



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above: *Lilium Tigrinum* (Tiger Lily) specimen & illustration. From the Billings-Kittredge Herbaria, Courtesy of the [National Park Service](#):

A Memory of Spring

Elsie May Kittredge was an artist and botanist who preserved and catalogued thousands of plant specimens to create a type of scientific reference called an 'herbarium'.

Born in Dayton in 1870, Elsie May and the Kittredge family moved to New York City when she was 9 years old.

In 1910, at the age of 40, Elsie May Kittredge began to produce beautiful lantern slides for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's illustrated lecture series.

A 'lantern slide' is made by creating a positive print of a photograph on a glass slide. These can be presented to an audience using a very real thing called a "Magic Lantern" at the time, and what we might think of as a projector today.

For an even more realistic image, color can be painstakingly added in by hand. Once completed, the print is protected by attaching another glass slide on top of the image.



Above: a lantern slide depicting *Iris versicolor* or Wild Iris; photo & color by E.M. Kittredge, 1911. Courtesy of the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#).



Above: a lantern slide depicting *Cirsium lanceolatum* or Bull Thistle flowers; photo & color by E.M. Kittredge, 1911. Courtesy of the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#).

[1] [Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record](#), 1, no. 2 (1912)

[2] [American Fern Journal](#) 19, no. 2 (1929)

Rising in popularity as a form of entertainment in the late 19th century, lantern slides were quickly adopted by educators for use as visual aids during lectures. Within two years, Elsie May Kittredge had created 125 such hand painted glass slides for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, who declared that her work possessed "not only rare beauty, but scientific accuracy.^[1]"

You can see more of Kittredge's work by visiting the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's website [here](#).

In 1917, when the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) was looking for an assistant curator to care for and develop their lantern slide and photo negative collection, Elsie May Kittredge was an ideal choice for the role.

Shortly after she was hired, the New York Botanical Garden asked Kittredge to go to Woodstock, VT to assist Elizabeth Billings (secretary of NYBG's Women's Auxiliary), with an ambitious project.

Billings' goal was to create a collection of every type of non-cultivated plant within six miles of Woodstock's post office.

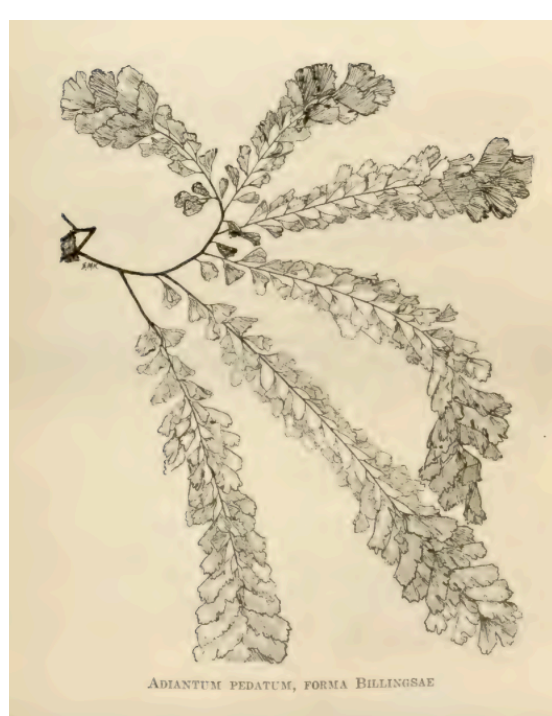
Working together, the two women would comb the area for flowering plants, ferns, mosses & grasses for the next 30 years.

This collection, known as the Billings-Kittredge Herbarium, is kept by the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Vermont.

Luckily for us in Ohio, the National Park Service has digitized the entire collection [here](#).

Of the 1000+ plants Elsie May Kittredge recorded in Woodstock, many had never before been collected in the state of Vermont—and some, such as the new variety of maidenhair fern she discovered on the Billings' estate, had never been collected at all^[2].

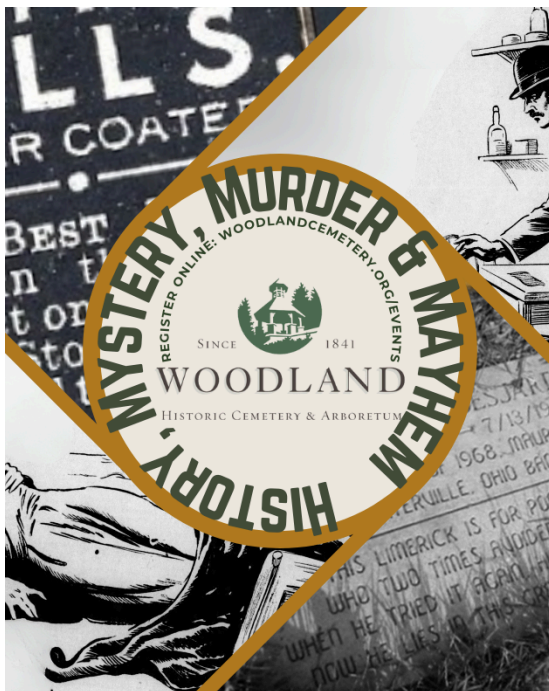
When Elsie May died in 1954 at the age of 83, she was buried on the Kittredge family's lot in section 113, lot 115 at Woodland Cemetery.



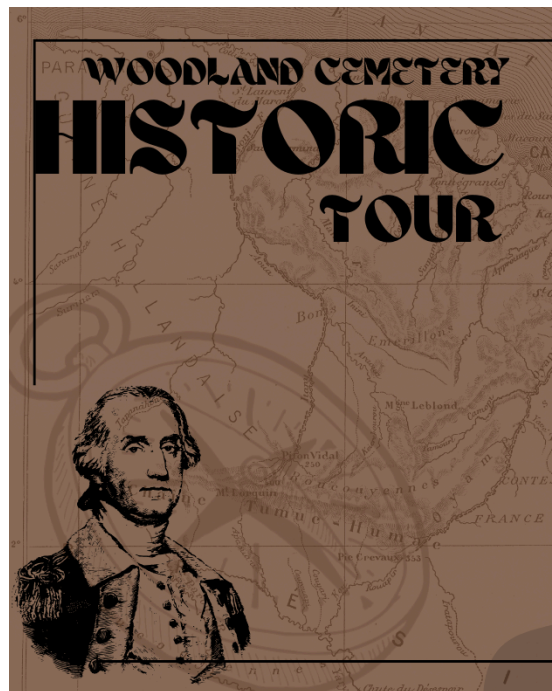
Above: Illustration of *Adiantum pedatum forma Billingsae*; from [American Fern Journal](#), 1928. No. 1 Vol. 18, pg. 56



Tours & Events:



[History Mystery Murder & Mayhem](#)



[Woodland Historic Tour](#)

[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





© Photos by Kevin L Myers
www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

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

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!