

Back to Parker High School

Caleb Parker 1803 - 1885

Caleb Parker was born in Brookline, Massachusetts on September 19, 1803. He became a school teacher in West Roxbury but in 1826 became a grocer and later was elected to the House of Representatives, serving one term.

In 1854, he moved west and settled in Dayton. He was a partner with Eliam E. Barney in the railroad car business then named Barney, Parker & Co. In 1864, Caleb retired from the Company and sold his interest to Preserved Smith.

Mr. Parker served without compensation as Superintendent of Schools in Dayton from July 1866 to April 1868. When a new school building was built in 1904 at the corner of First and St. Clair streets, the Board of Education paid a fitting tribute to Mr. Parker by naming the building "Parker School." Later the school became known as Patterson Co-Op.



Dayton Daily Journal
November 30, 1885
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Death of Caleb Parker

Mr. Caleb Parker, so long and honorably known as a citizen of Dayton, died peacefully at his residence on West Second street Sunday afternoon. His decease was caused by no disease, but was the result of the gradual decline of the vital forces. He was eighty-two years old. He was born in Brookline, near Boston, Mass., September 19, 1803. In 1810 his father and family moved to Roxbury, now Boston Highlands. After finishing his education he taught school for a number of

years. In 1826 he began his mercantile career, engaging in the grocery business. During his residence at Roxbury he was elected and served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. For many years he was trustee of the Newton Theological Institution.

Early in 1854 he moved to Dayton, Ohio and on January 24th he entered into partnership with E. E. Barney for the manufacturing of cars, retiring from the firm in 1865, and from active business. He was for many years a member of the Board of Education, and for two years most efficiently served as Superintendent of Instruction. The following abstract is taken from the History of the Schools of Dayton, written by Robt. W. Steele, Esq.:

"In 1866, impressed with the urgent need of supervision for the schools, Mr. Parker, a member of the Board of Education, who had retired from business, and who possessed the requisite experience and leisure to discharge the duties of the office, agreed to accept the position with the distinct provision his part that his services should be without compensation. He was elected in July, 1866, and served until April, 1868, when he tendered his resignation. The second published report of the Board for 1866-67 was prepared by him, on retiring from the office. Mr. Parker received a unanimous vote of thanks from the Board for his disinterested and very useful services."

The schools of Dayton owe very much to Caleb Parker for their past record of efficiency. In him the public schools had a warm exponent and assiduous worker, and the Dayton schools largely through his personal efforts attained a national reputation for thorough, practical work, and the successful operation of the most advanced methods of teaching and school discipline. He was elected and served twelve years on the Board of Health. He was a director of the First National Bank, and subsequently a director of the Merchants National Bank.

It was, however, in religious interests that his influence from early manhood until death closed his labors for Christ was most marked and efficient. His conscientious faithfulness in attendance upon church services formed a prominent and most commendable trait in his daily walk. "Deacon" Parker's name will very long be remembered and his influence felt for good, not only by his co-laborers in Christian effort, but by those of the world with whom he came in contact. Although strong in his convictions and warmly attached to the Baptist Church, he was liberal-minded towards those of other creeds, and heartily joined in union or evangelistic efforts carried on by the city churches. In 1827 he was elected Deacon of Dudley Street Baptist Church, Roxbury, Massachusetts, (now Boston Highland) retaining the office until he moved to Dayton, Ohio; following closely upon his settlement at Dayton he was elected to the same office in the First Baptist Church. He was married March 21, 1826, to Miss Susan Richards, of Newton, Mass. Of six children born to this union, two died young – the four surviving children are Luther, Edwin, Mrs. C. W. Chamberlain and C. Grafton Parker, all residents of Dayton except Luther, who resides in Cincinnati. He was also the foster father of Harriet, wife of Dr. E. G. Robinson, President of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, as she became a member of his family at an early age.

Dayton Daily Journal
December 5, 1885
page 1

Funeral of Caleb Parker

The funeral of Caleb Parker took place yesterday afternoon, at the First Baptist Church, and was very largely attended. The services were conducted by Rev. H. F. Colby, who pronounced a eulogy on the life of the deceased, dwelling largely upon his successful career since his residence here. There were quite a number of floral offerings, among them a beautiful sickle, made of delicate white flowers, which lay on the coffin near the foot. At the close of the services at the church, the remains were taken to Woodland for interment. The pall bearers were Messrs. J. K. McIntire, C. H. Crawford, W. H. Sunderland, W. L. Darrow and J. S. Beatty.

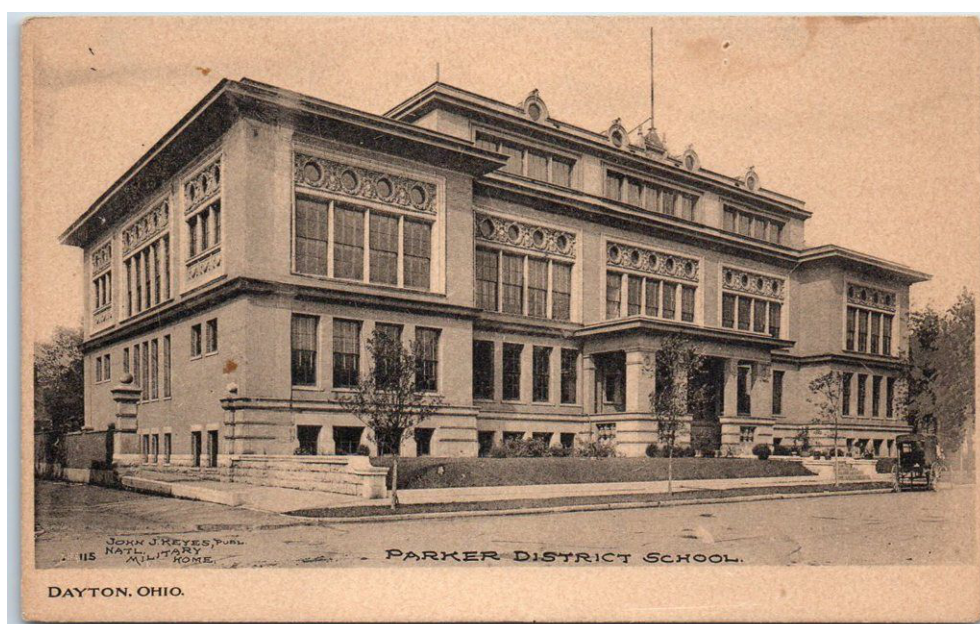
Caleb Parker

Born: September 19, 1803
Brookline, Massachusetts

Died: November 29, 1885
Dayton, Ohio

Located in Section 101 Lot
1330

May he rest in peace.



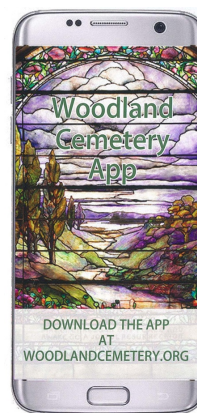
Sign up for a guided tour!

Join us for a Sunset Tour at the Cemetery on select evenings now through October, including the popular History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder. Reservations are required and you can sign up by [clicking here](#).

You can take your own walking tour at the cemetery or a virtual tour from the comfort of your couch by visiting our website at: woodlandcemetery.org/tours.

From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

[Download the mobile app for your phone by clicking here.](#)



Memories of a loved one should last for generations.

Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
- Share stories about your family
- Upload photos and video
- Share memories with your family on Facebook

Your loved one's memorial page is automatically created when you make cemetery arrangements with our office. You may also share and upload information by using our burial database via our website (woodlandcemetery.org), (please contact our office if you need assistance)



A Woodland Milestone

To help us celebrate our 180th Anniversary, make a donation of \$180 or more to the Arboretum Foundation now through December 31, 2021 and you will receive a set of Woodland ceramic coasters. Limit one set per household.

Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.

**Click Here
Donate Now**



Did you receive our 12-page 180th Anniversary newsletter issue? If not, you can request a paper copy of the May 2021 issue of the Woodland Wire by [clicking here](#). In the message box, please request a "180 Newsletter" and give us your full name and mailing address.

This anniversary issue covers the history of Woodland from our beginning in 1841 to the building of the Mausoleum in 1969. A profile of the Cline Family, cemetery superintendents for 100 years, is the main feature. Updates on current cemetery activities are also included.

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](#)

