

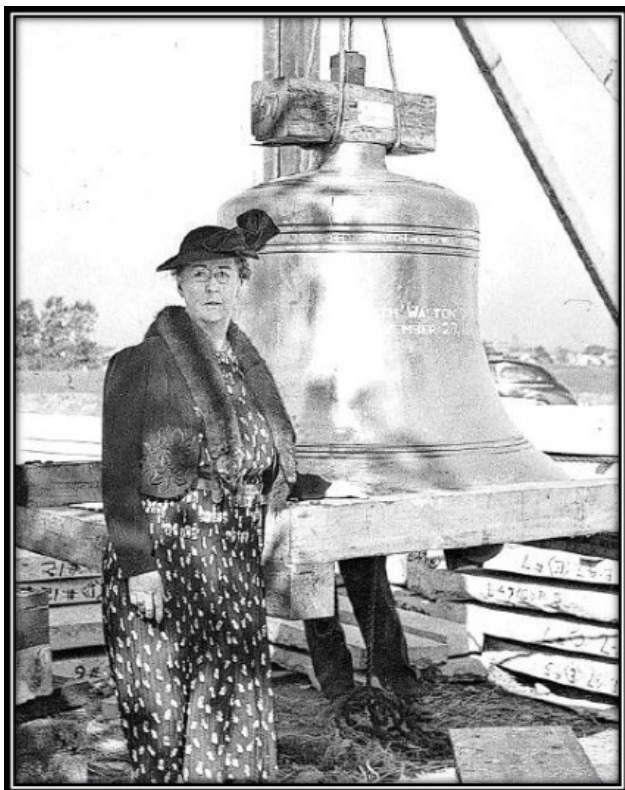


SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above Photo: Edith at the building of the carillon, 1941

Edith Walton Deeds

Musician, Philanthropist, Businesswoman

1869-1949

Edith Walton Deeds was born in Greene County, Ohio on October 27, 1869. She was the oldest child of Samuel and Mary Amelia (Weller) Walton.



Mrs. Deeds' mother was a devout Baptist. When the family moved to Dayton, they became members of the First Baptist Church where Edith became very involved in church activities. Edith Walton met Edward Deeds at that same church one Sunday in September of 1897. As she was handing out membership cards at the church door, she noticed a young man come in through a side door—he looked lost. As Edith went to help him, she was summoned by a friend, who used her nickname: “Deedie”. The young man commented, “That’s interesting, because my name is Deeds.” Edith Walton and Edward Deeds were married three years later on June 5, 1900.

While the carillon of ‘Carillon Park’ is generally recognized as her greatest material gift to Dayton, Mrs. Deeds was also an accomplished musician, having studied music at Earlham College in Indiana. Edith was also well known for her many years as

sponsor and contributor to a number of local music events and organizations—including Dayton’s first boys’ harmonica orchestra. According to Edith, “It is better for the boys to play the harmonica at home than to stand idly around the Dayton street corners.”

The idea for the carillon came to Mrs. Deeds while she and the Colonel were travelling in Belgium. As Edith was listening to the chimes in one of the belfries, she began to dream of bringing such bells to Dayton. Edith would explain, “In no other way can simple inspiring music be spread among an entire populace.”

To begin making her dream a reality, Mrs. Deeds purchased three acres of land from the National Cash Register Company. After being presented with 150 sketches, Mrs. Deeds approved a design by New York architects Reinhard and Hofmeister, who had previously designed Rockefeller Center. The grounds surrounding the carillon and the Park’s entry gates were designed by the Olmsted Brothers, the famed landscape architects responsible for Central Park.



Edith would remain personally involved in the tower’s creation, as well as many details of its construction. The final result was one of the tallest carillons in the country; a tower reaching 151

feet into the sky, fashioned of granite, steel and Indiana limestone. It shelters a cluster of 57 bells—some of which are small and silent, representing members of the Deeds family that had passed away before the tower was built, including Edith’s mother and father. Edith herself was the first to play the carillon when it was finished, choosing a hymn called “the Doxology.”



Edith Walton Deeds died at the age of 79 on February 9th, 1949 while in New York City at the Park Plaza Hotel. In Dayton, funeral services were held at the Deeds home, known as “Moraine Farm”. Dr. Charles Lyon Seasholes, pastor of the First Baptist Church where Mrs. Deeds had been a member for more than 50 years, led the service.

On February 12th, 1949, a symphony of bells tolled for the gracious lady who gave to the city of Dayton Ohio’s largest carillon. The funeral procession passed by the carillon as the bells rang “Lead Kindly Light” one of Mrs. Deeds’ favorite hymns, played by Robert E. Kline, Mrs. Deeds’ favorite carillonneur. As the procession made its way to Woodland Cemetery and the bells faded into the distance, they seemed to say, “Farewell, dear friend – to thy memory never.”



Edith Walton Deeds and her family are located in the Deeds Mausoleum in Section 121 Lot 2 at Woodland Cemetery.



Founded in 1841, Woodland is one of the oldest rural cemeteries in the United States.

Visit the final resting place of the Wright Brothers, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Erma Bombeck, James Ritty, the Stanley Family, the Mead Family, George Newcom and many other famous and infamous Daytonians.

Upcoming Tours:

April 23 @ 10am
April 25 @ 6pm
April 29 @ 5:30pm



It's time to start putting those local 5k's and 10k's on your calendar as we all dream of green trees, HILLS and spring time challenges!

This race through Woodland Cemetery is challenging. It's a pretty hilly course so maybe not the race if you are looking to PR, but if you want a great workout and some amazing views of Dayton and the opportunity to see some Dayton history, this race is for you! Proceeds to benefit the Woodland Foundation.

Packet pick up April 27 from 2-4 at Up and Running in Dayton or race day beginning at 8:00am. Shirts guaranteed to all those registered by April 14.

Register by clicking [HERE](#)

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!



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

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