

A Timeline of Celebrated African Americans at Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum Part I

Each year in February we celebrate Black History Month by introducing you to men and women of color who made their mark in Dayton's history. This year, we present a selected timeline of Dayton's Black History honoring those who are resting peacefully at Woodland.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month was first proposed by black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State a year later, from January 2 to February 28, 1970.

Six years later, Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, both great and small, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".

Source: Wikipedia



1824—Joseph Wheeler, a former slave, arrives in Dayton. Wheeler was a member of the American Sons of Protection that was organized in 1849 as a mutual aid society for black people who were denied social services or could not afford basic needs. Joseph Wheeler was born ca. 1796 and died February 17, 1871 at the age of 75. He is located in Section 90 Lot 873.

1827—Black men working on the Miami-Erie Canal lived in an area called "Africa," a settlement along Seely's Basin near Canal Street in Dayton.

Joseph J. Wheeler. Photo credit: Margaret Peter's Dayton African American Heritage. Photo courtesy of Josephine J. Wheeler.



1830s—Joe and Nettie Piner operate an Underground Railroad station in what is now the 3500 block of Dandridge Street in the Westwood neighborhood of Dayton. Joseph Piner died on July 10, 1865 at the age of 65. Antoinette Piner died on December 3, 1865 at the age of 58. Both are located in Section 80 Lot 459 in unmarked graves.

From The Daily Empire, Wednesday, July 12, 1865:

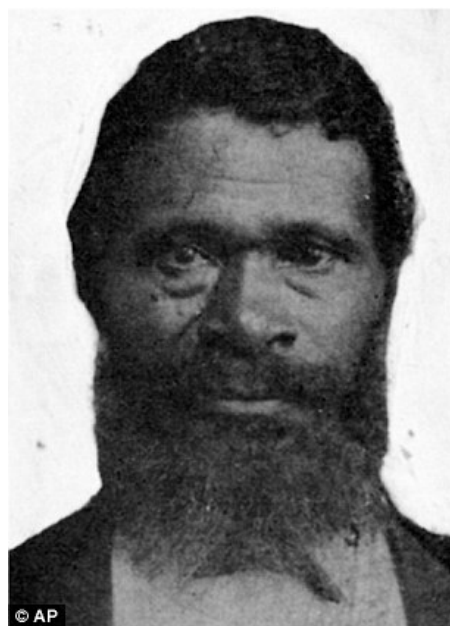
DEATH OF AN OLD SETTLER.—Died, at his residence on Sycamore street, in this city, July 10th, Mr. Joseph Piner.

The deceased was born on the 17th of March, 1800 in Hanover Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, where he lived until ten years old and then came to Warren county, Ohio where he lived until twenty-one years of age. In October 1826, he married Antoinette Wilson, at Reading, Hamilton county, Ohio. His wife still survives him. In July 1828, he came to Dayton, where he continued to reside until the day of his death. He was honest and upright, and no colored man ever lived in Dayton, who was more respected than Jo Piner...

1839—Local abolitionists form an anti-slavery society with Luther Bruen as president.



1860—Louise Troy is born in Xenia, Ohio. She was a pioneer black teacher in Ohio public schools from 1878 to 1920. She helped to establish the Dayton branch of the NAACP and was its first treasurer. She was a tireless activist for social change. Ms. Troy died on March 9, 1941. She is located in Section 116 Lot 19.



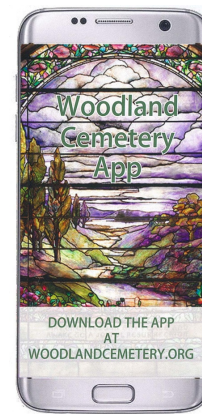
1865—Freed slave Jordan Anderson writes a letter, with the help of abolitionist, Valentine Winter, rejecting his former slave owner's request that Jordan leave Dayton and return to the plantation in Big Spring, Tenn. The letter was published in local, national and international newspapers. Jordan Anderson died from "exhaustion" on April 15, 1907 at the age of 82. He is located in Section 109 Lot 2514.

This series of Celebrated African Americans will run each Sunday in February. You can learn more about these and other African Americans in our Black History tour located on our website or on our mobile app. Click on the links in the next section to view them all.

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)



WOODLAND
HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



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!](http://woodlandcemetery.org)



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