

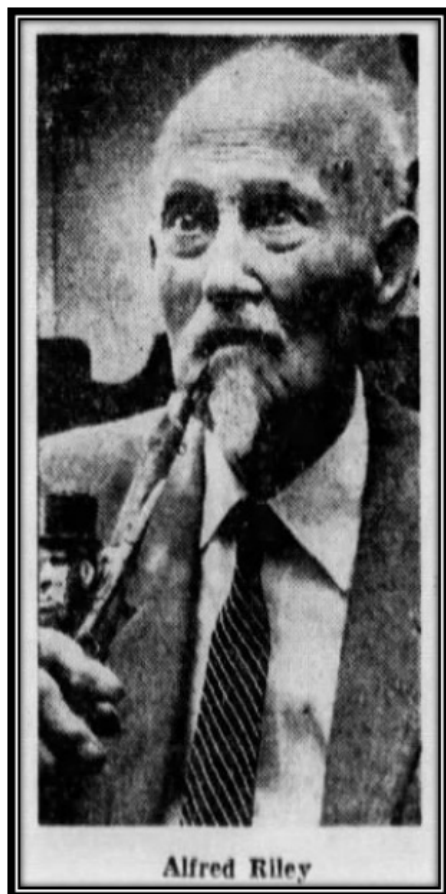


SINCE

1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Alfred Riley

## Alfred Riley

Centenarian  
1866-1966

Born in a log cabin in Warren County, Ohio, Alfred Riley lived to be 100 years old. He came to Dayton when he was 18, finding work as an iron molder. According to Mr. Riley, he never spent more than \$50 on medical expenses in 85 years; though he did sign up for Medicare in 1965.

He explained his reasoning to the Journal Herald in 1966; "It's just that when a man is 99 and soon to be 100, it's best that he have some health insurance to fall back on."



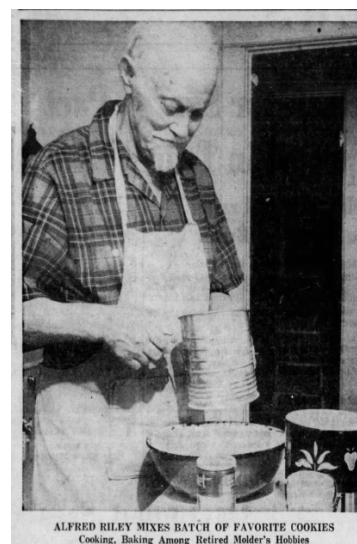
Alfred Riley married his wife, Alice, in 1892—celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 1942. Together, they had three daughters and one son. Alice died in 1952 at the age of 82. Mr. Riley moved in to an apartment in his daughter's house when he was 91. He "doesn't need much care at all," his daughter told the Journal Herald in 1966. "He's as alert as ever."

**Left:** Alfred & Alice Riley; published by the Journal Herald 8/30/1942 pg. 7

Even at the age of 94, Alfred kept up with his own cooking,

baking, and grocery shopping. No fan of boxed mixes, he kept a large apothecary cookie jar full of homemade treats. "I never let that get empty," Mr. Riley told a Dayton Daily News reporter in 1960, offering him a mincemeat cookie\*.

Mr. Riley's specialty, however, was turtle soup; "Had an unbeatable recipe," he told a Journal Herald reporter in 1966. As a young man, he was known as a champion turtle-catcher in the area, but by the time Dayton reporters spoke with him in the 1960's, Alfred had stopped catching turtles and was more interested in carving them.



**Above:** Alfred Riley mixing cookies; published by the Dayton Daily News 6/1/1960 pg. 12



\*a mincemeat what?

Here at Woodland's main office, we were both fascinated and bewildered by the idea of mincemeat cookies. So we did a little research, and it turns out, there's a lot of different ways to bake what could be called a 'mincemeat cookie'.

Does your family have a recipe for them? Have you ever tried one, and how was it?

**Left:** Photo (and [recipe](#), for the daring) courtesy of [allrecipes.com](#).

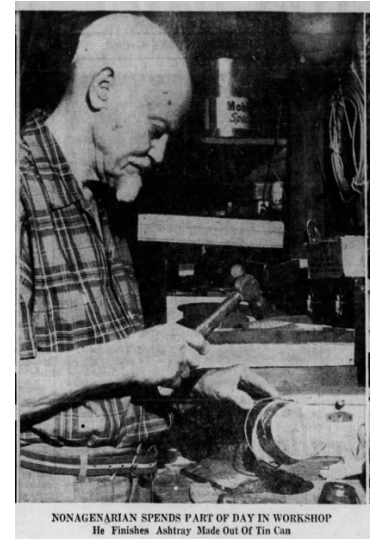
“My stuff isn’t fine art,” he insisted, “but I’ve always been handy about such things.”

‘Such things’ included the pipes Mr. Riley liked to smoke;

“Been smokin’ a pipe for 82 years,” he told the Journal Herald, pointing out his large collection of hand-carved pipes.

Many of Alfred Riley’s creations were given to friends as gifts, though Mr. Riley’s home was well decorated with the rest. At the Woodland Minute, we’d love to see his carving of a pair of kangaroos (and their joeys) mid-boxing match; not to mention the cement turtle “so real you’d shoot him if you saw him by the river bank.”

**Right:** Mr. Riley in his workshop; published by the Dayton Daily News 6/1/1960 pg. 12



Alfred’s talents weren’t just on the artsy side—he even made himself a set of dentures: “I made these myself out of aluminum. I have some in the drawer the dentist made for me but they just weren’t comfortable, so I made my own. Most comfortable things I’ve ever worn.”

In 1966, at the age of 100, Alfred Riley died. Surviving him were three daughters, one son, eleven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, countless works of art, innumerable whittled pipes, and one set of hand-made aluminum dentures.

Alfred and Alice Riley are buried in section 14, lot 2356 at Woodland Cemetery.



# Upcoming Events!



## Historic Woodland Tour:

Founded in 1841, Woodland is one of the oldest rural cemeteries in the United States.

Visit the final resting place of the Wright Brothers, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Erma Bombeck, James Ritty, the Stanley Family, the Mead Family, George Newcom and many other famous and infamous Daytonians.

### Upcoming Tours:

7/29 @ 5:30pm  
7/30 @ 10am  
8/6 @ 6:30pm  
8/8 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!



## Artists, Poets & Musicians Tour:

Remembering members of the Arts community of the Greater Miami Valley Area who are resting peacefully at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

### Upcoming Tours:

7/31 @ 6pm

Click [here](#) to register!



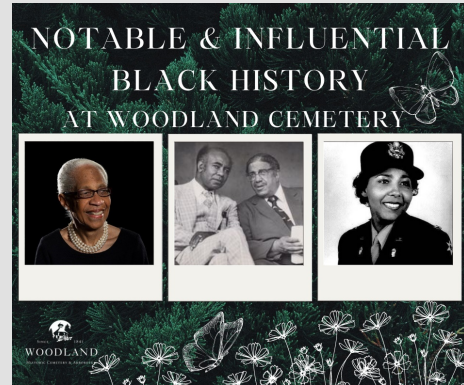
## Women of Woodland Tour:

Meet some of Dayton's most interesting and exciting women in history. You'll hear about homemaker turned author, Erma Bombeck; madam and real estate owner, Lib Hedges; a visionary for the physically handicapped and disabled, Anna Barney Gorman; Queen of the Gypsies, Matilda Stanley; librarian innovator, Electra C. Doren; Dayton historical author, Charlotte Reeve Conover; rodeo rider, Marguerite Doane; famous actress and woman scorned, Mrs. Leslie Carter and many, many more.

Upcoming Tours:

8/10 @ 11am

Click [here](#) to register!



## Notable & Influential: Black History at Woodland Cemetery:

Explore our mausoleum and grounds during this new tour!

Hear stories about some of the most influential and notable African Americans interred here at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

Upcoming Tours:

8/17 @ 11am

Click [here](#) to register!

# Share Your Story With Us!



Here at Woodland, we love to share stories of those who rest within our grounds.

It is most often thanks to family members or newspaper articles that those stories reach us, which allows us to include their loved ones in features like this.

Does your relative have a story we should be telling? Let us know by sending an email to [ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org](mailto:ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org)

## Come Visit Us!



### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

### Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

\*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

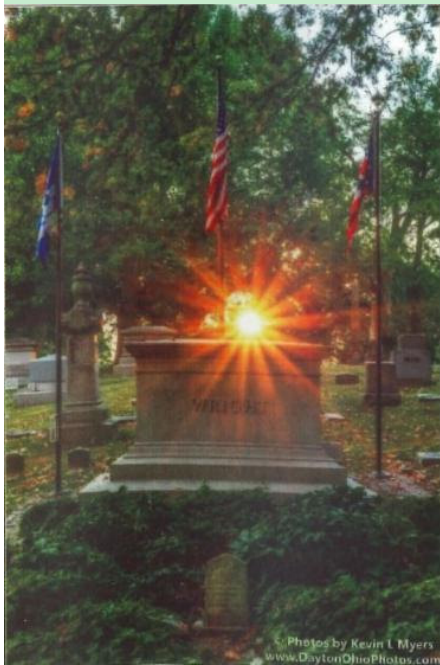
### Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries! Or check out our [virtual tours](#)! (if you really don't want to go outside)

**DONATE ONLINE!**





Photos by Kevin L. Myers  
www.DaytonOhioPhotos.com



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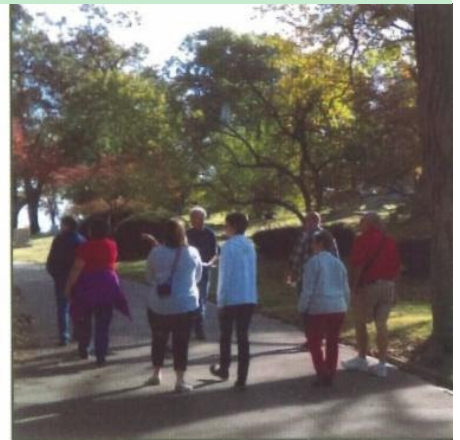
HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

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](mailto:info@woodlandcemetery.org)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](http://www.woodlandcemetery.org)

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