



THE RESPONSIBLE PHILANTHROPY OF MATILDA DODGE WILSON

Laura S. Riggs

Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson is known as “begetter of the University.”¹ Mrs. Wilson earned the first Oakland University degree ever conferred. Upon Mrs. Wilson’s death on September 19, 1967, her philanthropy began a new chapter through her bequest of the majority of her remaining wealth to the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, which she had established in 1944. Matilda R. Wilson fulfilled a great many civic and philanthropic roles, and her philanthropy was guided by specific influences and ideals, of the time in which she lived. While in the early years, her goal was to uplift the poor both physically and emotionally, later she concentrated on higher education and cultural enhancement in southeastern Michigan. The civic and philanthropic roles played by Mrs. Wilson were influenced early by John F. Dodge, extended family, women’s societies and Andrew Carnegie’s *Gospel of Wealth*.

Overview of Wilson’s Philanthropy in the Early and Mid-Twentieth Century

In the nineteen-teens, Mrs. Wilson’s philanthropy focused on serving the needy in her community. Many charitable organi-

zations were run by women, such as settlement houses, the Women's Society, and the Women's Auxiliary. Settlement houses were established to meet the needs of the poor; they became "the rage" as a popular cause, and were seen as an important benefit for the communities they served, as *The Detroit Free Press* noted: "the object of the many women who are interested in the east side settlement is to uplift, both mentally and physically, the foreign element at its doors."² This settlement provided classes for over 550 children and was praised for its "many years of service to humanity in promoting education and good citizenship among the foreign population."³ This newspaper article states that Mrs. John F. Dodge sold all of the box seats to the Spring Festival benefitting the settlement houses. Newspaper coverage stated that the box seats were purchased by the women in the household, thus giving credit to the women for the charitable giving. The newspapers publicized the need for philanthropy as well as the charitable efforts of the wealthy.

Mrs. Wilson was also active in the Women's Society which published a journal, *Home Mission Monthly*, a publication whose goal was to bring "unchurched peoples into vital touch with religious life and fellowship through missions, neighborhood houses, and goodwill centers, interpreting to them new world Christianity in terms of service."⁴ People were urged to contribute to different causes: "The House of Providence needs money badly in its work of caring for hapless mothers and babies . . ." ⁵ The wealthy were responsive to these needs and were recognized for their contributions.

Another philanthropic group, the Women's Auxiliary, had specific charitable aims, including "making layettes for babies born to unwed mothers, (sic) in the General Booth Hospital, and clothes for children in the home operated by the army."⁶

Also in the nineteen-teens, Mrs. Wilson attended events benefitting the Florence Crittenton home, the Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild, and the Tuberculosis Society. Charitable work continued after Mr. John F. Dodge's death in 1920. In 1929

Mrs. Wilson gave \$2,500 to the Republican National Committee, \$100,000 to the YMCA in 1925, and \$100 to the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund in 1923.⁷ The newspaper articles of the day usually named key people in the organization and supporters. Many of the supporters were either attendees of an event, a purchaser of a box of seats or monetary contributors. Through these articles a comparison can be made showing the interest of the donor. Donations also place people in the category of the wealthy. The gift to the YMCA by Mrs. Dodge (Matilda) placed her in the same category as the J.L. Hudson Company and S.S. Kresge Company, both of whom gave \$25,000. In addition, the president of J.L. Hudson Co. gave \$50,000. Other contributors to the Republican National Committee were Fred Wardell of Eureka Vacuum Cleaner Company, C.S. Mott of General Motors Corporation, and Dubois Young of Hupp Motor Car Corporation.⁸ Mrs. Wilson's donations, when compared to those of other philanthropists of the era, help one to appreciate Mrs. Wilson's generosity. Religious causes also benefited from Mrs. Wilson's philanthropy.

Early religious philanthropy began with "a quarter-million dollars to the First Presbyterian Church," from John F. Dodge.⁹ Mrs. Wilson donated the Rausch Memorial Carillon to the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Walkerton, Ontario on March 18, 1956.¹⁰ The Carillon was in memory of her father, George Rausch, who was "one of the fourteen names which appear[ed] as charter members . . . [of the church that was] organized on January 18, 1880."¹¹ The *Walkerton Times Herald* placed the value of the gift "near \$5,000."¹² The town of Walkerton was also a beneficiary of a gift of memorial gates at the entrance of the Walkerton Cemetery on July 24, 1921. Mrs. Margaret Rausch and Mrs. Matilda Dodge gave the gates in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Glintz, parents of Mrs. Rausch.¹³ The Knox Presbyterian church local to Walkerton received "a lovely new home for use as the church manse" from Mrs. Wilson a few years prior to the Trinity Lutheran church memorial carillon.¹⁴ The Calvary Presbyterian Church was the recipient of a donation to pay for "one pipe to the Master Casa-

vant Organ . . . ” from Mrs. Wilson. These donations represent a cross section of Mrs. Wilson’s giving to religious causes. Mrs. Wilson desired the carillon bells to “bring into the hearts of all within the congregation and community their message of Christian joy and gladness.”¹⁵ Through the philanthropy of Mrs. Wilson to different churches and the inclusion of religion in the purpose of the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, it was evident that religion played an important role in Mrs. Wilson’s philanthropic philosophy.

Mrs. Wilson opened her home to many including the Rochester Boy Scouts, a third grade class from Ferris School in Highland Park, and many organizations for meetings and entertainment. The year was 1929 when “Mrs. Wilson . . . gladdened the hearts of the Rochester Boy Scouts by donating, one night a week, the use of the indoor pool in the private clubhouse on the Wilson estate.”¹⁶ In addition to having fun the boys were taught to swim. In 1940 the third grade class visited the farm and learned about the sheep. Mrs. Wilson sent them wool after the sheep were sheared, which the children carded and spun, making an exhibit for the State Fair.¹⁷ Mrs. Wilson’s philanthropy was prominent in education.

The earliest philanthropy for higher education went to Alma College in 1925 for a memorial to John F. Dodge. The amount of the gift was \$45,000.¹⁸ Another gift was made to Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut. The dollar amount was \$250,000 and was in the memory of her son Daniel, who had attended the school.¹⁹ While these gifts were substantial in size, the gift with the largest value was the gift of Meadow Brook Estate and two million dollars which would become Michigan State University Oakland.

By the 1960s, ideas of philanthropy were changing, as the government took on some tasks formerly funded by private philanthropy—for example, the government’s New Deal programs. At the Conference on Philanthropy, sponsored by the National Bureau of Economic Research and Merrill Center for Economics in 1962, the concern was “with a number of areas in which giving seemed to be deficient—the theatre, art,

music, museums and certain urban problems.”²⁰ While in the early years the goal was to uplift the poor both physically and emotionally, by the 1960s, goals centered on higher education and cultural enhancement in society, and Mrs. Wilson’s philanthropy exemplifies this. Another possible influence on Mrs. Wilson was Andrew Carnegie.

Andrew Carnegie’s Influence on Mrs. Wilson

Carnegie explained his philosophy of philanthropy in his *Gospel of Wealth*. He followed his recommendations for philanthropy by giving most of his wealth away by the time of his death.²¹ Carnegie discussed three options for wealthy people to distribute their money. The first was to leave the money to family, which he thought was the worst choice, because, although he advocated providing a moderate source of income to the wife and daughters of a family, money left to sons or too much money left to others would expose them to the evils of money.²² The second option was to bequeath the wealth in a will for public purposes; however, this option could be fought in court where it might end in others making the decisions about the proper use of the legacy. The last and best option according to Carnegie, was to distribute the wealth as the wealthy person saw fit before his/her death. Carnegie’s commitment to bettering society is shown in support of “heavy inheritance taxes . . . to ensure society’s reaping some benefits from the accumulation of wealth if either of the first two alternatives were chosen by the man of wealth.”²³

Carnegie published his list of philanthropic priorities in the *Gospel of Wealth* (1899): “[I]n descending order of importance: (1) universities . . . (2) free libraries; . . . (3) the founding or extension of hospitals; . . . (4) parks; (5) halls suitable for meetings, concerts, etc.; (6) swimming baths; and (7) churches, but only the buildings . . .”²⁴ This list of priorities may have influenced Mrs. Wilson. While John F. Dodge did not follow Carnegie’s advice for leaving the money to his family, he

did donate buildings for the Women's Clubs and money for a building that the Presbyterian Church used. Carnegie died in August of 1919, five months prior to John Dodge's death. The possible influence of Carnegie on Mrs. Wilson is also suggested by the relatively close time frame of Andrew Carnegie's death and Mrs. Wilson's control of her portion of the Dodge wealth. Further, Mrs. Wilson left only meager amounts to her family in her will, although unlike Carnegie, she did not dispose of all of her wealth before she died. Mrs. Wilson's estate was worth about \$16 million when she died.²⁵

Mrs. Wilson's Bequests

Mrs. Wilson's daughter, Frances Dodge VanLennep, was left personal items along with the job of selecting other personal items that went to both people and Oakland University in Mrs. Wilson's Last Will and Testament. The other two living children of Mrs. Wilson inherited the same amount, \$10,000 and cancellation of any indebtedness to Mrs. Wilson.²⁶ In addition, both Richard and Barbara's children inherited a trust fund worth \$200,000 which had been set up in February of 1967. While these amounts appeared to be paltry, Mrs. Wilson indicated in her will that she had been "especially mindful of financial provisions that [had] already been made by [her] and others for [her] children . . . and had concluded that each of the children [were] already well provided for."²⁷ In the case of Frances, she had been a legatee of John F. Dodge's inheritance, which she was able to fully utilize at the age of twenty-five. Richard and Barbara must have found it difficult to witness Mrs. Wilson's large bequests to organizations and employees. In 1962 Richard had received \$10,000 and Barbara \$15,000 from the will of their father Alfred Wilson.²⁸ While it appeared that Mrs. Wilson was not generous to some family members, the clause that nullified any debt owed her by the children suggested that they had received previous monies. In contrast to Andrew Carnegie's ideal distribution of wealth,

Mrs. Wilson waited until her death to liquidate the majority of her wealth.

At the time of Mrs. Wilson's death, the will left about \$13 million dollars to the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, which was established in 1944 by Mrs. Wilson. The fund was started with \$5,000 and the term of the corporation was sixty years. The Articles of Incorporation stated that the fund was to be used "exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, including the prevention of cruelty to children or animals."²⁹ At the termination of the fund all assets were to go to the Salvation Army, which was a primary beneficiary of her philanthropy while she was living. Tax benefits may have dictated the establishment of the fund in 1944. In the early nineteen-sixties, this charitable foundation and others grew in importance. "The new awakening whether motivated by love of man or fear of the consequences of non-action, [was] a powerful force for good . . ."³⁰ The establishment and the legacy left by Mrs. Wilson in the Matilda R. Wilson Fund conferred many benefits in the subsequent years.

While annual reports listed in this documentation do not contain dollar amounts, a document obtained from the Meadow Brook Hall Archivist listed the giving for the Matilda R. Wilson Fund at more than twenty-four million dollars between 1995 and 2002. In accordance with Mrs. Wilson's wishes for the fund, donations have gone to educational, religious, children's and animal rights causes (among others). Some of the same organizations to which Mrs. Wilson gave when she was alive were still receiving funds including Alma College, Beloit College, Detroit Historical Society, First Presbyterian Church, Music Hall for the Performing Arts (Wilson Theater), and the Salvation Army. During those years 158 organizations received money from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund.

Mrs. Wilson's will contained provisions for three of Mrs. Wilson's employees, who were left annuities. Martin Goodwill was left \$100.00, George Meade \$100.00, and Herman Siewert \$150.00 per month for life. More than forty years earlier, John F. Dodge and his brother Horace were "sending

monthly checks to support an old and paralyzed black man who had worked at their father's foundry when John and Horace were young boys."³¹ While there was no name given for the recipient of John and Horace's checks, the Meadow Brook Hall Archive has documents to show that the checks did not stop upon the death of the Dodge brothers. Both Dodge widows continued to send checks to Mrs. Winborn in Niles, Michigan. Further research showed that in the 1910 census Mrs. Winborn was the head of household at the age of 80 and Willie A. Winborn aged 61, a widowed female, was her neighbor. The 1920 census placed both ladies together and their relationship was mother and daughter. In addition, a boarder Cyrus Bowles age 73 and single was living in the same household.

The letters contained in the Meadow Brook Hall Archive included correspondence between Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Winborn, Niles City Bank, the bank where the checks were being sent for Mrs. Winborn and F.L Sward who worked for Realty Company. Through these letters it was learned that Mr. John F. Dodge had been sending a monthly check to Mr. Winborn and upon his death, Mrs. Wilson continued to send them to the Niles City Bank to the account of Mrs. Winborn. It was unknown if Mr. Dodge sent checks to the widow of Mr. Winborn, but in the 1910 census Mrs. Winborn was listed as a widow. Even though the letter from the Realty Company suggested that the widow would use the money, it also stated that the living conditions were in "an attractive house for colored people."³² Despite the report on the living conditions, Mrs. Wilson continued sending the checks. The last correspondence was in October 1926, when due to failing health Mrs. Winborn went to Chicago. Mrs. Wilson asked the Niles City Bank to "mail the duplicate deposit slip to Mrs. Winborn at 7258 Love Avenue, Chicago, Illinois."³³ While the majority of Mrs. Wilson's philanthropy was public, these checks were of a private nature.

Another private gift was made public in 1993 by Helen Merryman McKenzie. McKenzie, an orphan who was influenced by the Ladies Auxiliary and Mrs. Wilson, reflected that "Mrs. Wilson, busy socialite that she was, took the time to come

to the graduation herself . . . ”³⁴ McKenzie was speaking about her high school graduation. She believed Mrs. Wilson’s kindness had an influence on the fact that she has had 101 foster children over the years.

Most important for the students, faculty and community of Oakland University, the Fund gave the University, “\$1.5 million in grants . . . to support the music festival, Meadow Brook Hall, a memorial library fund, an engineering Chair, and other programs.”³⁵ This archival material dates from the decade after Mrs. Wilson’s death. Since then, much more has been given to various programs at Oakland University.

The Fund: Changes and Impact

Mrs. Wilson’s massive philanthropy through the Fund has undergone some changes. In 2004, the Fund restated the articles of incorporation because the fixed term in the original incorporation of 60 years had lapsed. Prior to this, in August of 2003, the articles of incorporation were amended to say that the corporation would have a term of “perpetuity.”³⁶ With the restated articles of incorporation a change was made in the effect of dissolution of the corporation. While the Fund’s objective was not to dissolve the corporation, in this case “its assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes with the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.”³⁷ This specification is a change from the original articles, which stated that “[u]pon the termination of this corporation all of its assets then remaining, if any, shall belong to and be distributed to The Salvation Army . . .”³⁸ Even though there was a change, the termination in the new articles would help many more organizations. The other change was the omission of the phrase “including the prevention of cruelty to children or animals,” which was present in the original articles. While information since 2004 was not available at the time of this writing,

the Fund had previously given grants to those causes including Horse's Haven and Children's Home of Detroit.

Over the years, the fund has increased in value allowing the philanthropy of Mrs. Wilson to continue. This was made possible through the diligence of the organizations involved in investing the money. It has been said that "[a] foundation can survive any number of bad grants; its survival depends solely on competent investment skill."³⁹ This is not to say that the Fund has made poor decisions, rather that investing has played an important role in this philanthropic foundation. Although the investing determined the amount of philanthropy available, without Mrs. Wilson's establishment of this and other legacies, the philanthropy could have ended with her death.

In addition to her monetary legacies, Mrs. Wilson donated significant time to many organizations, beginning with work done in the Women's Federation and in support of the East Side Settlement. The same year she "was appointed chairman of the Nellie Leland open air school."⁴⁰ During the 1920s, Mrs. Wilson was treasurer of the Michigan Syndical Society for Missions of the First Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Treasurer of the National Council of Women, and President of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary (a position that she held again later for a total of 21 years). In education, Mrs. Wilson held trustee positions for Michigan State University, Alma College, and Beloit College. She was also elected to the State Board of Agriculture, which acted as the Board of Regents of Michigan State College. Perhaps her highest position was that of Lieutenant Governor of the State of Michigan.

In 1940, Governor Dickinson appointed Mrs. Wilson as Lieutenant Governor; she was the first woman to hold a major state office in Michigan. The appointment created "a test case to decide whether a lieutenant governor who becomes governor upon the death of the duly elected governor actually becomes the chief executive or is merely serving as a 'lieutenant governor, acting as governor.'"⁴¹ Attorney General Thomas Read saw the appointment as unnecessary. As the threat of

challenging her appointment loomed, the administrative board met and Lieutenant Governor Wilson, seated next to Governor Dickinson conferred with each other, while the rest of the members allowed the meeting to proceed without interruption. Following this meeting *The State Journal* reported that Governor Dickinson felt that Attorney General Read could no longer question the validity of the appointment because he sat next to Mrs. Wilson and did not challenge her vote. The opposition was not to Mrs. Wilson, but to the appointment in general. For the six weeks Mrs. Wilson was in office, she took an active part in proceedings, asked questions and voted on all proposals. Notably, in a letter to the State Treasurer, Mrs. Wilson authorized the withholding of any compensation for her position and wanted the money to be returned to the general fund of the State.⁴² While the position did not last long, it can be considered a gift to the State of Michigan.

The Founding of Oakland University

The establishment of Oakland University from a gift given by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson has been generously written about. For this reason, only a brief synopsis will be included here, so that concentration on lesser known facts regarding the gift can be explored. The gift was given in 1957 with the first class entering in 1959. The charter class graduated in 1963, and each graduate received a gift of a diamond class ring from Mrs. Wilson.

In December of 1956, a proposal was drafted for the "Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University,"⁴³ stipulating the programs of study and procedure by which the university would be founded. Many of the ideas in the proposal survived to the founding of the university, except the name. A letter dated July 1, 1957 expressed some concern as to Meadow Brook Estate being given as a whole rather than in pieces. The letter was a report regarding the discussions at Meadow Brook Hall among Mr. May, Mr. Foster, Mr. Swanson, four men from

Mr. Swanson's office, Mr. Hamilton (Vice President for Off-Campus Education MSU), and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Written to President John A. Hannah, it pertained to the gift of land and the establishment of the university.⁴⁴ Mr. Hamilton wrote that his impression was that Mrs. Wilson was inclined to give one section of property at a time as the university began to grow. While willing to accept the gift in this manner, Mr. Hamilton believed that the best solution would be to deed the entire estate at one time, thus the university could be "assured of using everything but Meadow Brook Hall and Sunset Terrace."⁴⁵ In addition, the letter stated that Mr. Wilson pulled Mr. Hamilton aside to tell him to address further correspondence to both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and not solely Mrs. Wilson. Even though Mr. Hamilton preferred to deal with Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Wilson's request was perceived as the way to continue. While much talk of the preferred gifting technique was discussed, in the end Mr. and Mrs. Wilson gave the entire estate for the establishment of a university.

The Quit Claim deed dated September 20, 1957, gave the property to Michigan State University and maintained three life estates. The first was the "Ross Farm," the second was "Meadow Brook Hall and Vicinity," and the third was "Sunset Terrace Area."⁴⁶ The Ross Farm was located on the east side of Adams Road. Therefore, through the acceptance of the trustees of Michigan State University, Michigan State University Oakland began the detailed planning stages. The magnitude and type of philanthropy that this gift represented was summed up in Chancellor Varner's introduction of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson at the Convocation of the Charter Class on September 17, 1959. He stated:

As you must know, this university had its origin in one of the most courageous acts with which I have had any familiarity in my lifetime. It is not easy to give away one's life's accumulation, yet here we have witnessed a deed of generosity not often exceeded in America's educational record. This has been the story of wealth accumulated in the traditional American framework of competitive free

enterprise, and the story of the return of a large share of this wealth to serve the community from which it came.

This gift greatly enhanced the educational offerings of Oakland County and Michigan State.

Conclusion: Enormous Wealth and Altruistic Vision

Claims that Mrs. Wilson was cold and distant to her family have been discussed at length in *Matilda R. Wilson: Mistress of Meadow Brook Hall* (Marzolk and Ritchie, 1983). But rather than coldness, perhaps caution in business endeavors and financial dealings would better define Mrs. Wilson's behavior. One must keep in mind that every death of a family member was followed by a law suit over money. The death of John F. Dodge, Daniel Dodge and Anna Margaret Dodge all provoked law suits over inheritance, and in at least two of the law suits, Mrs. Wilson gave John Duval and Laurine McDonald more than what was left to them in the wills that were contested. While Mrs. Wilson did not always approve of decisions made by family members, there is sufficient evidence that her family did hold a place in her heart

Although Mrs. Matilda R. Wilson gave much of her wealth away, some have suggested that she could have given even more. In an interview, Barbara Thorpe, Meadow Brook Hall Archive Committee member and former resident of Meadow Brook Estate, noted that there were two causes close to home that Mrs. Wilson's gifts did not touch: help with eye surgery for a son of an employee (Mrs. Wilson garnisheed the employee's wages instead of paying for the surgery); and the short notice given to the Thorpe family to vacate their home on the Estate when Mr. Thorpe, who was in charge of the cattle on Meadow Brook Estate, died. Both instances may be seen as philanthropic missteps by Mrs. Wilson.

This raises the question of how much and what kind of philanthropy are needed to establish a truly philanthropic life? Is it required of the wealthy that they lower their own standard

of living in order to be deemed true philanthropists? Some would calculate this by percentages, while others would calculate time investment. However one estimates acts of philanthropy, certainly Mrs. Wilson's philanthropic gifts both past and present signify a lifetime of commitment to a wide range of philanthropic causes.

The gift of Meadow Brook Estate for Michigan State University Oakland was related to Carnegie's philanthropic philosophy in the rough draft of the proposal of The Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University. The opportunities of the institution reflected "the words of Andrew Carnegie, who did so much to define the social responsibility of wealth, there would be erected, 'ladders upon which the aspiring can rise.'"⁴⁷ Since the beginning of Oakland University, many people have ascended that ladder.

In 1959, Mrs. Wilson was honored as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Central Business District Association. The perspective portrayed at the time of this honor was "Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson (Matilda Rausch Dodge) is a woman of enormous riches. And the greatest of these is love."⁴⁸ The quote so appropriately described Mrs. Wilson that it has been used in many other descriptions of her, including, *The Detroit Free Press* in 1967 and *The Woman's National Magazine* in 1967. The students of Oakland University also reflected upon the love that she had shown them when they spoke at the memorial ceremony for Mrs. Wilson.

A poem written by Anne Campbell (Mrs. Stark), a poet at *The Detroit News* and long-time friend of Mrs. Wilson, was read at a 75th Birthday celebration given by the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.⁴⁹ The poem spoke of the many material treasures Mrs. Wilson possessed, but gave more weight to the philanthropy she bestowed upon others. A copy of the poem has been included in Appendix B.

Mrs. Matilda R. Wilson was a great philanthropist. Her gifts of time, support and money demonstrate her altruism. Even though it can be argued that the philanthropy of Mrs. Wilson was derived from the wealth of John F. Dodge, without

her keen business sense there may not have been as much to give. During the eighteen years that Mrs. Wilson knew John F. Dodge, his philanthropy set an example that Mrs. Wilson followed and expanded upon for the rest of her life and even beyond it, through the Matilda R. Wilson Fund.

APPENDIX A

MATILDA R. WILSON MEMBERSHIPS

The Academy of Political Science [1]	
Aero Club of Michigan [1]	1951–1953 contributing
Alpha Delta Kappa [1]	October 1968
Honorary Membership	
American Association for The United Nations [1]	July 1954–1967
Greater Detroit Chapter	
American Federation of Arts [1]	December 1936–1967
American Forestry Association [1]	September 1936–1939
	Life Member
American Guernsey Cattle Club [1]	Life Member since 1935
American Hackney Horse Society [1]	February 1949–1967
American Horse Shows Association, Inc. [1]	January 1952–1967
American Rose Society and Detroit Rose Society [1]	March 1936–1968
American Shetland Pony Club [1]	January 1966–1967
Auxiliary to The Salvation Army [1]	March 1937–1946
	Life Member
Bloomfield Hills country Club [1]	December 1962–October 1967
Board of National Missions [4]	1923–
Civic Pride Association of Detroit [1]	September 1939–1965
The Council of the American Geographic Society [1]	December 1926 Fellow
Detroit Club (Ladies Privileges) [1]	May 1962–1967
Detroit Historical Society [1]	May 1938–1968
Detroit Industrial School Association [1]	March 1937–March 1954
Detroit Museum of Art Founders Society [1]	October 1936–1966
Founders' Society–Detroit Institute of Arts	

Detroit Parliamentary Law Club [1]	November 1912–1923 & November 1937–1967
Detroit Zoological Society [1]	December 1966
Federation of Women’s Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit [2]	
First Honorary Member of Faculty Women’s Club Of Michigan MSUO [1]	
First Presbyterian Church of Detroit [2]	1914–
Friends of Detroit Public Library [1]	April 1946–1968
Friend of The Land [1]	December 1946–1968
Grosse Pointe Eastern Michigan Horticultural Society [1]	Honorary Membership June 1937–1945
Historic Memorial Society [1]	Honorary Member April 1936–1954 Life Member
Kenmore Association [1]	May 1949–1964 Life Member
Ladies Sewing Group [1]	1960
Michigan’s Cultural Commission [5]	
Michigan Draft Horse Breeders Association [1]	June 1967–
Michigan Humane Society [1]	October 1937–1968
Midwest Hackney Association [1]	December 1961–1967
Mount Vernon Country Club [1]	January 1929
National Council of Women In The United States [1]	April 1958–1968
National Geographic Society [1]	December 1937–1968
National Geographic Magazine & Club [1]	December 1935–1953
National Travel Club [1]	February 1937–1967
National Women’s Country Club, Washington D.C. [1]	Life Member
Oakland Citizens League [1]	Foundation Member to May 1941
Presbyterian Historical Society [1]	August 1956 Contributing Member Patron
Smithsonian Institution [1]	
South Central Hackney Association, Inc. [1]	June 1966–1967
Society of Arts and Crafts [1]	1936–1956
Spartan Alumnae Club of Greater Lansing[1]	May 1967
State Board of Agriculture [2]	June 1932–June 1938
Theatre Arts Club [1]	October 1936–1968

Twentieth Century Club [1]	January 1937–1968
Village Woman’s Club [1]	May 1956–1968
Women’s City Club of Detroit [1]	May 1936–1968
Women’s National Farm & Garden Association [1]	February 1939–1966
Honorary Member	
Young Woman’s Christian Association [1]	May 1949 Life Member

MATILDA R. WILSON OFFICES HELD

Alma College [5]	Trustee
American Association of University Women Detroit’s 250 th Anniversary Committee [9]	Representative
Auxiliary to the Salvation Army [3]	Honorary President 1922–1929, 1931-1948
Beloit College [3]	Trustee
Detroit Tuberculosis Society	
Blue Star Tag Day Committee [7]	Vice General Chairman 1914
East Side Settlement	
Spring Festival Committee [8]	Box Sales
Federation of Women’s Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit [3]	Honorary President
Finance Committee, Trustees of the Educational & Philanthropic Fund, and Relocation Committee [11]	Trustee 1967
Fidelity Bank & Trust Company [5]	Chairman of the Board 1930 - Trustee 1965, Elder 1959
First Presbyterian Church [2]	Board of Directors
Graham-Paige Motors Co. [5]	President 1941-1944
Historic Memorials Society [2]	Trustee Emeritus
Michigan State College [3]	Treasurer 1921–1941
Michigan Synodical Society [2]	Treasurer
National Council of Women [5]	Chairman 1925
Biennial Convention Committee [10]	Chairman 1914
Nellie Leland Open Air School [6]	
Presbyterian Foundation, Philadelphia [4]	Trustee 1956 –
Salvation Army’s Building Fund Campaign [5]	Honorary Chairman 1960
State of Michigan [2]	Lieutenant Governor Nov.19, 1940–Dec.31, 1940

United Presbyterian Foundation [3]	Trustee
United States National Council of Women [5]	Delegate, Vienna 1930
Village Woman's Club [5]	Vice President-President 1959–1964
Woman's Association of the First Presbyterian Church, Detroit [3]	Honorary President
Women's City Club [5]	Board Member
Women's National Farm and Garden Association [2]	President 1964–1966

NOTES

Hand written "M.R.W. Memberships," Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Brief Summary Career," September 1965, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Christina Scott to Mrs. Lester D. Kelley, February 1, 1965, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Christina Scott to Mrs. McDonald, October 4, 1958, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Kathleen Hill, "Mothers, Daughters, and Leaders of Oakland County," exhibit application, Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Mrs. John F. Dodge Chosen to Head Open Air School," *Journal*, February 18, 1914, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Women Who Will Have Charge of Blue Star Tag Day's Solicitation of the Entire City," *Detroit News Tribune*, May 31, 1914, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Interested in Spring Festival," April 19, 1914, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Clubs Unite for Festivity," *Detroit News*, November 8, 1950, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"'Control' Charge is Refuted," *Times*, October 30, 1925, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

"Charm for a Grand Lady," *Detroit News*, April 28, 1967, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

APPENDIX B

Great Lady

She has a stately home. In ample halls
Are many treasures. On the lighted walls
Fine paintings gladden her. The choicest blooms
Grow at her bidding, and make sweet her rooms.

The rolling meadows seen from shining panes
Of glass are hers. Blessed by the springtime rains,
The corn grows tall for her. Wheat turns to gold,
And there is only beauty to behold.

But the great gods of plenty gave her more
Than castle walls and Nature's gleaming store.
Her soul is a rich meadowland that yields
A harvest she will glean from heaven's fields.

To serve the poor and hopeless is her gift;
Courage, and the unselfish will to lift
The broken-hearted to felicity;
Her gentle patience, her warm sympathy;

These are her priceless treasures, and the reason
Love is her valued guest through every season.
Her day begins with kindness, and it ends
In the devotion of her countless friends.

—Anne Campbell

APPENDIX C

KINSHIP OF MATILDA RAUSCH

Name	Birth date	Relationship with Matilda Rausch
Baldwin, Elinor	1928	Daughter-in-law
Casto, Franc		Aunt of the husband
Casto, Maria		Mother-in-law
Casto, Sarah		Aunt of the husband
Casto, William		Grandfather of the husband
Dodge, Anna Margaret	1919	Daughter
Dodge, Caleb		Uncle of the husband
Dodge, Daniel George	1917	Son
Dodge, Daniel Rugg		Father-in-law
Dodge, Delphine		Sister-in-law
Dodge, Delphine		Niece of the husband
Dodge, Edwin		Uncle of the husband
Dodge, Francis Matilda	1914	Daughter
Dodge, Horace		Brother-in-law
Dodge, Horace		Nephew of the husband
Dodge, Isabel Cleves		Daughter of the husband
Dodge, John Duval		Son of the husband
Dodge, John Francis		Husband
Dodge, Winfred		Daughter of the husband
Duval, Indie		Grandmother of the husband
Eccles, Andrew		Grandson
Eccles, Richard		Grandson
Eccles, Sandra		Granddaughter
Eccles, Thomas	1928	Son-in-law
Eccles, Wendy		Granddaughter
Glintz, Fredrick		Grandfather
Glintz, Margaret		Mother
Johnson, James	1900	Son-in-law
Johnson, Judith	1941	Granddaughter
McDonald, Laurine		Daughter-in-law
Rausch, Amelia		Sister
Rausch, George		Father

Rausch, Matilda	1883	Self
VanLennep, Fredrick	1911	Son-in-law
VanLennep, Fredricka	1951	Granddaughter
VanLennep, John	1952	Grandson
Wilson, Alfred G.		Husband
Wilson, Barbara		Granddaughter
Wilson, Barbara	1931	Daughter
Wilson, Lawrence		Grandson
Wilson, Linda		Granddaughter
Wilson, Patricia		Granddaughter
Wilson, Richard	1929	Son

Information compiled from:

1900, 1910, 1920 U.S. Census

Jean Pitrone and Joan Potter Elwart, "The John Dodge Story"

News Clippings, Meadow Brook Hall Archive

APPENDIX D

DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL RUGG DODGE

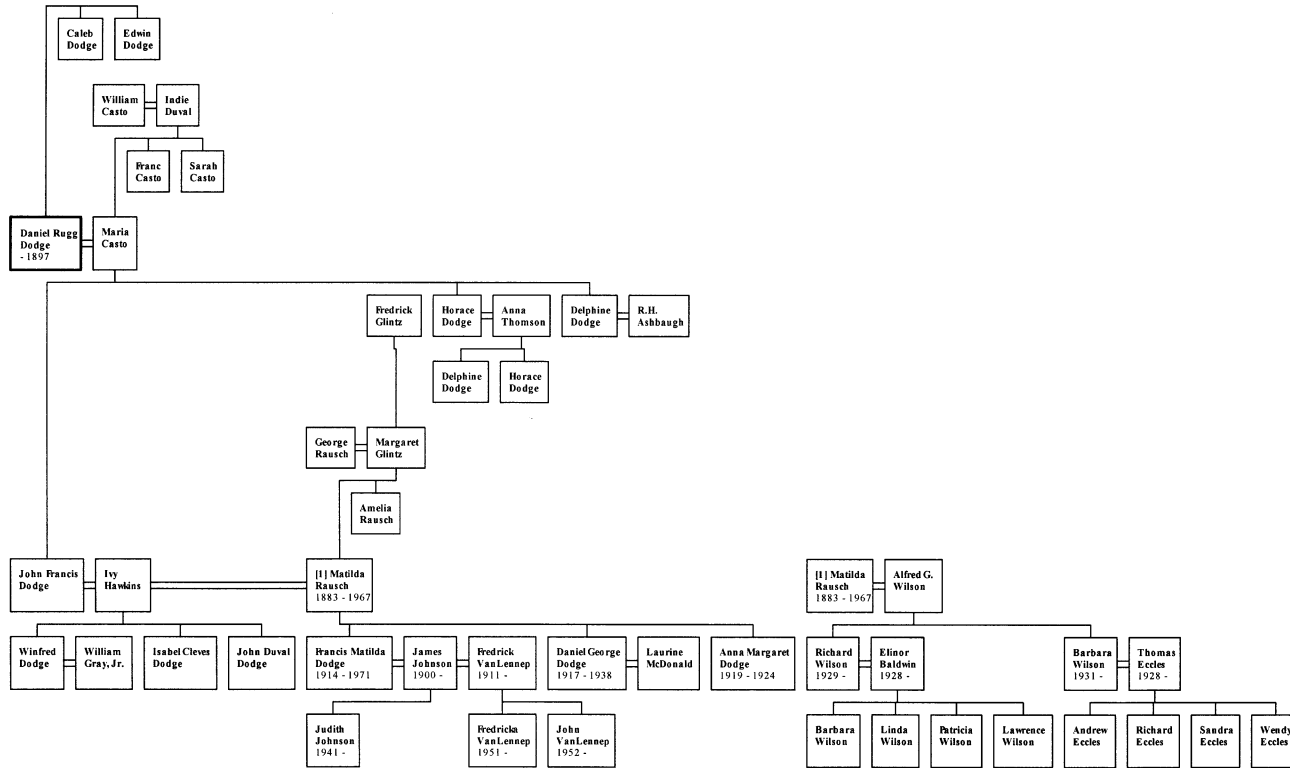
- 1 Daniel Rugg Dodge 1897 -
 - .. +Maria Casto
 - 2 John Francis Dodge
 - +Ivy Hawkins
 - 3 Winfred Dodge
 - +William Gray, Jr.
 - 3 Isabel Cleves Dodge
 - 3 John Duval Dodge
 - *2nd Wife of John Francis Dodge:
 - +Matilda Rausch 1883–1967
 - 3 Francis Matilda Dodge 1914–1971
 - +James Johnson 1900–
 - 4 Judith Johnson 1941–
 - *2nd Husband of Francis Matilda Dodge:
 - +Fredrick VanLennep 1911–
 - 4 FredrickaVanLennep 1951–
 - 4 John VanLennep 1952–
 - 3 Daniel George Dodge 1917–1938
 - +Laurine McDonald
 - 3 Anna Margaret Dodge 1919–1924
 - 2 Horace Dodge
 - +Anna Thomson
 - 3 Delphine Dodge
 - 3 Horace Dodge
 - 2 Delphine Dodge
 - +R.H. Ashbaugh

Daniel Rugg Dodge was chosen for the subject to show the family relationships that were influential to Mrs. Matilda R. Dodge Wilson

APPENDIX E

All-in-One Tree of Daniel Rugg Dodge

164



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Arizona Journal. April 8, 1962.

Bremner, Robert H. *American Philanthropy*. Edited by Daniel J. Boorstin. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960.

Certificate of Appreciation. Women's Association of First Presbyterian Church of Detroit. October 11, 1966.

Cline, Amelia Rausch. Interviewed by Barbara Tyson and Jean Rugeroni. John Cameron Architectural Collection. (Oakland) University Archive. Rochester, Michigan. 19 March 1979.

Curti, Merle and Roderick Nash. *Philanthropy in the Shaping of American Higher Education*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1965.

"Democracy Demonstrated in Michigan." *Home Mission Monthly* 36, no. 5 (1922): 110.

Detroit Free Press. March 1914–March 1993.

The Detroit News. May 1914–May 1941.

Detroit News Tribune. January - May 1914.

The Detroit Times. March 1914–May 1926.

Dickinson, Frank G., Ed. *Philanthropy and Public Policy*. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., 1962.

Duffield School. "Graduating Exercises" Program. June 22, 1899. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

El Paso Post. May 9, 1925.

Guide to Meadow Brook Hall. Dodge Division, Chrysler Corporation. Oakland University. Rochester, Michigan. 1972.

Hamilton, Thomas H. to John A. Hannah. July 1, 1957. Oakland University Archive.

Hannah, John A. to Mrs. Matilda R. Wilson. January 24, 1955. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Herald News. Roscommon, Michigan. July 2, 1925.

Isenberg, Beth. "A Tribute to Matilda Rausch Wilson: The Lady Who Started OU." *The Oakland Sail*. December 9, 1977.

Jaquesco, W. T. "Democracy Demonstrated in Michigan." *Home Mission Monthly* 34, no. 5 (1922): 110.

Journal. February–March 1914.

Kansas City Star. July 12, 1925.

Marzolf, Marion and Marianne Ritchie. *Matilda R. Wilson: Mistress of Meadow Brook Hall*. Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, c. 1983.

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation*. 26 December 1944. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219319.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Appointment of Resident Agent*. 4 September 1951. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219320.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 16 October 1957. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219321.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 5 December 1968. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219322.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 11 May 1970. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219323.TIF

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation*. 29 October 1971. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219324.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 1 September 1972. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219325.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 16 October 1978. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219326.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certified Resolution of Change of Resident Agent*. 14 April 1980. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219327.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1991. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0018%5C91288%5C91288351.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1992. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0043%5C92296%5C92296ACB.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1993. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0063%5C93275%5C93275AOV.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certificate of Change of Registered Office and/or Change of Resident Agent*. 27 September 1994. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=520&FILE_NAME=D0112%5C94273%5C94273AKD.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1995. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0084%5C95265%5C95265003.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1996. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0093%5C96256%5C96256197.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1997. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0099%5C97295%5C97295200.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certificate of Change of Registered Office and/or Change of Resident Agent*. 2 October 1998. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=520&FILE_NAME=D0112%5C98280%5C98280972.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Annual Report - Nonprofit*. 1 October 1999. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE

=NAN&FILE_NAME=R0109%5C99246%5C99246187.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2000 Annual Report*. 14 September 2000. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAN&FILE_NAME=R0114%5C00259%5C00259AHX.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2001 Annual Report*. 4 September 2001. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAN&FILE_NAME=R200109%5C2001247%5C00002736.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2002 Annual Report*. 1 October 2002. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAN&FILE_NAME=R200210%5C2002274%5C00002540.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certificate of Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation*. 25 August 2003. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=ELF&FILE_NAME=D200308%5C2003238%5CE0075632.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2003 Annual Report*. 16 September 2003. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAO&FILE_NAME=R200309%5C2003259%5C00001593.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Restated Articles of Incorporation - Non-profit*. 24 September 2004. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=ELF&FILE_NAME=D200404%5C2004117%5CE0150618.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2004 Annual Report*. 24 September 2004. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAO&FILE_NAME=R200409%5C2004268%5C00001740.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2005 Annual Report*. 26 August 2005. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=MAN&FILE_NAME=R200508%5C2005242%5C00000342.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Certificate of Change of Registered Office and /or Change of Resident Agent*. 28 April 2006. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=ELF&FILE_NAME=D200605%5C2006124%5CE0125104.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *2006 Annual Report*. 13 September 2006. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=WEB&FILE_NAME=D200609%5C2006256%5CE0952446.tif (accessed May 10, 2007).

McGarry, Peg to Laurie Sommers. October 3, 1977. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Meadow Brook Hall Staff. *Meadow Brook Hall*, A Meadow Brook Hall Publication, 1980.

Meredith, Nelson L. to D.B. Varner. October 16, 1969. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to D.B. Varner. July 16, 1969. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Clipping. Unknown publisher. "Dodge Search by Submarine to Begin Soon." September 5, 1938. Toronto. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Clipping. Unknown publisher. "Estate Holdings Top \$16 Million." c. 1967. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Clipping. Unknown publisher. "Mrs. Horace Dodge warm and practical." c. 1914. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Clipping. Unknown publisher. "Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson's." July 28, 1940. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Clipping. Unknown publisher. "MSUO Benefactor Alfred G. Wilson Dies." c.1962. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

News Tribune. January–April 1914.

The Niles City Bank to Matilda R. Wilson. October 22, 1926. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Oakland County, Michigan. Register of Deeds. Quit Claim Deed. Liber 3756 page 449. recorded October 8, 1957, p. 2. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Oakland University, Kresge Library Archive. "Last Will and Testament of Matilda R. Wilson." <http://library.oakland.edu/information/departments/archives/will.pdf>

OU News. April 5, 1977. Oakland University Archive.

Pictorial Souvenir of Walkerton Past and Present 1850–1921, Published by Bruce Herald and Times, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Pitrone, Jean Maddern and Joan Potter Elwart. *The John Dodge*

Story. Meadow Brook Hall Publication. Oakland University. Rochester, Michigan.

Pontiac Press, April 18, 1962, Oakland University Archive.

Proposal "The Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University." OU History Collection, Oakland University Archive. December 28, 1956.

Rochester Clarion. 1962 - 1964. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Rochester Era. March 6, 1936.

Snyder, Sherrlene A. "To Lay Her Burden Down: Why and How Matilda and Alfred Wilson Built Meadow Brook Hall." Masters Thesis, Oakland University, 2001.

The State Journal. Dec 22, 1940.

Sward, F.L. to Frank Upton. August 19, 1925. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Upton, Frank E. to Mrs. John F. Dodge. May 26, 1922. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Varner, D.B. to Nelson L. Meredith. July 15, 1968. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to Nelson L. Meredith. January 22, 1970. Oakland University Archive.

_____. "Tribute to Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson." Memorial Services, Baldwin Pavillion, Oakland University, September 26, 1967.

The Walkerton Herald-Times. Walkerton, Ontario. March 1956 - April 1959.

Wall, Joseph Frazier. *Andrew Carnegie*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970.

Who's Who in Horsedom, transcription. 1957 Edition. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

Wilson, Matilda R. to Miller Dunckel. November 19, 1940. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to The Niles City Bank. October 20, 1926. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to The Niles City Bank. October 27, 1926. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to Laura Parks Miller. June 17, 1931. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

_____. to John a. Hannah. July 1, 1957. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

“Women in Banking.” *Time*. May 25, 1931.

NOTES

¹ D.B. Varner, “Tribute to Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson,” Memorial Services, Baldwin Pavilion, Oakland University, September 26, 1967.

² “Interested in Spring Festival,” *Detroit Free Press*, April 19, 1914.

³ *Detroit News Tribune*, April 19, 1914.

⁴ “Democracy Demonstrated in Michigan,” *Home Mission Monthly* 36, no. 5 (1922): 110.

⁵ “Arcadia to be Scene of Gorgeous Ball Tuesday for Benefit of Providence Hospital,” *News Tribune*, January 18, 1914.

⁶ “Mrs. A. G. Wilson is Chief Backer of the Salvation Army in Detroit,” *Rochester Era*, March 6, 1936.

⁷ “Detroit Gifts Sped Campaign,” *Detroit News*, January 3, 1929. “Big Gifts Swell ‘Y’ Fund to \$1,629,904,” *the Detroit Times*, May 6, 1925. “Goodfellows’ Fund Growing,” *Detroit News*, December 13, 1923.

⁸ “Detroit Gifts Sped Campaign,” *Detroit News*, January 3, 1929.

⁹ Pitrone, 23.

¹⁰ Trinity Lutheran Church Bulletin, Walkerton, Ontario, March 18, 1856, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹¹ Trinity Lutheran Church Bulletin, Walkerton, Ontario, March 18, 1856, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹² “Gift of Memorial Carillons Made,” *The Walkerton Times Herald*, March 22, 1956.

¹³ *Pictorial Souvenir of Walkerton Past and Present 1850–1921*, Published by Bruce Herald and Times, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹⁴ “Gift of Memorial Carillons Made,” *The Walkerton Times Herald*, March 22, 1956.

¹⁵ “Carillonic Bells are Dedicated at Local Ev. Lutheran Church,” c 1956, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹⁶ *Detroit Free Press*, April 14, 1929, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹⁷ "Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson's," July 28, 1940, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹⁸ *Herald News*, Roscommon, Michigan, July 2, 1925. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

¹⁹ Who's Who in Horsedom, transcription, 1957 Edition. Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

²⁰ Frank G. Dickinson, ed., *Philanthropy and Public Policy* (New York, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., 1962), 123.

²¹ Carnegie was born November 25, 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland.; he was well known for his ruthlessness toward workers as the owner of United States Steel.

²² Joseph Frazier Wall, *Andrew Carnegie*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 806.

²³ Wall, 807.

²⁴ Wall, 808.

²⁵ "Estate Holdings Top \$16 Million," c. 1967, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

²⁶ "Last Will and Testament of Matilda R. Wilson," (Oakland) University Archive, 4 <http://library.oakland.edu/information/departments/archives/will.pdf> (accessed March 5, 2007).

²⁷ *Ibid.* 6.

²⁸ "Alfred G. Wilson Will Now Filed," *Pontiac Press*, April 18, 1962, (Oakland) University Archive.

²⁹ Matilda R. Wilson Fund, *Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation*, 26 December 1944. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219319.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

³⁰ Dickenson, 109.

³¹ Pitrone, 24.

³² F.L. Sward to Frank E. Upton, August 19, 1925, Meadow Brook Hall Archives.

³³ Matilda R. Wilson to The Niles City Bank, October 27, 1926, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

³⁴ Helen Merryman McKenzie, "Detroit orphan learned kind-

ness from socialite, later helped others,” *Detroit Free Press*, March 25, 1993.

³⁵ “Wilson Gift Aids Research,” OU News, April 5, 1977, (Oakland) University Archive.

³⁶ Matilda R. Wilson Fund, *Certificate of Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation*, 25 August 2003, http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=ELF&FILE_NAME=D200308%5C2003238%5CE0075632.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

³⁷ Matilda R. Wilson Fund. *Restated Articles of Incorporation - Non-profit*. 24 September 2004. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=ELF&FILE_NAME=D200404%5C2004117%5CE0150618.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

³⁸ Matilda R. Wilson Fund, *Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation*, 26 December 1944. http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/image.asp?FILE_TYPE=STS&FILE_NAME=D0112%5CSTAT0560%5C92219319.TIF (accessed May 10, 2007).

³⁹ Dickenson, 138.

⁴⁰ “Mrs. John F. Dodge Chosen to Head Open Air School,” *Journal*, February 18, 1914, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

⁴¹ “Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson Named Lieut. Governor,” November 19, 1940, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

⁴² Matilda R. Wilson to Miller Dunckel, November 19, 1940, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

⁴³ “The Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University Proposal,” December 28, 1956, (Oakland) University Archive.

⁴⁴ According to the Convocation of the Charter Class program written for September 17, 1959 Mr. May was the Treasurer of Michigan State University and Michigan State University-Oakland.

⁴⁵ Thomas H. Hamilton, to John A. Hannah, July 1, 1957, (Oakland) University Archive.

⁴⁶ Oakland County, Michigan, Register of Deeds, Quit Claim Deed, Liber 3756 page 449, recorded October 8, 1957, p. 2, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

⁴⁷ “The Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University Proposal,” December 28, 1956, (Oakland) University Archive.

⁴⁸ Barbara Williams, "Mrs. A.G. Wilson Wins Honor: 'Volunteer of the Year' Gives Freely of Herself," *The Detroit News*, March 1, 1959, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.

⁴⁹ "Gavel Talk: DFWC to Honor Mrs. A.G. Wilson," October 12, 1958, Meadow Brook Hall Archive.