



SINCE 1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



## Braille Literacy Month

National Braille Literacy Month raises awareness of the importance of Braille to the blind and visually impaired community.

Though its use has decreased in the past few decades due to innovations in audio technology, Braille is still used today in the workplace and classroom.

Take a moment this month to learn about Braille's history—including NCR (and Dayton's) contributions.

In 1948, the National Cash Register company learned about D.W. Lawrence, a Westville, Ohio food market proprietor who was blind.

To record sales and total purchases, Lawrence used a Class 6000 cash register by memorizing the position of the keys—no easy feat.

The NCR salesman, P.J. McGugin, who

sold Lawrence his cash register, wrote to the company's Dayton based product development department for help.

Their solution? NCR constructed a nine-key register, drilling holes and inserting brass studs to create the raised patterns of Braille letters and numbers.

Though the company acknowledged that the concept of a Braille register was not new, NCR's model for Lawrence was the first time it had been applied to a more complex machine.

NCR was founded by John H. Patterson in 1884. The Patterson family lot is located in section 13, lot 2871 at Woodland Cemetery.



ROBERT EUGENE CURTIS ... blind NCR employe tests machine

**Cash Register Keys Made In Braille**  
**NCR Aids Blind Customer**

Photo: Robert Eugene Curtis, a blind NCR employee, tests the modified cash register. Published by *the Journal Herald*, 11/29/1948 pg. 14.



Phyllis L. Berlo

(10/27/1927 - 1/17/2024)

Phyllis had an insatiable curiosity. Though she did not obtain a degree, her commitment to learning never wavered.

She immersed herself in the world of mathematics, dedicating her time to translating complex mathematical concepts into Braille, ensuring that the blind community had access to this essential knowledge.

Her devotion to accessibility will forever be appreciated.

Phyllis Louise Berlo died in 2024 at the age of 96. She is laid to rest in the Woodland Mausoleum. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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Happy Birthday!

Roscoe Iddings

Born 01/28/1889

Roscoe C. Iddings was born in Dayton in 1889. The younger brother of Andrew Iddings, Roscoe sometimes had the opportunity to join his older



brother on trips around the world; from the Arctic Circle to the African Savannah.

By tradition, the Idding's family business was law —Roscoe's older brothers, his father, and his grandfather were all practicing attorneys. However, a 1909 visit to New York taught Roscoe about the firefighting business—inspiring him to instead build his own reputation as a shrewd businessman. In 1916, he founded the Fyr-Fyter Company, which manufactured fire extinguishers in Dayton until the company was sold in 1947.

In 1971, at the age of 82, Roscoe Iddings died. He is buried in the Iddings family lot; section 37, lot 1148 at Woodland Cemetery.

**Photo:** Roscoe Iddings, age 71. Published by the Dayton Daily News, 1/22/1960 pg. 40.  
**For More Information:** check out the Iddings Foundation's website [here](#).

## Woodland Centenarian Club:



### Sanford Thurman Sr.

(7/14/1903 - 7/24/2007)

Sanford Thurman Sr. was born in Palmetto, Georgia, though he lived in Dayton for most of his life. In 1926, he married Ethel Wilson.

Decades later, Ethel read an article about adopting children who had been orphaned by the Korean War. The Thurmans welcomed 6 year old Sanford Thurman Jr. in 1959; his younger brother Michael in 1960, and their older sister Kim three years later.

Working hard to support his family, Sanford Thurman Sr. started work at NCR as a janitor—he would retire 21 years later as an electrician. The only

day of work he ever missed was in 1963, travelling to South Korea to bring Kim home to Ohio.

Sanford Thurman Sr. died July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the age of 104. He is laid to rest in section 307, lot Q at Woodland Cemetery.

**Photo:** Sanford Thurman Sr. (with glasses) and his wife Ethel admire their sons' toy airplane.

Published by the *Dayton Daily News*, 3/10/1960, pg. 1

**See Also:** *Dayton Daily News*, 7/29/2007 pg. 30 & *Dayton Daily News*, 8/17/2003 pg. 55.



# Upcoming Events!



## Black History Mausoleum Tour:

Join us for Black History month to celebrate the lives of individuals who are resting peacefully in our mausoleum. We are offering this special tour in the indoor mausoleum, featuring beautiful stained glass windows and telling the stories of George C. Cooper, James Parsons, W. S. McIntosh, Bob and Norma Ross and many others.

The tour will be offered on two Saturdays, February 8th and 22nd at 2:00 pm. The tour will last two hours and if weather permits, will include a walk to James H McGhee, Jordan Anderson, Paul Laurence Dunbar and other gravesites.

Meet at the main entrance to the Mausoleum. Parking is available in front of the building. The building is climate controlled and handicap accessible. Visitors will be walking on both carpet and marble floors.

### Upcoming Tours:

2/8 @ 2 pm  
2/22 @ 2 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



## End of Winter Bird Walk:

This is a great time to see year-round residents, winter visitors, and possibly some early spring migrants like the Eastern Phoebe and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. The walk is slow-paced, and mostly stays on the road surface, but sometimes does venture "off-trail" into the grass.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear a good pair of walking shoes! The tour will meet at the Eichelberger Plaza at the main gates of the cemetery.

Your nature guide will be Amanda Lawson, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

### Upcoming Tours:

3/15 @ 9 am

Click [here](#) to register!

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Don't get caught by surprise! Check this space for Woodland's adornment removal calendar each month to stay on schedule.

Key:

**Dark Green** = Weekly Clean Off  
**Orange** = Do Not Clean Off  
**Soft Grey** = At Woodland's Discretion

Support Woodland:

Woodland is proud to remain an active part of the Dayton community as a popular place to walk, relax and enjoy.

We invite you to contribute to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation to ensure that what's meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow! Your gift makes an immediate impact on the horticulture, arboriculture, and restoration efforts needed to maintain one of Dayton's most historic and beautiful outdoor museums.

Thank you for your generous support of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

**DONATE ONLINE!**

**Come Visit Us!**



Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
 8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is

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!

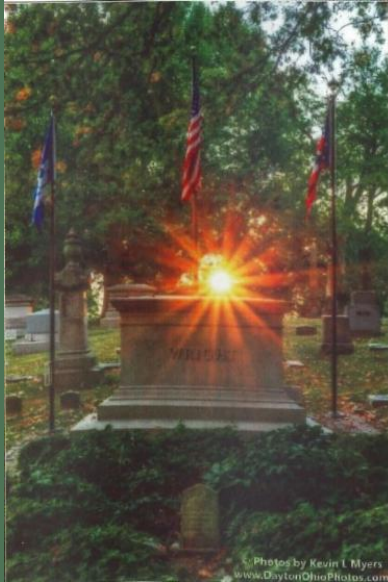
Tours & More:

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

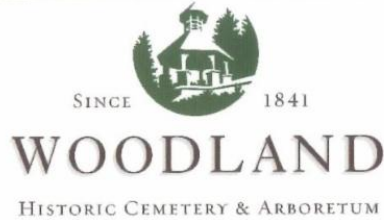
Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn

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

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)



Photos by Kevin L. Myers  
www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



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](mailto:info@woodlandcemetery.org)

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

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

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