

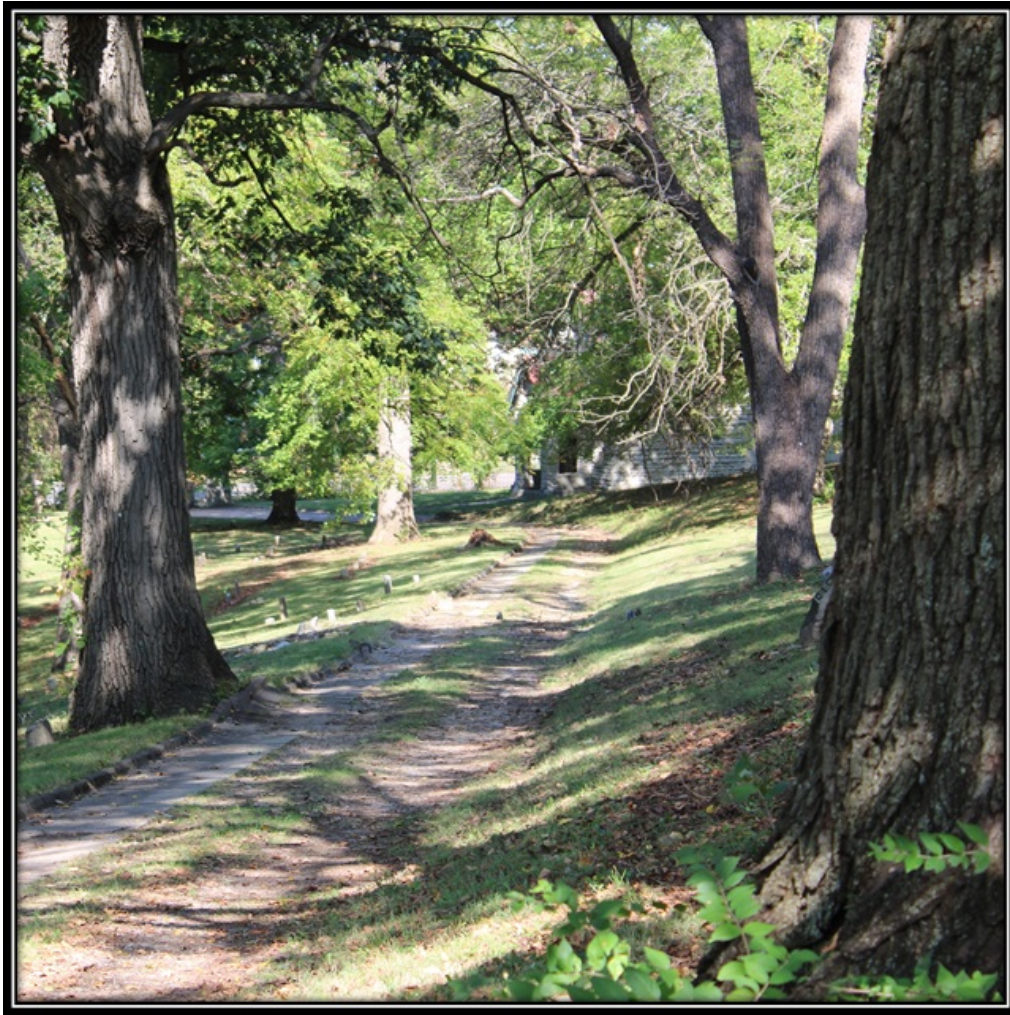


SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



The Murder of Mamie Hagerty

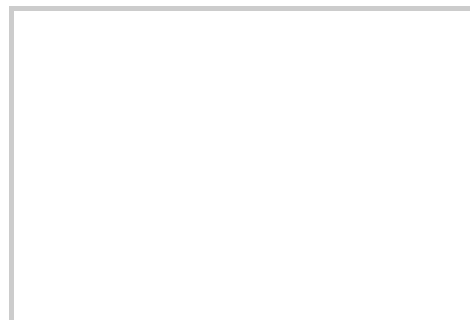
At the age of 19, Royal "Roy" Albert Fowler married a young lady in Pennsylvania but their union proved to be an unhappy one; after a year of married life Fowler left his wife and infant child to shift for themselves.

Seeking a fresh start in Dayton, Fowler found lodgings with his mother and stepfather on Harshman Street. The Fowler's back yard shared a border with the back yard belonging to Mary "Mamie" Hagerty, where the pair met and soon became a couple.

It was not long before things began to go sour. Roy's violent jealousy and Mamie's alleged infidelity led to some dramatic fights.

These outbursts had led to Roy's arrest not once but three times.

During one incident, Roy told Mamie that he would cut her throat.



In response, Mamie told police about Roy's habit of carrying a concealed weapon. Fowler was sentenced to time in the workhouse, where it was said that Mamie brought meals to him and mocked him while doing it.

Nonetheless, on the afternoon of August 18, 1906, Roy went to Mamie's house and suggested that they make up.



Royal Albert Fowler

1880 - 1907

"Go to hell!" Mamie told him.

Enraged, Roy pulled a revolver from his pocket and fired two shots at his sweetheart. Terrified, Mamie ran screaming from the house. Once outside, Fowler shot her twice more.

Mortally wounded, Mamie continued to run down the street until she collapsed at the corner of Second and Harshman streets.



Mary 'Mamie' Hagerty

Buried at Calvary Cemetery, Dayton
Ohio

Above: photo of [Mary Hagerty](#)
from a family album, 1906.
Courtesy of [Annie B.](#), via
FindaGrave.

After the shooting, Roy immediately hopped on a train and rode to West Milton. Pawning the murder weapon for \$2, Fowler stayed in West Milton overnight.

In the morning, he boarded another car to Piqua. Later that evening, Fowler saw the story of Mamie Hagerty's murder in the Dayton Herald, and went to police headquarters in Piqua to turn himself in.

Dayton police traveled to Piqua and escorted Roy Fowler to the Montgomery County Jail.

The case against Roy Fowler went to trial on December 6, 1906. The prosecution's case was strong, bolstered by the testimony of many witnesses:

Mamie's mother told the court that the January before her daughter's murder, Roy had thrown her daughter to the floor and attempted to cut her throat with a butcher knife.

Jacob Donneker said that on August 18th, he had heard Roy shout, "God damn you. I'll fix you!" and saw him fire two shots.

Another witness to the shooting, Isador Rosensweet, claimed that he had yelled after Roy, "Don't run away, you coward."

Royal Albert Fowler was found guilty of the first degree murder of Mary 'Mamie' Hagerty December 27, 1906. He was sentenced to execution in the electric chair on May 29, 1907 at the Ohio State Penitentiary. When asked by the judge if he had anything to say about his sentence Roy replied;

"Only this: That when I went over there, I had no more intention of killing her than you had."

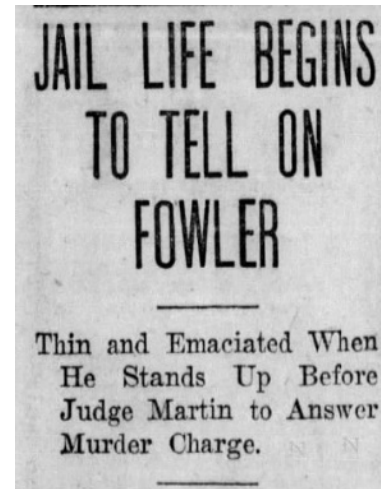
Fowler's attorneys, from the law offices of John Egan, filed a motion for a new trial on the grounds that several of the jurors had expressed opinions of the defendant's guilt before the trial, but their motion was denied.

Soon after being moved to Columbus to await his sentence, Roy began to spiral. He looked worried and was not eating or sleeping well.

Fowler was also constantly causing trouble and had threatened the life of a fellow inmate. The guards believed Fowler was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and could attempt to take his own life.

Within a month, an extra guard was placed to watch over Fowler, but it didn't seem to help much.

Less than two months later, Roy was threatened with the "paddle and water" treatment unless he became more manageable.



Above: published by the *Dayton Herald*, 11/20/1906.



Above: published by the *Piqua Leader-Dispatch*, 10/19/1907.

Just 6 days before he was to be executed, on May 23, 1907, Roy Fowler received word that the date of his execution had been moved from May 29 to August 20.

He then received a reprieve by Governor Harris until October 17.

On that day, the Board of Pardons refused further clemency and the official date of Fowler's execution was set for November 1, 1907.

In an early October interview, Roy Fowler referred to his execution as "the coming event." He said that he feared dying but had no hope of favor from the pardon board.

Fowler told the press that he had no inclination towards religion and spent most of his days behind bars reading novels about love and adventure.

When he wasn't fighting with his fellow inmates, Fowler also enjoyed playing games of checkers or cards with them.

Attorney John Egan had worked hard in defense of his client, but could not spare Roy Fowler death at the executioner's hand.

The sentence was carried out as planned, and Royal Albert Fowler died a few minutes after midnight on November 1, 1907.

Funeral services for Roy Fowler were held in Dayton on Monday, November 4. More than 3,000 people attended the viewing before the white plush casket was closed to the public.

Only 27 people attended Roy Fowler's graveside service at

Woodland Cemetery later that day.

Roy's final request, to be buried with a photo button bearing the likeness of his sweetheart, Mamie Hagerty, and a rose his mother gave him was granted. At the last minute, Roy Fowler's mother exchanged the original rose for another.

She took the other rose home, in memory of her wayward son.



Above: published by *the Piqua Daily Call*, 11/5/1907.

Upcoming Events!



[Tree Tour](#)



[Military Tribute Tour](#)



[Almost Winter Bird Walk](#)



Lantern Tours SOLD OUT!

Wow! Our History Mystery Murder & Mayhem lantern tours have already sold out for the month of October!

Thank you for your support, and keep checking back; History Mystery Murder & Mayhem is offered throughout the year!

October						
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!



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!

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
 8am-5pm

Tours & More:

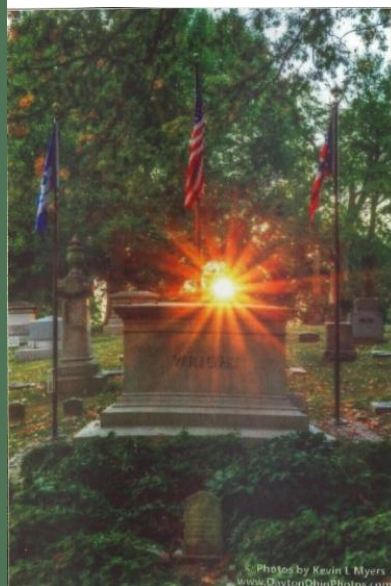
We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the

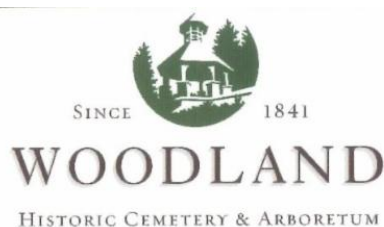
If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

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)



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

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