

SINCE 1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

Halloween Edition

It wouldn't be Halloween without a couple of spooky stories or in this case a couple from our History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder programs. These stories are true and represent the victim or perpetrator of a crime who are buried at Woodland. Graphic details are given and may not be appropriate for all audiences.



Assassination Attempt of Samuel Tate

On March 27, 1867, Samuel Tate was shot while crossing the New Bridge to downtown. The shot was at close range as there were powder burns from the pistol on his clothing. The bullet entered Tate's body near his naval and he immediately fell to the ground. The assailant rifled through his pockets taking all of his money, valuable and the key to the safe of his business office.

This was not the first time that Mr. Tate had been accosted. Over the years, with his movements from work to home over the bridge, Samuel experienced several robberies of his person. After his latest skirmish, Tate arose and attempted to walk to his residence before he called for help and collapsed. He was found by passersby and was carried to his home and a physician was called.

His wound was pronounced very serious, if not fatal and it was thought that he would not survive the night. About a month after the shooting in April 1867, there was news that Mr. Tate was recovering well from his robbery and "assassination attempt." A handsome reward was still on the table with no one coming forward to offer clues to the crime.

Mr. Tate lived for another 30 years. He was the owner of Tate Mills located in Dayton View. He was instrumental in the erection of the Dayton View Bridge located off of Riverview Avenue.

There was an article posted in the August 6, 1859 issue of The Daily Empire newspaper. The writer of the article took a visit to Woodland and wrote about its beauty and picturesque grounds. He specifically wrote about the Samuel Tate monument located in the northeastern section of the Cemetery which he described as situated to overlook the city and valleys of the Miami and Mad Rivers toward the north.

He stated that the monument was constructed of Italian marble in the Corinthian style of architecture and was sculpted by Daniel La Dow. The elevated monument is topped with a large urn and one side shows a figure of Grief, finely chiseled, and appropriately draped. The inscriptions on the sides were admirably rendered by the sculptor. The monument and the pedestal weighed over 9 tons and cost about \$1,500.

The Death of Mamie Hagerty

Royal Albert "Roy" Fowler lived on Harshman Street and his back yard ran up to the back yard of Mary "Mamie" Hagerty. That's where they met and where Roy became infatuated with Mamie. He bought her gifts and trinkets to show his admiration and they soon became a couple. And not long after, they began having lover's quarrels.



Mamie had Roy arrested not once but three times. During one incident, he had threatened her life saying he was going to cut her throat so Mamie had him arrested on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. He served time in the workhouse and it was said that Mamie carried his meals to him and tantalized him while doing it.

On Saturday afternoon, August 18, 1906, Roy went to Mamie's house and said, "Let's make up."

"Go to hell," was Mamie's reply.

Roy became so aggravated by her response that he pulled a revolver from his pocket and fired two shots at his sweetheart. Mamie ran from the house screaming and after she got outside, he fired two more shots at her. Mortally wounded, Mamie ran down the street and dropped dead at the corner of Second and Harshman streets at 4:30 in the afternoon.

Roy immediately left the area after the shooting and hopped on a Dayton, Covington and Piqua traction car and rode to West Milton. There he pawned the murder weapon to a man for \$2. He stayed overnight there and in the morning boarded another car to Piqua where later that evening he read in the Dayton Herald the story of Mamie Hagerty's murder. Roy went to police headquarters in Piqua and turned himself in. Dayton police traveled to Piqua and picked Roy up and placed him in the Montgomery County Jail.

Roy was represented by the law offices of attorney John Egan. Witnesses for the prosecution made a strong case against him. Mrs. Hagerty said the January before her daughter's murder, Roy had thrown her daughter to the floor and attempted to cut her throat with a butcher knife. Jacob Donneker said he heard Roy shout, "God damn you. I'll fix you," and then he saw him fire two shots. Another witness, Isador Rosensweet claimed that he yelled to Roy, "Don't run away, you coward." Roy was indicted by the Grand Jury. His trial began on December 6, 1906 and he was found guilty of murder in the first degree on December 27. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair on May 29, 1907 at the Ohio State Penitentiary. When asked by the judge if he had anything to say about his sentence Roy replied, "Only this: That when I went over there, I had no more intention of killing her than you had."

His attorneys filed a motion for a new trial on nine grounds including allegations that several of the jurors had expressed opinions of the defendant's guilt before the trial. The request was overruled.

Soon after being moved to Columbus, Roy was looking peaked and worried. He was not eating or sleeping well. The guards believed he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. They also expected trouble from him. A month later an extra guard was placed to watch over him. He acted up with prison attendants and was suspected by the guards of wanting to end his life.

Less than two months after the placement of the additional guard, Roy was threatened with the “paddle and water” treatment unless he became more manageable. He was constantly causing general trouble and had threatened the life of a fellow inmate.

On May 23, 1907, just 6 days before he was to be executed, the Circuit Court suspended his death sentence from May 29 to August 20. He received a reprieve by Governor Harris until October 17 and on that day, the Board of Pardons refused further clemency and November 1 was selected for his day of execution.

In an early October interview, Roy referred to his execution as “the coming event.” He said that he feared dying and wanted to live but he had no hope of favor from the pardon board. He stated he had no inclination towards religion and spent most of his days and time into the wee hours of the morning reading novels about love and adventure. When not in arguments with his fellow inmates, he liked to engage in games of checkers and cards.

Attorney John Egan had worked hard for his client but in the end, he met death at the executioners hand and died a few minutes after midnight on November 1, 1907.

Funeral services were held in Dayton on Monday, November 4. He was viewed by more than 3,000 people before the white plush casket was closed to the public. Only 27 people attended his grave side service. Roy’s last request, that a rose his mother gave him when she last saw him alive and the photo button bearing a likeness of his sweetheart, Mamie Hagerty, which he wore from the time of his arrest be buried with him. His request was granted. At the last minute, the rose his mother gave him was exchanged for another by his mother. She took the other rose home as a keepsake for her wayward son.

Notorious Counterfeiter Nelson Driggs

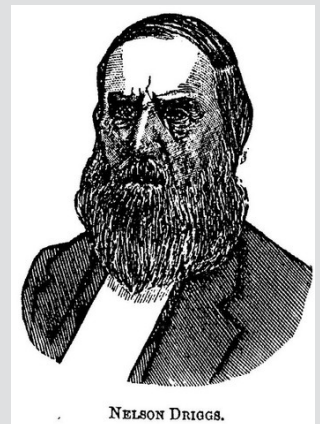
Nelson Driggs was known as one of the most famous counterfeiters in the United States. Secret Servicemen from back in the day regarded him “as one of the cleverest counterfeiters in the country.” His life was filled with adventure and crime but there was a soft-side of him too.

Prior to Driggs landing in Dayton, he had served time in the Joliet, Illinois penitentiary for manufacturing counterfeit money. He had been sentenced for fifteen years and served nearly all of it but was released early for good behavior.

When he came to Dayton, he settled in town on South Main Street but soon moved out to the road house known as The Abbey on Home Avenue near the Soldier’s Home. It was here that Driggs is said to have dealt in counterfeit money with his notorious partner Jim Guyon. Guyon was also very well known by the Secret Service and in 1888, the G-men “swooped down” upon The Abbey one evening with Guyon fleeing but Driggs and his wife captured.

The trial of Nelson Driggs and his wife Gertie became one of the most remarkable and interesting trials in the history of the U.S. Courts. The trial was held in Cincinnati and “almost every witness called sprung a surprise in his or her testimony.” Charges against Driggs and his wife were discharged.

Nelson Driggs was also known as a generous man and a good friend to the poor. He was known to house the poor in his home giving them food, clothing and shelter during the winter months and never asking for anything in return. He didn’t like to talk about these small acts of kindness.



He was a man who always paid his bills and one time he went to the Dayton Herald office to pay his subscription bill. He laid a small sack of Mexican dollars on the counter. Of course the money was refused and Driggs vowed to never pay his bill again, but he did pay it, each and every year and promptly too. Rumor was that he made the trip to Mexico to dispose of some of his own counterfeit bills. Upon his return he had a bag of good Mexican money and a herd of ponies.

Nelson Driggs died at The Abbey on December 17, 1895. He was 84 years old. He was laid to rest at Woodland Cemetery on April 23, 1896.



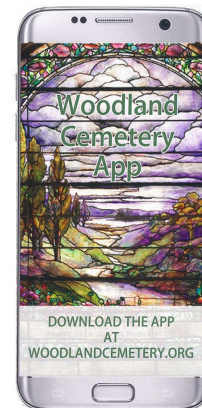
November Guided Walking Tours

We have several tours available for you to take in the month of November including on Thanksgiving weekend. Get out of the house and treat your family and guests to a tour at Woodland. For more information on the tours and availability please click here: bit.ly/WoodlandSunsetTours

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.](#)



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Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
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- 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)



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