



SINCE

1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



## The Song of Hiawatha

### The Song of Hiawatha

Published 1855

Set in the Lake Superior region, *The Song of Hiawatha* focuses on the adventures of a fictional Ojibwe hero, Hiawatha, and his tragic love story with a Dakota woman, Minnehaha.

This window depicts the poem's seventh chapter, when Hiawatha builds a canoe. In the background we can see birch, cedar, tamarack, and fir trees; each contributes some material to the canoe's construction. The canoe is then coated with resin and decorated



So disasters come not singly;  
But as if they watched and waited,  
Scanning one another's motions,  
When the first descends, the others  
Follow, follow, gathering flock-wise  
Round their victim, sick and wounded

First a shadow, then a sorrow,  
Till the air is dark with anguish.

-The Song of Hiawatha,  
Chapter XIX, 'The Ghosts'

with hedgehog quills and berry dyes  
before setting off downriver.

Published in 1855, *The Song of Hiawatha* is notable as one of the first instances in American popular culture where Native Americans are portrayed as heroic figures of their own stories.

During this time period, the “vanishing Indian” stereotype – the idea that Native Americans would inevitably disappear as legislation and education eradicated Indigenous culture, was widespread.

Instead of affirming this stereotype, Hiawatha revived a popular interest in Indigenous culture.

## Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1807 - 1882

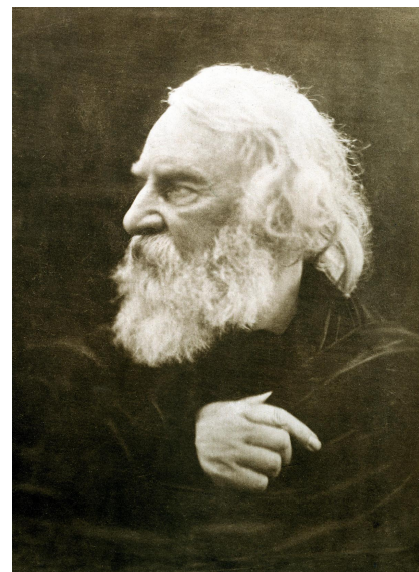
Longfellow's basis for *Hiawatha* was Manabozho; a cultural hero and trickster spirit of Ojibwe legend.

Somewhere along the line, Longfellow got the idea that 'Hiawatha' was another name for 'Manabozho', and thus his mistake was cemented into American literary history.

The real Hiawatha was a 16<sup>th</sup> century Iroquois leader, remembered for his role in persuading the Five Nations to band together and become members of the Iroquois confederacy.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in Portland, Massachusetts (now Portland, Maine). His first poem was published when he was only 13 years old.

In 1825, Longfellow graduated from Bowdoin College and was offered a position there as a professor of modern languages. About 10 years later, he was offered a similar position at Harvard. Longfellow retired from teaching in 1854 to focus on his writing, and lived the remainder of his life in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Above: Portrait of [Longfellow](#) by [Julia Margaret Cameron](#) (1868)





**Above:** Bust of Hiawatha, by Edmonia Lewis (1868). Courtesy of the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).

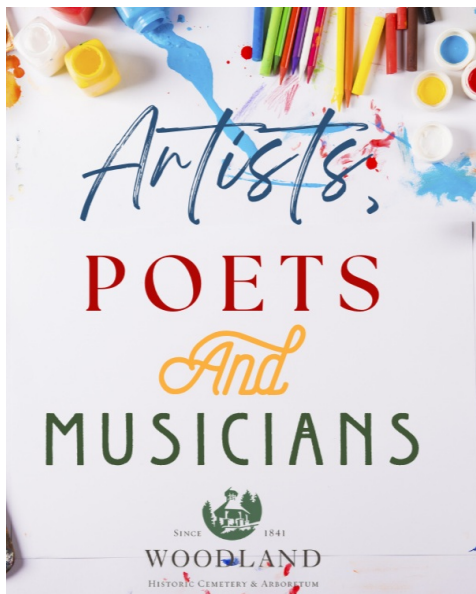
**Right:** "The Departure of Hiawatha," by Albert Bierstadt, presented to Longfellow by the artist in 1868. Courtesy of the [National Parks Service](#), LONG Collections

Following the success of Longfellow's epic poem, artists around the world began to create their own works depicting Native American people and cultures. Although many of these creative projects were ultimately serving the interests of a white audience, they still demonstrate how deeply *The Song of Hiawatha* had resonated with its readers.

One such inspired artist was Edmonia Lewis. Born in upstate New York, Lewis was a sculptor of mixed African-American and Mississauga Ojibwe heritage. She created this marble bust of Hiawatha (left) in 1868.



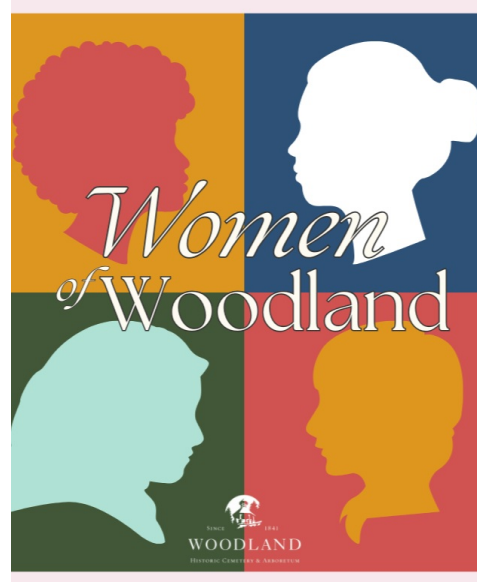
## Upcoming Events!



Artists, Poets & Musicians:

8/7 @ 10 am

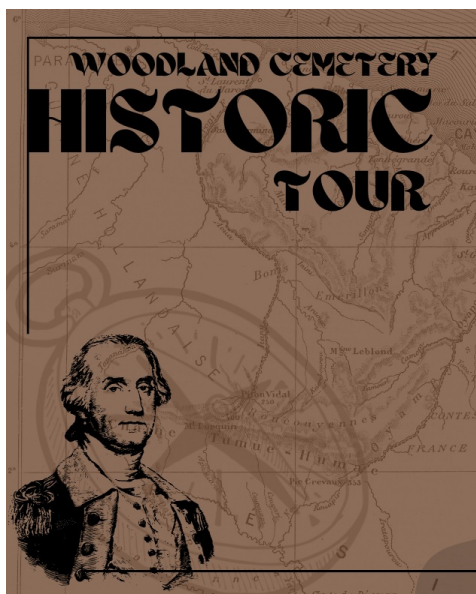
Click [here](#) to register!



Women of Woodland:

8/2 @ 11 am

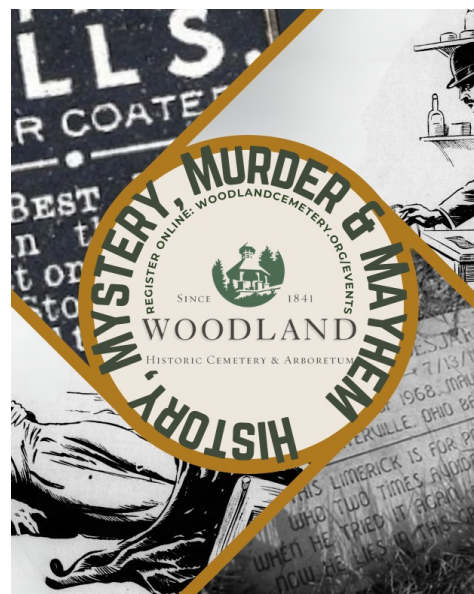
Click [here](#) to register!



### Historic Woodland Tour:

8/4 @ 5:30 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



### History, Mystery, Murder & Mayhem:

8/21 @ 10 am

Click [here](#) to register!

August						
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:

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

#### 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 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.

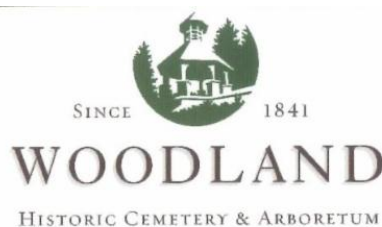
\*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

## 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)



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)

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