



SINCE 1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



HAPPY  
Mother's Day!

## Our First Teacher

If not for their mother, Susan Koerner Wright, Orville & Wilbur might have never opened their bicycle shop—or invented the airplane!

Born in Virginia in 1831, Susan inherited her knack for mechanics from her own father, John Koerner, a carriage maker. Unlike most women of her era, she was able to pursue higher education at Hartsville College in Indiana, where she studied literature, science, and mathematics.

As a mother, Susan managed her home with a practical ingenuity. She kept her own toolbox, repairing household appliances, building toys, and encouraging her children's sense of hands-on curiosity. As adults, Wilbur & Orville credited their mother's example as instrumental in developing their mechanical skills.

Described as 'painfully shy' and often unwell, Susan Wright died of tuberculosis on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1889 after nearly six years battling the disease. Her husband, Bishop Milton



Susan Catherine Koerner Wright

Wright, wrote in his diary: “She expired, and thus went out the light of my home.” Wilbur, who had spent the last several years devoted to her care, was 22. Orville was 17. Katharine was only 15.

Though she did not live to see the Wright Flyer, Susan Wright’s influence is reflected in the achievements of her children. By teaching them to love learning and pursue the things that inspired their curiosity (not to mention her mechanical skills), she set the stage for one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s most influential inventions.

(1831 - 1889)

“We children learned to look upon mother as almost perfection itself... Our mother has gone, but her spirit will ever be with us.”

— Orville Wright, 1889

**Photo:** Susan Koerner Wright, age 40.  
Courtesy of Wright State University's [Special Collections & Archives](#).



DECORATING FOR  
**SPRING ?**  
ITEMS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE  
FROM MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
UNTIL MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

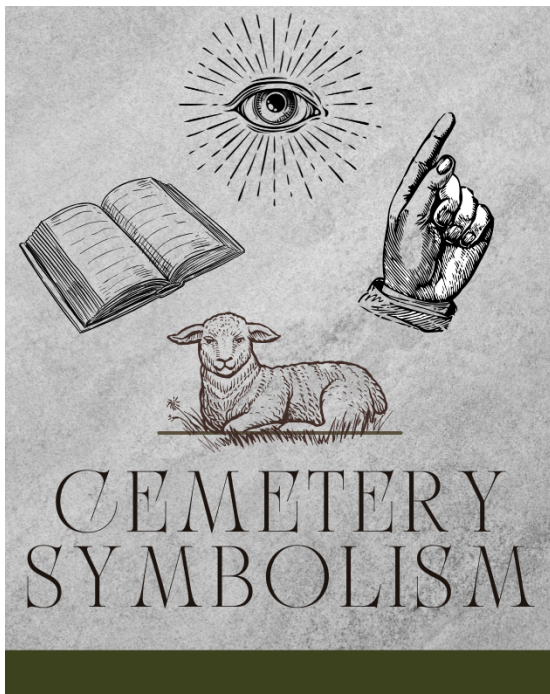
The graphic features a light purple, cloud-like background with the text centered. Below the text is a vibrant illustration of various flowers, including pink, orange, and purple blooms, with green stems and leaves. A small red asterisk is positioned to the right of the 'ITEMS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE' line.

Click the link below for more information about permitted decorations.

[Rules & Regulations](#)



Upcoming Tours & Events:

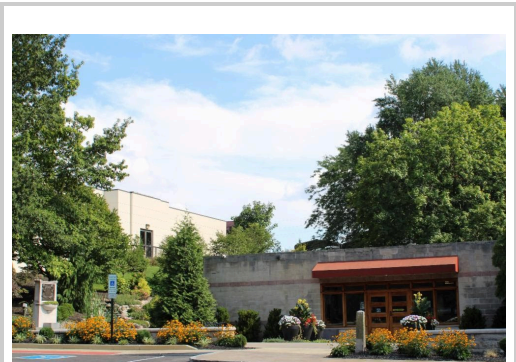


[Cemetery Symbolism Tour](#)



[Woodland Arboretum Tree 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



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](mailto:info@woodlandcemetery.org)

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