



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

John Frederick Bollmeyer "martyr" or "friend"



In 1862, John F. Bollmeyer was the editor of the Western Empire newspaper, a democratic paper, which was owned by Clement L. Vallandigham. Mr. Bollmeyer lost his life in a dispute over the paper's policy regarding its stand concerning the Civil War. The Western Empire strongly opposed a war with the south, the abolition of slavery, and the defeat of the South.

On November 1, 1862, Mr. Bollmeyer was accosted by Henry M. Brown. Brown call Bollmeyer a traitor and then pulled out a pistol shooting Bollmeyer in the head. John died instantly.

Mr. Bollmeyer's widow ran into a bit of trouble with the Woodland Cemetery trustees. She had inscribed on her husband's head stone: "and fell by the hand of an assassin. A martyr to the cause of freedom of speech and of the press." The trustees found the inscription offensive and improper. They asked her to make changes of which she refused.

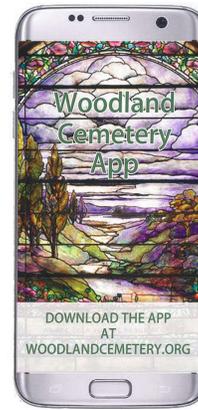
The trustees told the superintendent to remove the stone and place it in the barn for safekeeping. She relented and had the following changes made: "an assassin" was replaced with the word "violence" and "martyr" was replaced with "friend" thus the inscription reading: "and fell by the hand of violence. A friend to the cause of freedom of speech and of the press."

Henry Brown went on trial for the murder but was found "not guilty."

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.

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). (please contact our office if you need assistance)



THANK YOU for supporting us through our 180th Anniversary!

We hope you will continue to support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation as we move through 2022. Support of the Chapel restoration and preservation project is our most critical need as you will soon see the outside of the Chapel and Administration Building receiving new sandstone pieces and eroding and disintegrating elements replaced. Once the stonework is complete, the beloved Tiffany windows will return and be put back in place. The Tiffany mosaic floor will be restored and the beautiful interior woodwork will also receive a facelift. We are hopeful to open the doors to the public once again in late 2022.

Please consider making a first time donation or an annual donation to the Chapel Fund. Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.

[Click Here
Donate Now](#)



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



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