



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Photo: courtesy Kellie-Anne Wolford

National Bird Day!

Nature lovers, bird lovers, and bird watchers across the country annually recognize National Bird Day on January 5th.



Great Blue Heron

A familiar sight along Dayton’s riverbanks, the Great Blue Heron is the largest heron in North America. They can be spotted at Woodland’s Goose Lake; standing silently along the shore.

This expert spear fisher is highly adaptable and thrives wherever it finds water: from Florida’s subtropical mangrove swamps to Alaska’s southern coastline.

Because of the Great Blue Heron’s variable diet, it is able to spend the winter in areas where most waters freeze; farther north than most herons. “Great” indeed!

Photo: courtesy [Steve Smith](#)

Red-tailed Hawk

The most familiar large hawk in North America, the bulky, broad-winged Red-tailed Hawk is designed for effortless soaring.

Although adult birds can typically be identified by their namesake tail, their plumage can vary greatly. This hawk is commonly seen perched on roadside poles or sailing over fields and woods.

Woodland’s arboretum (and its thriving population of delicious prey items) makes for an inviting habitat—at least one Red-tailed mother Hawk uses our Historic District as a nursery each year.



Photo: courtesy [Tyler Rutherford](#)

Tufted Titmouse



Last but not least, the Tufted Titmouse is an active, crested little bird found year-round in eastern forests. Listen for a whistled ‘peter-peter-peter’ song—even during mid-winter thaws.

Though at a glance, the Tufted Titmouse may resemble a baby cardinal, it is actually more closely related to chickadees. A connoisseur of bird feeders, the Tufted Titmouse can be spotted carrying away sunflower seeds one at a time in its extra-small feet.

Photo: courtesy [Jack Bulmer](#)

Happy Birthday!

Corp. Franklin D. Witwer

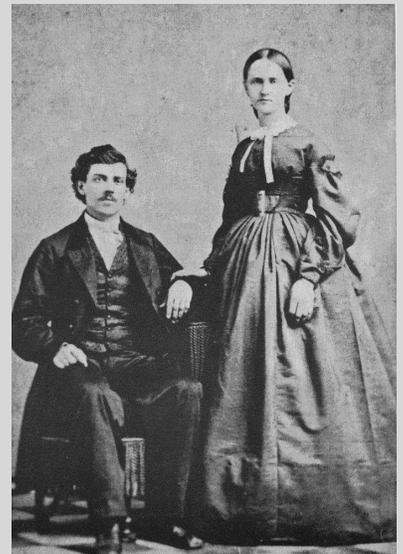
1/2/1842 - 7/4/1901

Franklin David Witwer enlisted during the Civil War as a private in the 11th Ohio Infantry. He was discharged in 1864, having risen to the rank of Corporal.

After the Civil War, Corp. Witwer married Mary Hershey Miller. They had seven surviving children but were divorced in 1892; likely due to religious differences. Franklin’s second wife, Elizabeth Boyl, died only seven years after they were married.

Franklin’s third marriage was to a Mary Ball Stowe in 1901. A few months later, Corp. Witwer became suddenly and seriously ill during dinner—then died shortly after.

Authorities became suspicious of Mary Witwer when her sister, Anna Pugh, suffered a curiously similar death shortly after. Four



people were exhumed in the course of their investigation; Franklin Witwer, Mrs. Witwer's ex-husband, her sister Mrs. Pugh, and Mary's former boss, George Keller.

It was discovered that Frank Witwer and Mrs. Pugh had both died of arsenic poisoning. At this time, forensic science was relatively unknown; poisoning was not uncommon, and could be virtually impossible to prove. Though it was strongly suspected that Mary Witwer had committed murder, a grand jury could not find sufficient direct evidence to charge her, so Mary Witwer was released.

Photo: This March 1865 wedding photo of Franklin David Witwer and Mary Hershey Miller was found in the files of Dorothy Witwer Stabler at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Courtesy [Denise Witwer Lahr & Findagrave](#).

Korean War: 1950 - 1953

LTC Lou Ann Moon Bunnell
(3/24/1919 - 8/22/2006)

Lou Anne Moon Bunnell was born March 24, 1919 in Dayton, Ohio. Lou Anne was a graduate of Fairview High School and the University of Cincinnati. She was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority. Her career training and lifetime work was as a dietician.

In 1942 she volunteered for service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WAAC). After World War II was over, she returned to Ohio to manage area restaurants until the outbreak of the Korean War in 1949. She was called back to active duty and was stationed in Europe. Her most loved assignment was as Food Supervisor for the entire Rhine command in Germany. Within a period of one year, she established messes at 125 locations, 3 general hospitals and 5 officer's clubs. During her Army career, she had over 45 moves. Awards received included the Legion of Merit, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. She retired with 30 years of active service holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, one of the highest ranked women at the time. She believed she was fortunate to have been "Army" and that the opportunities and challenges provided by the Army would never have been provided in civilian life.



Activities of special interest to her were the genealogy of her family and Early American Decorative Painting.

Upcoming Events!



Black History Mausoleum Tour:

Join us for Black History month to celebrate the lives of individuals who are resting peacefully in our mausoleum. We are offering this special tour in the indoor mausoleum, featuring beautiful stained glass windows and telling the stories of George C. Cooper, James Parsons, W. S. McIntosh, Bob & Norma Ross plus many more.

This tour will be offered on two Saturdays: February 8th & 22nd at 2:00 pm. The tour will last two hours; if weather permits, will also include a visit to James H. McGee, Jordan Anderson, Paul Laurence Dunbar and other outdoor gravesites.

Meet at the main entrance to the Mausoleum. Parking is available in front of the building. The building is climate controlled and handicap accessible. Visitors will be walking on both carpet and marble floors.

Upcoming Tours:

2/8 @ 2 pm
2/22 @ 2pm

Click [here](#) to register!



End of Winter Bird Walk:

This is a great time to see winter visitors like Dark-eyed Juncos, early spring migrants, and maybe even an Eastern Phoebe or Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.

This walk is slow-paced, and mostly stays on the road surface, but sometimes does venture "off-trail" into the grass.

All ages welcome. The tour will meet at the Eichelberger Plaza at the main gates of the cemetery.

Your nature guide will be Amanda Lawson, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

Upcoming Tours:

3/15 @ 9 am

Click [here](#) to register!



Support Woodland:

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.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

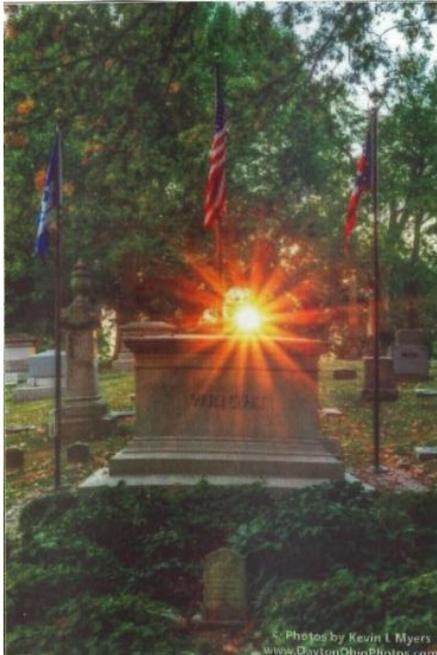
If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

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



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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