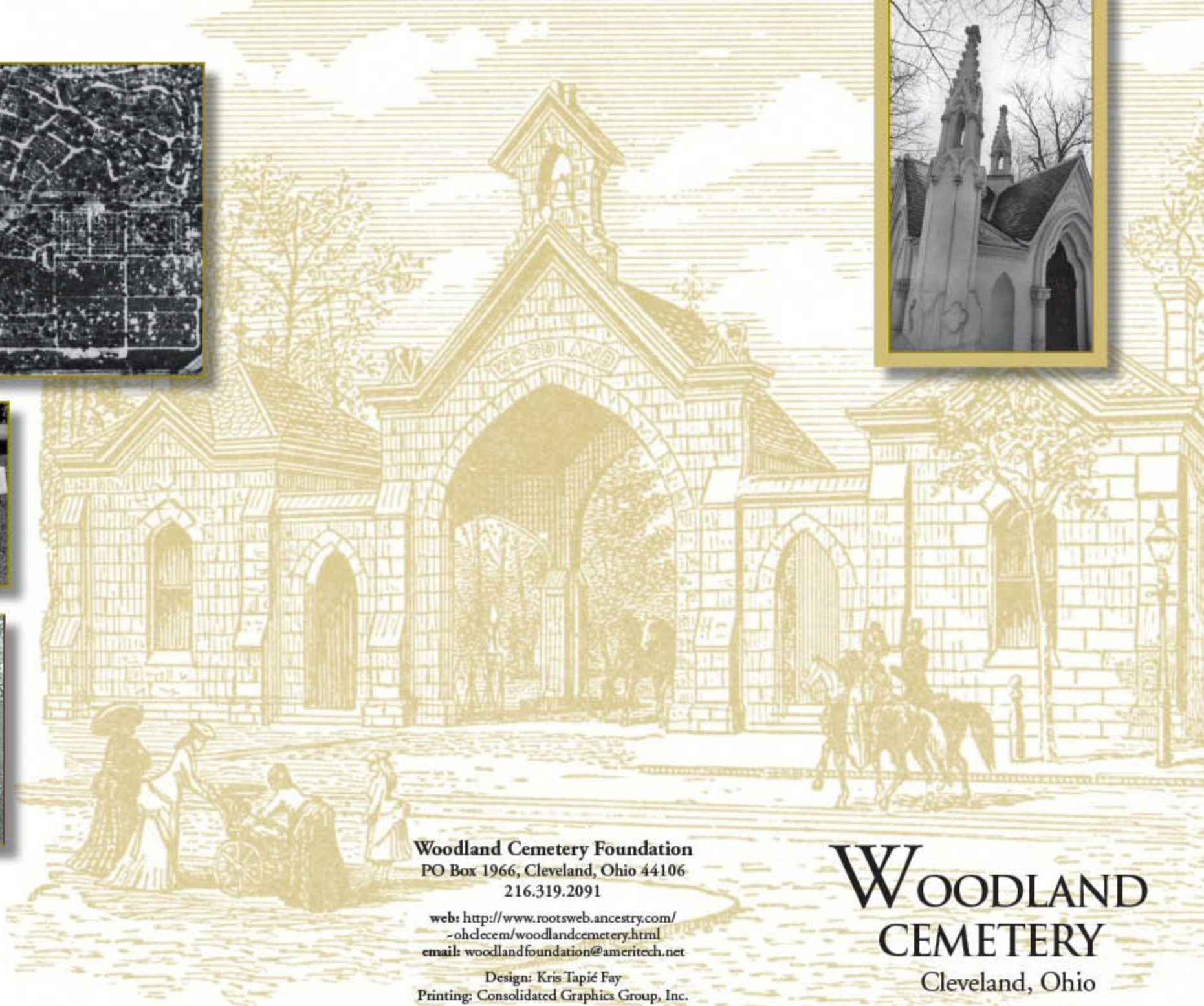
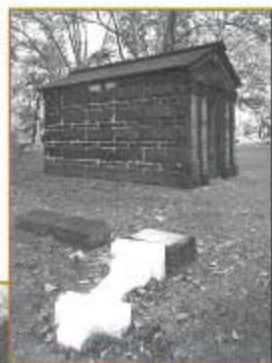


## WOODLAND TODAY...

has many needs.

- Gatehouse restoration
- Sectional markers
- Interpretive plaques
- Mausoleum repairs
- Resurfacing of roadways
- Landscaping
- Headstone and monument repairs
- Lighting/lamp posts
- Benches to return a "park-like" setting
- Fence repair and replacement
- Water lines
- Repair of damaged sculptures
- Memorial bricks
- Storage
- Security



**Woodland Cemetery Foundation**  
PO Box 1966, Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
216.319.2091

web: [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/  
-ohdecem/woodlandcemetery.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohdecem/woodlandcemetery.html)  
email: [woodlandfoundation@ameritech.net](mailto:woodlandfoundation@ameritech.net)

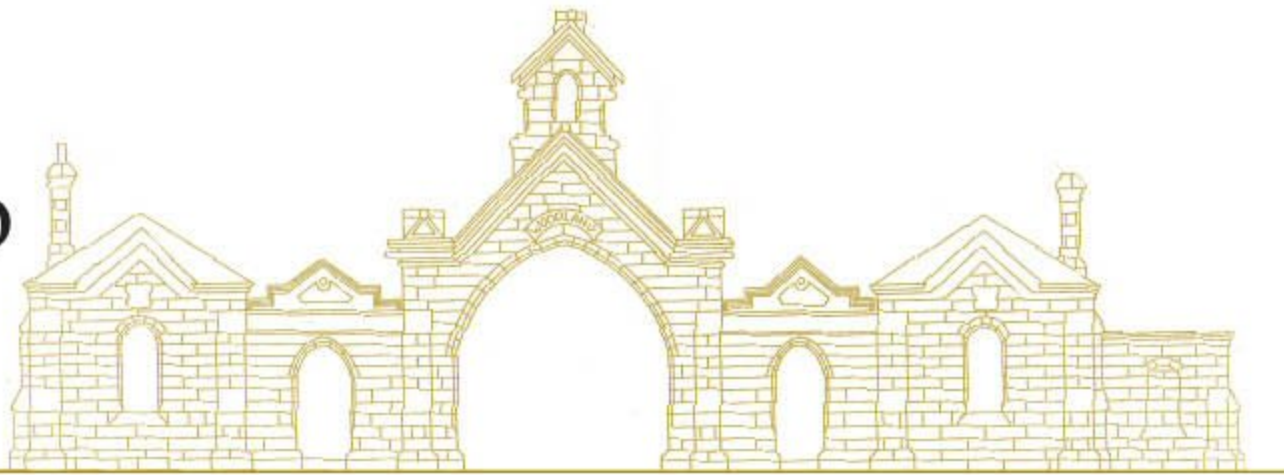
Design: Kris Tapié Fay  
Printing: Consolidated Graphics Group, Inc.

**WOODLAND  
CEMETERY**  
Cleveland, Ohio



# THE HISTORY OF WOODLAND CEMETERY

Cleveland, Ohio



Cleveland's Woodland Cemetery located at 6901 Woodland Avenue in Cleveland's Central neighborhood differs from other cemeteries. Its sixty level acres, viewed in an aerial photo or from the ground, provide a primer on American cemetery design, from the "rural cemetery" intricacies of the 1850's through a more rambling style of the late 19th century to the rectangular 20th century grid. Its mausoleums are in classical, Victorian, Egyptian, and Richardson rustic designs. These varied structures, along with angels, obelisks, and military memorials have caused Woodland to be favorably recognized in *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery* (1989) as possessing a "profusion of well-designed monuments." In addition to being a Cleveland Landmark, since 1986 Woodland Cemetery has had the rare distinction of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1850 Cleveland's city

council desired to develop a new, larger cemetery for the growing city, one to supersede Erie Street Cemetery. By August 1851, city council agreed to purchase 60 62/100 acres of the Bomford Tract, owned by Washington, D.C. resident Benjamin Butler whose local agent was attorney Samuel Starkweather. The land was surveyed; its surplus timber sold to provide funds for improvements. In October 1852, the Committee on Public Grounds hired Howard Daniels, a well-known landscape gardener (who today would be called a landscape architect), whose work from the Cincinnati area was much-admired; he laid out one-third of the sixty acres.

One week before the new cemetery's June 14, 1853, dedication, city council selected the name, "Woodland," which represented not only the trees but also a romantic description of an unseen Cleveland, part of a popular 1803 pastoral poem, "Pleasures of Hope," by



Scottish poet, Thomas Campbell. Shortly after the dedication Woodland's several hundred lots, priced from \$8.00 to \$400.00, were publicly offered at auction. The first burial occurred on June 23rd for the Langshaw family's 15-month old child.

Woodland, beyond Cleveland's eastern border until 1867, was always a part of the city. On May 27, 1859, the *Cleveland Leader* newspaper noted that Mayflower School's pupils were to have a picnic that day at the Woodland Cemetery grove.

Veterans' graves from all branches of the nation's services since the War of 1812 have been identified and are now appropriately decorated each Memorial Day. The Civil War had the greatest effect on the cemetery with many soldiers receiving government-issued headstones and three distinct monuments being erected for the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry (1865), the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (1872), and the Grand Army of the Republic (1909).



Because Woodland was Cleveland's main public cemetery for over fifty of the city's most dynamic years, it is a repository for many artifacts useful to understanding the community. Not only are two Ohio governors and one



lieutenant governor buried here but so is the German farmer, Bratenahl, the namesake of a distinguished suburb. The co-founders of Gates Mills, Lucy and Holsey Gates are also buried here.

As the pride of the city's public cemeteries, Woodland was adorned with Joseph Ireland's Gothic-style stone gateway (1870), a chapel and receiving vault (1880), and two ornamental fountains (1887). By the early 20th century, Woodland had lost public favor. In the

early 21st century, the chapel, receiving vault, and ornamental fountains are long gone. The distinguished gatehouse at the Woodland Avenue entrance was dismantled in 1995/1996, its stones carefully saved for a future restoration.



Yes, I want to contribute to preserving Woodland Cemetery as a historic place. Please complete this form and mail to Woodland Cemetery Foundation, PO Box 1966, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

(Please print clearly)

(Full) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Family Names in Woodland:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Add me to the WCF mailing list yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering. \_\_\_\_\_

My time & talents include: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

WCF of Cleveland, Ohio is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization; all donations are tax deductible.

