



SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above: Portrait of Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell by John Christen Johansen (1940). Courtesy of the [Dayton Art Institute](#).

The Lady of West First Street

Known as much for her boundless generosity as her keen mind for business, Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell was no ordinary woman of her time. Born into a prominent local banking family, Julia was educated at Dayton's Cooper Female academy—which graduated other Woodland notables like [Charlotte Reeve Conover](#), [Alice Pike Barney](#), & [Electra C. Doren](#). Julia was also afforded the opportunity to travel the world from an early age, which contributed greatly to her lifelong love for art.

In 1890, Julia married [Frank Patterson](#), the younger brother of [John H. Patterson](#). They moved into a house at 129 West First Street, where they had two sons; [Frank Stuart](#) & Jefferson, and one daughter; Mary. After only 10 years of marriage, Frank unexpectedly died of a heart attack, leaving Julia a 38 year old widow with three young children to raise. In 1909, a year after her eldest child had gone away to college, she married [Harrie Gardner Carnell](#), the director/treasurer at NCR & president of 3rd National Bank & Trust Co.



Photo: Portrait of Julia Shaw Carnell by Jane Reece, 1928. Courtesy of the [Dayton Art Institute](#).

A philanthropist in the truest sense of the word, Julia's many gifts to the city of Dayton include several parks & playgrounds, seed money to give The Dayton Foundation its start (1921), a Skinner Organ for Westminster Presbyterian, a cafeteria for the 5th street YWCA & a surgery ward at Miami Valley Hospital. The project perhaps closest to her heart, for which she is best remembered, is the Dayton Art Institute.



Photo: Original Dayton Art Institute building ca. 1930; courtesy of the Dayton Metro Library's [Lutzenberger Collection](#).

The Dayton Art Institute began life as the Dayton Museum of Arts, a school & small collection of art located at the corner of Monument Avenue and St. Clair Street in downtown Dayton.

In 1927, the name was changed to the Dayton Art Institute to reflect the growing importance of the art school.

Aware that the Dayton Art Institute had begun to outgrow its original home, Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell promised to construct a new art museum for the city of Dayton if the community would pay for its operations.

The challenge was met, and as the Great Depression loomed, Mrs. Carnell kept up her end of the bargain with a nearly 2 million dollar donation.

The design for the Dayton Art Institute's new building was inspired by two Italian Renaissance palazzos, a style of architecture



Julia had come to love during her travels around the world.

Photo: Laying the cornerstone at the new Dayton Art Institute (1928); published by *the Dayton Daily News*, 8/1/2020.

Completed in 1930, the first registered object in the Dayton Art Institute’s collection was a bronze sculpture fountain called ‘Joy of the Waters’, by Harriet Whitney Frishmuth—another gift from Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell.

When the new Dayton Art Institute opened—during a cold and snowy January, 1930—Julia said; “I feel as if I were giving you one of my children. Treat it kindly. I want this to be a friendly place. I want you to come again and again.”

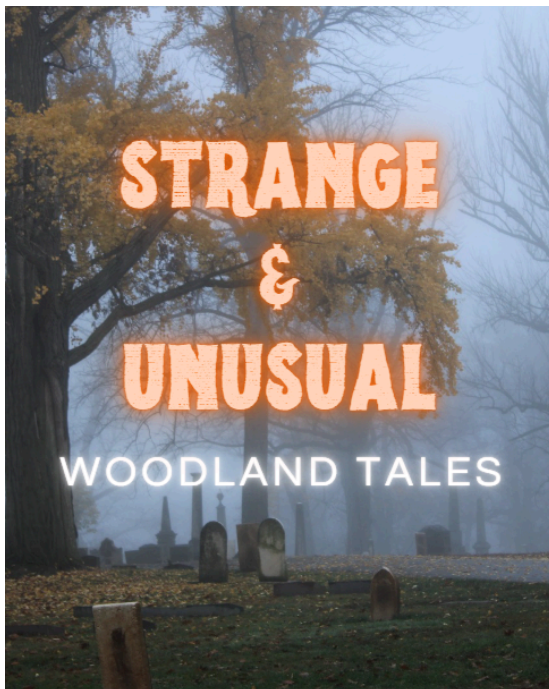


90 years later, the Dayton Art Institute lives on in the grand home Julia built for it. Offering the public much more than its collection of fine art, the Dayton Art Institute has certainly lived up to its benefactor’s dreams for its future.

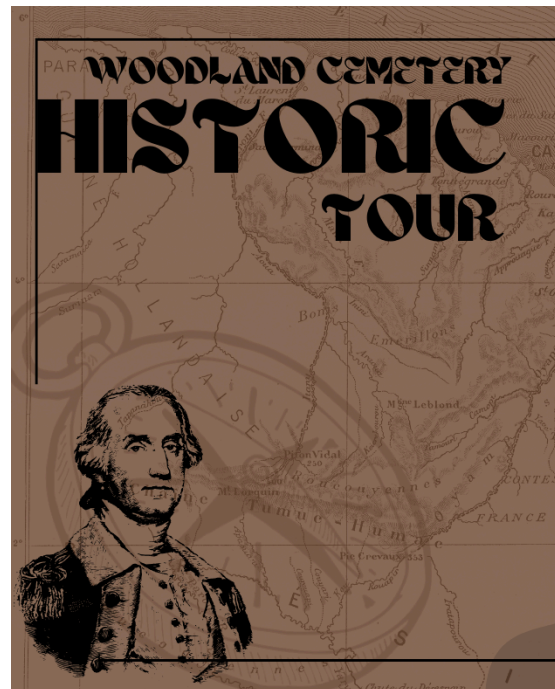
Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell died in 1944, at the age of 80. She rests alongside her family in section 13, lot 365 at Woodland Cemetery.



Upcoming Tours & Events:



[Strange & Unusual Tales of Woodland](#)



[Woodland Historic Tour](#)

Memorial Day Service



Join us on Memorial Day as we honor and remember those who have died during service in the U.S. military. It is a day of reflection, remembrance, and showing respect for the sacrifices of fallen service members.

This program will take place at Woodland Cemetery in our Veteran's Lot at 10am and is presented by Sherman Camp No. 93, Dayton, Department of Ohio and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

[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
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Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
woodlandcemetery.org

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For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail info@woodlandcemetery.org

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