

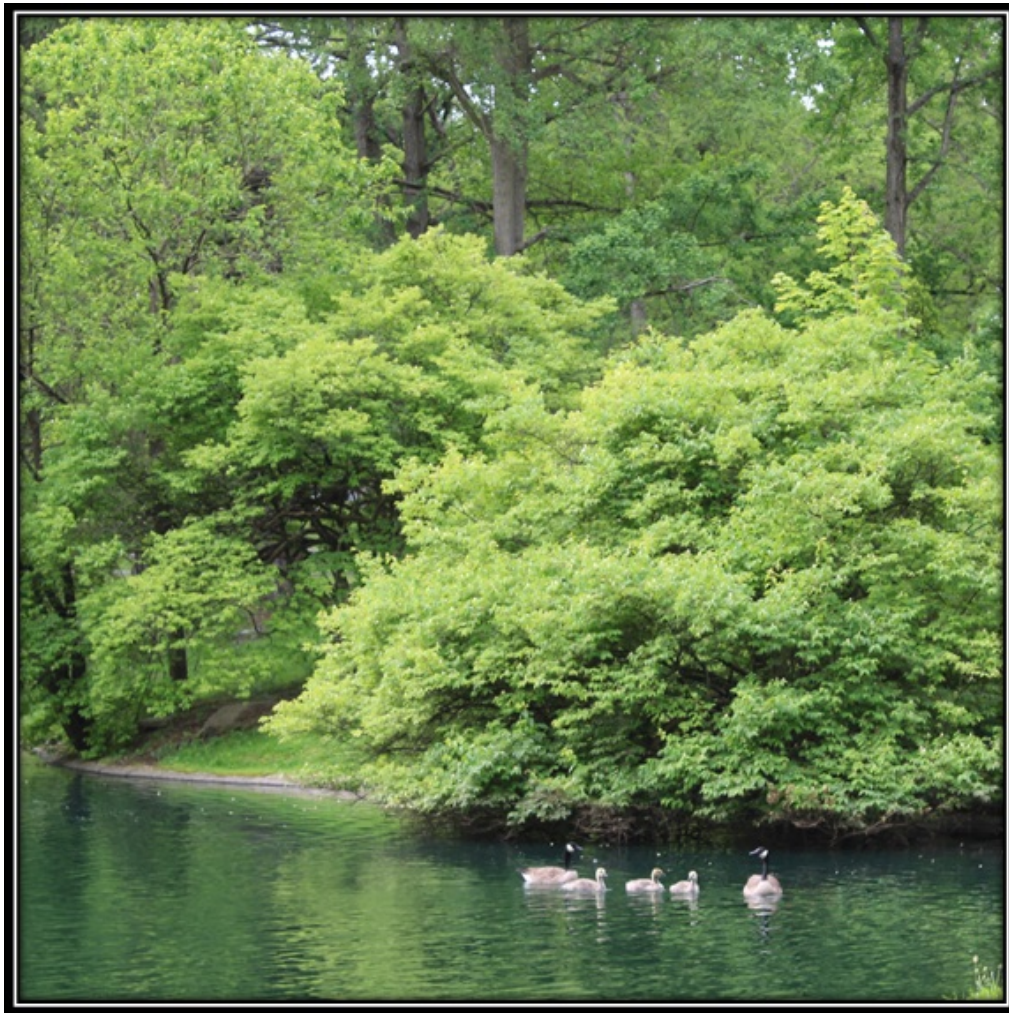


SINCE

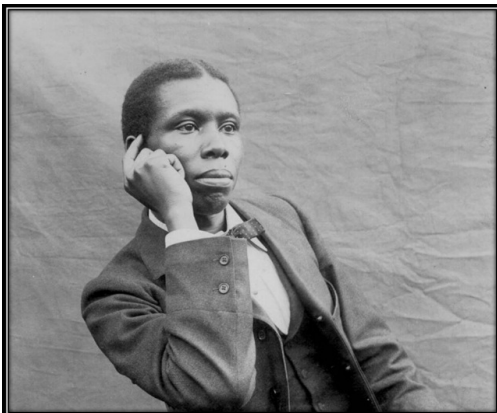
1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Did You Know: Dunbar Edition

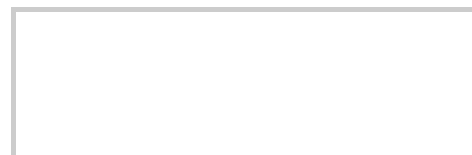


Paul Laurence Dunbar's current gravesite is not where he was originally buried!

The poet died February 9th, 1906—and although his funeral was held three days later, his body was held in Woodland's Receiving Vault for several weeks. This decision might have been a purely practical one; allowing time for the ground to thaw would make burial much easier.

Or maybe not:

According to a [letter](#) from John H. Finley to Dunbar's estranged wife, Alice Moore Dunbar, Paul's time in the Receiving Vault was at the



poet's own request.*

In April of 1906, Paul Laurence Dunbar was buried near the Wyoming Street gate in section 111. Shortly afterward, a memorial committee was formed to raise funds for a new grave & memorial in a 'more suitable' location:

"At a meeting of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial Association, held this day, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: purchase Lot 3465, in Section 101, in the Woodland Cemetery, to provide for the burial of the remains of the distinguished poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and for the erection of a suitable monument to his memory; also for the perpetual care of the same, and memorial exercises at the dedication of the monument. No burials shall be permitted in said lot, except for the remains of Paul Laurence Dunbar and his devoted mother, Mrs. Matilda J. Dunbar." **



Above: Woodland Cemetery's historic Receiving Vault, temporary resting place of Paul Laurence Dunbar.

*John H. Finley to Alice Moore Dunbar, February 17, 1906. Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers, Ohio History Connection.

** Charles W. Dustin to Matilda Dunbar, December 22, 1908. Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers, Ohio History Connection.



Finally, on June 27th, 1909, Paul Laurence Dunbar was moved to his current resting place in section 101. His memorial was unveiled: a granite boulder bearing a bronze plate designed by Tiffany & Co., with a verse of Dunbar's own poem, 'A Death Song' as an epitaph.

The deed to the lot was transferred to Paul's beloved mother, Matilda J. Dunbar, who was buried beside her son in 1934.

A cenotaph *** for Elizebeth Florence Dunbar, Paul's younger sister, was placed in 2006.

*** A cenotaph refers to a memorial for a person who is buried elsewhere. In this case, Elizebeth Dunbar is buried in Woodland Cemetery's City Lot.

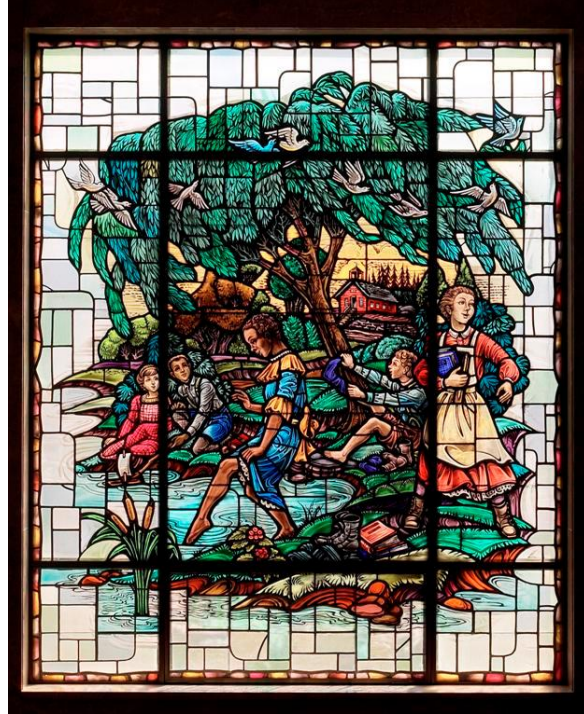
This window is a reference to the second stanza of Dunbar's 'A Death Song':

Lay me nigh to whah hit meks a
little pool.
An' de watah stan's so quiet lak an'
cool,
Whah de little birds in spring,
Ust to come an' drink an' sing,
An' de chillen waded on dey way to
school.

One reason that Paul Laurence Dunbar's poems are so special is the poet's use of dialect. While this style is able to capture the way that

people spoke at the turn of the century, modern readers may find it more difficult to read than Dunbar's more traditional poetry.

We recommend [listening to this poem](#) as read by Dunbar scholar Herbert Woodward Martin — hearing the verses aloud brings their richness and beauty to life, even when the poem is about death.



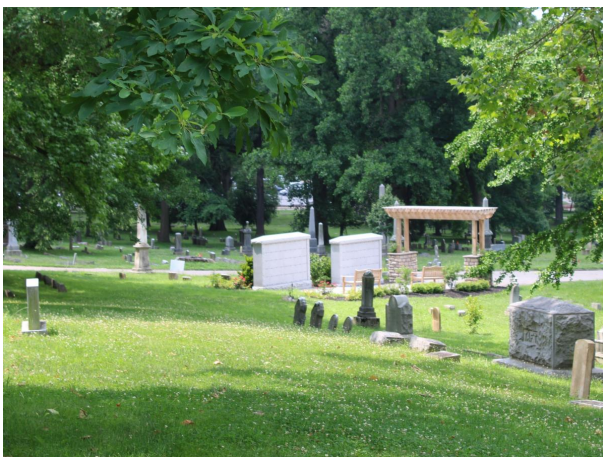
Introducing Honeysuckle Path:

A Peaceful Setting for Traditional and Cremation Burial

Located in a quiet, scenic area of Woodland's historic grounds, Honeysuckle Path offers a beautiful setting for traditional and cremation burials. With flowering trees and timeless character, it's a place of reflection and remembrance.

Whether planning ahead or in need of immediate arrangements, Honeysuckle Path offers a variety of cremation and traditional burial options, allowing families to honor their loved ones in a meaningful and lasting way.

Let us help you find the perfect place to be remembered.



Offering:

- Cremation and full-body burial lots
- Personalized memorialization options
- Peaceful, landscaped setting
- Pre-planning available with flexible terms

For more information:

Contact our Family Services team at (937) 228-3221, or online by clicking the link below:

Contact Woodland

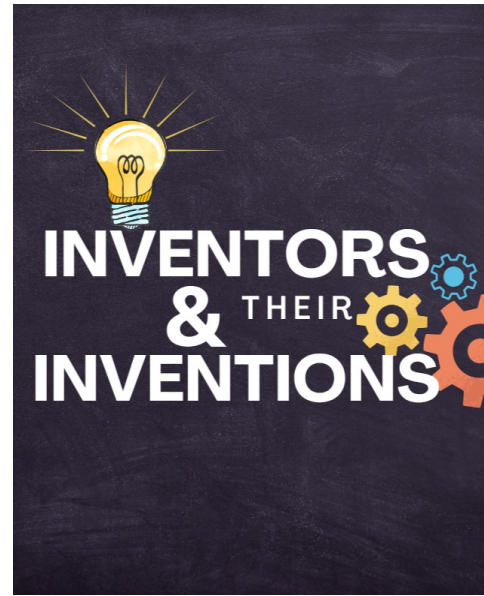
Upcoming Events!



Tree Tour:

8/13 @ 10 am

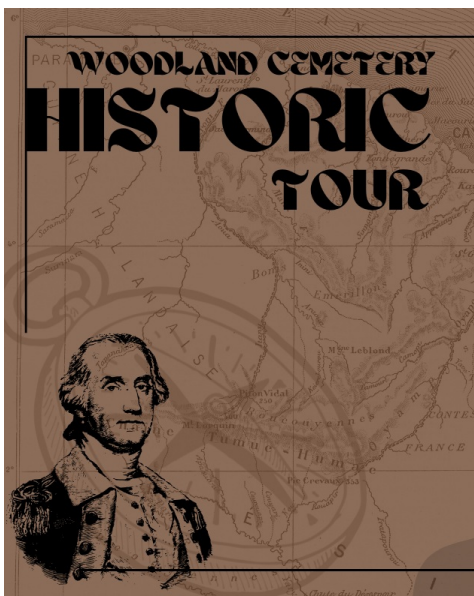
Click [here](#) to register!



Inventors & Their Inventions:

8/23 @ 11 am

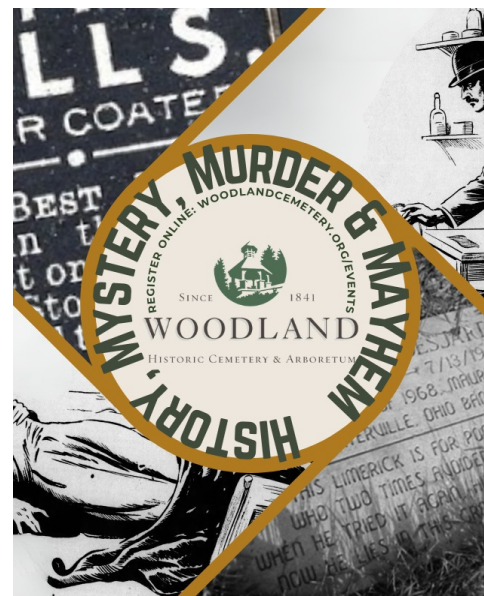
Click [here](#) to register!



Historic Woodland Tour:

8/18 @ 5:30 pm

Click [here](#) to register!



History, Mystery, Murder & Mayhem:

8/12 @ 6 pm

Click [here](#) to register!

Don't get caught by

surprise:

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						

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

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:

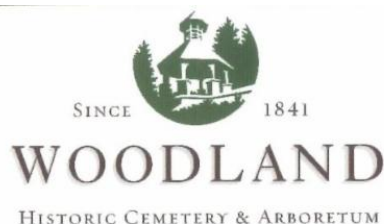
We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

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!

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)



© Photo 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!](#)

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

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