

## Our History

Woodland Cemetery was designed as a rural cemetery by landscape architect, Howard Daniels. Divided into quadrants and united by several circles along the main pathway, Woodland Cemetery became the city's main cemetery for the next half century. Woodland Cemetery started burials in 1853 as the city's second cemetery. WC holds the history of those involved in the Underground Railroad and the social services that followed emancipation. The Civil War had a large impact on the cemetery, where monuments memorialized the sacrifices of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Regiment and 7th Ohio Volunteer Regiment. WC became the final resting place for the largest number of Civil War veterans in the Western Reserve. The gatehouse was dedicated in 1870 joined by fountains, a chapel, and a pavilion. By 1900, newer cemeteries displaced WC and lack of attention led to decline. Buildings collapsed in the 1950s, whereas a fire destroyed the gatehouse in the 1980s.

## Woodland Cemetery Foundation

came to the rescue in 2007. Since that time, there are new monuments. The gatehouse is restored.

Annual events include Memorial Day, Descendants Day and Wreaths Across America

Special attractions:

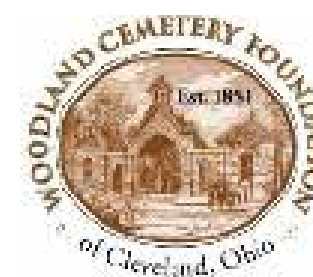
John P. Green Memorial Garden (Sec. 49)  
Memorial Garden to Civil War Veterans,  
3 B Garden & Underground Railroad  
Memorial Pathway (by gatehouse)  
Monuments to the USCT and  
War of 1812 (by flagpole)  
87,000+ burials occupy 60 acres of  
mature forest in Central neighborhood.  
Each resident has a story to tell.

To help support our work,  
consider making the Woodland  
Cemetery Speakers Bureau a part of  
your next meeting.

Woodland Cemetery Foundation  
Box 1966  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
[wcfcle@wcfcle.org](mailto:wcfcle@wcfcle.org)



## Lectures to Benefit Woodland Cemetery Foundation



1986 National Register of  
Historic Places  
2008 City of Cleveland Landmark  
2009 Ohio Historic Landmark  
2016 First site in Cleveland recognized by  
the National Park Service Underground  
Railroad Network to Freedom





## Michelle A. Day

*President of the Board, WCF*

Painesville native, Michelle Day, is an accountant by day and a cemetery researcher by night and weekends. While researching her own family, she noticed that veterans' graves were not receiving American flags on Memorial Day because the city records often neglected the word "soldier" in their cemetery records. This research led to her finding nearly 2,150 veterans in Woodland Cemetery.

Her work led to the founding of Woodland Cemetery Foundation (WCF) in 2007 to help Cleveland restore and repair projects within this city cemetery. The restoration of the gatehouse in 2019 was a result of her efforts.

### Topics of Presentations:

- History of Woodland Cemetery
- "Slave Girl Lucy" Sara Lucy Bagby Johnson
- The Mass Exodus of Chinese Burials
- Patent Holders in Woodland Cemetery

### Custom topics upon request

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216.319.2091

## Paul Siedel

*Board Member, WCF*

Paul graduated from Olmsted Falls High School before he pursued his certification in Elementary Education at the University of Akron. His career in education has taken him to Prince William County, Virginia and back to Ohio school districts in Grafton and Cleveland. Internationally, he taught in Stary Sacz, Poland for "American Educators for Poland" (Elyria, OH). His graduate work at Cleveland State University focused on "Bringing Children to Reading." In addition to educational associations, he is a member of several Civil War Roundtables in Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio.

### Topics of Presentations:

- Civil War Sites in Cleveland
- Colonels Creighton and Crane: Two Clevelanders
- A Visit to The H.L. Hunley
- In Search of the Battle of Irish Bend

### Custom topics upon request

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## Dorothy Salem, Ph.D

*Educational Outreach Coordinator, WCF*

Upon retiring as a history professor at the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College, Dr. Salem turned her attention to the Central neighborhood to continue research at Woodland Cemetery. Ohio Professor of the Year in 2002, Salem wanted to apply her teaching skills to the community she served for 40 years. Her fields in African American and Women's Histories have unearthed stories of those residents and then recorded those in coloring books for children. Her grants have provided funds for permanent recognition of leaders in the Underground Railroad and other Black Clevelanders as well as Nature interests for all.

### Topics of Presentations:

- John P. Green, Father of Labor Day
- Queens of Woodland
- Roots Run Deep: Black Clevelanders
- Leaders of the Underground Railroad

### Custom topics upon request

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