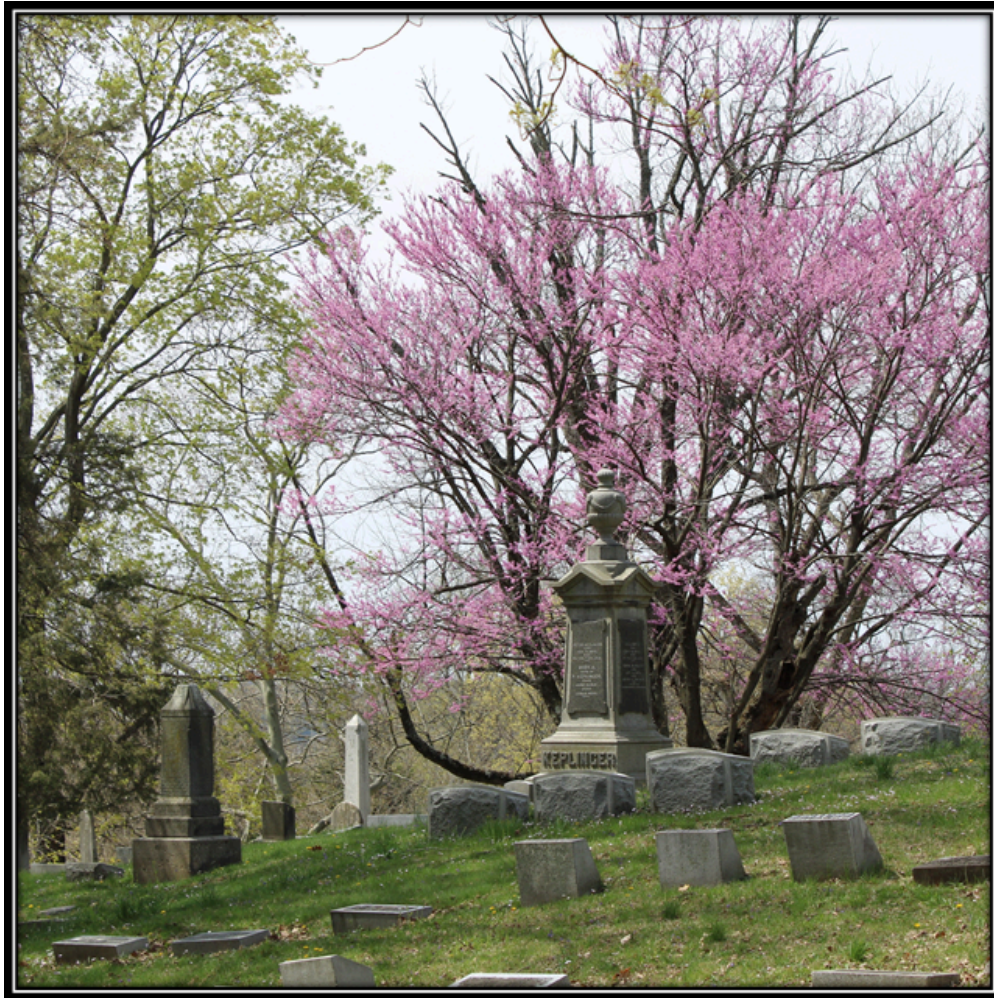




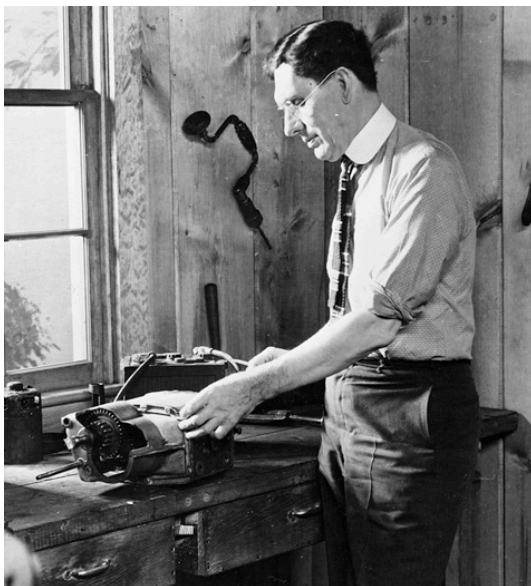
SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



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Two Dayton Legacies at Woodland

Woodland Cemetery is the resting place of many of Dayton's most significant citizens. Among them are two individuals whose lives represent two remarkable dimensions of Dayton's history: innovation and culture.

Charles F. Kettering, one of America's most influential inventors and industrial research leaders, helped shape modern automotive technology and scientific research. His career with General Motors and the Delco organization placed Dayton at the center of twentieth-century technological innovation.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, born in Dayton in 1872, became one of the first internationally recognized African-American poets and writers. His work gave voice to the experiences of his time and remains an important part of American literary history.

This program will explore the lives of these two Dayton figures, their lasting contributions, and their connection to Woodland Cemetery. Through stories and historical context, the presentation highlights how Woodland serves not only as a place of remembrance, but also as a landscape that preserves the stories of Dayton's cultural and scientific heritage.

Chuck Johnson will be the presenter for this program. He is a dedicated public speaker on the life and achievements of C. F. Kettering and worked for the C. F. Kettering Research Laboratory as a Senior Research Associate from 1957 to 1963. He is also a committed volunteer and historian involved in multiple Dayton community non-profits, including Five Rivers MetroParks, Woodland Cemetery, Dayton History's Carillon Park, and the City of Dayton Landmark Committee. He is currently a Trustee of Preservation Dayton, Inc., representing the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood and working to highlight its historical significance.

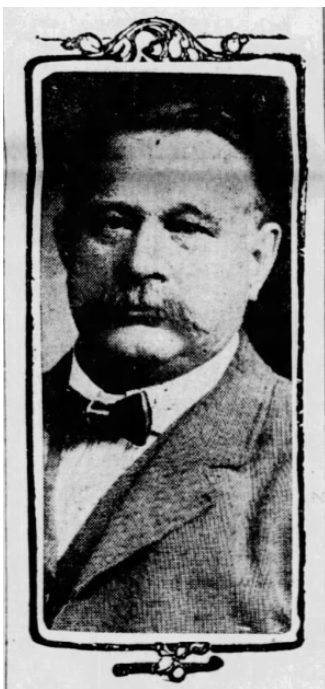
This program is free and open to the public but reservations are required.

[Register / Get More Info](#)

Above: Charles Kettering with electric self-starter. Photo courtesy General Motors.



STRIKING MONUMENT TO DEAD INVENTOR



Above: Headline published by the *Dayton Herald*, 6/16/1911

Gustav Wiedeke, a machinist, came to Dayton from Germany in the late 19th century. In 1892, he began a small manufacturing business in a modest building at the rear of his home, designing and producing specialized tools for work on heat exchangers and watertube boilers.

After his death in 1910, Wiedeke's children chose to memorialize him with one of Woodland's most unique monuments. Beside an understated monument bearing only his last name and the words "Inventor and Manufacturer" stands a life-size statue of Gustav Wiedeke himself. Produced in two separate pieces by the Wunderlich Bros. monument company and weighing in at approximately 10 tons, Mr. Wiedeke's memorial has been startling cemetery visitors since it was installed in June 1911.

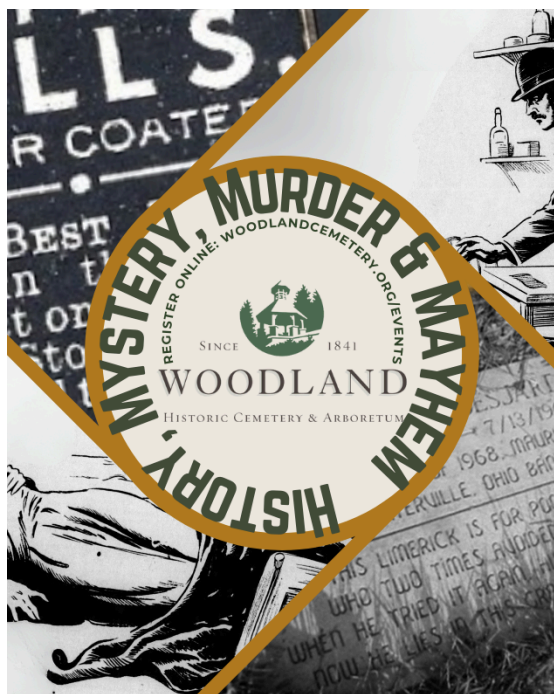
This painstaking—and convincing—likeness depicts Wiedeke as a middle-aged man with mustache and pudgy stomach. Every detail of his suit is picked out in the granite, including buttons, lapels, and even the wrinkles in his slacks. Out of the corner of one's eye, it looks real enough to startle visitors and security guards alike.

Above photo: Gustav Wiedeke, published by the

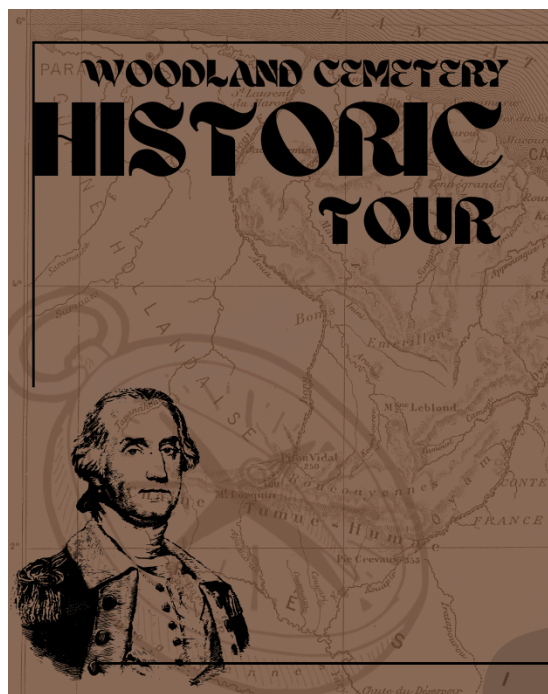
Right: the Wiedeke monument, located in section 113, lot 64 at Woodland Cemetery.



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](#)

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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.

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Thank you for supporting Woodland's mission.

With gratitude,

Woodland Arboretum Foundation





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