



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Past, Present, Future

185th Anniversary of Woodland's Charter:

A cemetery's charter (sometimes called articles of incorporation or association) is a legal document that establishes the cemetery as a formal entity. The Ohio General Assembly passed the Woodland Cemetery Association charter on February 18th, 1842.

After writing Woodland's articles of association, John W. Van Cleve gathered all 52 subscribers of Dayton's newest cemetery for their first meeting on February 18th, 1841. One of their first orders of business was to elect Woodland's first Trustees; including Robert C. Schenck as secretary and David Z. Peirce as treasurer. Nine days later, Van Cleve himself was elected the Woodland Cemetery Association's first president, and the charter was adopted by the Association on April 10th, 1842.

Congratulations to Ricardo R. Austrich, FASLA!



Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum is proud to recognize our lead landscape architecture consultant, Ricardo R. Austrich, of the BSC Group in Boston, on his recent elevation to a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)—one of the highest honors in the field.

Ricardo and the team at BSC Group bring exceptional expertise in historic-landscape cemeteries, arboretum planning, and innovative burial-space design.

We are grateful for Ricardo's creativity and partnership as Woodland approaches its 185th anniversary; thoughtfully preparing for future generations while continuing our mission of preservation, beauty, and perpetual care.

Please join us in congratulating Ricardo and BSC Group on this well-deserved national recognition!

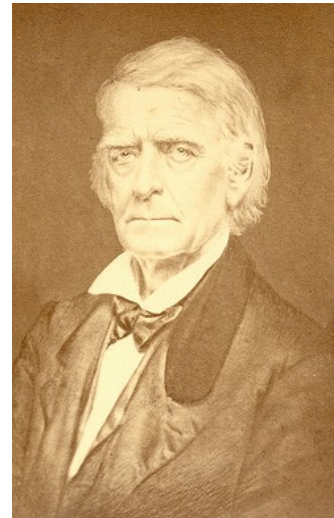


Finding a way to preserve Dayton's history while preparing for its growth has been part of Woodland's mission from the very beginning. Long before Ricardo's time, a local civil engineer/canal expert named Samuel Forrer teamed up with Prussian landscape gardener Adolph Strauch to help Woodland plan for its future.



Adolph Strauch

As a promising young student of botany, Adolph Strauch was offered an apprenticeship at the Imperial Gardens at Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria. While there, he studied landscaping and gardening under Prince Herman von Pückler-Muskau, who had literally written the book on the subject: [Hints on Landscape Gardening](#) (or; [Andeutungen über Landschaftsgärtnerei](#)), published in 1833.



Samuel Forrer

Mechanically inclined since childhood, Samuel Forrer grew up on his family's farm in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Though he had originally dreamed of becoming a millwright, when Forrer came to Dayton in 1818, he found work as a deputy surveyor. In 1820, Forrer was asked to determine the feasibility of what would become the city's canal system—his first canal-related civil engineering job.

Strauch was hired by the trustees of Spring Grove Cemetery in 1854 to be their head gardener. His work there would bring him international acclaim. When other cemeteries and parks began to request his advice, he gave it freely; his payment was the opportunity to share his love of landscape design.

Photo: Adolph Strauch (undated), published by the Cincinnati Enquirer 10/25/1988

From then on, until his death in 1874, Samuel Forrer was employed as an engineer, canal commissioner, or a member of the Board of Public Works. Forrer Blvd. in Oakwood was named in honor of his contributions to the city.

Samuel Forrer & his family rest in section 102, lot 1348 at Woodland Cemetery.

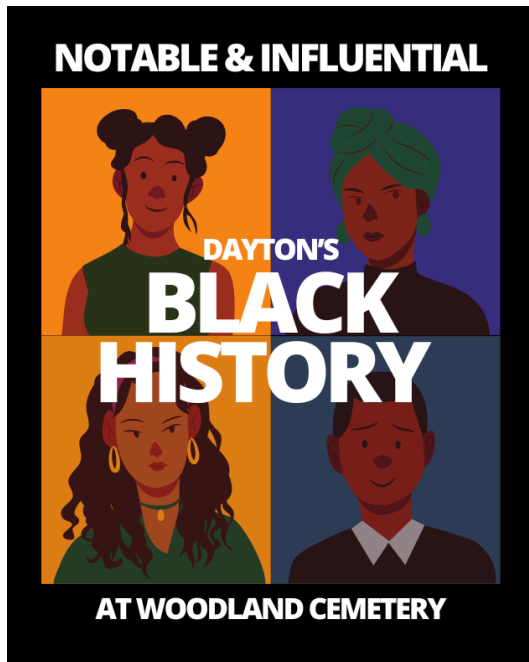
Photo: Samuel Forrer (undated), courtesy of [FindaGrave](#) & the Dayton Metro Library's Forrer-Peirce-Wood Collection

When the cemetery acquired more land between 1853 and 1860, Woodland's Trustees were determined to think outside the box—or, at least, the traditional grid-like layout of 'old-fashioned' graveyards—when it came time to decide how the new areas would be arranged.

By highlighting unusual topographical features and using the natural flora as a scenic backdrop, Forrer & Strauch were able to create cemetery lots that were easily accessible to visitors as well as complementary to the whole of Woodland.



Upcoming Events!



[Black History Mausoleum Tour](#)



[End of Winter Bird Walk](#)

[Click here to explore our full calendar of events!](#)





Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8a - 5p
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Contact Us!

For questions about pre-planning, funeral services, or memorial design:

[Request an Appointment](#)

(Non-urgent) general questions:

[Contact Us](#)

Support Woodland!

For 184 years, Woodland has been a place of remembrance, reflection, and beauty.

Your donation to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation supports landscape care, tree preservation, historic restoration, and our commitment to keeping Woodland a welcoming sanctuary for all.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift today

Thank you for supporting Woodland's mission.

With gratitude,

Woodland Arboretum Foundation





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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

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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