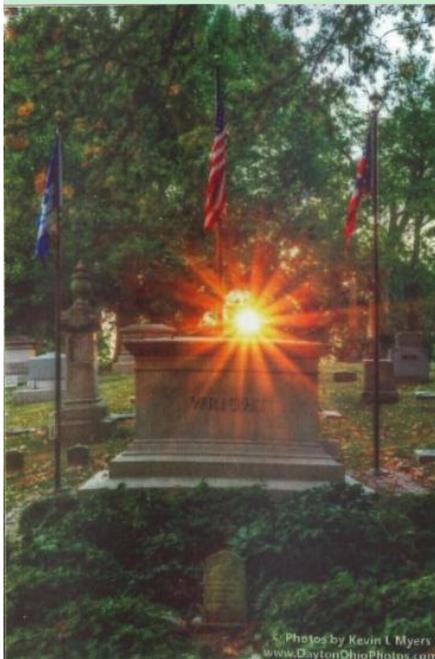
*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

Tours & More:

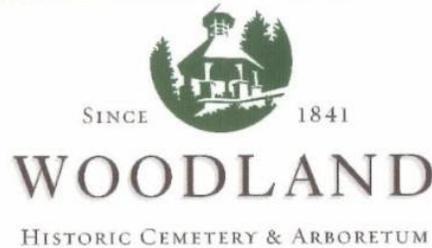
We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

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!



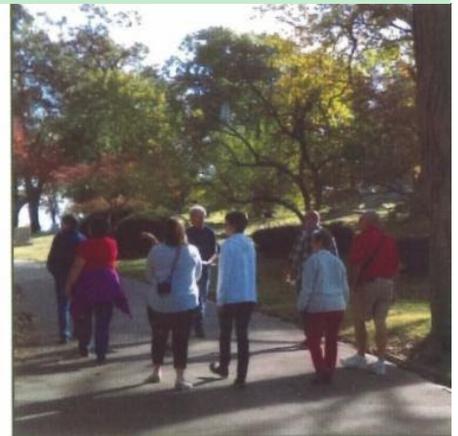
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www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



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