Woodland Wire
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Woodland Events

Resident Spotlight: Frederick and David Rike

Frederick Rike (1867-1947) was President of the Rike-Kumler Department Store Company in Dayton. He began at Rike’s as a salesman and a buyer of notions, handkerchiefs, hosiery and gloves. He eventually worked his way up to the post of President, which he held for 40 years, seldom missing a day at work in the store. It was Frederick Rike who moved the store to the corner of Second and Main Streets that it anchored for so long. He was active during the recovery efforts from the 1913 Flood and served on the charter commission which reorganized Dayton’s government under the city manager format. He had worked for the establishment of the Miami Valley Conservancy District, and served as president of the Dayton Boy Scouts and Community Chest.

Frederick Rike died on November 19, 1947 and is located in Section 37 Lot 1226.

David L. Rike (1904—1982) carried his family’s legendary Dayton department store into the 20th century. Rike’s Department Store, a long and storied Dayton institution, was founded by David’s grandfather in 1853. David’s father, Frederick, inherited the family business and upon his death in 1947, David was elected president. In 1965, he became board chairman and chief executive officer.

As Rike’s expanded and progressed and flourished under David’s tenure, he maintained a staunch humanitarian mindset, even creating a special employee fund for families experiencing financial distress. In turn, he always encouraged his employees to give back to the Dayton community.

A graduate of both the Princeton School of Business Administration and Harvard School of Business Administration, Rike used this business acumen for the betterment of the Dayton region. His dedication to Rike’s historic Second and Main location exemplified his love and belief in downtown Dayton.

David L. Rike was born on October 24, 1904 in Xenia, Ohio and died on January 16, 1982 in Dayton, Ohio. He was married to Margaret Craighead Shaw. He is located in Section 37 Lot 1226.

Tours and Events

Saturday, January 6
9:00 am—11:00 am
New Year’s Bird Walk
Meet at the fountain plaza at the front gates on Woodland Avenue

Thursday, January 11
1:00 PM
New Lebanon Library
715 W. Main St., New Lebanon
937-463-2665
Program: Original Subscribers to the 1841 Woodland Cemetery Association

The Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum tour season typically begins in earnest in June. We have had a great response to our request for volunteers to lead tours and are looking to add more new and exciting tours in 2018.

We are still accepting applications for volunteers for a variety of positions. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Angie at ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org or at 937-228-3221.

For more information about tours and programs at Woodland and in the community, visit our website at www.woodlandcemetery.org and click on the Tours and Events tab or like our Facebook page and find tours and events listed there.
Rike’s Department Store, Second and Main Street, Dayton, Ohio

Holiday Window Displays
Elisha Brabham

Elisha Brabham was born in Virginia. He was the first man to receive a Masonic Degree in Dayton at St. John’s Lodge # 13, the oldest Masonic Lodge in Dayton, chartered in 1812. Mr. Brabham was also the first man in Dayton to deal in wheat. In 1820, Elisha, along with Henry Leatherman, built the “Old Red Mill” on the foundation of the burned out “Cooper Mill” on the corner of Water and Mill streets in Dayton. The mill was torn down when attorneys, Alexander Grimes and Edward W. Davies, executors of the Daniel C. Cooper estate, used part of the money to change the bed of the Mad River in order to make way for the extension of the canal basin.

In 1826, Mr. Brabham was elected President of the Select Council which is equal to today’s City Commissioner. In 1856, prominent attorney Madison N. Munday held auction to sell the estate of Mr. Brabham. The auction was held at three o’clock, Saturday the 24th of August at the door of the courthouse and sold to the highest bidder was the real estate, the home, store room and a stable, all appraised at $2,400.00. The section of Alberta Street between Burns and Oak was originally named Brabham Street.

Elisha Brabham married Lydia McCollum, who was the daughter of Hugh McCollum, on February 1, 1816. Their children were: Charles and Henry C., who were removed from the old Fifth Street cemetery and reinterred at Woodland, Joseph; Susannah and Hannah.

Elisha Brabham died December 10, 1855 at the age of 68. He is located in Section 8 Lot 104. There is no marker on the lot.

Woodland Cemetery map of Section 8.

Windows of Woodland

The River of Life

This stained glass window portrays the river of life, taking us from the presence of this life to dreams of something beyond.

“...The aged woman feels such joy
To touch the kitten’s downy fur.
The grown man warns the little boy
Of pain he may one day endure..."

In this window is a hidden figure for you to find. Hint: Look near the flute player’s foot.

You are invited to visit the Mausoleum to view all of the beautiful stained glass windows within at your leisure or join us for a guided tour. Please visit our website and click on the Tours and Events tab or like our Facebook page and find tours and events listed there.

The Mausoleum is open daily from 9am to 5pm.
Woodland Arboretum Foundation Asks For Your Support

December 2017

Dear Friend,

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is a place of solace and comfort for the bereaved, a beautiful tranquil landscape and the keeper of history and stories for more than 109,000 people buried here over the past 175 years. As a member of the Woodland Arboretum Foundation, you understand the mission of Woodland, our unique place in the community and our commitment to protect, preserve and improve this special place and you have supported these efforts. For this, we thank you.

2017 was an amazing year for Woodland with the kick-off of our inaugural Capital Campaign, on-going work and improvement of our grounds with increased tree care, new gardens and public education programs. Building upon the success of this year, we expect 2018 to be even better and hope that you continue to join us in supporting the Arboretum Foundation with your membership gift.

We are proud to announce that in late 2017, we will break ground on a modest addition to the administration building. This new structure will allow us to relocate staff currently located in the historic chapel of Woodland and most importantly provide an updated facility to better serve the families of Woodland. Once the addition is complete and staff re-located, we will embark on our most significant initiatives, the restoration of Woodland Chapel, front entry gates and administration building which are the gateway to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

Thank you for your continued support of the Annual Horticulture Fund at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum. The creation of scenic, reflective and beautiful gardens and grounds to honor those who have gone before us is a significant piece of Woodland’s mission. Each year, the expertise and talents of Furst Florist assist in creating a distinctive display in the chapel area of our Mausoleum each Christmas, Easter and Memorial Day holidays. Our garden staff and interns create new gardens, maintain existing gardens and improve the overall appearance of the cemetery and arboretum thanks to the support received.

Your support will enable another year of floral remembrances for your loved ones and support ongoing horticulture projects and developments at Woodland. Please consider making a gift today, your generosity ensures that Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum remains a special place for generations to come and we are thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

Sean O’Regan
President/CEO
Woodland Cemetery, Arboretum and Foundation
Woodland Cemetery is proud to partner with the following:

The Aviation Trail, Inc.
The National Aviation Heritage Area
Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park
Dayton Metro Library

Woodland is always seeking volunteers who are interested in leading tours and providing programs and presentations to community groups and organizations. If you like history and would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Woodland contact Angie Hoschouer at 937-228-3221 or ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org.

Beautiful, Timeless and Still Available...
Annual Holiday Floral Display and Ornament Decorating in the Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum Mausoleum

Guests are invited to decorate and place an ornament on our Remembrance Trees in the Mausoleum. Decorations will be available at no cost from December 2 through 30. Ornaments can be retrieved until January 2, 2018.