



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Preserving Military History:



Above: Earliest photo of Soldiers' Lot Memorial Cannons yet found, courtesy Dayton Daily News, 5/30/1913 page 1

Last week, we learned that the goal of a preservationist is to preserve 'cultural property' – irreplaceable objects,

*Wait, didn't the Revolutionary War end in 1783?

structures, or collections that are significant for a variety of reasons. Preserving historic cemeteries like Woodland ensures that important stories aren't lost to time and remain accessible to the public.

Woodland is the final resting place of veterans from every major conflict that the United States has ever been involved in*. Preserving their grave markers and other memorials to their service is a responsibility we take seriously. By ensuring that cemetery records are complete and correct, and protecting grave markers or other memorials from loss or damage, we honor the service and sacrifice of veterans in our care.

For those of you wondering how a cemetery founded in 1841 had anything to do with burying soldiers of a war that had ended nearly sixty years before;

1. Many veterans of the Revolutionary War were relatively young when the war ended and went on to live (occasionally) long lives.

2. One reason Woodland was created was due to Dayton's rapid expansion, which put a squeeze on the city's earlier cemeteries; leading many families to choose to reinter (re-bury) their loved ones at Woodland.

Woodland's Civil War Lot:

To understand Woodland's Civil War Lot, you have to know a little bit about the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Grand Army of the Republic (or G.A.R., for short) was established in 1866 for honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Union armed forces. Like many veterans' organizations today, the G.A.R. was politically active—founding soldier's homes and working to legislate pensions, for example. They also made sure that veterans of the Civil War were afforded a proper burial (their experiences during wartime had left them with some concern on this point), and that their gravesites were appropriately tended and honored.



Shortly after the end of the Civil War, Woodland's Trustees passed a Resolution whereby they donated what was, at the time, known as section 108, lot 3, to the Grand Army of the Republic for the burial of soldiers who had died in combat.

In 1901, 'Old Guard Post No. 23' (Dayton's chapter of the G.A.R.) erected two cannons "in honor of [our] fallen comrades". There is reason to believe these cannons were taken from confederate positions at Charleston Harbor, but details of their journey to Woodland are not fully known.

How do you preserve 150+ year old cannons?



Cast iron is (obviously) iron-based, cast; meaning formed in a mold (allowing for greater detail than earlier metal-casting techniques), then bolted together.

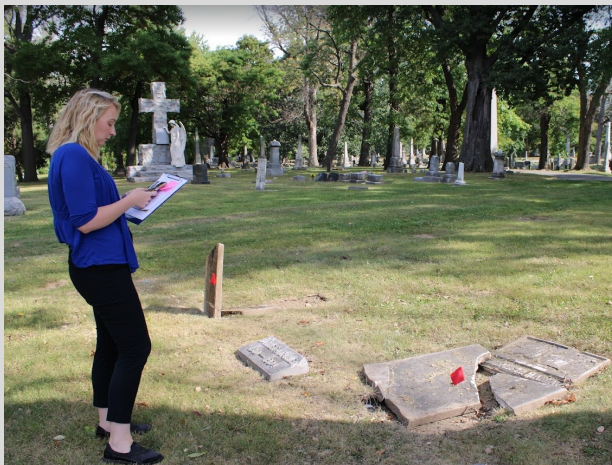
To give Woodland's Civil War cannons a bit of a sprucing up, Manager of Preservation Misti Spillman started with just plain water. Using a soft brush and rags, she gently removed dirt and lichen buildup. Next, Misti carefully used a plastic scraper to remove buildup of corrosion and loose particles on the cannon. Everything was left to dry thoroughly before a new coat of white paint was applied to the lettering.

Once everything was cleaned and dry, Misti applied Owatrol Marine Oil. The oil helps to prevent cast iron from corroding by soaking into the surface, then blocking exposure to the atmosphere – which protects the cannon from further corrosion.



Above Photo: Cannon after preservation work; July 2024.

Next Week:



Woodland's Manager of Preservation & Community Outreach is Misti Spillman.

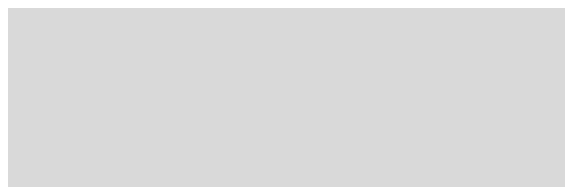
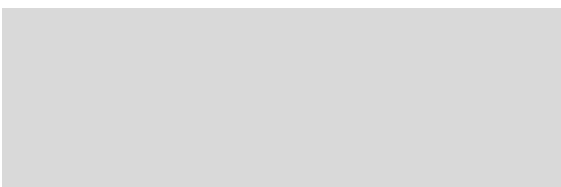
Officially joining the team in March of 2023, she began volunteering as a tour guide in 2011, then began conducting preservation workshops in 2018.

Misti earned her master's degree at Wright State University, writing her thesis on the importance of cemeteries in local history. As the owner of Reviving Cemeteries,

LLC, Misti has had plenty of experience preserving, cleaning, and repairing cemetery materials.

Stay tuned for next week's Woodland Minute, where we will explore what causes damage to cemeteries, and how that damage can be prevented or repaired!

Upcoming Events!





Street Names of Dayton

If you've ever driven through Woodland Cemetery you may have noticed that many of the monuments have the names of many of the streets in Dayton. On this tour, we'll introduce you to the men and women whose streets bear their name and how they contributed to the history of Dayton.

Click [here](#) to register!



Cemetery Symbolism Tour

Have you ever wandered through the cemetery and wondered about the designs carved on gravestones? While many of these tombstone symbols have fairly simple interpretations, it is not always easy to determine their meaning and significance.

Upcoming Tours:

- 7/9 @ 10am
- 7/24 @ 6pm
- 7/25 @ 11am

Click [here](#) to register!



Tree Tour

Home to more than 3000 trees, Woodland Cemetery is also an accredited Level II Arboretum. Join tour guide Kay Linden as he gives you an enlightening tour of the Arboretum at Woodland Cemetery.

Click [here](#) to register!



Luminaries of Dayton Tour

On this tour, you'll visit the gravesites of people resting peacefully in Section 101 of Woodland Cemetery including: the Wright Brothers and family, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Medal of Honor recipient Charles Goodwin Bickham, lawyers, brewery owners, reverends, and more!

Upcoming Tours:

7/13 @ 10am

Click [here](#) to register!



Here at Woodland, we love to share stories of those who rest within our grounds.

It is most often thanks to family members or newspaper articles that those stories reach us, which allows us to include their loved ones in features like this.

Does your relative have a story we should be telling? Let us know by sending an email to ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org

Come Visit Us!



Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

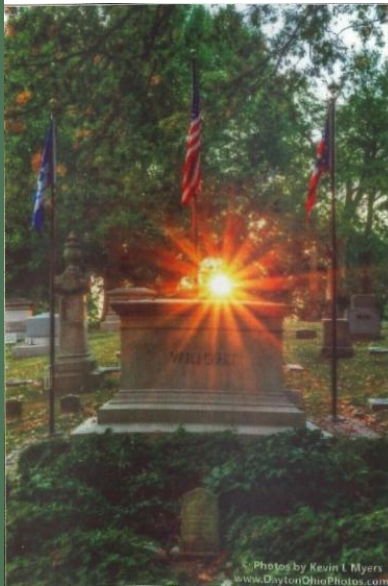
Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries!

Or check out our virtual tours! (if you really don't want to go outside)

DONATE ONLINE!



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SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

Committed to providing dignified and caring funeral services and burial options to families of all faiths since 1841.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
woodlandcemetery.org

Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...



Discover the men and women who made it great in Dayton on a guided walking or bus tour. Self-guided tours are available on our mobile app.

For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail info@woodlandcemetery.org

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

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

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