Following his graduation from Denison University and a short course in electrical engineering at Cornell, Deeds joined the Thresher Electrical Company in Dayton in 1897. Within a year and a half, he had advanced from draftsman to superintendent and chief engineer. In 1899, he moved to the National Cash Register Company, where he soon became the chief engineer. John H. Patterson made him General Manager in 1903, and after a twelve year association with that company, he was named President and General Manager.

Colonel Deeds in 1904, brought Charles F. Kettering into the National Cash Register Company to electrify the company’s cash registers. When the task was completed, they became close friends, often getting together in Deed’s barn with other N.C.R. engineers to work on new ideas. When Kettering invented the self starter for automobiles, Deeds, Kettering and the “Barn Gang,” formed a company that Deeds coined DELCO, to manufacture their product. Deeds and Kettering also formed the Dayton Research Laboratories, which was sold to General Motors in 1920.

The Miami Conservancy District and the work it accomplished was “uniquely a product of the Deed’s genius.” His industrial contributions to the city were supplemented by gifts of the Conservancy Headquarters building and the Engineer’s Club.

Colonel Deeds founded Carillon Historical Park in 1940. Mrs. Edith Deeds had seen a carillon in Belgium and wanted Dayton to have one. Deed’s engaged Reinhard, Hofmeister and Walquist of New York City to design a structure that would expose the 40 bells. After a two year construction period, Mrs. Deeds played the first concert on Easter Sunday in 1942. Colonel Deeds then began adding historical displays to ensure the park continued long after his life-time. He established a permanent endowment to include education and musical arts to support park upkeep and improvements. His gifts to Denison University also made possible its modern development.

Col. Edward A. Deeds was born on March 12, 1874 in Granville, Ohio. He passed away on July 1, 1960 at the age of 86.

The Deeds Mausoleum is located in Section 121 Lot 2. It was designed by Frederick, Jr. and John Olmsted of Brookline, Mass.
Cucumber Magnolia

Each fall, as you drive along the roadways of Woodland, you may hear the sound of “pop, pop, pop,” and if you stop your car and look up in the air you probably see a tree that is unknown by most tree lovers and even by many certified arborists. This mystery tree is commonly called the Cucumber Tree, Cucumber Magnolia or Blue Magnolia. This species is one of the largest magnolias and one of the cold-hardiest in the world. It is a large forest tree of the Eastern United States and Southern Ontario, Canada and is one of the most ancient among flowering trees.

Unlike most magnolias, the Cucumber Tree flowers are not showy. They are typically small, yellow-green, and borne high in the tree in April through June with leaves that are pointed at the tip. The name Cucumber Tree refers to the unripe fruit, which is green and often shaped like a small cucumber. The fruit matures to a dark red color and is 3 to 4 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide. Unlike most magnolias, this tree often produces a respectable fall color of gold. The ripe fruit is a striking reddish orange color that makes a popping sound when you drive or walk on them. Additionally, if you crush this tree’s leaves in your hand, it will emit the smell of cucumbers!

Cucumber Magnolia has been used interchangeably with its cousin the Tulip Tree in the timber industry and is used extensively as under stock in the nursery industry for the purpose of grafting to produce winter hardy shrub forms.

The striking impression of the Cucumber Magnolia when you first see it is that this tree is big, “really big” compared to other species of trees. The selections at Woodland are on average of 130 to 150 feet in height. The National Champion Cucumber Magnolia can be found in Stark Co., Ohio which measures more than 7 feet in diameter. The average lifespan of a Cucumber Tree Magnolia is 100 to 120 years, but the national champion in North Canton is estimated to be 432 years old, making it the oldest known Cucumber Tree Magnolia in the world.

This species of tree is well suited for sites with well drained soils that are deep, moist, and are slightly acidic, although they are tolerant of alkaline soils. This tree can be grown as a clump form or as a single tree shape and is incredibly tolerant of shade conditions, which makes it an excellent choice as a tree to substitute for Ash trees being lost to the Emerald Ash Borer, as long as the soil meets the plant’s needs.

They are tricky to transplant due to their coarse, fleshy root system and should be planted in early spring with a good root ball.

Mark Webber is a Board Certified Master Arborist and a trusted resource to Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum.

Woodland Notes

Community Support

Woodland Cemetery was challenged by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA to participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge to support the ALS Foundation.

Thinking of how we could outshine our counterparts in Massachusetts, the cemetery asked for assistance from the City of Dayton Fire Department Station 11 to help douse the willing participants. From high above the city at Lookout point and using the extension ladder on the engine, staff and firemen, helped the revelers partake in the icy, cold, wet fun.

Thanks to Rhonda Moore of ABC 22/Fox 45 News and her cameraman for joining the fun, Board Member Rob Berner and all the crew and staff at Woodland for participating in this unique challenge; $650 was donated to the ALS Foundation.

What our Facebook Friends are saying ...

Lots of history in that land! I used to teach drivers ed awhile back and at some point I started taking students there. They have lots of paved roads that curve and turn, beautifully landscaped grounds and so much to talk about! Another added bonus is the residents never complained about their driving.
-Aimee B.

It’s so peaceful. A lot of important people/family that has passed away are there. I can go up there talk, scream, cry, sing, run or dance and its OK. (Without Judgement). There’s really nice people up there. THANK YOU.
-Dottie M.

I don’t know who thought of posting "Died on This Date," but it’s a brilliant idea. This gentleman (John F. Edgar) was probably well-known to my Dayton ancestors. Thank you for these fascinating posts. Who knew there was so much to know about Dayton? YOU DID!
-Catherine R.
Moments in Time from our Friends at South Park Historic District

Thomas Brown

Thomas Brown was born in New Jersey and trained as a builder in Philadelphia. He and a friend decided to join his brothers in Lebanon, Ohio and walked to Pittsburgh to catch a ride down river. Unfortunately, the Ohio River was low, and with no boats going down river, they had to walk, reaching Lebanon two weeks later. In 1828, he moved to Dayton where he built many public and private buildings, including a public works projects for the state. In 1840, he purchased over 40 acres along the east side of Waynesville Road (now Wayne Avenue) roughly between Oak and Wyoming. It is suspected that Brown Street was named for him.

Later in his life, Brown was president of his son's carriage making company. His wife, Sarah Groome Brown, was the widow of his brother James. Thomas and Sarah had four surviving children, in addition to her two earlier children. They were married for almost sixty years when Mrs. Brown died at the age of 94 years and one month; Thomas died a decade later at the same age. Thomas Brown passed away on May 9, 1894. Sarah Brown passed away on August 24, 1884. They are both buried in Section 107 Lot 1919.

Simon Snyder

The east end of Park Drive (from Jay to Wayne) was platted in 1853 by Simon Snyder and Thomas Prosser on land they had purchased from Thomas Brown. Simon Snyder was born in Pennsylvania and during the 1830s advertised in the Dayton newspaper as a tanner. He was active in civic affairs and was one of the original stockholders of Woodland Cemetery.

An early Dayton historian wrote that as “an advocate of schools, libraries and every measure at that early day that tended to promote intellectual and moral culture, the people of Dayton are deeply indebted [to him].” Simon Snyder passed away on August 12, 1873 at the age of 64. He is buried in Section 77 Lot 152.

Windows of Woodland

“This is the forest Primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks, Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the twilight.”

These are the opening lines of Evangeline by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Evangeline wandered from Acadia to New Orleans in search of her lover, Gabriel. She wore the colorful peasant costume of her native Normandie as she passed beneath the ancient trees.

“Under the sycamore tree were hives... Farther down, on the slope of the hill, was the well with its moss-grown Bucket, fastened with iron... Shielding the house from the storm on the north, were the barns and the farmyard. There stood the broad-wheeled wains and the antique ploughs and the harrows: There were the folds for the sheep and there, in his feathered seraglio, Strutted the lordly turkey...”
Woodland has always been proud of the duck pond located at the back gate, Waldo Street entrance. It is always beautifully landscaped, and Woodland has always tried to keep it interesting, especially when it once included a bridge and a water fountain. The duck pond or “Goose Island Lake,” as it is now called, is an artificially created lake.

The lake has been a favorite spot for many generations of Dayton citizens who have brought their children to feed the ducks and reminisce of bygone days; when they as young children would come to visit Woodland, sitting for hours by the lake, picnicking and enjoying the view.

The lake has long been the favorite spot of lot owners who desire their eternal resting place near or on the lake.

From the Dayton Evening News.
Tuesday, August 9, 1892. Page 8 Column 2.
““The Woodland cemetery authorities are cementing the large lake there, which is supplied by a spring. It is a beautiful addition to the many beauties of this quiet God’s acre.”

Support Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum!
Are you a ClubDLM or Kroger Plus Card holder? Would you like to support the Woodland Cemetery Foundation by doing your normal grocery shopping? You can when you register your shopping card to our organization!
Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and link your Kroger Plus Card to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum #28721.
Go to www.dorothylane.com/ClubDLM/goodneighbor.pl and link your ClubDLM number to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum #821.
Our Foundation continues to focus on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio.

Thank you for your donation to Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum.
Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum
118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
937-228-3221

Please make your check payable to:
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(Return this card with your check)
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_____ $100 Supporter
_____ $250 Associate
_____ $500 Sponsor
_____ $1,000 Patron
_____ Other

Foundation members will receive a Woodland Schedule of Events, our quarterly newsletter, Woodland Wire, and an invitation to a member’s only reception in the fall.

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