

SPRING 2015

# Meadow Brook



## **Expressions in Stone**

Matilda Wilson's  
sculpture collection

INSIDE: Upstairs, Downstairs | Down on the Farm | Donor Report

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### On the Cover:

"Boy and Girl," Italy, c. 1890, located in Meadow Brook's Library. The companion statues, reproductions of an Antonio Canova original, portray a young boy and girl immersed in their studies, the girl reading a book and the boy holding a stylus and writing on a tablet.

*Photo by Rick Smith.*

# Meadow Brook

MAGAZINE

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## | Editor's Column

# The job at hand

**"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." –Theodore Roosevelt**

Two of the feature stories in this issue focus on the hundreds of workers who called Meadow Brook home, some literally, from the time John and Matilda Dodge bought their 320-acre farm in 1908.

Kim Zelinski's look at Meadow Brook Farms' early years – the John Dodge years – resulted from exhaustive research in the Meadow Brook Archives and reveals stories buried by the passage of time. From hand-written ledgers recording provisions bought by tenant workers to original photographs of men and women in the fields and orchards, a picture emerges of the work required to run the estate. And hard work it was.

A decade later, Matilda and her second husband, Alfred Wilson, decided to build their family home on the farms property after their honeymoon to England. Madelyn Rzadkowski's article shows that inside the Tudor-Revival manor home, servants' practices were both similar to and different from how their counterparts in English country homes operated. Meadow Brook's service staff ("domestics") kept rooms, furnishings and even the upstairs occupants in tip-top shape. But, due to major world events, roles of domestics and their lifestyles were changing.



*Farm worker Bert Rewold.*

Whatever the time period, the monumental effort required to keep Meadow Brook's 88,000 square feet, 110 rooms and surrounding acreage looking presentable and operating efficiently required many talented hands. The same holds true today. Staff and volunteers commit significant time and energy to preservation of the structure, conservation of its contents and interpretation of its many stories.

In that spirit, I would be remiss if I did not note the departure of one of the best and brightest of our team over the past 10 years. Robin Gardner, director of The Hall's administration and finance areas, left for the warmer climes of North Carolina in early April. We will miss her talent, her work ethic and her unwavering commitment to Meadow Brook's mission. No doubt the late Matilda Wilson, known for her frugal approach to management, would have joined us in wishing her a fond "Fare thee well."

**"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead**

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## MEADOW BROOK

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST ESTATE HOMES, AN ICON OF THE AUTOMOTIVE ARISTOCRACY, AND A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

*The former home of Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, founders of Oakland University, Meadow Brook Hall is located on Oakland's 1,400-acre campus. The self-supporting auxiliary of the university serves as an internationally renowned historic house museum and cultural center.*

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# A boy's life restored

In 1926, Matilda and Alfred Wilson built their 9-year-old son/stepson, Danny Dodge, a log cabin on the Meadow Brook Farms estate, a rustic companion to his sister Frances Dodge's charming Knole Cottage.

The cabin was furnished with a variety of boyhood pursuits, including train sets, toys, games, hunting and

fishing gear and a youth-sized drum set.

In 1937, Danny added on a larger section, a workshop, so he could work on cars and other mechanical projects, following in his father John Dodge's footsteps. After his untimely accidental death in 1938, the cabin and workshop were permanently closed by his



## Is it Abbey...or is it Meadow Brook?

Downton Days were back and bigger than ever at Meadow Brook Hall in February. The theme this year centered on the changing fashions of the 1920s and proper etiquette, both within the aristocracy as well as the serving classes.

The month long series of events kicked off with the popular "A Servant's Life" series of interactive and immersive tour experiences.

Guests were invited to "apply" for a position at The Hall and were administered tasks by the head housemaid before being shown through the servant's wing where volunteers were on hand to demonstrate various household responsibilities and chores.

Other events included two afternoon teas and a lunch served in the Christopher Wren Dining Room.

Presentations by Meadow Brook's curator, Madelyn Rzadkowolski, focused on 1920s fashions and etiquette, as well as daily life as it is depicted on Downton Abbey and

daily life at Meadow Brook Hall. Both the tea and lunch concluded with a special tour of The Hall.

The month of events ended on a high note with an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and musical entertainment, where guests were encouraged to don their best "Downton" attire and immerse themselves into the life of a Lord and Lady.

Volunteers and staff assumed such roles as lady's maid, nanny,

valet, footman and lord and lady of the manor. There was also a special guest appearance by dowager Lady Howard, played by longtime friend of Meadow Brook, and local actress, Maggie Savage.



*Curator Madelyn Rzadkowolski (left) with Lady Howard, Countess of Carlisle, and local actress Maggie Savage, aka the "dowager," at the Downton Abbey-themed cocktail party.*

mother, perhaps too painful a reminder of the son she so dearly loved.

Moved to the Meadow Brook Hall property in 2013 from Oakland University's golf course, curatorial staff set about restoring and furnishing the building to reflect boys' life of the 1920s and '30s. The first phase of the interpretation plan was completed last year, thanks in part to a generous \$15,000 grant from the Rochester Junior Woman's Club. Based on just one 1927 photo of the original half of the cabin, an electric heater, Victrola, toy steam shovel, fishing pole, games, snowshoes, skis and even a hard-to-find Wurlitzer youth drum set have been placed on exhibit.

The second phase of the restoration project included landscaping the exterior – accomplished through the efforts of the Meadow Brook Garden Club and Squires – and "propping out" the workshop with artifacts. The workshop will exhibit many of the outdoor activities Danny enjoyed such as camping, hunting and racing around the property in his Red Bug go-cart. The workshop will also feature an exhibit of his arrow head collection.

**Danny's Cabin and Knole Cottage can be toured as part of the guided Meadow Brook Estate Walking Tour (12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.) during the summer season.**



*Garden Club members left to right; Raina Adams, Jean Boyer, Sharon Shereda.*

## Coming up roses

The Hall's 16 gardens, meticulously maintained by The Meadow Brook Garden Club, serve an important role in the interpretation of the Great Estate and reflect Matilda Wilson's own passion for gardening. They also serve as a community display garden, a scenic backdrop for a variety of special events (including a record 64 weddings in 2014), and as a feature of the Estate Walking Tour.

### **THE 2015 GARDEN CALENDAR INCLUDES:**

**ART IN THE GARDEN** – Through mid-July, the gardens will be the setting for eight works of art reproduced from a collection of paintings at the Detroit Institute of Arts (see related article, page 32).

**PROVEN WINNERS** – For the second year in a row, Meadow Brook Hall has been designated as a Proven Winners Signature Garden, a prestigious certification representing a partnership between Proven Winners® and elite, high-profile properties across the country such as The Hall.

**GARDEN TEA** – In the tradition of Matilda Wilson's long involvement with the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, the Meadow Brook Garden Club and the WNF&GA, Troy branch, will co-host the Michigan Division's 62nd annual International Tea on August 27, 2015.

The Meadow Brook Garden Club's impressive force of 130 members design, prepare, plant and maintain the landscape. They also enjoy monthly educational meetings, luncheons and field trips. If interested in joining, contact Nikki Thomas at 248-364-6209 or email [thomas23@oakland.edu](mailto:thomas23@oakland.edu).



THE  
KRESGE  
FOUNDATION

## Kresge Foundation re-ups grant

Meadow Brook Hall was recently awarded \$25,000 from the Kresge Foundation as part of their Detroit Arts Support program, which gives operating support to arts and culture organizations in recognition of the vital roles they play in the community. The Foundation believes that a thriving arts and cultural community – one that is well supported and well recognized – enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors to southeastern Michigan and, in doing so, inspires fresh ideas, spurs innovation and accelerates the creative vitality of the region.

Since 2007, the Kresge Foundation has provided more than \$15 million in unrestricted operating support to 80 organizations of various sizes and artistic disciplines in the tri-county area.

“We have been fortunate to have received operational support from the Kresge Foundation for the past several years,” Geoff Upward, executive director of The Hall, said. “We have been able to direct the funds to the areas of greatest need, ranging from exhibits and visitor experience enhancements to educational programming to bricks and mortar repairs. Kresge grants have made a real difference to our efforts.”

## The Dodge Brothers exhibit returns

One-hundred years ago, the first-ever automobile to brave the steep terrain of the Grand Canyon – a 1915 Dodge Brothers touring car – successfully drove along its base. This, and many other feats, earned the Dodge Brothers motor cars the honor of being called “The Dependable Dodge.”

Learn about the young company’s clever marketing and much more at Meadow Brook’s “Detroit’s Automotive Geniuses: The Dodge Brothers” exhibit from Memorial Day through October 1. This year, entrance to the exhibit is included with the purchase of any general house tour ticket. House tours are offered daily at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.



## “Floored” by the results

Handsome wood floors sit at the top of the list of those unique hand-crafted features that give historic buildings character and charm. Unfortunately, Meadow Brook’s entertainment level

floors had begun to show their wear from years of heavy use.

Funded by the Matilda R. Wilson Fund for just over \$30,000, a March restoration returned the floors to their original brilliance, while also preserving the natural patina distinctive in the historic wood.

The floors in the Fountain Room, Undercroft, Ballroom and entry hall to the Games Room total more than 2,500 square feet of 7- to 11-inch wide planks of veneer knotty pine. The two-week long process included sanding, several applications of polyurethane and an anxious course of curing. To keep the floors in good shape, The Hall will also periodically recondition them.

No doubt lumber broker Alfred Wilson would appreciate the effort and the results.

## Decades of Dress Fundraising Event

This encore event, partnering Meadow Brook Hall and Neiman Marcus, will set out to raise much-needed funds to help offset the continuing conservation needs of The Hall’s 75,000+ collection items. Revenues will supplement the newly introduced “Adopt an Artifact” program (see page 24), which, in part, will designate resources to ailing objects in specific rooms of The Hall. Scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., guests will enjoy an extraordinary luncheon, luxurious fashion presentation, precious jewelry display, premium raffle packages and the incredible setting of Meadow Brook Hall. Individual tickets are \$125 and tables of eight start at \$1,000.

Call Lauren Guzzardo at 248-364-6264 for more information.



# You Won't Want to Miss...

## SUMMER TOURING, MAY 26-SEPTEMBER 6

*Reservations are not required for summer tours. Ticket prices vary.*

### House Tour

Tours include the three main floors of The Hall, Monday through Sunday at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. *Tour ticket includes entrance to "Detroit's Automotive Geniuses: The Dodge Brothers" exhibit.*

### Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Explore rarely seen areas of the home on this extended tour, which includes staff wings, bathrooms, closets and playrooms. Tours are offered Saturday & Sunday at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### Estate Walking Tour

This guided tour will highlight The Hall's architecture, take you around the Estate gardens and grounds, past numerous outbuildings and into Knole Cottage (the playhouse of Frances Dodge) and Danny's Log Cabin. Tours are offered daily at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

### JAZZ IN THE GARDEN

**JUNE 18, JULY 16, AUGUST 20**

**\$30 PER PERSON, CASH BAR**

As the summer heats up, cool off with Metro Detroit's favorite jazz musicians. Enjoy live cool jazz at the National

Historic Landmark this summer. Crowd favorite George "Sax" Benson returns to the summer concert series. Visit our website for the final line-up. Ticket price includes light hors d'oeuvres and main floor tour of The Hall.

### MEADOW BROOK WRITING CAMP

**\$225 PER CAMPER**

June 22-26, Grades K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8

July 6-10, Grades K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8

July 13-17, Grades K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8

July 20-24, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8

July 27-31 Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12

August 3-7, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12

Young authors will interact with award-winning, specially trained experts in the field of writing with the National Historic Landmark as the backdrop.

### MEADOW BROOK'S 10TH ANNUAL GOURMET WILD GAME DINNER & AUCTION SEPTEMBER 24

**\$100 PER PERSON OR \$750 PER TABLE OF 10**

Featuring a live and silent auction, raffle, hors d'oeuvre reception and seated gourmet meal – all to benefit the preservation of Meadow Brook Hall.

### DINNER AND A MOVIE, OCTOBER 8, 15 & 22

**\$40 PER PERSON, CASH BAR**

Meadow Brook presents "Hitchcock at The Hall." Guests will enjoy a casual three-course dinner while watching the famous director's classics on the big screen in the Ballroom. Movies tbd.

### MYSTERY DINNER, OCTOBER 23

**\$75 PER PERSON**

Join us for an engaging evening of murder, mystery and mayhem at Meadow Brook. The fun event includes a three-course meal, cocktails and a chance to solve the mystery.

*Reservations are required for all Meadow Brook Hall special events. Please call (248) 364-6252 or visit [meadowbrookhall.org](http://meadowbrookhall.org) for more information. All special events support the preservation and interpretation of The Hall.* **MB**



# UPSTAIRS, D



*Meadow Brook Hall staff, c. 1933.*



*Alfred and  
Matilda Wilson  
on their 1925  
honeymoon.*

# DOWNSTAIRS



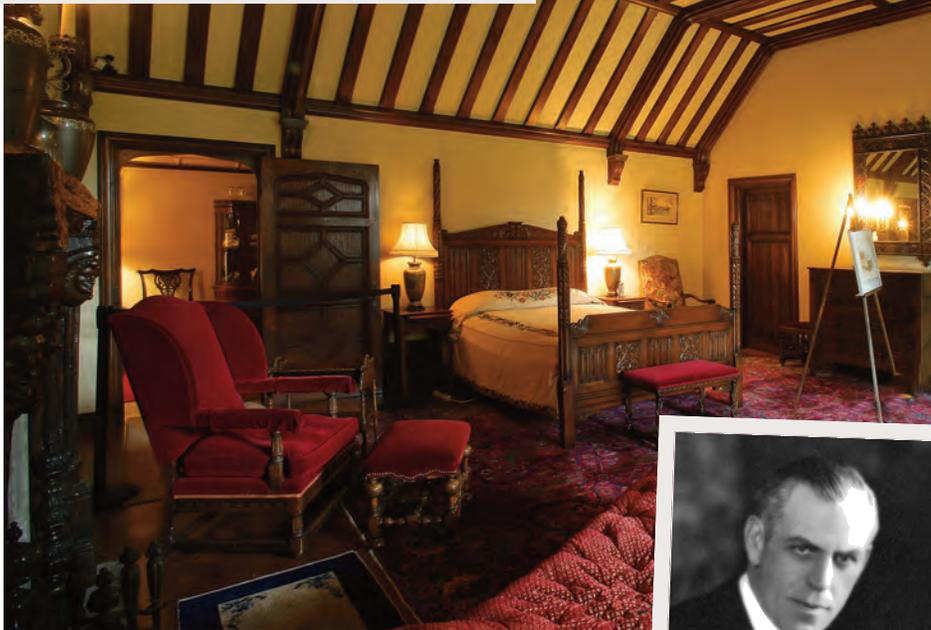
**Meadow Brook Hall’s “upstairs” family and “downstairs” staff upheld specific rules and roles to maintain the social and physical obligations of a typically English country estate ... with an American twist.**

**BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI**

Meadow Brook Hall is the finest extant example of Tudor-Revival architecture in the United States, a style which mimics the homes built in medieval England. But a viewing of popular period dramas like *Downton Abbey*<sup>®</sup> and *Gosford Park* or film adaptations like *Pride & Prejudice* reveal that Meadow Brook Hall is connected to English houses by more than just architecture. Meadow Brook operated like a complex machine, employing some 70 people as maids, butlers, engineers, farmhands and seamstresses to keep the estate running at its optimum. The entire east wing of The Hall – which includes three floors – was devoted to use by service staff. As interesting as it is to see how the upper classes lived, it is just as intriguing to examine the lives of those they employed, and how the two groups interacted. ♦

“A house is a machine for living in.”

—Le Corbusier

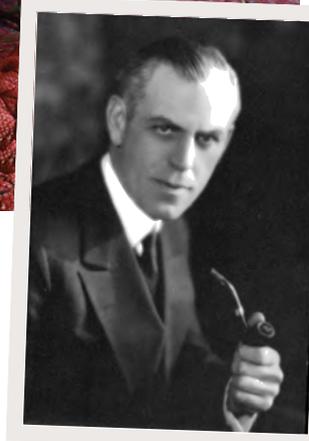


## GREAT INSPIRATION

While on their European honeymoon in 1925, Matilda and Alfred Wilson fell in love with English country manors. The massive homes were architecturally and historically significant, filled with art and antiques, and surrounded by hectares of farmland that had supported generations of noblemen and villagers. Returning in 1927 with their children and architect William Kapp, the Wilson family pointed out houses and rooms they loved and had Kapp copy them into the design of their new home in the countryside near Rochester, Michigan—the 88,000-square-foot Tudor-Revival Meadow Brook Hall. Built between 1926 and 1929, The Hall looks like a 500-year-old home that has been renovated by multiple generations as styles changed, but it is truly an American home with every modern convenience.

With the decline of the English aristocracy

in the late 19th Century, the Wilsons could have easily bought many of the rooms, paintings and fireplaces they saw abroad, but they did not believe in taking another country's



*Alfred Wilson's (portrait c. 1929) bedroom was designed in a Tudor-Revival style; Matilda Wilson's (portrait c. 1929) in Louis XVI.*

heritage. In fact, they were immensely proud that they built their “English” country home with American materials and craftsmen. The result is a true amalgamation of the best features of premiere English country manors, from the chimneys modeled off Hampton Court's to the gallery and living room inspired by Knole House.

## CHANGING ARCHITECTURE

Traditionally, manor homes were built with the Great Hall in the center, flanked by identical wings that housed either the husband or his wife. This signified the couple were equal in power and status. The Great Hall in medieval England was the heart of the home, where feasts were kept and knights slept, but it soon shifted to a role of a reception area, like it is at Meadow Brook Hall. Along with the devaluation of the Great Hall, the late 18th Century in England brought the concept of an asymmetric house. For centuries, inspired by Greco-Roman design, symmetry in architecture equaled perfection and harmony. The

staunch order echoed the hierarchy of the English class system, and each perfectly symmetrical country home was seen as a microcosm of the order within it. The asymmetric home arose in popularity because of a backlash against the falseness of forced symmetry.

The asymmetry of Meadow Brook allowed the Wilsons to keep the tradition of separate bedrooms but to place them directly next to each other, adjoined by a private hallway. Matilda's bedroom is decorated in the Louis XVI style, while Alfred's is the more masculine Tudor Revival. Asymmetry also provided better living conditions for staff, who until that point had been relegated to dormitories in drafty attics and kitchens in dark, damp basements. The east wing of The Hall contains a large, sun-filled kitchen and laundry, ample storage, and living areas for the staff. Each housed servant at Meadow Brook had a private bedroom with a sink and closet. The bedrooms were decorated in different styles, unlike the usual practice of buying a lot of white iron beds and plain wool blankets.

## A BETTER PAY DAY

At the turn of the 19th Century in England, domestic service was the country's largest employer, with some 1.3 million people employed (90% of them women). Even in America, servants were not only necessary for maintaining a house and grounds, they were also a precise indicator of social status. In England, servants worked seven days a week, 16 hours a day, in isolated homes with barely a chance to seek a better life through higher wages or marriage. If a maid was caught dating a man, she would possibly be fired. Domestic servants, particularly women, were expected to devote all their time and energy to the family they served.

When Matilda was first married in 1907, all of the staff lived in their home on Boston Boulevard in De-

troit. When The Hall was completed in 1929, domestic servitude was on a sharp decline due to World War I, increased factory jobs and general disillusionment with domestic service. Times had changed, and several employees at Meadow Brook were married or lived

*“The surrounding landscape made it seem unreal. One might think, where will I be when I awaken?”*

*—Beatrice Whitaker, head housekeeper at Meadow Brook Hall*

outside the house, either in tenant houses on the estate, nearby in Rochester or even further away, like Matilda's lady's maid, Mary Mathews, who lived in a home in Detroit purchased for her by Matilda. Ironically, the automobile business that built Meadow Brook also created the opportunity for its staff to seek other jobs or to commute to work. Though the Wilson family employed 25-30 house staff, they built bedrooms for only 12.

At Meadow Brook Hall, the Wilsons made several concessions that would have made a service position more attractive. In England in 1920, a loyal butler would make £100 annually and



*Top: Beatrice Whitaker, head housekeeper, c. 1937.*

*Below: Servants Sitting Room.*

a well-paid housekeeper could expect to earn £70, plus room and board. Today, this would equate to less than \$10,000. In 1922, Matilda's secretary Emma May Axford made \$.75/hour, or \$37/hour today (\$75,000 annually). In 1937, head housekeeper Beatrice Whitaker made \$910/year, or the equivalent of \$62,800 today. The Wilson family also gave Christmas presents, bonuses, 1-1/2 days off a week and the use of the chauffeur to drive them to Detroit on their days off.



*“Perhaps the most obvious and important change in country houses between 1400 and 1900 was that in 1400 they were designed for one community, and in 1900 for two.” - Mark Girouard*

“Despite the generosity and good rapport with employees, the Wilsons ran a tight ship. Violation of [certain rules] would not be tolerated.”

– Violet McDermott, former cook at Sunset Terrace, the home the Wilsons built on the estate and occupied from 1953-1962.



Left: Gold tissue evening dress with lavender chain fringe, c. 1924;

Right: Black satin dinner dress with lace overlay, Doucet, Paris, c.1925;

The main difference between the two was that an evening dress was intended to look the most beautiful when a woman moved: In this instance the lavender metallic fringe would sway and swirl while Matilda danced.

## UP AND DOWN STYLES

Clothing for family and staff was as important at Meadow Brook as it was at any English Country House. In the 1920s, Matilda Dodge Wilson might change outfits four times a day. When she awoke, she would wear a simple morning dress to eat breakfast, talk with staff and do small tasks like writing letters. She might change next into athletic wear for swimming, golf or a side-saddle ride on her horse. Next she

would change into an afternoon dress for shopping, going to her office at the Fisher Building in Detroit or to meet with friends. Through the end of Matilda’s life, she always changed for dinner, into either an informal dinner dress for home, a formal dinner dress for a dinner party or an evening gown or party dress for a party or the theater.

In 1929, Matilda spent \$1,628.55 on maids’ uniforms from Saks Fifth Avenue, the premiere source for an American heiress to buy the black dresses and aprons that clothed her maids. The dresses had detachable cuffs and collars that could easily be removed, bleached and starched daily, unlike the dresses themselves, which

might go a few days between washes.

This desire for presentable staff was akin to that shown for footmen in England, who were prized for their appearances. Footmen’s duties at the front of the house, from opening doors and serving meals, necessitated the finest livery to show



Left: Saks-Fifth Avenue advertisement, New York Evening Post, October 1925. Right: Maid’s uniform, c. 1940.

that at this country manor, even the service staff dressed well. Footmen showed off the livery as they were almost always young, good-looking and very tall.

## BE OUR GUEST

Style extended further than clothing in a country manor. The best way to display proper etiquette and respect for a guest was a dining table dressed with the finest linens, silver, china, centerpieces and foods. A butler at any home used a butler’s rod to enforce mathematical precision when setting a table. A full dinner setting at Meadow Brook Hall using Matilda’s monogrammed Tuttle silverware could include 12 pieces: five forks, four knives and three spoons. In total, she had 21 pieces in each set of silverware, including those that would be used at breakfasts, luncheons and teas.

After eating a sumptuous meal in Meadow Brook’s dining room (modeled off Belton House, Lincolnshire),



a guest could expect a good night's sleep in either the French, Venetian or English guest rooms. Each room had an en-suite bathroom, a closet, child-sized furniture, a wall safe, call buttons linked to the annunciator in the staff wing and china (which matched the room's décor) for receiving tea or breakfast in the room the next morning. Matilda and Alfred would make sure to plan parties in their guests' honor, but opportunities for diversion were nearly endless on the 1,500-acre Meadow Brook estate. The full library, in-house movie theater, stables, 9-hole golf course and indoor and outdoor pools could have entertained guests for days.

### A GROWING ESTATE

Unlike many of the great mansions built in America in the early 20th Century, Meadow Brook was the centerpiece to a working farm, its fertile fields, fruit orchard, cows, cattle, fowl and pigs feeding both the "upstairs" family and the "downstairs" staff.

The emergence of romanticism and the idealism of nature in 18th-Century England led to the concept of the English garden, which is an easily maintained informal landscape filled with rolling lawns, woodlands, statues, seating areas, perennials and shrubberies. With Meadow Brook Hall's completion in November 1929, two weeks after the stock market crashed, the elaborate landscape plan was never executed in full. However, the Rock Garden, English Walled Garden, Rose Garden and Tea Terrace, and the Pegasus Garden, as well as the children's playhouses, provided enough of this playful and



*Top: Frances Dodge in one of several gardens on the estate, c. 1936.*

*Below: Herman Siewert, c. 1972.*

*Right: Rose Garden today.*



*"This is my history," Siewert said, "out here with her."*

minimal approach to landscaping to create the feel of any English country estate.

The Rose Garden was filled with 1,800 rose bushes, including climbing varieties, and maintained exclusively by Matilda's beloved gardener, Herman Siewert. Though Matilda built a house for, Herman and his family on the estate, he considered his "home" to be Meadow Brook Hall.

That was the magic and mystery of the relationship between upstairs and downstairs at Meadow Brook Hall, and what sets it



apart from any English country manor. The Wilson family had great relationships with their staff, treating them with respect and thoughtfulness and often becoming lifelong friends.

When Matilda died in October 1967, Herman Siewert recommended that they use roses from her garden for the funeral. Loved by Matilda, nurtured by Herman, and with precedent in English gardens 500 years before, roses were the perfect farewell to the way things were. **MB**

*Madelyn Rzadkowsky is curator of Meadow Brook Hall.*

# EXPRESSIONS IN STONE

LOVELY LADIES AND HEROIC MEN

## THORN-PULLER

LIBRARY, LATE 19TH CENTURY

*Reproduction of a Greco-Roman  
Hellenistic bronze sculpture, Italy*

Widely copied for more than 2,000 years, the Spinario's (thorn-puller) original name was Fedele, (meaning faithful) and was thought to be a Roman messenger who would not delay his mission of delivering an important message to the Roman Senate even though he was painfully tortured by a thorn in his foot. Sitting on a stump in a pastoral setting, he calmly extracts the thorn.



BY KIM ZELINSKI

“I SAW THE ANGEL IN  
THE MARBLE AND  
CARVED UNTIL  
I SET HIM FREE.”

– MICHELANGELO

A work of sculpture, informally called Beatrice and Giovanna, caught the attention of Matilda and Alfred Wilson some 85 years ago while they searched for suitable objects of fine and decorative arts to complement the grandeur of their new home, Meadow Brook Hall. Placed in a prominent location near the grand staircase in the Great Hall, Beatrice and Giovanna is one of 15 pieces of marble statuary in The Hall, including sizeable one-of-a-kind pieces purchased for specific rooms. The Wilsons’ collection also features a dozen statuettes, primarily reproductions of the great sculptures of Europe that adorn book shelves, fireplace mantels and gallery cabinets.

While paintings and tapestries dominate the walls, the expressive, three-dimensional, life-like qualities of marble statuary hold their own in the house, conveying stories of heroism, graceful dances of goddesses and the sorrow of unrequited love.



### BEATRICE AND GIOVANNA

GREAT HALL, C. 1890s,

Artist: Professor G. (signature illegible), Italy

Based on the Henry Holiday painting Dante and Beatrice (1883) which interprets an incident in 13th-Century Florence involving the poet Dante, his love interest, Beatrice, and her companion Giovanna, the sculpture portrays the rebuff of Dante by Beatrice and Giovanna in reaction to gossip that had reached them. While Beatrice looks stern and statuesque, ignoring the presence of Dante, Giovanna looks back at Dante so as to judge his reaction to Beatrice’s behavior.

### CHILDREN IN THE SHELL, LAMP

ADAMS ROOM, C. 1890s

Artist: Professor G. (signature illegible), Italy

Nestled in the oyster shell held open by the boy, the girl gathers the gems of the sea, six white pearls. Mounted in the base of the sculpture, a small light bulb radiates a soft glow and reveals the polished, pearl-like luster of the shell’s interior surface.





### MUSICAL PUTTI

ORGAN ALCOVE, C. 1900

*Artist: Vannucci*

“Putti” is plural for putto, meaning “boy” or “child” and often interchangeable with cherub or cupid. The sculpture portrays a lively grouping of five putti holding cymbals, a horn, sheet music, a lute and a flute. Meadow Brook’s Musical Putti represents the spirit of music, thus its placement by the Wilsons near the Aeolian organ.

### THE THREE GRACES

LIVING ROOM, LATE 19TH CENTURY

*Reproduction of the original by Antonio Canova, Italy*

These young goddesses, linked in a dance-like pose, are known in Greek mythology as Charites and Roman mythology as Gratiae, meaning Graces. Represented as Aglaia, Thalia and Euphrosyne, they were said to be the daughters of Zeus, companions to the Nine Muses and the handmaidens of Aphrodite. They inspired song, dance, music and poetry and symbolized the essence of beauty, charm and grace.



## WRESTLERS

2ND FLOOR GALLERY, LATE 19TH CENTURY

*Reproduction of the original  
at the Uffizi Museum, Italy*

The two masculine figures, locked in combat, are taking part in a sporting contest called pankration, or “all powers.” The sport, somewhat similar to present day mixed-martial arts, combined boxing wrestling, kicking and choking. It was introduced in the ancient Olympic Games in the 7th-Century B.C.E. Pankration was an extremely brutal sport with few rules, two of note: no biting or eye gouging.



## YOUNG MOTHER AND CHILD

LIBRARY, LATE 20TH CENTURY

*Artist: Emilio Fiaschi, Italy*

The finely detailed bust of an infant embracing his mother is thought to be a strong example of the artist’s style. The piece celebrates the special moments between mother and child.

## SHEPHERDESS AND SHEEP

SUN PORCH, LATE 19TH CENTURY

*Artist: Prof. G. (signature illegible), Italy*

Having grown up on her grandparents’ sheep farm in Canada, Matilda Wilson had a nostalgic attraction to art that depicted the subject of sheep or lambs, evidenced in her collection of paintings and this garden statue. The young girl evokes a look of innocence and feminine beauty. Holding a scarf with her bare feet resting on a stump, she gazes off into the distance in contemplation while ignoring the sheep that pulls at her dress. **MB**



# THE FARM, THE HOMESTEAD, THE RETREAT

*The early years of Meadow Brook Farms, 1908-1920*

BY KIM ZELINSKI

*First of Two Parts*

In a span of 40 years, roughly between 1890 and 1930, the country place movement swept through America and edged its way to the rural outskirts of Detroit onto a bucolic property in the rolling hills of Rochester known as Meadow Brook Farms. The property possessed all the ideologies of

rural life that appealed to the newly married John and Matilda Dodge: fertile pastures, brooks and lakes, woodlands and expansive meadows.

John and Matilda Dodge were among the wealthy “estate makers” of the early 20th Century who retreated from the pressures of business and city life to experience the pastoral dream of nature, farming and recreation. In 1908 they purchased the 320-acre Meadow Brook Farms from retired insurance broker, James L. Higgins, for \$40,000. In addition to the stately Classical style farmhouse, the purchase also included all of its outbuildings and furnishings, from tea cups to Short-horn cattle.

During their first 12 years of ownership, the Dodges invested nearly \$200,000 in improvements to the farm, including a major renovation to the farmhouse, enhancements to the farming operation and construction of new recreational facilities. The farm’s acreage stretched to nearly 800 acres as they acquired seven adjacent or nearby farms.

While John and Matilda managed the property, the daily operational oversight in the early years fell to Matilda’s parents, George and Margaret Rausch. The Rauschs had retired a few years earlier when they sold their saloon and boarding house businesses

in Detroit. John worked out his plans for the farm with George while Matilda, along with her mother, Margaret, and sister, Amelia, managed the household operation.

## The Farmhouse Fare

Within the first month of purchasing the farm, John commissioned the architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls (who later built Meadow Brook Hall) to develop plans for the extensive remodeling of the farmhouse. A new, three-story addition with a basement was added to the back portion of the house, nearly doubling its size from 13 to 25 rooms. The remodeling provided the much needed space to accommodate the Dodge family’s year-round visits including John’s brother Horace’s family.

The enlarged basement housed a coal burning boiler, plumbing from the new well and a new wine cellar that stored an ample supply of spirits used for entertaining at both the farmhouse and club house (built in 1915).

The expansion of the first floor’s existing parlor, music room and formal dining room included an employee dining room and a long Stickley table that could accommodate 12. The butler’s pantry, which serviced the formal dining room, included one of the three electric refrigerators installed in the house to keep perishables cold. The refrigerators utilized blocks of ice cut from nearby Miller Lake that were loaded onto a horse-drawn sled and transported to the ice house adjacent to the farmhouse.

The first floor included a large kitchen that featured a cast-iron range used by Margaret Rausch to prepare the family’s meals, including one



of John’s favorite dishes: baked beans. After the slow process of simmering overnight on the range, the beans were kept in a 10-pound crock and served with a side of mackerel, ladled with Margaret’s homemade spicy chili sauce.

Adjoining the kitchen was the dairy room which housed an electric-driven churn, cream separator, refrigerator, scales and milk cans. The storeroom contained the third refrigerator and floor-to-ceiling cupboards that held an abundant inventory of canned goods.

At the end of the house, the laundry room contained both a stove and an electric washer. The two live-in housekeepers were responsible for washing linens and towels for the 26 beds and two lavatories in the house. Even



*Opposite page: John Dodge feeding chickens, c. 1910.*

*Top: Matilda Dodge holding a chick, c. 1912.*

*Above: Matilda Dodge standing in front of the Meadow Brook farmhouse, c. 1908.*





*Margaret Rausch (Matilda's mother) holding Brownie, 1913.*

Matilda's dog, a Pomeranian named Brownie, had his own personal set of towels. Cleaning the rambling house was made easier with a relatively new-to-the-market electric vacuum cleaner.

The addition to the second floor expanded the bedroom count to 13; the family occupied 10 and the remaining three were used for the housekeepers and the farm foreman. Two additional bedrooms were located in the finished attic, and in 1915, the Dodges built new sleeping porches on the south side of the house. The porches expansive bank of screened windows allowed in evening breezes and afforded panoramic views of the property.

## *The Bounty of the Land*

Late summer and early fall were exciting times at the farm, particularly the labor-intensive days of harvesting hay. Extra hands were rounded up well in advance, including John's brother, Horace, and other Dodge Brothers associates. At dawn, the steam-powered threshing machine was fired up and 15 to 20 men, each with a specific role, worked tirelessly until dusk. It was a

busy day for Matilda and Margaret, too, who along with additional kitchen help prepared and delivered hearty meals and beverages to the men who stayed in the fields.

In the early years, the work horses pulled plows, harrows and wagons. Around 1916, John purchased both a Steel Mule tractor and Parrett tractor. By 1920, 30 additional farming implements were added to the farm's inventory. In addition to growing fields of grain, corn and potatoes, a large plot of land was cultivated for vegetables.



*Above: Harvesting hay, Horace Dodge (middle) with Dodge Brothers associates, c. 1913.  
Below: Meadow Brook Farms, 1908, the year it was purchased by newlyweds John and Matilda Dodge.*





Tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, squash, beans and pumpkins were the mainstays.

The canning of fruits and vegetables followed the harvest season. Just about everything grown in the fields was hand-processed into pint-, quart- or gallon-sized jars. The inventory included pickles, tomatoes, red and green wax beans, catsup, chili sauce and jams or marmalades of various fruit flavors including apricot, strawberry,

raspberry, grape, blackberry and watermelon.

The orchard included 735 fruit trees laid out in 1910 by John and George, providing a bountiful supply of fruits for canning: peaches, pears, cherries and 19 different varieties of apples. The apples were made into pies, applesauce, cider, vinegar and a Meadow Brook Farms special, pickled sweet apples.

The produce that wasn't freshly consumed or canned was packed into

*Left to right: Dodge Brothers associates and George (Matilda's father) and Amelia (Matilda's sister) Rausch in front of ice house, c. 1910.*

bushel baskets and stored in the farm's new root cellars. The two-roomed cellar was designed to keep produce at an ideal storage temperature of around 52 degrees and kept the family stocked with fresh produce into the following Spring.



## Livestock and Dairy

The purchase of the property in 1908 also included the farm's livestock: sheep, horses, poultry and pedigree lines of Shorthorn cattle and Yorkshire pigs. In addition to beef and pork, the farm fare was supplemented with a seasonal supply of fish, deer, elk and bear acquired from John's hunting trips to his Munuscong lodge in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The smokehouse, located near the farmhouse, operated during the winter months when the pork could stay cold while curing. Following the curing process, various cuts of cured pork were hung on hooks above a fire pit of hickory wood that slowly smoked the meat for several weeks. In a six-month period in 1918, nearly 100 pounds of bacon was cured in the smokehouse.

The poultry shelters housed several varieties of chickens, including a rare black breed, as well as turkey, squab, pigeons and pheasant. The chickens, in addition to being a source of food, provided an average of 50 dozen eggs a month.

In 1910, John purchased a herd of Holstein cows to boost the dairy operation. With this breed and the pur-



*Meadow Brook Farms boasted a variety of cattle, including Shorthorn, Herefords and Holsteins, c. 1919.*

chase of an electric churn and cream separator, as much as 2,500 pounds of butter could be made in a good year. While the farm and the Dodge's Boston Boulevard home consumed a small portion and small quantities were sold to tenants, friends and family, the majority of the butter was sold to markets in Detroit.

## Room and Board

The operation of Meadow Brook Farms between 1908 and 1920 coincided with a period considered to be the golden age of American agriculture – a prosperous time that worked to the advantage of the employees of the farm. In general, Meadow Brook

MEADOWBROOK STOCK FARM		EXPENSE ACCOUNT	
ROCHESTER, MICH.		December 1909	
Dec 2	H. L. Conner 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1909	8 80	
5	Meal Hotel Co. 18	6 65	
5	Debraut Edman Co. 11 Dec 1909	37 80	
5	Cruceman & Hunter Groceries	14 37	
5	R. D. Bennett Groceries	5 00	
15	Elizabeth Holm Salary	37 50	
15	J. Fairbanks	87 50	
15	W. Hutchins	45 00	
15	Wm Harff Meats	43 60	
15	W. F. Hammond Salary	21 50	
15	C. Stadler Salary on 10 Dec	47 17	
15	W. Callaway Salary on 10 Dec	46 20	
15	J. Stadler Salary on 10 Dec	43 61	
15	H. M. Hunter Salary on 10 Dec	44 56	
15	H. M. Hunter Salary on 10 Dec	22 00	
23	J. Ross Butchery	8 00	
27	W. W. Wiley 10 Dec 1909	37 50	
31	J. Fairbanks Salary	45 00	
31	W. Hutchins	50 00	
31	H. M. Hunter	47 50	
31	J. Stadler	50 00	
31	W. Callaway	47 50	
31	H. M. Hunter	45 00	
31	A. L. Ferguson 10 hours	4 50	
		916 50	



wages exceeded national averages.

The construction of four new tenant houses on Dodge Road (now Adams Road) across from the farmhouse supplemented rooms in the seven farms bought by the Dodges – all of which provided comfortable housing for employees. Seasonal workers were boarded at the Detroit Hotel and chauffeured out to the property.

Employment agreements were created for higher-ranked employees, in essence, the managers of each boarding house. The terms of the agreements stipulated that the parties accepting the positions must be married and agree to take care of two or four boarders, depending on the season. Meals were to be served at 6 a.m., noon and at 6 p.m., Sunday breakfast no later than 8 a.m. Compensation for married workers averaged around \$60 per month, with an additional \$15 per month credit for washing and meals. Supplies for each house included 12 cords of chunk wood, two quarts of milk a day and an acre of ground for planting vegetables and potatoes. Tenant house managers were also given two pigs and were allowed to keep chickens in the backyard.

In total, the farm operation was supported by a staff that averaged between 45 and 50 men and women who worked in a variety of positions such as fore-

*Above and right: The Dodges provided room and board for employees at both the various farmhouses they owned and the tenant houses they built on Dodge (now Adams) Road, c. 1918.*



*The development of the automobile in the early 20th Century made possible long trips to the countryside. Cars were not only faster, but were considered to be more dependable than horses and easier to have at the ready.*



men, herdsmen, orchard arborists, maids, chauffeurs and in the summer months, golf caddies. Some employees worked their entire career at the farm, raising their own families, some of whom also became employed. For many, Meadow Brook Farms was home.

In all likelihood, Meadow Brook Farms was not designed to be a profitable operation but rather a commitment to the principle of model farming and the nostalgic fulfillment of the Dodges' pastoral dream. Equally important were the lazy Sunday afternoons of picnicking, golf, swimming, horseback riding and strolls around the property. **MB**

**UP NEXT (Fall 2015):**

*It wasn't all work for the Dodges.*





A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

*How you can*  
*Adopt an*  
*Artifact*

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI

*W*hile a walk through Meadow Brook Hall inspires awe and reverence, careful observation reveals that beyond the splendors of its interiors lie worn furnishings. The house simply was not built or furnished to withstand tens of thousands of visitors a year, let alone the ravages of time itself. Though care is taken to protect The Hall, not least of all by our guests, an 85-year-old couch will show its age. Dust and sun wreak havoc on the fine antique silks of curtains and “Do Not Touch” signs do not ensure accidents will not happen.

To better protect and interpret The Hall as it looked when it opened in 1929, Meadow Brook Hall is pleased to announce the Adopt-an-Artifact program. Each year, a small number of specific restoration projects will be chosen and each step of the process will be monetized and offered to the public for “adoption.” This provides a unique opportunity for individuals, families, businesses, or a group of friends to choose an object or objects that mean something to them and to directly contribute to their care.

The longer a displayed artifact sits in need of conservation, the more it is susceptible to further decay or damage. When objects are broken or are in delicate condition – like the Japanese embroideries that were once in the Breakfast Room – they are removed for safe-keeping. With program success, both situations can be addressed.

The Adopt-an-Artifact program is first tackling the restorations of the Breakfast Room and the Sun Porch. This is a unique and exciting way to launch the program, as every donor will be contributing

*Detail of damaged table leg in Breakfast Room.*

to the restoration of an entire room. The final result – for donors and for guests – will be all-encompassing.

Meadow Brook Hall is interpreted to 1929, the year it opened, so all endeavors are to make The Hall as functional and beautiful as it was on the day it received its first guest. To restore a room to 1929 takes months of research, a myriad of interviews with expert conservators (who specialize in everything from textiles to plaster), and then more research.

The best inventory of the contents of each room was done after Matilda Dodge Wilson's death in 1967, and even more information can be gleaned from the color video interview Matilda did in The Hall just three days before she passed away. But the Wilson family lived at Meadow Brook Hall for 40 years, and as any family would, they moved furniture and changed drapes, they upholstered chairs in funky yellow pleather, and new items were brought in as old ones were sent out. A search for what each room contained in 1929 takes studying the background of old



*Curator Madelyn Rzadkowski works with one of The Hall's 75,000 collection items.*

photographs through a magnifying glass, reading notes and memos in Meadow Brook's extensive archives, searching an incomplete inventory of fabric samples from "The Great Recovering of 1946" (when Matilda updated some of the upholstery and curtains) and finding simple clues through good fortune.

## HOW IT WORKS

The benefits of restoring entire rooms are almost as great as the cost, so some of the conservation costs have been split up into more manageable amounts for individual donors. If more than one donor wants to adopt the same object, the Curator will provide other options of comparable cost. Personal donations of any amount are always appreciated and will be used specifically for conservation. This is an annual project, so stay tuned for more opportunities to donate to an object or a cause that is important to you.

Those with questions or who are interested in helping Meadow Brook conserve its collections through the new Adopt-an-Artifact program should contact Curator Madelyn Rzadkowski by phone (248-364-6253), email (rzadkowo@oakland.edu), or U.S. Mail @ Meadow Brook Hall, 480 S. Adams Road, Rochester, MI 48309.

## RECOGNITION

The list of adoptive donors will be made public and each will receive a certificate detailing the conservation work. Before-and-after photographs of the objects will be displayed in The Hall and on the website. Donors will also be invited to a special exhibit displaying the newly conserved items.

## CONSERVATION

*CAREFULLY PRESERVING AN OBJECT TO PREVENT FURTHER DECAY OR DAMAGE*

Two delicate Japanese embroideries once hung at the entrance of the Breakfast Room. They have been removed because hanging caused the silk to split and shatter. Conservation will involve sandwiching the embroideries between layers of sheer fabric; they will not look like they did when they were made, but they will be made safe to hang.

## RESTORATION

*RECONSTRUCTION OF AN OBJECT SO THAT IT LOOKS LIKE IT DID ORIGINALLY*

The Breakfast Room's marble floor with its dark green octagonal inset will have its top layer ground down a minuscule amount and non-permanent epoxy inserted into its cracks to restore it to its original smooth sheen. A custom mat will cover the floor during the summer season to prolong the life of the marble.

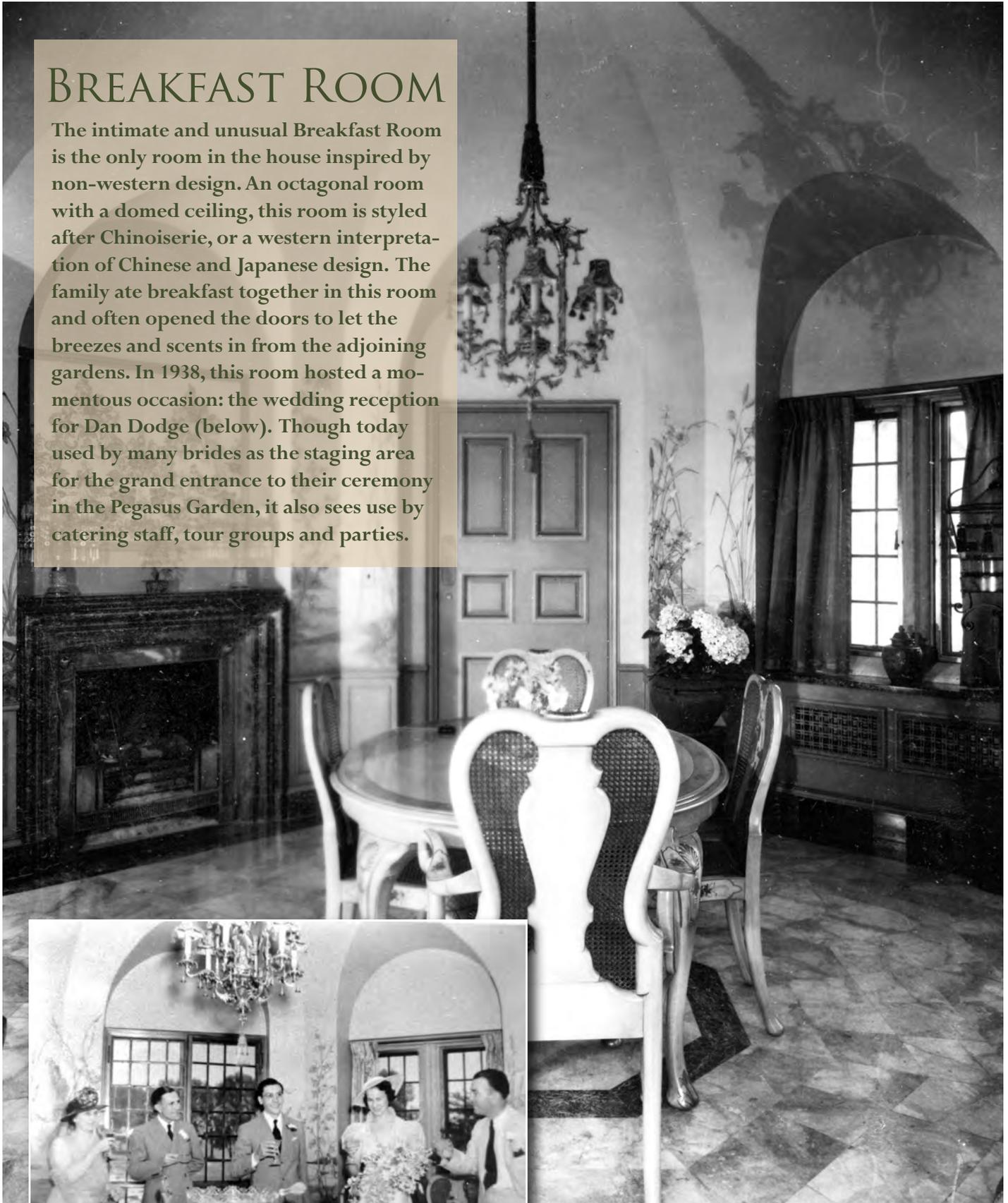
## REPLICATION

*COPYING SOMETHING AS EXACTLY AS POSSIBLE*

The Sun Porch furnishings changed quite a bit in 85 years. The original fabrics and the ottoman no longer exist so careful attention will be paid to replicating those with modern materials.

# BREAKFAST ROOM

The intimate and unusual Breakfast Room is the only room in the house inspired by non-western design. An octagonal room with a domed ceiling, this room is styled after Chinoiserie, or a western interpretation of Chinese and Japanese design. The family ate breakfast together in this room and often opened the doors to let the breezes and scents in from the adjoining gardens. In 1938, this room hosted a momentous occasion: the wedding reception for Dan Dodge (below). Though today used by many brides as the staging area for the grand entrance to their ceremony in the Pegasus Garden, it also sees use by catering staff, tour groups and parties.



# Up for Adoption

RESTORE MARBLE FLOORS

**SOLD!** \$10,000 through the generous support of the Matilda R. Wilson Fund.

PURCHASE CUSTOM RUG TO PROTECT MARBLE FLOORS.

COST: \$3,000

REPLICATE CURTAINS

**SOLD!** \$3,200 through a generous donation of The Women's Committee for the support of Meadow Brook Hall.

CONSERVE TWO JAPANESE EMBROIDERIES

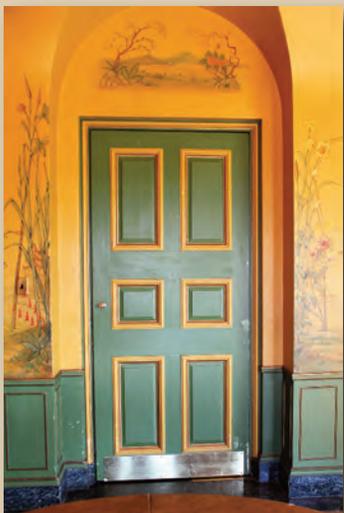
COST: 2 embroideries, \$500 each

RESTORE LACQUERED DINING TABLE.

COST: 10 donors at \$630 each

PURCHASE SILK HYDRANGEA BLOSSOMS THAT MATCH THE BLOOMS IN THE BREAKFAST GARDEN.

COST: \$100



REPLICATE GLASS PUSH PLATE AND RESTORE PAINTED DOOR INTO SERVING PANTRY.  
COST: \$1,000



RESTORE TWO LACQUERED DINING CHAIRS.  
COST: 2 chairs, \$925 each



RESTORE INSET SHELVING UNIT.  
COST: \$200

RESTORE LACQUERED SIDE TABLE.  
COST: 4 donors at \$570 each



REPLICATE SIX CHANDELIER LAMP SHADES.  
COST: 6 donors at \$30

## SUN PORCH

On the opposite end of The Hall, the Sun Porch is an equally cheery room, this one filled with items that the family bought on their many trips abroad. Matilda could look out the windows to see the Greensward where the family rode horses or Evergreen Hill, where she planted 100 evergreen saplings in 1930. We have found no early upholstery samples or mentions of the room to hint what the colors were in the 1929 black-and-white photograph, but in 1946 and again later, possibly in the 1950s, Matilda reupholstered the furniture in shades of green. The new color palette will follow the colors popular for sun rooms in the 1920s, which were typically greens, yellows and reds.



# Up for Adoption

PURCHASE MIX OF REAL AND SILK PLANTS

COST: 4 donors at \$100 each

CLEAN AND REPAIR GREEN AND GOLD AREA RUG

COST: \$230 and \$700 respectively

REPLICATE OTTOMAN

COST: \$1,150

RESTORE BAMBOO AND WICKER FURNITURE

COST: 8 seats at \$660 each

REUPHOLSTER RATTAN FURNITURE

COST: 7 donors at \$500 each

PURCHASE MATCHING PILLOWS

COST: 6 donors at \$30 for six pillows



REPAIR AND HANG PEWTER TRAY FROM INDIA

COST: \$75



RESTORE MAJOLICA STYLE URN  
**SOLD!** \$1,200 through a generous donation from the Stoney Creek Questers Group



CLEAN AND RESTORE TWO RATTAN FAN-BACK CHAIRS

COST: 2 chairs at \$300 each **MB**



*This 1927 Dodge Brothers Depot Hack was generously donated to Meadow Brook's collection in 2014 by Christopher and Peter Van Zandt, sons of the late Dr. W. Robert Van Zandt of Chester, Pennsylvania. Dr. Van Zandt purchased a rusted hulk in 1985 and painstakingly restored it to national award-winning condition over the next 10 years.*

## 2014 MEADOW BROOK HALL DONOR REPORT

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## Plan Your Estate at OUR Estate

Meadow Brook Hall will host a series of FREE estate planning seminars:

**June 24, 2015**

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**DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

All seminars will take place from 12-1:30 p.m. at The Hall and will be led by industry experts.

A light lunch will be served and reservations are required.

To register or for additional information, contact Lauren Guzzardo at [guzzardo@oakland.edu](mailto:guzzardo@oakland.edu) or 248-364-6264.



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Gary Smith  
Nancy Smith  
Susan Smyth  
Ralph & Frances Steward  
Elisabeth Streck  
Jack & Joanne Stroebel  
Barbara Sucher  
Judith Swank  
Nicole Thomas  
Frederick Thoms  
Nicole Tygielski  
Robert Ufer  
Cheryl Verbruggen  
Robert & Christine Vetter  
James & Sharon Walk  
Denise Warren  
Brenda Wehrli  
Christopher & Toni Wiley  
Shawn Williams  
James Wolfe  
Lisa Yarema  
Robert & Sueanne Zanoni  
Kim Zelinski



# Art in the Garden

BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI, CURATOR

This summer, Meadow Brook will be surrounded by more than the art of its landscape. Through July 16, 2015, The Hall will have eight art reproductions placed throughout its 16 gardens as part of the Inside|Out program presented by the Detroit Institute of Arts. Inside|Out is a community engagement project that places reproductions of the Detroit Institute of Arts most well-known paintings in parks, neighborhoods and downtown areas in metro Detroit. Installing the works outside of the museum allows them to be engaged with and interpreted in a different way.



*Installation Day: L to R, Jillian Reese, Community Relations specialist, DIA; Shannon O'Berski, MBH manager of marketing and communications; Madelyn Rzadkowolski, MBH curator.*

Displaying DIA art reproductions in the gardens of Meadow Brook Hall pays tribute to the passion the estate's original owners, Matilda and Alfred Wilson, had for art and education. Everyone walking the grounds during Inside|Out will receive a map with information about the paintings and the gardens, and children will have an opportunity to complete an art scavenger hunt. Visitors taking the Estate Walking Tour will receive guided tours of Art in the Garden. Meadow Brook Hall's dedicated Garden Club is planning their spring plantings around the colors of the eight art reproductions.

Visit [meadowbrookhall.org](http://meadowbrookhall.org) for PDF versions of the scavenger hunt and art locations as well as information on further programming. 

INSIDE|OUT IS FUNDED THROUGH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION.

# Weddings at The Great Estate



Theresa Finck Photography

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[www.meadowbrookhall.org](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org)

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*Left: Downton Abbey Shadow Box Ornament*  
\$14.95 / \$13.45 members

*Downton Abbey Phone Ornament*  
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*Downton Abbey Mrs. Patmore's Pudding Tea*  
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*Above: Tea Mug with Spoon*  
\$15.95 / \$14.35 members

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