



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Kenneth V. Johnson

World's Largest Baby



The world's largest baby was born in a three-room house on a three acre farm in Morgantown, Kentucky in 1938.

Weighing 10 ¼ pounds at birth, Kenneth V. Johnson began to grow rapidly. Each month, he gained 4 pounds and grew a little over an inch. Kenneth's parents, Homer & Helen Johnson, were of average height. So were his older siblings.

To find out why Kenneth was growing so quickly, his parents brought him to see medical specialists at the Vanderbilt Clinic in Nashville, Tennessee when he was 5 months old.

Doctors there attributed Kenneth's amazing

Above: Baby Kenneth Johnson.
Published by *The Park City Daily*
News, 4/21/1939

growth rate to an over-active thyroid gland; a small, butterfly-shaped gland located just beneath the Adam's apple.

Other than his physical size, which was proportionate, Kenneth was perfectly healthy.

At just over a year old, Kenneth was 36 inches tall and weighed in at 70 pounds. His feet were five and a half inches long. He already had a mouth full of eight teeth.

A radio interview in April 1939 on WSM in Nashville, Tennessee, brought Kenneth V. Johnson to the public's attention.

Telegrams began to arrive at the Johnsons' little farm; the San Francisco World's Fair wanted to know what terms they would consider for showing their child at the fair. Robert "Believe-It-Or-Not" Ripley and the New York World's Fair had similar questions.

In early June, Homer Johnson accepted an offer of \$200 per week for exhibiting Kenneth at the San Francisco fair for 12 weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson packed up the baby, Kenneth's older siblings, and with Dr. L.E. Coop; the baby's physician, soon set off for the World's Fair.



Above: Kenneth Johnson with a sibling. Published by *the Henderson Morning Gleaner*, 5/3/1939.



Above: Kenneth Johnson, aged 3.
Published by *The Park City Daily*
News, 3/23/1941.

Aged 21 months, Kenneth stood at 40 inches tall and weighed nearly 80 pounds. Though he still needed support to stand up, his parents were hopeful that Kenneth would be able to "toddle around" by the time of his second birthday in March of 1940.

So what happened to the World's Largest Baby?

He grew up!

Like most three year olds, Kenneth was an active child who walked steadily and danced enthusiastically when the radio "[was] working".

All that running around had brought his weight down to 55 pounds—still larger than most three year olds.

After this last update in the local Kentucky papers not much else was reported about Kenneth until his death in January 1997.

Kenneth V. Johnson died at the age of 58 of a heart attack. He never married but had many girlfriends, friends, family members, and was survived by his mother and three brothers.

Kenneth Johnson is laid to rest next to his mother Helen in section 310, lot 72 at Woodland Cemetery.

Right: Kenneth Johnson as an adult. Published by the Dayton Daily News, 1/31/1997.



Upcoming Events!



[Military Tribute Tour](#)



[Almost Winter Bird Walk](#)



[Street Names of Dayton](#)



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!

Don't get caught by surprise:

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

November						
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	Veteran's Day 11/11 & Thanksgiving 11/27					

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:

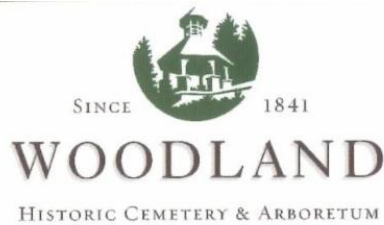
We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

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)



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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