



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above: Katharine & Orville in the Wright 'Model H' Flyer, 1914. Image courtesy [Wright State University](#) Special Collections & Archives

National Aviation Day
August 19, 2024

Did you know that Woodland Cemetery is part of the Aviation Trail? Established in 1981 to promote and preserve Dayton's aviation heritage; the Aviation Trail is a non-profit in partnership with the National Parks Service. As the final resting place of the Wright family, Woodland is proud to be part of the story of Dayton's role in the development of flight.



Tomorrow (August 19th) is National Aviation Day. It was created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who chose Orville Wright's birthday to officially honor the development of aviation in 1939. Coincidentally, Orville and his sister Katharine were born in the same room—on the same date—three years apart. Though we don't tend to hear as much about the Wright Sister, Orville and Wilbur would have had trouble soaring as high as they did without her.

To celebrate National Aviation Day, let's wish a happy birthday to some of Woodland's most famous siblings; Orville and Katharine Wright.



Orville Wright
(1871-1948)

Orville was born August 19th, 1871, in the Wright family home at 7 Hawthorn Street here in Dayton, Ohio. He had three surviving older



Katharine Wright Haskell
(1874-1929)

The youngest of the Wright siblings, Katharine was the only surviving daughter of Milton and Susan Wright. When Susan died

brothers; Reuchlin, Lorin, and Wilbur—and would have one younger sister, Katharine, born when Orville was three years old. None of the Wright siblings have middle names—their father, Milton, chose to give his children distinctive first names “so they wouldn’t need middle names”.

Orville was more impulsive and optimistic than Wilbur. He was intelligent, showing an early interest in math and science; though he was not remembered as a great student.

Mischievous both in and out of the classroom, those who knew Orville described him as a shy prankster. He was a natural at mechanical engineering, known for taking things apart to figure out how they worked. Orville also played the mandolin, though it doesn’t seem like his siblings appreciated it much. In a letter to her father (ca. 1900), Katharine wrote;

"Orv has begun lessons on his mandolin and we are getting even with the neighborhood for the noise they have made on pianos. He sits around and picks that thing until I can hardly stay in the house."

When Orville was about seven, his father brought home a present from his travels; a toy helicopter. Wilbur and Orville were entranced. When the paper and cork toy finally broke, the boys became determined to make themselves another one—and a lifetime fascination with the possibilities of flight began.

of tuberculosis in 1889, Katharine was just one month shy of fifteen years old. The loss of her mother was devastating. In the wake of their mother’s death, Katharine, Orville, and Wilbur became practically inseparable—they called her ‘Swes’, a German nickname for ‘little sister’.

Now the only woman in the family, Katharine was expected to assume the responsibility of managing the Wright household. By taking on the domestic duties usually reserved for wives and acting as both confidant and sounding board, Katharine made it possible for her widowed father and unmarried brothers to fully devote themselves to their work.

Katharine was intellectually curious and did well in school, excelling in Latin and Greek. Unlike her brothers, she struggled with math. The only Wright sibling to earn a college degree, Katharine graduated from Oberlin College in 1898. Back in Dayton, she became Latin and history teacher at Steele High School.

Outgoing and self-assured, Katharine made friends easily. Her natural ability to chat comfortably with just about anyone would go on to be invaluable when her much shyer brothers began demonstrating their flying machines to the rich and famous in Europe.

In 1908, Orville and Wilbur had two main contracts—the United States Army, and a group of European investors. To demonstrate their flying machine on both sides of the Atlantic, the brothers decided to divide and conquer; Wilbur would go to France, and Orville to Fort Myer (near Washington, D.C.). Initial flights had gone well. Katharine sent letters to both brothers, demanding to hear all the details of their success.

The letter she got back was not what she’d hoped. Orville had been in a serious accident—his leg was broken, his hips were damaged, and he’d fractured several ribs. His passenger, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, was not so lucky; he was the first person to ever die as a result of a plane crash.

The news of Orville’s accident, and Katharine’s response to it, marked a major turning point in



the story of the Wright Brothers. Already a strong family unit, the Wright Brothers were about to become a worldwide sensation; and their success was in no small part due to their little sister, Katharine.

Next week, join the Minute as we learn about the heights of the Wrights' achievements abroad, and what happened when they came home to Dayton.

Above: Fatal crash of Wright Flyer at Fort Myer, Virginia. Courtesy [U.S. National Archives](#).

Below: Postcard featuring Orville, Wilbur, and Katharine (ca. 1910) Courtesy [Wikimedia Commons](#).



Upcoming Events!

History Mystery Murder & Mayhem: Lantern Tours Return!

Are you ready to tour the cemetery in the near dark? Join us for our lantern tour!

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.



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?



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

Who did Jacob Harvey escape prison to kill?
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Murder & Mayhem!

Upcoming Tours:

8/23 @ 6 pm

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Dunbar, Erma Bombeck, James Ritty, the Stanley Family, the Mead Family, George Newcom and many other famous and infamous Daytonians.

Upcoming Tours:

8/20 @ 6:30 pm

8/21 @ 6 pm

8/22 @ 6 pm

8/24 @ 10 am

8/26 @ 5:30 pm

8/27 @ 10 am

Click [here](#) to register!



Sports Legends Tour:

Everyone loves a good sports story and we have plenty!

Learn about legendary local athletes including:

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



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.

Race Car driver--Earl Kiser;
UD Basketball Coach--Tom Blackburn;
Harlem Globetrotter--Albert Tucker;
Rodeo Champion--Marguerite Doane
Plus many more!

Upcoming Tours:

8/28 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Upcoming Tours:

8/27 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Support Woodland Tours:

Woodland is proud to remain an active part of the Dayton community as a popular place to walk, relax and enjoy.

We invite you to contribute to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation to ensure that what's meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow! Your gift makes an immediate impact on the horticulture, arboriculture, and restoration efforts needed to maintain one of Dayton's most historic and beautiful outdoor museums.

Thank you for your generous support of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

DONATE ONLINE!

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

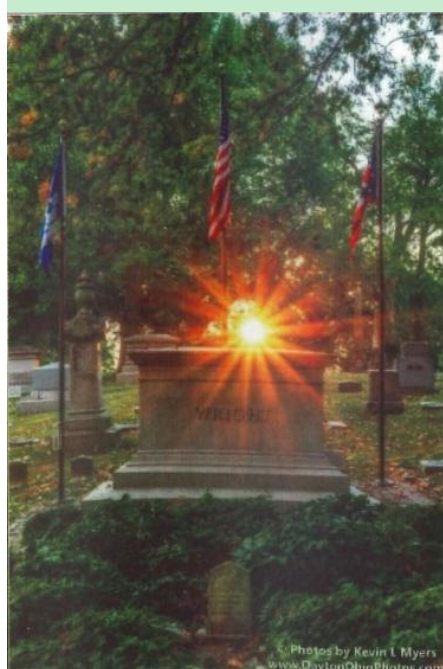
If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

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

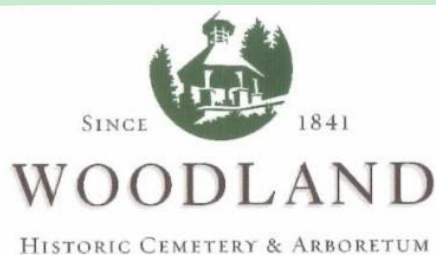
Tours & More:

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)



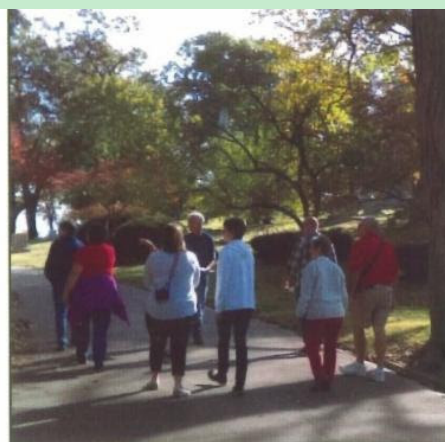
Photos by Kevin L. Myers
www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



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