



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above Photo: Courtesy Wright State University Special Collections & Archives

Marie Jacque Kumler

1856-1925

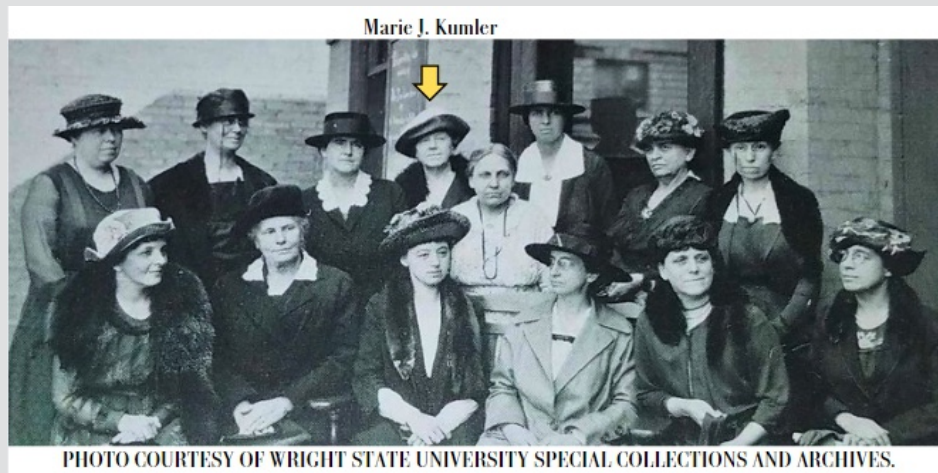
"We speak of "big" men, of the "big" things they have done, but to this woman goes that adjective raised to the superlative.

Hers was the first familiar face that greeted me as I came, a stranger to Dayton over ten years ago, and this kindly act imprinted itself upon my heart and all my affection went out at that moment; an affection that has never wavered."

--Penelope Perrill, Dayton Daily News 6/17/1925 p.20

Mrs. Marie J. Kumler was born in Marine, Illinois in 1856. She and her mother moved to Williamsburg, Ohio when Marie was a small child. In 1879, Marie began her teaching career in Van Buren Township, near what is now Belmont. In 1881 Marie came to Dayton and was elected principal of what was then known as the Second District School, formerly located on North Perry Street.

It was while teaching at the Second District School that Marie met Charles H. Kumler, a rising young lawyer and member of the school board; they were married June 26, 1890. Though the Kumlers did not have children of their own, Marie's life's work earned her the title "Mother of Clubs".



Mrs. Kumler was one of the organizers of the Young Women's League in 1895. Contemporaries joked that the League began "with \$1.25 and three lead pencils," but grew from its humble beginnings (one room with luncheons served) to possess one of the most valuable properties in Dayton at that time, operating one of the largest cafeterias in the city.



Above Photo: Lunch Room at Young Women's League, courtesy Wright State University Special Collections & Archives.

One of Mrs. Kumler's greatest accomplishments was the formation of the Dayton Woman's Club in 1916. A plaque honoring her contribution is displayed next to the Club's entrance (see photos below).

Acting as the Club's first president, Marie wrote that the Dayton Woman's club should act as a base for education and philanthropy—its premises serving *“as a meeting place for music, art and study clubs and circles composed of women or of men and women.”* It should also be an *“open forum for the presentation and discussion of all subjects pertaining to educational, civic or social improvements and for a social center for women.”*

John H. Patterson advised his sister, Julia, (one of the club's founding members) that the organization should look into purchasing a mansion that was still in good shape after the 1913 Flood to use for a headquarters.

To finance the purchase of their building, Marie Kumler led a stock-selling drive; raising the \$5,000 down payment needed to secure a home for the Dayton Woman's club.

The organization still exists today at 225 North Ludlow Street, and is open to the public Mondays through Fridays 9am-4pm.



Photos: Courtesy Dayton Woman's Club

For several years preceding her death, Marie J. Kumler served as Ohio's Chairman of Industrial Relations in the State Federation of Women's Clubs. This work allowed Marie to help connect a variety of Ohio's women's clubs—enabling organizations to communicate directly and support each other in furtherance of their goals.

The Margaret club, a boarding home for “business girls” at 509 West Second Street, occupied a special place in Mrs. Kumler's heart. Organized in 1910, the club was revolutionary for its time; by offering room & board on a sliding scale, the Margaret club allowed young businesswomen a freedom otherwise hard to come by in that era. Marie Kumler would serve as club president until her death at age 68 in June, 1925.



Above Photo: The Dayton Herald, 6/17/1925 p.1

Marie J. Kumler and her husband Charles are laid to rest in Section 102 Lot 2674 at Woodland Cemetery.



Upcoming Events!



Woodland Cemetery's Lookout Point offers one of the best views in Dayton, making it a perfect location to view the total solar eclipse! Join us for an incredible celestial experience Monday, April 8, 2024 from 1pm-5pm.

Featuring Dayton Urban BBQ food truck and plenty of space to take in the eclipse, bring chairs and blankets to experience the eclipse with family and friends. Come early to claim a viewing spot (gates open at 8am) and spend the afternoon at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

A limited number of tickets will be available, and we anticipate they will sell out quickly. For more information, please click the link below. Pre-registrations ends on April 1st.

Cost: Pre-registration is \$60 per person (plus \$5.87 Eventbrite Fee)

Pre-registration Packet Includes:

- Pair of solar eclipse glasses
- Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum Solar Eclipse T-shirt
- Two meal tickets (entrée and drink)
- Parking for one vehicle
- Information on Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum, while you wait for the eclipse!

To register for this event, please click [HERE](#).

Due to the nature of this type of event, tickets are non-refundable. All proceeds support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation which focuses on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio

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

Come Visit Us!



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!

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

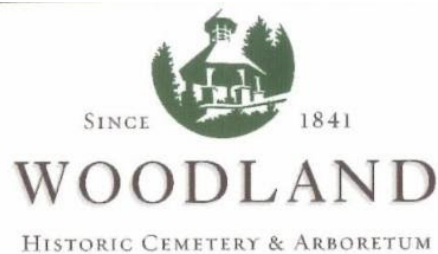
If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

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!



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!](#)

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