



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Johann Weikel's Epitaph Translated:

In 2023, Woodland's preservation team repaired two broken gravestones belonging to John (or Johannes) and Catharine Weikel, located in section 77, lot 567.

While resetting the grave markers, we noticed a long and beautifully carved German epitaph on the backside of John's gravestone—but we weren't sure exactly what it said.

The preservation team reached out to Dr. Gary Schmidt; the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Professor of German at Wright State University.



This December, Dr. Schmidt visited Woodland to get a better look at the gravestone and take pictures of the epitaph.

In January, Dr. Schmidt completed his translation and we now know what John's gravestone says!

A big thank you to Dr. Schmidt for his assistance with the translation and helping us to preserve the history of Woodland Cemetery and the people of Dayton.

Original German:

Sterblicher
 du gehest vorbei,
 wo man mich hat hin-
 gelegt, Schau hier dein
 Contrefey, wenn man dich
 zum Grabe trägt. Meine
 Gruft ist dein Prophet, dass
 es dir wie mir ergeht. Dieser
 Staub ist auch vorhin Fleisch
 und Blut wie du gewesen. Wie
 ich jetzund Asche bin, so wird man
 von dir auch lesen. Man vergisst
 im Tode mein, so wird deiner
 vergessen seyn. Heute mir, und mor-
 gen dir, du mußt endlich an den
 Reyhen: darum stirb in Zeiten
 hier, so darfst du den Tod nicht
 scheuen, du hast keine Todesfrist
 Mensch, bedenk, was du doch bist.

English Translation:

Mortal
 you pass by,
 where I have been laid
 to rest, See here your
 likeness, when you are
 carried to the grave. My
 grave is your prophet, that
 that this will happen to you too. This
 dust was also once flesh
 and blood like you. As
 I am now ash, so too will one read
 of you. If one forgets me
 in death, you too will
 be forgotten. Today it is me, tomorrow
 you, in the end your turn must
 come: so die here for a time,
 that you may not shy away
 from death, your hour of death is not
 known,
 Oh living man, consider what you are.

Left: Protected by the sod, this 19th century stone looks almost new.
Right: Manager of Preservation, Misti Spillman, takes photos of the Weikel grave markers.



Register Now!

Got the Preservation Bug?

Sign up for Woodland's Gravestone Preservation workshop for a hands on introduction to gravestone preservation techniques!

Learn how to fix breaks, re-set stone, and safely clean grave markers. Registration includes a gravestone preservation starter kit of helpful tools and supplies.

This workshop will be conducted at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025. Cost is \$50 per person.

Happy Birthday!



Randolph J. Tams

Born 2/9/1866

A childhood friend of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Randolph J. Tams was born in Harrisburg, Virginia in 1866. He moved to Dayton with his family at the age of 10, and soon after bonded with the young Paul Laurence Dunbar over their shared love for poetry and comedy. Dunbar would die on Tams' birthday, February 9th, in 1906.

Originally planning to become a postman, Randolph Tams changed his mind and took the examination for the

Dayton Fire Department instead. A firefighter for many years, Tams later joined the department's investigation bureau. Notably, he was never late to his post—not once in 32 years.

In 1908, Mr. Tams became the driver of the Dayton Fire Department's first ever automobile.

Rudolph J. Tams died in 1954, at the age of 88. He is buried in section 126, lot 26 at Woodland Cemetery.

Photo: Randolph J. Tams, published in *the Crisis*, Vol. 14, No. 6, October 1917

Leroy "Roy" Forsyth

(2/26/1910 - 1/30/2011)

In May of 1933, Evelyn and Roy Forsyth drove their '29 Model A Ford on a day trip to Covington, Kentucky, to get married. They were together for 77 years. Together they had four children; John, Donald, Roy Jr. & Doris.

Roy worked for Frigidaire for 38 years, retiring in 1970. He was a devoted member of the Salem Church of God in Clayton, Ohio.

Leroy Forsyth died January 30th, 2011 at the age of 100. He is buried in section 307, lot Q at Woodland Cemetery.



Photo (above): Leroy & Evelyn Forsyth. Published by Dayton Daily News, 6/1/2008 pg. 59

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.



END OF WINTER

BIRD WALK

WOODLAND
CEMETERY

End of Winter Bird Walk:

This is a great time 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

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:

2/22 @ 2 pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Lawson, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

Upcoming Tours:

3/15 @ 9 am

Click [here](#) to register!

2025 Adornment Removal Calendar

February						
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	

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!

[Volunteer opportunities](#)



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!

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.

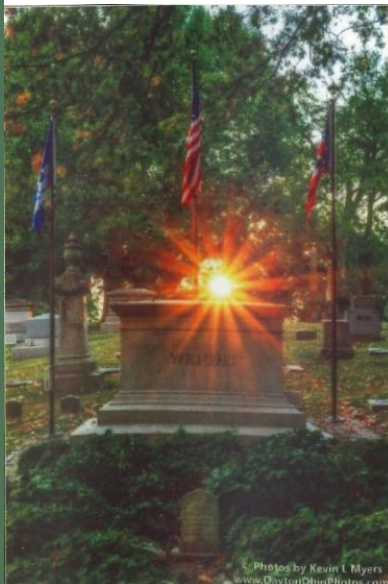
*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

Tours & More:

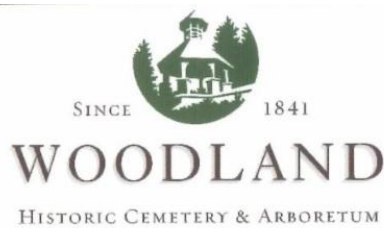
We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

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)



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

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

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