

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

## Celebrating Women's History Month Ivonette Wright Miller

## **Niece of the Wright Brothers**

Ivonette Wright Miller was born on April 8, 1896 to Lorin and Ivonette Stokes Wright. Ivonette's father, Lorin, was an older brother of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Ivonette attended Edison Elementary School and graduated from Steele High School in 1914. She married Harold Miller, also a 1914 graduate of Steele High School and World War I pilot, on June 25, 1919 at Hawthorne Hill, the home of Orville Wright.

Miller was a soprano soloist in the choirs of Grace United Methodist and First Baptist churches in Dayton. She was a board member of the YWCA, the Dayton Women's Club, and the Dayton Music Club. She was a member of the Montgomery County and Kettering-Moraine historical societies, the National Women's Air and Space Museum, Aviation Trail, the President's Club at Wright State University, and the Dayton First Baptist Church. In 1981 she received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Wright State. In 1988 she received a "Trailblazer" award from Aviation Trail, Inc.



For many years Ivonette was best known as the Wright family representative-particularly after the 1948 death of her uncle, Orville Wright. Whether christening a navy aircraft carrier or talking to a small local group, Ivonette was the person - until she was past 90 - who made Dayton's world-famous family real people with her intimate recollections of her bachelor uncles "Wil" and "Orv." She attended many ceremonies and dedications in honor of her uncles, appeared on network television shows, and gave more than 100 lectures on the Wright family.

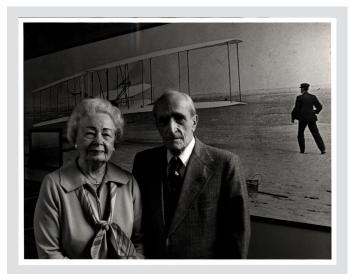
In 1978 Ivonette wrote about her experiences with her famous uncles in a book titled Wright Reminiscences. Her favorite story was when, at the age of 15, she flew in a Wright "B" Flyer with her "Uncle Orv" at Huffman Prairie in 1911. Afterwards, she reported that "The flight was very smooth, but windy. I felt very secure. I haven't been the same since."

More importantly, she, and her husband Harold, an executor of Orville Wright's estate, preserved an archive of more than 6,000 priceless Wright photographs, papers, and memorabilia most of

which were donated to Wright State University. Ivonette's preservation efforts benefitted the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress and the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The Ivonette Wright Miller Room at the Dayton Woman's Club was dedicated in 1996 in memory of Mrs. Miller. She had served on the Dayton Woman's Club Board in the mid-1950s.

Harold Miller died July 21, 1991, at the age of 95. Ivonette Wright Miller passed away on October 5, 1995 at the age of 99. They are located in Section 122 Lot 152.



Ivonette (Wright) and Harold Miller

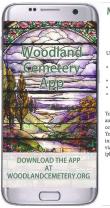


Ivonette (Wright) and Harold Miller

As Spring comes upon us, 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 frie grave using our GPS-based syst Share stories about your family Upload photos and video Share memories
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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)





# THANK YOU for supporting us through our 180th Anniversary!

We hope you will continue to support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation as we move through 2022. Support of the Chapel restoration and preservation project is our most critical need as you will soon see the outside of Chapel and Administration the Building receiving new sandstone pieces and eroding and disintegrating elements replaced. Once the stonework is complete, the beloved Tiffany windows will return and be put back in place. The Tiffany mosaic floor will be restored and the beautiful interior woodwork will also receive a facelift. We are hopeful to open the doors to the public once again in late 2022.

Please consider making a first time donation or an annual donation to the Chapel Fund. Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.



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2021 Donation Summary \$531.98

Total Donation to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

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