

SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Stay Ahead of Schedule:

For a look at Woodland's monthly adornment removal calendar, see "Upcoming Events" below.

To learn more about Woodland's policies regarding graveside decorations, click [HERE](#).

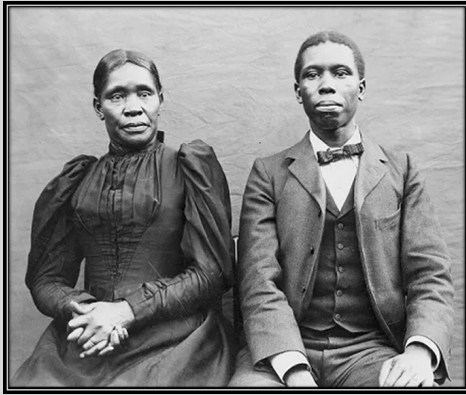
If you'd prefer a printed copy of Woodland's Adornment Policy & the 2025 Adornment Removal Calendar, please stop by the Main Office.

Details below.

In Memory of Paul Laurence Dunbar

An internationally renowned poet, novelist, and short story writer, Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Dayton, Ohio, to Joshua Dunbar & Matilda Burton Murphy. Before the Civil War, both had been enslaved in Kentucky.

Growing up with few opportunities for formal education, as an adult Matilda Dunbar enrolled in night classes at the school on Zieger Street. She taught Paul, her youngest son, the basics of reading and impressed upon him the importance of education.



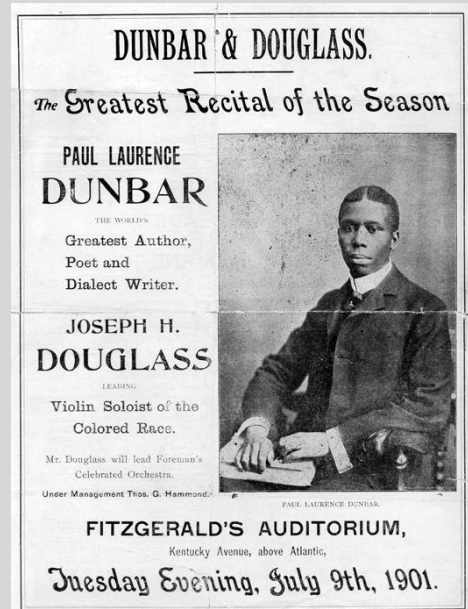
Paul Laurence Dunbar began writing stories and verse when he was a child, publishing his first poems in a Dayton newspaper at the age of just 16. He became the president of the Literary Society at Dayton Central High School and was the editor of the school paper. In 1890, after graduation, Paul Laurence Dunbar collaborated with Orville Wright; a former classmate, to publish the *Dayton Tattler*, a Black neighborhood newspaper.

Photo: Paul Laurence Dunbar & his mother, Matilda Burton Murphy Dunbar, ca. 1900. Courtesy of the [National Parks Service](#).

A positive review by William Dean Howells, editor at Harper's Weekly, increased Dunbar's popularity practically overnight.

One of the first Black American poets to establish an international reputation; Paul Laurence Dunbar traveled to England in 1897 for a literary tour, giving readings on the London circuit.

Photo: [Broadside](#) announcing a recital by Paul Laurence Dunbar and violinist Joseph H. Douglass in Fitzgerald's auditorium, July 9, 1901. Courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.



During his lifetime, much of Dunbar's most popular poetry was written in a "Negro dialect" style associated with the antebellum South, though he also wrote poems using a "Midwestern regional dialect" popularized by James Whitcomb Riley.

Over his tragically short lifetime, Paul Laurence Dunbar produced an impressive body of work including novels & short stories, essays, plays, newspaper articles, and over 600 poems.

To learn more, see the links below.

Photo: Matilda Dunbar visiting the grave of her son, Paul Laurence Dunbar at Woodland Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio, ca. 1930s. Courtesy of [Wright State University Special Collections & Archives](#).



To Learn More:

1. [Paul Laurence Dunbar](#) - Wikipedia Page
2. [The Dunbar Family History](#) - National Parks Service/Dayton Aviation Heritage
3. [Paul Laurence Dunbar Exhibit](#) - Wright State University Library
4. [Paul Laurence Dunbar Resource Guide](#) - Library of Congress

Happy Birthday!

Simon Snyder Mumma

Born 2/2/1856

Interested in plants & flowers all his life, Simon Snyder Mumma was born February 2nd, 1856. As the second son born into Jacob J.W. & Susannah Mumma's large family, Simon grew up with nine brothers and one sister.

As an adult, Simon Mumma was well known at downtown Dayton's 3rd Street Market, where he sold seasonal vegetables and his specialty, strawberries, for 25 years. He also operated a gardening business from a farm located at Fairview Ave. & Philadelphia Dr., which later became home to Good Samaritan Hospital.

In 1882, Simon Mumma married Nancy Mae Studebaker. Together they raised three daughters; Myrtle, Ethel, and Orpha and a son; Earl.

Simon Snyder Mumma died November 15th, 1947 at the age of 91. He is buried in section 120, lot 159 at Woodland Cemetery.



Photo: Simon S. Mumma ca. 1908; courtesy [Doug Mumma](#) & Findagrave.

Woodland Centenarian Club:



Neva Hiatt (8/7/1902 - 4/10/2006)

Neva Hiatt was born August 7th, 1902 in Kentucky to Isaac & Nettie Crouch. Neva married James Hiatt, a Dayton jeweler who worked in the 3rd Street Arcade for many years.

Together they had two daughters; Jean (Paskin) & Mary (Zimmerman).

On the family lot in Woodland's section 126, lot 154, both Mary and Jean's markers are decorated with elegant carvings of ballet shoes; a

fitting tribute to two women who owned and operated dance studios.

Upon her retirement from the Mary Hiatt School of Dance, Neva Hiatt lived for many years at the Ohio Masonic Home. In the photo above, she is seated on the left; visiting with her daughter Mary and son-in-law George in 1997.

Neva Hiatt died April 10th, 2006, at the age of 103. She and her family rest peacefully at Woodland Cemetery.

Photo: Neva Hiatt (left) visiting with her daughter & son-in-law, Mary and George Zimmerman, at the Ohio Masonic Home. Published by the Springfield News-Sun, 7/14/1997 pg. 1

Upcoming Events!



Black History Mausoleum Tour:

Join us for Black History month to celebrate the lives of individuals who are resting peacefully in our mausoleum. We are offering this special tour in the indoor mausoleum, featuring beautiful stained glass windows and telling the stories of George C. Cooper, James Parsons, W. S. McIntosh, Bob and Norma Ross and many others.

The tour will be offered on two Saturdays, February 8th and 22nd at 2:00 pm. The tour will last two hours and if weather permits, will include a walk to James H McGhee, Jordan Anderson, Paul Laurence Dunbar and other gravesites.

Meet at the main entrance to the Mausoleum. Parking is available in front of the building. The building is climate controlled and handicap accessible. Visitors will be walking on both carpet and marble floors.

Upcoming Tours:

2/8 @ 2 pm

Click [here](#) to register!

End of Winter Bird Walk:

This is a great time to see year-round residents, winter visitors, and possibly some early spring migrants like the Eastern Phoebe and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. The walk is slow-paced, and mostly stays on the road surface, but sometimes does venture "off-trail" into the grass.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear a good pair of walking shoes! The tour will meet at the Eichelberger Plaza at the main gates of the cemetery.

Your nature guide will be Amanda Lawson, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

Upcoming Tours:

3/15 @ 9 am

Click [here](#) to register!

2025 Adornment Removal Calendar

Key

Dark Green = Weekly Clean Off

Orange = Do Not Clean Off

Soft Grey = At Woodland's Discretion

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Easter 4/20

May						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mother's Day 5/11 & Memorial Day 5/25

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Father's Day 6/15

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

August						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
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28	29	30				

October						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Veteran's Day 11/11 & Thanksgiving 11/27

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Christmas 12/25

Support Woodland:

Woodland is proud to remain an active part of the Dayton community as a popular place to walk, relax and enjoy.

We invite you to contribute to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation to ensure that what's meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow! Your gift makes an immediate impact on the horticulture, arboriculture, and restoration efforts needed to maintain one of Dayton's most historic and beautiful outdoor museums.

Thank you for your generous support of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

DONATE ONLINE!

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.

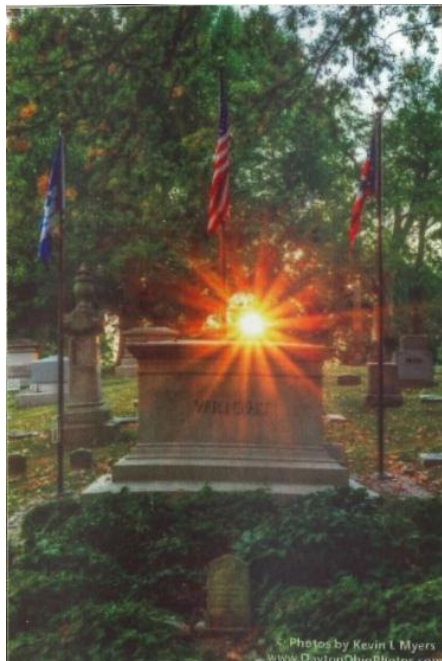
Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*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)



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!](http://woodlandcemetery.org)

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