



SINCE

1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



## Carillon Lady: Mrs. Edith Walton Deeds

While the carillon of 'Carillon Park' is generally recognized as her greatest material gift to Dayton, visitors may not realize that Mrs. Edith Walton Deeds was an accomplished musician herself.

Edith's father, Samuel Walton, had encouraged her gift by enrolling her in piano lessons at an early age. Later on, Edith attended Earlham College in Richmond, IN where she studied music, painting, and languages.

Even when she wasn't the one performing, Edith deeply loved music. For many years Mrs. Deeds served as sponsor and contributor to a number of local music organizations—including

### Edith Walton Deeds

10/27/1869 - 2/9/1949

Dayton's first ever Boys' Harmonica Orchestra.

According to Edith, "It [was] better for the boys to play the harmonica at home than to stand idly around the Dayton street corners." At least with the harmonicas, you'd always know where the boys were.



**Above:** portrait of Edith Walton Deeds, undated. Courtesy of [Centerville-Washington History center](#).



### Deeds Carillon

**Photo:** courtesy of Dayton Daily News, 8/23/2017. Contributed photo.

The idea to bring a carillon to Dayton came to Mrs. Deeds while she and the Colonel were travelling in Belgium. As Edith was listening to the chimes in one of the belfries, she began to dream of bringing such an instrument to Dayton. Edith explained, "In no other way can simple inspiring music be spread among an entire populace."

Edith would remain personally involved in the tower's design, as well as many details of its construction. The final result was a tower reaching 151 feet into the sky, fashioned of granite, steel and Indiana limestone. It shelters a cluster of 57 bells—some of which are small and silent, representing members of the Deeds family that had passed away before the tower was built, including Edith's mother and father. It was one of only six carillons in the country; and one of the tallest.

Once the project was finished, Edith was the first to play the bells, choosing a hymn called "the Doxology" for the carillon's dedication ceremony on August 23, 1942.



**Above:** Edith Deeds playing the Deeds Carillon organ. Published by the Dayton Daily News, 8/23/2017. Contributed photo; Dayton History.



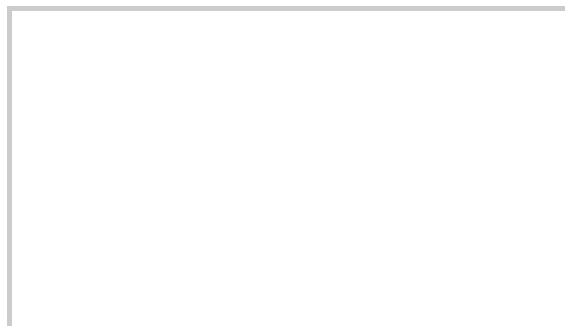
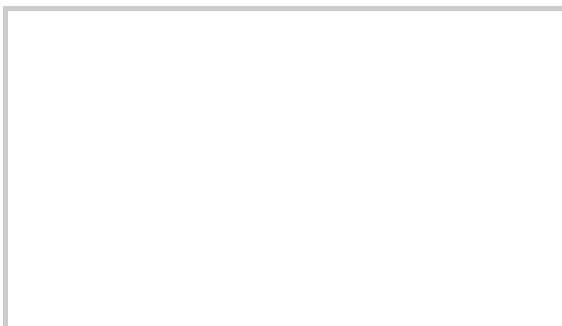
**Above:** Bells are prepared for installation in the new carillon, ca. 1942. Published by the Dayton Daily News, 8/23/2017. Contributed photo; Dayton History.

Edith Walton Deeds died at the age of 79 on February 9th, 1949. Four days later, on February 12th, a symphony of bells tolled for the gracious lady who had shared her love for music with an entire city.

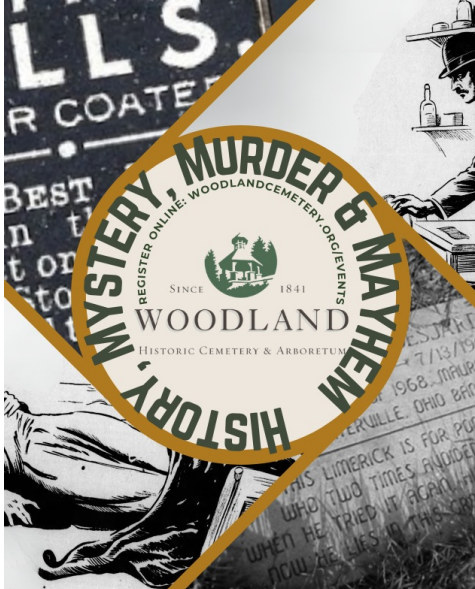
As the funeral procession passed by, the carillon bells rang "Lead Kindly Light"; one of Mrs. Deeds' favorite hymns—played by Robert E. Kline, Mrs. Deeds' favorite carillonneur. As the procession made its way to Woodland Cemetery and the bells faded into the distance, they seemed to say, "Farewell, dear friend – to thy memory never."

Edith Walton Deeds and her family are located in the Deeds Mausoleum in Section 121 Lot 2 at Woodland Cemetery.

## Upcoming Events!



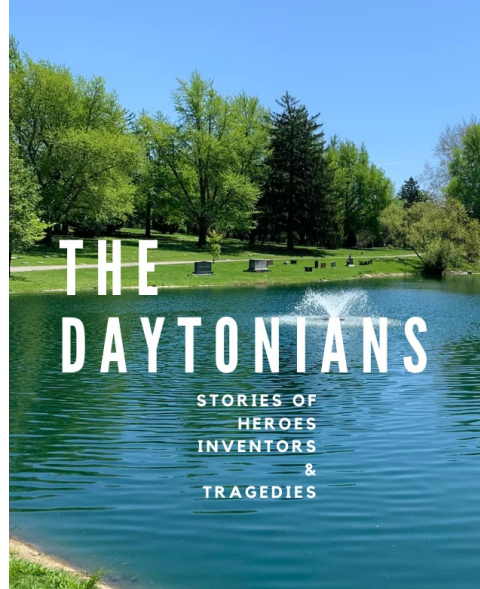




### History Mystery Murder & Mayhem:

6/5 @ 10 am

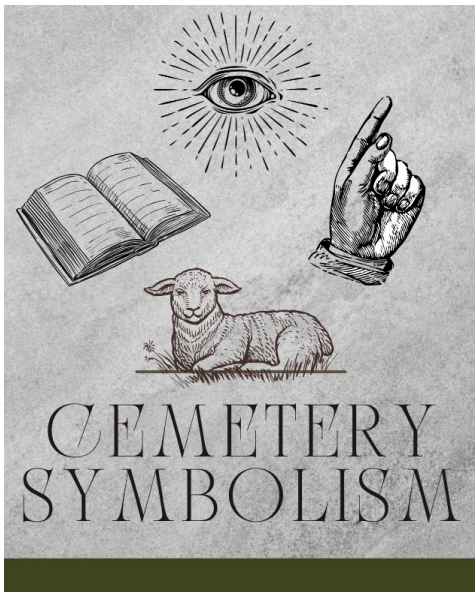
Click [here](#) to register!



### The Daytonians Tour:

6/4 @ 2 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



### Cemetery Symbolism Tour:

6/3 @ 6 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



### Sports Legends Tour:

6/17 @ 6 pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Don't get caught by surprise:

Please be sure to bring home all decor items that you wish to keep.

Key:

June						
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	Father's Day 6/15				

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

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


### 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 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)



  
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](http://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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