



SINCE

1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

## The Little Exchange in Oakwood



Dotty Carr, Ruth  
Haig, Elsie Mead  
Dayton Daily News  
July 3, 1956



Ruth Mead  
Dayton Daily News  
May 26, 1964



Ruth Drury  
Dayton Daily News  
March 20, 1960

## The Early History of the Little Exchange

### THE BEGINNING...1950

Mrs. George H. Mead (Elsie) and her good friend and neighbor, Mrs. George Haig (Ruth), first conceived the idea in the Spring of 1950. In the Fall of that year, with the help of another dear friend and neighbor, Mrs. Walter S. Carr (Dotty), the first Little Exchange opened in the home of Mrs. Haig, on the corner of Katherine Terrance and Runnymede Road in Oakwood.

The purpose was two-fold: "to give gainful employment to those unable to work outside the home, to create an outlet for their work, and as a result to donate the proceeds from this work to deserving charities."

There were five original Trustees. In addition to Mmes. Mead, Haig and Carr, Mrs. James M. Cox, Sr. (Margretta) and Mrs. Robert Dun Patterson (Henrietta) were invited to be trustees.

It was a memorable beginning when on the very day of the grand opening of the Shop in Mrs. Haig's living room, a police officer arrived to inform the ladies that they were in violation of a zoning ordinance!

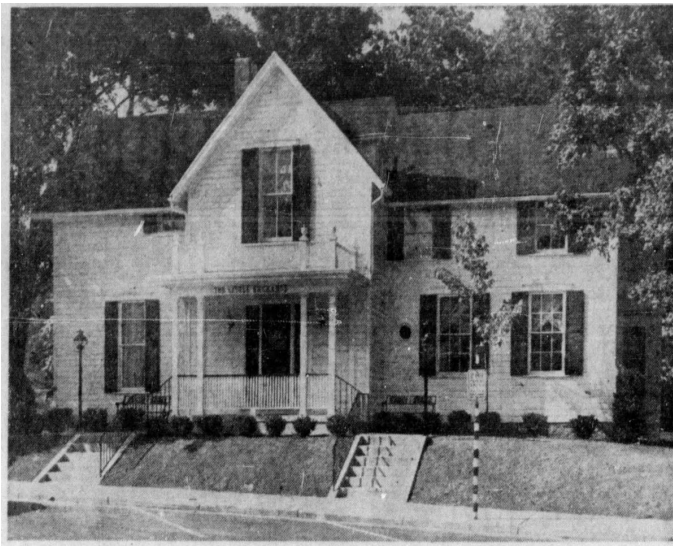
Because they were genuine in their charitable purposes, the ladies were permitted to remain open throughout the fall and the Christmas holidays, closing in January 1951.

While it seemed most unfortunate at the time, this incident actually hastened the success of The Little Exchange by forcing the trustees to consider a permanent location more quickly than they might have otherwise.

Mrs. Mead found a suitable home for the shop in the former Katherine Wright Library, Oakwood's Public Library at 45 Park Avenue, where 70 years hence the Shop continues to thrive. The property, as well as an endowment to support it, was generously donated by Mrs. Mead to The Little Exchange Foundation.

The charities supported in those early days were: the Red Cross, Sightless Children, Barney's Convalescent Hospital, the Jimmy Bevis Research Fund for Leukemia and other smaller local charities.

*The Little Exchange established itself as a unique place to shop with many one-of-a-kind items.*



The Little Exchange in 1951.



The Little Exchange today.

## THE 1960s

In 1958, Mrs. Mead was elected the first President of the Children's Hospital Society of Dayton. The goal of this group was to build a much-wished-for children's hospital. After convincing the public of the need for such a hospital, this society merged with the Barney Convalescent Hospital, founded by Annae Barney Gorman, to form Barney's Children's Medical Center. Elsie Mead was elected the first Chairman of the Board of this organization.

Thus began a new focus for The Little Exchange and a third purpose was added to The Little Exchange mission: to donate the proceeds of the Exchange to the Children's Medical Center. In 1961 and again in 1962, \$2000 was donated to this cause.

In 1963, Mrs. Nelson Mead (Ruth) formed the first Woman's Board of the Barney Children's Medical Center. This same year, Ruth Mead wrote thanking The Little Exchange Foundation for their generous contribution of \$5,000, "bringing them closer to the reality of a Children's Hospital for the Dayton area."

Mrs. C.E. Drury (Ruthie), a talented knitter, designed patterns for socks and sweaters for the 25 "knitters" who kept The Little Ex filled with very special items.

In 1967, the first patients were admitted to the new Barney's Children's Medical Center. During the decade of the 60's, The Little Exchange donated \$86,111 to this cause.

## **THE 1970s**

As the decade opened, a total of \$121,120 had been donated to Barney's Children's Medical Center.

Over a period of 20 years, from 1958-1978, a quarter of a million dollars had been donated to the Barney's Children's Medical Center.

In 1978, Mrs. Mead announced at the Board Meeting of The Little Exchange that she was resigning. "No one paid any attention, and the meeting moved on..." as noted in minutes.

## **THE 1980s**

In 1982, \$20,000 was donated to Children's Medical Center (CMC), with contributions totaling \$356,436 to date. In 1984, funds for three neo-natal units were donated to CMC. And in 1986, a 4-year, \$150,000 pledge was made toward a Neurological Center.

An era ended in 1988 with the death of Mrs. Walter S. Carr, the last of three original trustees, everyone's "Aunt Dotty", who was devoted to The Little Exchange and dearly loved by all.

## **THE 1990s**

In 1994, Ruth Drury, whose mother, Mrs. George H. Haig, was a founding member of The Little Ex, retired from the Board. Her retirement was accepted with great regret. Ruthie had been Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and a devoted volunteer. Her guidance and wisdom had spanned many years and continues today to influence the direction of the Little Exchange. She was made a lifetime Honorary Board Member.

1998 marked a milestone when total donations over a 38-year period from The Little Exchange to Dayton Children's Hospital surpassed \$1,000,000!

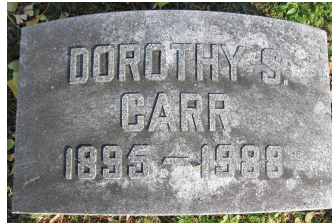
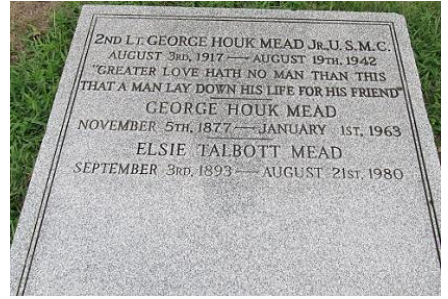
## **The New Millennium**

These days every purchase at The Little Exchange benefits The Family Resource Connection at Dayton Children's, helping over 500 families every month – that's 6,000 families a year who are helped when faced with basic food, housing, and transportation insecurities. The 80 volunteers are proud that the shop has donated over \$1.7 million to date!

Thank you Little Exchange for allowing us to use your story to tell the story of civic minded women who did their part to make it great in Dayton. May they all rest in peace.

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Top:  
Henrietta L. Patterson  
11-20-1882 \* 10-06-1963  
Section 13 Lot 365

Top:  
Margaretta B. Cox  
06-13-1890 \* 11-06-1960  
Section 121 Lot 1

Top:  
Elsie T. Mead  
09-03-1893 \* 08-21-1980  
Section 101 Lot 1538

Bottom:  
Ruth M. Haig  
12-15-1894 \* 12-06-1967  
Section 56 Lot 342

Bottom:  
Dorothy S. Carr  
05-22-1895 \* 06-13-1988  
Section 101 Lot 1428

Bottom:  
Ruth H. Drury  
12-02-1918 \* 03-19-2000  
Section 1003 Lot 2480

Photos from Find-A-Grave

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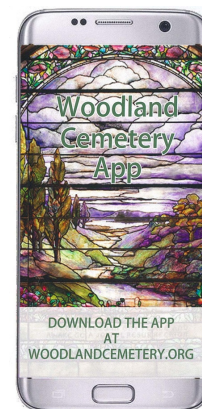
## November Guided Walking Tours

We have several tours available for you to take in the month of November including on Thanksgiving weekend. Get out of the house and treat your family and guests to a tour at Woodland. For more information on the tours and availability please click here:  
[bit.ly/WoodlandSunsetTours](http://bit.ly/WoodlandSunsetTours)

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](http://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.

[Download the mobile app for your phone by clicking here.](#)



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](http://woodlandcemetery.org)). (please contact our office if you need assistance)





## A Woodland Milestone

To help us celebrate our 180th Anniversary, make a donation of \$180 or more to the Arboretum Foundation now through December 31, 2021 and you will receive a set of Woodland ceramic coasters. Limit one set per household.

Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.



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