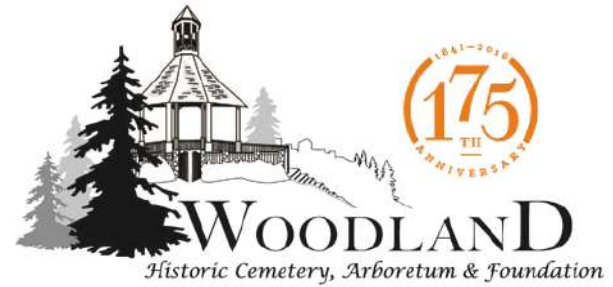


Woodland Wire

February 2019 Volume 7, Issue 1



Woodland Events

Black History Month Honorees: James H. McGee and C. J. McLin, Jr.



Tours and Special Events

Street Names of Dayton

February 5 at 1:00 p.m.
Lathrem Senior Center
For information call 937-296-2480

Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial Program

February 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Woodland Mausoleum
For information call 937-228-3221

Notable African-Americans at Woodland Cemetery

February 27 at 10:00 a.m.
Rec West Enrichment Center
For information call 937-433-0130

Women of Woodland

March 4 at 10:00 a.m.
Woodland Cemetery Mausoleum
For information call 937-228-3221

End of Winter Bird Walk

March 16 at 9:00 a.m.
Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum
For information call 937-228-3221

Reservations are required for all events. Please call 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.

To schedule a tour or guest speaker, please call Debra Mescher at 937-228-3221.



James H. McGee served for 11 years as the first black Mayor in Dayton and was one of the first large city black mayors in America. He earned his undergraduate degree from Wilberforce University in 1937 and graduated from Law School at The Ohio State University in 1948.

McGee began practicing law in Dayton and became involved in city politics. He served as an assistant to Congressman Rodney Love in the 1960s and was appointed Mayor in 1970, filling Dave Hall's term and then was elected in his own right in 1973 and again in 1977.

McGee's early law work was for the NAACP and he was involved in several landmark civil rights cases in the Dayton area. Western Avenue in West Dayton is now known as James H. McGee Boulevard.

James Howell McGee was born in Berryburg, West Virginia on November 8, 1918 and died March 4, 2006 at the age of 87. He is located in Section 62 Lot 3802.

Mayor James H. McGee, right, with Rep. C. J. McLin, 1979. Photo by Mark Duncan, Dayton Daily News. From Dayton Daily News Archive (MS-458), VIP Files at WSU Archives.



C. J. McLin was born in Illinois, the son of hard-working African American parents trying to survive the depression. He did his part and took a job as a paper boy as a means to put food on the table.

While going to Dunbar High School, he helped in the family funeral home business. His father had taught him how important funerals were to the families they served and that the ceremonies helped them cope with the death of their loved ones.

C. J. suffered racial discrimination early in life, being denied food service at the lunch counter of a dime store in downtown Dayton. Soon after, he received notice to serve in the Army and during that time, he noticed and experienced discrimination against black soldiers. When he was dismissed from the military in 1949, he returned to the family funeral business.

In 1966, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and served for 22 years. During his time in the legislature, he worked to increase the political power of the black community of Dayton through economic development.

McLin was responsible for extending the U. S. Route 35 West highway, locating the correctional prison in west Dayton, supporting African American programs in the universities, securing housing for the elderly, and saving history by supporting the Paul Laurence Dunbar House and the Afro-American Museum.

C. J. McLin died on December 27, 1988 at the age of 67. He is located in Section 80 Lot 793.

Volunteer Spotlight: Misti Spillman



Misti works on the David Ziegler monument removing biological growth and staining. Below, the remarkable transformation that allows for the reading of the ledger.



Throughout the summer of 2018, volunteer Misti Spillman worked on a project of her own volition at Woodland, she cleaned a variety of historic markers and headstones throughout the cemetery. When she was in graduate school she became a volunteer tour guide at Woodland and she noticed some of the broken and discolored headstones and markers while giving tours. She told one of her professors about what she had seen and the professor encouraged her to take a stonemason class and learn how to fix them. She was already interested in the cemetery and wanted to do her capstone project on cemetery preservation so this provided her the perfect opportunity to learn how to properly care for headstones and markers and then pursue her project for graduate school. Misti said that the work grew into more than just a project for school and she started her own business in 2013 called Reviving Cemeteries.

Misti graduated from the University of Evansville with degrees in archeology and history. She then spent a year at the University of Memphis learning Egyptian hieroglyphs. Additionally, she attended graduate school at Wright State University and majored in Public History (museum and archival studies) and received her Master's degree in 2012. She did a few internships in Columbus before working at Ohio History Connection with the AmeriCorps program. She did several cemetery projects there that included workshops and other outreach programs that were focused on the importance of cemeteries. Before moving back to Dayton, she lived in Marietta and was the Education Director at The Castle, a historic house museum. Today, Misti is the Executive Director at the Preble County Historical Society.

Misti approached Woodland about her desire to clean markers and monuments and asked for permission to do so. She came prepared with a plan of which stones she wanted to clean and how she intended to clean them with a list of materials to do the job. With the blessing from Woodland, she began working in the evenings and on weekends to clean stones that were primarily on the routes of the most popular tours at Woodland.

“The main ingredient you will need is water and lots of it!,” she said. She uses a product called Orvus because it does not contain any harsh chemicals and will not damage the stone. “Museums use Orvus in their collections because it is so gentle and it really helps with cleaning.”

The process is not always a quick one and often times it takes several cleanings before a stone usually begins to let go of the deeply saturated staining. She starts with Orvus and usually cleans the gravestone a couple times. If there is still staining on the stone, she then uses a product called D2. Stones that are in the process of cleaning may appear orange or rust colored but D2 breaks the stains down over time using natural sunlight.

Misti recommends using only Orvus to clean a gravestone and not use any chemicals such as bleach or other harsh detergents because they can harm the stone. “If there is staining, then I recommend D2 which is used on national monuments,” she said. She does use a variety of tools to clean markers including scrub brushes that only have soft bristles so they will not scratch the gravestones. She also uses plastic scrapers to get any moss or lichen off of a stone; the plastic will not harm the gravestones either.

Misti highly recommends that people attend a workshop and learn the basics of cleaning a gravestone. “Education is the key,” she says. “These are people’s gravestones and we do not want to harm them.” She also says that gravestones are important to clean because they are a primary source of information, especially for genealogists. “I also tell students to look at cemeteries as outdoor museums. Gravestones can give you dates of birth and death, inscriptions, and decorations can also tell something about that person. If a gravestone is covered in moss or lichen that information cannot be seen.”

Misti had this to say about volunteering at Woodland, “I really like volunteering and helping out and I can incorporate that with cleaning gravestones. I have a passion for cemetery restoration and I am thrilled that I can help out Woodland Cemetery. It is also a de-stressor for me when I am cleaning. I am hoping to continue this and be a volunteer at Woodland for a long time.”



George Newcom, before and after

150th Anniversary: The Last of the Downtown Re-interments

The first graveyard in Dayton was beside the Presbyterian church at Third and Main streets. In 1805, Daniel Cooper gave four acres on the south side of Fifth Street, between Ludlow and Wilkinson streets, and it was shared as a burial ground by the Presbyterians and Methodists.

By 1840, Dayton was a rapidly growing city and its grave yards were becoming full. John Van Cleve was given the task of finding suitable land for a new cemetery with ample lands and room for growth.

By 1843, Woodland Cemetery was ready for burials and the deceased in the two downtown graveyards began a 26 year journey of re-interment in the newly established cemetery.

A list of 1,117 people was found among some old papers a long time ago in the cemetery office. It appears to list all of the people who were re-interred at Woodland from 1843 to 1869. The 150th Anniversary of the final re-interments is in 2019. Here are the people who made their final journey from their original burial location to Woodland in the year of 1869.

Date of Interment	Name	Date of Death	Age	Birth Place/Note	Date of Interment	Name	Date of Death	Age	Birth Place/Note
Feb 24, 1869	Philip LaRue	Feb 24, 1866	73 y	Warren Co., NJ	Jul 15, 1869	Alexander Callahan	Feb 28, 1841	32 y	Ireland
May 20, 1869	Benjamin R. Spinning	May 29, 1823		Rev War Soldier	Jul 15, 1869	Elizabeth Shorthill	Jan 22, 1841	62 y	Virginia
May 20, 1869	Maria Spinning	Sep 3, 1824			Jul 2, 1869	Catherine Wolff	Jul 30, 1826	73 y	
May 20, 1869	Isaac Spinning	Dec 24, 1825	62 y	Rev War Soldier	Jul 2, 1869	D. Wolff	Jan 24, 1834	57 y	
May 22, 1869	Lucretia Ludy	Apr 7, 1844	17 y	Montgomery Co., OH	Jul 2, 1869	George Wolff	Mar 16, 1837	23 y	
May 22, 1869	Peter Ludy	Jun 15, 1845	63 y	Frederick Co., MD	Jul 2, 1869	Jacob Wolff	Sep 22, 1854	42 y	
Jun 7, 1869	Charles Kiefer	Jul 1836	6 y	Dayton, OH	Jul 3, 1869	Adam Arras	Sep 7, 1853	4 y 10 m	New Carlisle, OH
Jun 7, 1869	John D. Kiefer	Apr 1853	12 y	Dayton, OH	Oct 8, 1869	Anna E. Coen	Nov 11, 1843	1 y 6 m	Dayton, OH
Jun 12, 1869	Madison Decker	Oct 27, 1845	6 m		Oct 8, 1869	Simeon Coen	Oct 9, 1840	32 y	Cincinnati, OH
Jun 12, 1869	Deborah Dill	Mar 20, 1844	20 y		Oct 13, 1869	William Sourbray	Jun 14, 1831	50 y	Pennsylvania
Jun 12, 1869	Catherine Dodds	Jan 9, 1840	5 y	Dayton, OH	Oct 13, 1869	Simeon Broadwell			Rev War Soldier
Jun 12, 1869	Eleanor Dodds	May 20, 1826	2 y 2 m	Dayton, OH	Oct 27, 1869	John Davis	Feb 24, 1842		Rev War Soldier
Jun 14, 1869	Hartman J. Miller	Jul 16, 1840	37 y	Germany	Nov 2, 1869	George Raymond	Aug 2, 1841	2 d	Dayton, OH
Jun 18, 1869	Mary Doddarde	Aug 12, 1851	54 y	France	Nov 7, 1869	Arabella Boyer	Sep 3, 1842	12 y	Dayton, OH
Jun 18, 1869	Jacob Morice	Jun 15, 1854	62 y	Virginia	Nov 8, 1869	Harriet E. Kenney	Oct 5, 1844	24 y	England
Jun 19, 1869	Morris Seeley	May 15, 1844	4 y 5 m		Nov 8, 1869	Robert Kenney	Aug 14, 1844	1 m	Dayton, OH
Jun 24, 1869	Amelia Cain	Oct 15, 1823	2 y	Dayton, OH					
Jun 24, 1869	Ingham W. Cain	Mar 1, 1841	27 y 4 m	New Jersey					
Jun 24, 1869	James Cain	Oct 29, 1829	42 y 3 m	New Jersey					
Jun 25, 1869	Joshua Worley	Jan 14, 1834	26 y						
Jun 25, 1869	Nathan E. Worley	Sep 4, 1832	1 y 1 m						
Jun 25, 1869	Rachel Worley	May 8, 1835	63 y	Fairfax Co., VA					
Jun 26, 1869	Abraham Barnett	Sep 24, 1835	53 y						
Jun 26, 1869	Elizabeth Barnett	Jul 17, 1824	74 y						
Jun 26, 1869	John Barnett	Jul 16, 1805	56 y	Rev War Soldier					
Jun 26, 1869	Mary Penn	May 10, 1849	29 y	North Carolina					
Jun 29, 1869	Obadiah Conover	Jan 6, 1835	46 y	Pennsylvania					
Jun 29, 1869	William Conover	Jun 16, 1835	18 y	Pennsylvania					
Jun 29, 1869	John Miller	Oct 17, 1827	59 y	Pennsylvania					
Jul 13, 1869	Lydia Kiefer	Dec 7, 1848	3 y	Dayton, OH					
Jul 13, 1869	Sindony Kiefer	Sep 1849	31 y	Trenton, NJ					



Revolutionary War Soldiers (L to R):
Isaac Spinning, Simeon Broadwell and John Barnett

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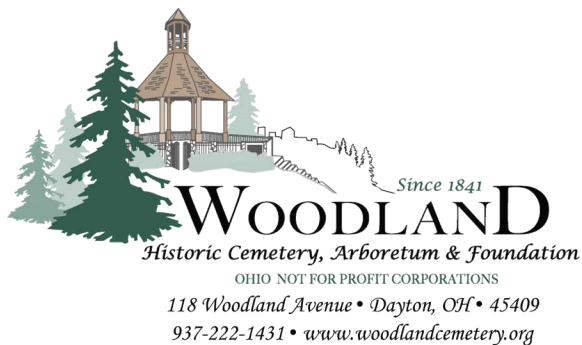


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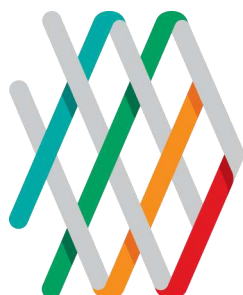
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