

Premier Issue | FALL 2010

Meadow Brook



A Lock on Style

A closer look at Meadow Brook Hall's
unique door hardware

INSIDE: Growing up on The Great Estate | Join Us!

Your Financial Family



The Oakland University Branch proudly supports Oakland University and its affiliates.

Our credit union is operated by and for members of the Oakland University community.

Visit the Oakland University Branch today to join the family!

OU BRANCH MEMBERS ENJOY THESE BENEFITS

- Home Improvement Loans
- Mortgages
- Low Rate Auto Loans
- Savings Options
- FREE Totally Green Checking
- FREE ATM Access
- FREE 24/7 Account Access

Oakland University Branch
3265 Five Points Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

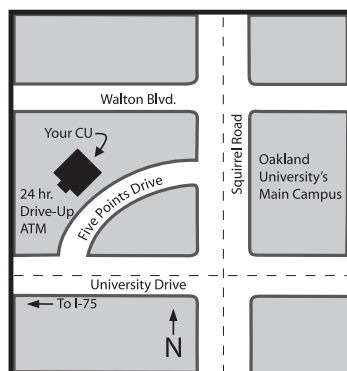
Member Services (248) 364-4708
Toll-Free 800-766-OUUCU • 800-766-6828
Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Branch Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

www.msufcu.org



Federally insured
by the NCUA



-Serving the OU community
since 1957-



8



6



12

2 | Editor's column

Opening new doors

3 | Around the Estate

Home again

All for the Hall

No surprise!

Meadow Brook and
music...*classic*

It makes you want to Scout!

TV Chef

New publishing program

A new coat of many colors

18 | Curator's Corner

Painting pictures:
The art of portrait
photography

20 | Last Page

Tuesday mornings at
Meadow Brook

6 | Learning by doing

Interns contribute valuable talents and enthusiasm

8 | Growing up on the Great Estate

Four children roaming 1,500 acres and
110 rooms...what could be more natural?

12 | A Lock on style

Matilda Wilson's unique door hardware became
known as The Hall's "jewelry"

16 | Join us!

Meadow Brook launches new membership
and gift society programs

On the Cover:

The key to Meadow Brook Hall's front gate (which can be seen
on page 2) is one of many unique pieces of door hardware found
throughout the house. For a story on the hardware, see page 12.

Photo by Rick Smith



Opening new doors

Welcome to the premier issue of *Meadow Brook* MAGAZINE, an outgrowth of our long-running newsletter, *Meadow Brook Today*. The development of the magazine mirrors the measured growth of activities at The Hall as we work to accomplish Matilda and Alfred Wilson's vision for sharing their estate as a three-dimensional educational tool.

Throughout these pages, we will draw on our wealth of historical resources to tell stories of 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s America – the heyday of the automotive aristocracy and a period in American history when the values of individual initiative and hard work were honored and rewarded. We'll routinely look at the house, the collections, the farms and the people who lived and worked in and around them.

In this issue, you will not only learn about recent events and new initiatives at The Hall, but also discover what it was like to grow up on the estate and how the Wilsons created their incredible collection of door hardware.

We fully understand how unique this property is, and what a valued resource it has become to both American history and our community. So, we welcome you behind our doors, and from time to time we will even share some of the challenges in preserving and interpreting a major historical property such as this. To that end, we are introducing new opportunities for you, your friends and family to join with us in our mission, which you can read about beginning on page 16. We truly hope you enjoy the stories we will share, as well as your association with Meadow Brook: The Great Estate.

Meadow Brook

MAGAZINE

Editor & Publisher
Geoffrey C. Upward

Associate Editor
Kimberly Zelinski

Art Direction
Lynn Metzker
Graphic Design

Business Manager
Robin Gardner

Contributing Writers
Lisa Drummond
Meredith Long
Shannon O'Berski

MEADOW BROOK MAGAZINE
is published twice a year for
friends of Meadow Brook Hall.
Reproduction without permission
is prohibited.

EDITORIAL OFFICES
are located at Meadow Brook Hall,
480 S. Adams Road,
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

HOW TO REACH US
Email: zelinski@oakland.edu.
Phone: 248-364-6204
Fax: 248-364-6201

ADDRESS CHANGES
Email: glaza@oakland.edu
Mail: Kelly Lenda,
Meadow Brook Hall,
480 S. Adams Road,
Rochester, MI 48309-4401



Matilda and Alfred Wilson



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

All for The Hall

Meadow Brook Hall has been blessed with shining stars, who in no small way have contributed to the overall success of The Hall, including many within our volunteer core. From 1971 to her passing in 2009, Barb Thorpe, not only devoted her time to support numerous Hall activities, she also served as inspiration to other volunteers.

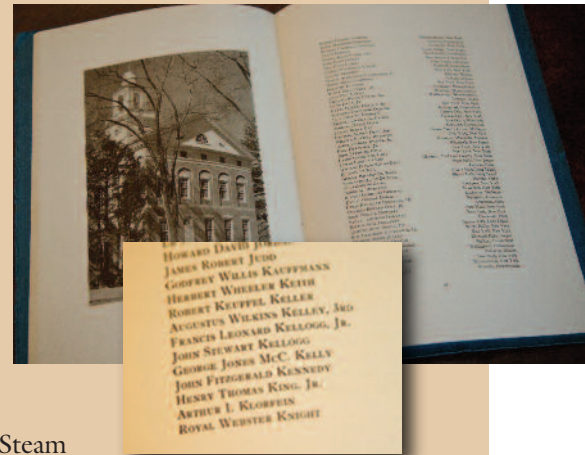
In this spirit, The Hall created the Barbara Thorpe Memorial Award to recognize an individual or couple who demonstrate this exemplary call to service. During the recent annual Volunteer Appreciation Program, Rich and Andrea Parker became the first recipients of the award.

Through rain and shine the Parkers are here, whether it is early morning or late at night, whether in the gardens or in The Hall. When they are called, they come...and are often the last to leave. We are incredibly honored that day after day, they, like so many of their colleagues, choose Meadow Brook to serve...in the spirit of their friend Barb Thorpe.

Home again

This past year, many objects once belonging to members of the Dodge or Wilson family were donated to The Hall by individuals, who for various reasons felt their cherished objects would have greater meaning in the Hall's collection. The list couldn't be more diverse. From books to a bassinet each of these items will help the Hall in its efforts to interpret the important history, lifestyles and events surrounding the property:

- Clothing and toys, including a train that Matilda Wilson gave to her granddaughter Judy Johnson. Gift of James Bartlett, Judy's son.
- **Wicker bassinet** used by the Dodge and Wilson families, once in the Nursery. Donated to the hall by OU Associate Professor Andrea Eis.
- **Crosby Steam Gage and Valve Co. Steam Engine Indicator**, circa 1903, originally belonged to John Dodge. Gift of retired OU Dean of Engineering Howard Witt.
- **Choate Yearbook** circa 1934, gift of retired OU faculty member Doug Hunter. Choate is the boarding school that Daniel Dodge attended. Dan is featured in the document. A noteworthy classmate of Daniel Dodge was none other than John F. Kennedy.
- Meadow Brook Golf Links Score card from John Dodge Golf course, circa 1919. Gift of Susan Busam.



- Various archival records relating to the career of the first OU Chancellor, Durwood "Woody" Varner, donated by the Varner Family.
- Correspondence from Mrs. Wilson to the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Gift of Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.
- Three books belonging to the Dodge and Wilson families were donated by Barbara Birmingham.

If you have an item that you would like to donate to The Hall, please contact Museum Services Coordinator Meredith Long at 248-364-6253 or email long@oakland.edu

No surprise!

Recognized for years as a unique location for weddings, corporate events and more, Meadow Brook Hall was recently awarded the “Best Outdoor Venue” by Michigan Meetings and Events Magazine in its 2010 Annual “Best of” Industry Awards. The award’s recognition was particularly prestigious, as The Hall beat out numerous other popular Metro Detroit locations.



Meadow Brook Hall hosts several large-scale public events throughout the year, and is host to dozens of weddings, corporate events, meetings, celebrations and golf outings – all with the purpose of supporting preservation, maintenance and operation of the historic site.

It makes you want to Scout!

It had been many years since a little girl had romped about in the special room on the third floor, formerly used by the young misses of the house. But, this child-sized playroom of Miss Frances Dodge is now being enjoyed by the young girls participating in The Hall’s Girl Scout Program.

This successful program has wel-

comed hundreds of Scouts and Brownies to such programs as Listening to the Past, The Secret Spaces and Architectural Tour, the Puppets, Dolls and Plays program, Bridging Ceremonies, Pajama Parties and the Daisy Teddy Bear Tea. Each program offers a specialized tour, an activity, light snack and the opportunity to view a



portion of the playroom as it was when Frances used it, filled with her childhood treasures.

The experience is a wonderful way for our youth to learn about history, architecture, art, and growing up on this great estate.

For more information on The Hall’s Girl Scout Program, please visit our website; meadowbrookhall.org or call 248-364-6252.

Meadow Brook and music...*classic!*

Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University’s Department of Music, Theatre and Dance are collaborating to offer a new classical music series, the “Meadow Brook Music Society,” which will include three concerts by renowned performers:

NOVEMBER 14, 2010, 3:30 P.M.,
“A Musical Journey,” featuring piano solos by the famed pedagogue **Nelita True**



JANUARY 23, 2011, 3:30 P.M.,
“A Tribute to Ahmad Jamal,” featuring **Regina Carter** and the **Oakland Jazz Quartet**

Regina Carter

APRIL 7, 2011, 7:30 P.M., “Quartet for the End of Time,” by Olivier Messiaen, performed by OU faculty artists. Intro by music scholar Jessica Payette.

Each concert will be held in The Hall’s two-story ballroom and will include a dessert reception and wine and cheese afterglow.

Revenues from ticket sales and donations will support both preservation of The Hall and a scholarship fund for university music students.

Concert tickets are \$55 each or \$150 for the series. Series’ subscribers will receive preferred seating. Reservations are required. Call Meadow Brook Special Events at 248-364-6263 or order online at meadowbrookhall.org.



TV Chef

As part of the promotion leading up to this Fall's 5th Annual Wild Game Dinner, "Walk on the Wild Side," Meadow Brook Executive Chef Patrick Gazzarato appeared twice on television. Chef Pat taped a cooking segment on Detroit's WXYZ-Channel 7 with anchor Michael Rosenfield (above) and was a guest on WJBK-Fox2 for its "cooking school" segment. The game dinner is one of The Hall's major fund raisers and features silent and live auctions of donated items, tours of the house and a gourmet meal, in both "wild" and "mild" versions, from the Meadow Brook kitchens.

Family gift launches new book publishing program

Meadow Brook is pleased to announce the receipt of a major gift from John and Matilda Dodge's grandson, John Van Lennep, to launch its new publishing program, the Meadow Brook Press. The gift makes possible the publishing of the first three titles from the Press in 2010-11:

- An illustrated, hard-cover coffee table book on Meadow Brook Hall and Gardens
- An illustrated history of Meadow Brook Farms in softcover
- A children's coloring book set on the backdrop of the Dodge Stables



"The fact that sales revenue from the books will be used both to fund new publications and, ultimately, contribute to the preservation and interpretation of the house we all love and appreciate is very gratifying," Van Lennep said.

"Creating and sharing new publications with friends of Meadow Brook and the general public will go a long way toward fulfilling my grandmother's educational vision for her legacy – bringing to life stories of the farms and gardens, the family, the house and her vast collections."

John Van Lennep has been a longtime supporter of The Hall, previously funding restoration of the entry bridge and establishment of the public archives room on the entertainment level.

"The ongoing support of Dodge and Wilson family members in the interpretation of The Hall's history means

so much to our efforts," Hall executive director Geoff Upward said. "John's enthusiasm for wanting to tell these stories has created a program that will benefit visitors and historians for years to come."

The Meadow Brook Press will advance the mission of the Hall by researching and publishing information about the Dodge Motor Car Company, Meadow Brook Farms and Meadow Brook Hall – including topical areas of architecture, construction, landscape, collections and operational and social history related to the times in which these entities flourished.

Published works will include print, video and electronic media, utilizing the Museum Shop as a primary sales outlet; with online, libraries, bookstores and gift shops as secondary sales channels. **MB**

A new coat of many colors

Two paintings emblematic of Matilda Wilson's taste during the 1950s will be given a new lease on life due to a generous grant obtained by the Stoney Creek Quester's Chapter 203 of Rochester. The two Huldah Cherry Jeffe paintings are scheduled for conservation in late 2010. The International Quester organization has already awarded one of the two grants requested, and all parties are patiently waiting to hear from the state organization for news of the second grant. The two paintings require cleaning and frame restoration and are currently on display in Frances Dodge's bedroom and Matilda's Study.



Learning by doing

Interns contribute valuable talents and enthusiasm

BY LISA A. DRUMMOND



Meadow Brook's 2010 summer interns: Rhiannon Zielinski (top), Eric Zimmerman (center) and Madelyn Rzakowolski (below).



"I wrote my thesis on English Country Houses," intern Madelyn Rzakowolski explained. "Meadow Brook Hall turned out to be the perfect place for me (to intern). At any level, at most places, I would have been sent out for coffee. Here my ideas were encouraged and acknowledged."

A graduate of Hope College who studied Art Education and History, Madelyn worked this past summer with curator Meredith Long. "I re-housed the costume collection and came up with a plan to store and record them. Especially at my age, it's wonderful to have my ideas valued," she added.

Rhiannon Zielinski, an Oakland University junior, majoring in Journalism and Political Science, saw an OU Student Campus Corps summer internship advertised for an editorial assistant in the The Hall's publishing program. She made the twice-weekly commute to The Hall from Kalamazoo. "It was a great summer. I learned so much about the family. I admire Matilda – she was a strong woman from humble beginnings who made something of herself. I wish the OU community knew more about her like they did in the university's early years." Rhiannon is working with Geoff Upward, Executive Director, on a book about Meadow Brook Farms.

A seed can become an idea. And sometimes, an idea can become a seed...or in Laura Kwiatkowski's case, it can become a garden. One of the 2009 OU Campus Corps interns, Laura's biochemistry background was put to good use creating a kitchen garden based on organic gardening practices. The garden was so successful, that Chef Patrick Gazzarato worked the herbs, vegetables and plants into his menus as ingredients and garnishes. Laura helped to train this year's interns, so the garden would continue to flourish. "It's a great learning environment," 2010 intern Eric Zimmerman said of the program. "Everyone is helpful. And the volunteers of the garden club keep the gardens so beautiful, preserving their history." **MB**

Lisa A. Drummond is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.



SKILLS
Real-life
lawyering skills



KNOWLEDGE
A rigorous and
challenging curriculum



ETHICS
A culture of
professionalism



DIVERSE
Enhancing your academic
and legal experience



Explore the reasons why Cooley is an excellent choice in legal education.

At Cooley, many people are finding that it is possible to fit law school into their busy lives. With four campuses across Michigan – Lansing, Auburn Hills, Grand Rapids, and Ann Arbor – Cooley offers classes year-round, days, evenings, and weekends. Students receive a legal education that provides them with the knowledge, skills, and ethics that distinguishes our over 14,000 graduates worldwide. Find out more at cooley.edu.

Knowledge. Skills. Ethics.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School is committed to a fair and objective admissions policy. Subject to space limitations, Cooley offers the opportunity for legal education to all qualified applicants. Cooley abides by all federal and state laws against discrimination. In addition, Cooley abides by American Bar Association Standard 211(a), which provides that "a law school shall foster and maintain equality of opportunity in legal education, including employment of faculty and staff, without discrimination or segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability."



Growing Up ON THE Great Estate

FOUR CHILDREN ROAMING 1,500 ACRES AND 110 ROOMS...WHAT COULD BE MORE NATURAL?

BY LISA A. DRUMMOND

Imagine growing up on a country estate of 1,500 acres, surrounded by trees, rolling hills, streams and meadows. A place populated by horses and farm animals, fresh air and fields. A great estate whose crowning jewel is an 88,000-square-foot Tudor Revival manor home, complete with 39 ornate brick chimneys, 24 fireplaces and a stone-cut spiral staircase hidden behind hand-carved wood paneling.

Meadow Brook Hall was just such a place. Built by Matilda Dodge Wilson and her second husband, Alfred Gaston Wilson, between 1926 and 1929, it would be home to the children of her first marriage to automaker John Dodge – 11-year-old Danny and his older sister Frances. “We chose to build in the countryside for the sake of the children,” Matilda explained to the newspapers and her friends. As young children, Frances and Danny loved the outdoors and had spent many happy weekends at the original white farmhouse at Meadow Brook Farms that Matilda and John Dodge purchased with several hundred acres in 1908, early in their marriage.

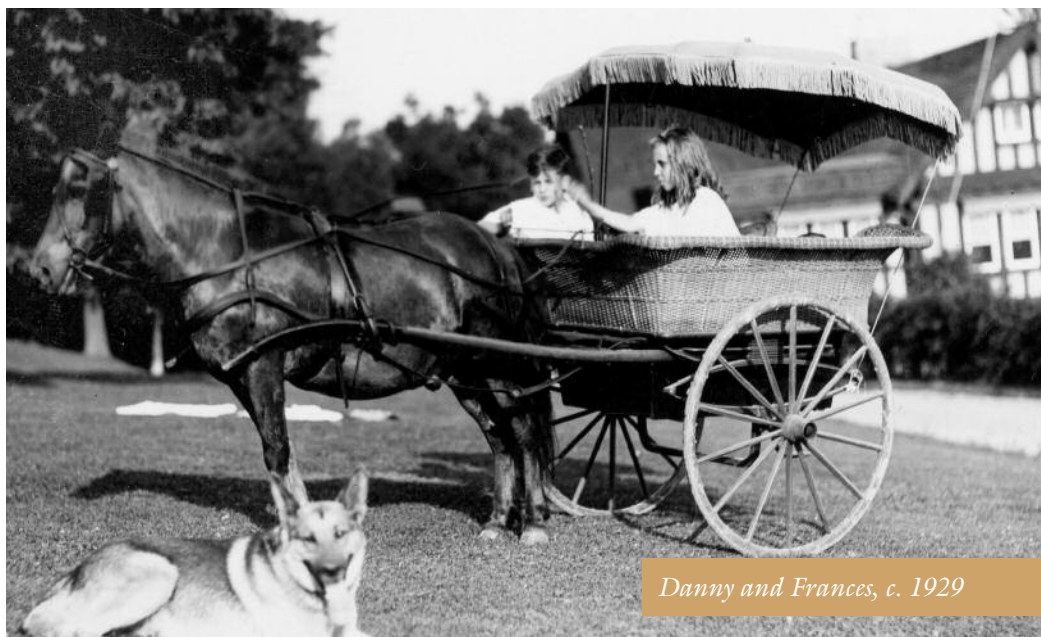
In the newly built Hall, with its children’s wing, Frances and Danny each had their own suite of rooms including a bedroom, guest room, dressing room and bathroom. During sleepovers no one slept on the floor in sleeping bags! Each of their guest rooms was outfitted with twin beds and its own fireplace and bathroom. The ladder in Danny’s closet still inspires young visitors to The Hall today, as they dream of climbing up to his 3rd-floor playroom. Frances, a young lady of 13, also had a playroom/study on the upper



Danny Dodge, c. 1929



Danny, c. 1919



Danny and Frances, c. 1929

floor, although hers was accessed by a more lady-like staircase.

In addition to having wonderful grounds to explore, each had their own playhouse. Frances' $\frac{3}{4}$ -scale bungalow, Knole Cottage, was designed for fun and as a place for her to learn the housekeeping skills that were attended to in The Hall by the staff. Schoolwork and chores of course came first, as Matilda and Alfred believed in education and strong values. Once those were done, there was time for Frances to cultivate what would become her life-long passion for horses and raising Pekingese dogs. While Danny, who was interested in all things mechanical, like airplanes and automobiles, could tinker in his log-cabin style workshop.

All the family members were accomplished equestrians – both riding and driving carts. Sterling silver trophies for horsemanship are on display in both Frances' and Danny's rooms. In fact, Frances and her mother later founded the world-renowned Dodge Stables on the farm. And Frances would go on to set world trotter speed records and own Castleton Farms in Kentucky as well as race courses.

"One of the more recent discoveries," The Hall's Museum Services Coordinator Meredith Long shared, "has

“WE CHOSE TO BUILD IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN.”

been the variety of arts in which the children participated. Going through collection storage, we've found a wonderful plaster cast of horses created by Frances, and linoleum print blocks carved by both Frances and Danny. It must run in the family because Frances' daughter Judy is also a talented painter."

When the Wilsons decided to add to their family in 1930 and 1931, this idyllic countryside setting also became a home to their adopted children, Richard and Barbara. They grew up attending the best schools and traveling the world. As they matured, they would see their 110-room home host weddings and sparkling New Year's Eve parties. Guests would be entertained by the likes of the Tommy Dorsey orchestra. And yet for all its grandeur, there was also an emphasis in the home on the simpler things in life, like a sleigh ride on a snowy day,

fishing in the lakes or creeks, or just taking a Sunday drive around the property.

Raised in the Victorian era, Matilda and Alfred believed in leading by example. They often had breakfast with the children in the octagonal asian-influenced breakfast room with its view of the Pegasus Garden. Yet, in an odd parallel to today's busy families who run from one after-school activity to another and seldom have time to sit down to a meal together, the Wilsons rarely dined with their children.



Frances and Danny, c. 1923



Barbara and Richard second and third from left, c.1942

WHEN THE WILSONS
DECIDED TO ADD TO
THEIR FAMILY IN 1930
AND 1931, THIS IDYLIC
COUNTRYSIDE SETTING
ALSO BECAME A HOME TO
THEIR ADOPTED
CHILDREN, RICHARD
AND BARBARA.

situated far away from the parents' living area to cocoon the adults from the interruptions caused by small children."

Matilda and Alfred set down a strong mandate on how they expected the children to act as responsible members of society. Their children grew up with many privileges, but also with a sense of social responsibility. For instance, on Christmas Eve, Matilda would take Richard and Barbara to the Edwin Denby Children's Home in Detroit to watch the residents perform a play. Afterward they would enjoy cookies and milk while Matilda distributed the gifts she had personally selected and wrapped for the 60 or so orphans who lived there.

Living out in the country offered a lot of natural opportunities, affording the children a sense of independence and creativity. Few of today's youth will ever experience life on such a grand scale. Yet a trip to The Hall will help them understand what life was like 60 to 80 years ago. And maybe, they'll be inspired by a glimpse into the lives of the children and family who once called Meadow Brook Hall "home."

There is still time to experience Meadow Brook's 2010 touring theme, "Treasures of Childhood: Growing up on the Great Estate," which runs through December 22.

Lisa A. Drummond is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.



Frances, c. 1931

Sundays and special occasions were the exceptions. Families of the Wilsons' social status employed nursemaids and nannies to raise the children until they were old enough to be sent to school. Children were more reserved in their demeanor; they were to be seen and not heard. Additionally, they were not only coached in manners, but in the social graces of high society as well.

"A wealthy Victorian parent's job was to send their children to the best schools, help them find the best mates, and set them up to enter society," says Long. "However, when The Hall was constructed, the nursery was across the corridor from Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's suites, which says a lot about their growing acceptance of a more hands-on parenting approach. In many a grand home, the nursery would have been



Frances' window seat



Richard, c. 1938



Barbara, c.1937



Today's childhood treasures

Holiday Walk 2010 will highlight childhood treasures during Meadow Brook's heyday. This year's decorations offer a childlike sense of wonder, featuring period toys and family photographs. Hundreds of costumed "modern" bears from Judy Hall's whimsical Teddy Bear collection await holiday guests in Frances' and Danny's playrooms.

A quick stop in the Great Estate's gift shop will reveal a bounty of specially selected holiday and gift merchandise at all price ranges. (See back cover for a few examples.)

Meadow Brook Hall's 39th annual Holiday Walk begins Friday, November 26th and runs through Wednesday, December 22. For information on Holiday Walk tickets, group tour-and-lunch packages, and other exciting events at Meadow Brook Hall during the holiday season, please visit www.meadowbrookhall.org, or call 248-364-6200.



A Lock on Style



BY KIM ZELINSKI

Butts and bolts, pulls and pivots, hinges and hooks, locks and latches: Generally speaking, the utilitarian characteristics of this mechanical jargon are not reflective of objects with artistic or decorative merit, but collectively these hardware components represent some of the most interesting and intricate detailing that



3



6



5



4

Photo 3 – Four door handles in the Games Room feature the game of chess.

Photo 4 – Opposite the lumberjack handle (photo 1) on the door in Alfred Wilson’s Study is a log hook handle and saw blade.

Photo 5 and 6 – Two Nursery room door handles, hand-painted on china, complement the room’s youthful theme, depicting a butterfly and a lady bug and “Little Red Riding Hood” and the “Big Bad Wolf.”



can be found throughout The Hall. Door hardware also accounts for the most notable and unforeseen costs incurred in the construction of the building— an incredible \$50,000 – an expense that Alfred Wilson still complained about some 30 years later. But, true to Matilda Wilson’s insistence on using the finest quality materials and craftsmanship available, the hardware she personally selected to adorn the hundreds of doors at Meadow Brook Hall reflects her keen attention to detail, design and style.

Halfway into the construction of The Hall, the question of interior finishes led the Wilsons, along with Smith, Hinchman & Grylls architect W.E. Kapp, to New York City and to the showroom of hardware distributor Ostrander & Eshleman (O&E). Matilda decided to purchase directly and exclusively from O&E, who represented 15 different manufacturers who would supply approximately 1,500 pieces of hardware for the doors, cabinets, cupboards and wardrobes throughout The Hall.

Management of the multitude of production details, including types, designs and finishes was an immense undertaking, evident from the hundreds of documents housed in Meadow Brook’s archives –from letters, memo’s and schedules to telegrams and design illustrations. O&E provided some 32 pages of these illustrations for the

“master” portion of the house to help the Wilsons visualize the final products.

Although the magnitude of the hardware project was significant, taking nearly two years to fully complete, the end result represents an incredible feature in the decoration of The Hall that combines true artistry with a utilitarian necessity. Matilda must have felt that her “jewelry of the home”, as hardware is sometimes called, was well worth the investment, or at the very least, a closer look. **MB**

Kim Zelinski is the associate director of Meadow Brook Hall

The architectural hardware at Meadow Brook Hall includes many variations of designs. From the formal, intricate brass handles in the Dining Room to the whimsically crafted hardware in Alfred’s Study, each was carefully planned to reflect the room’s décor or overall theme.

Photo 1 (p.12)—A lumberjack balanced on a log serves as the door handle in Alfred Wilson’s Study and reflects both his occupation as a lumber broker and the caricature-themed carvings in the wood paneled frieze in the room.

Photo 2 (p.13)—The double doors inside the Organ Alcove include hardware crafted with musical note motifs.

Photo 7—Monograms were incorporated into several design details of the hardware, including a door handle in Alfred Wilson’s bedroom featuring the letter “W”.

Photo 8—Automobile-inspired hardware was a favorite in The Hall. Such an architectural feature in Daniel Dodge’s bedroom includes an accompanying key designed with the Dodge Brothers emblem (not shown).



Join Us!

BY GEOFFREY C. UPWARD

Meadow Brook launches new membership and gift society programs

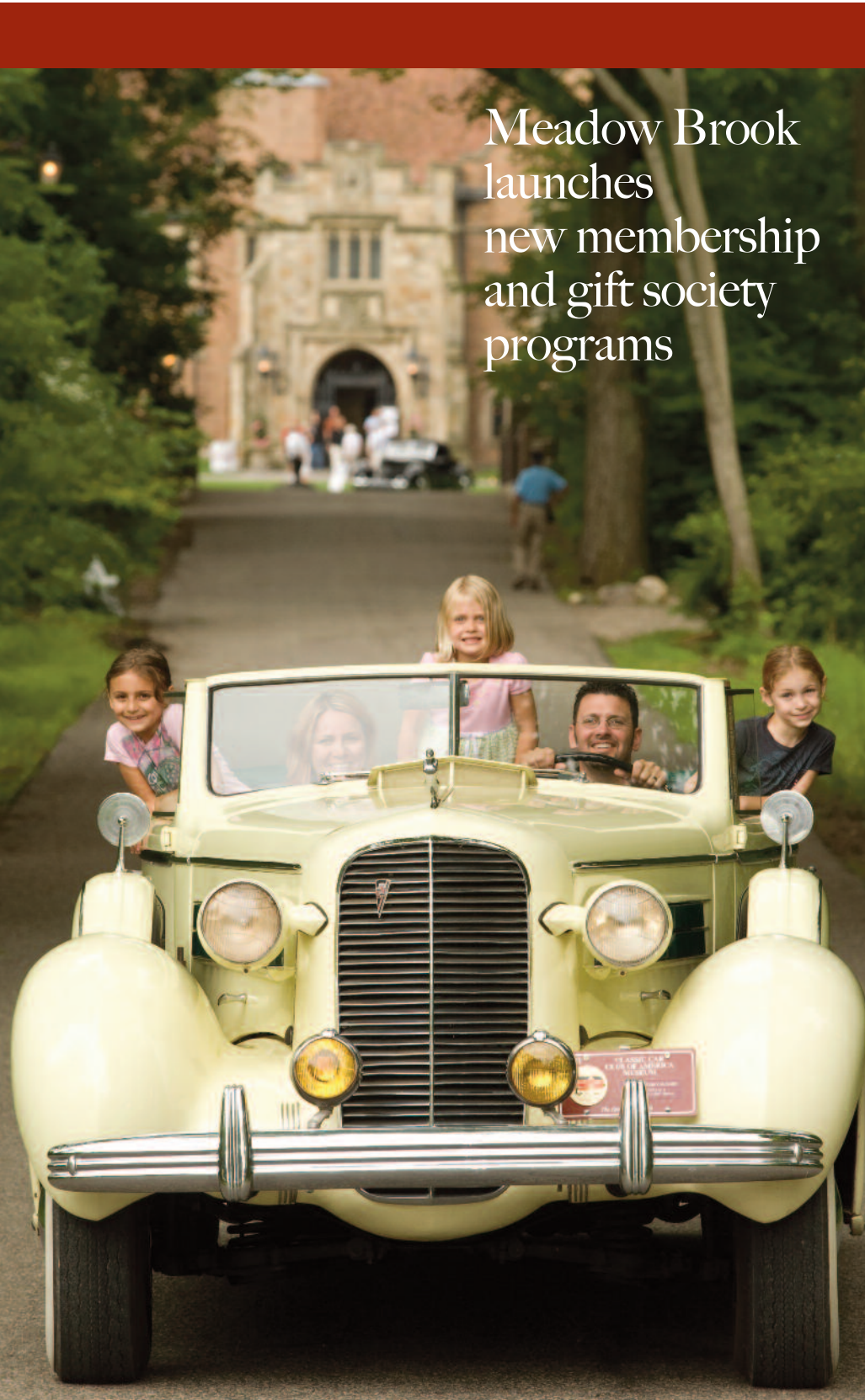
Meadow Brook Hall was the former home of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company heiress Matilda Dodge Wilson and her second husband, Alfred Wilson. Built between 1926 and 1929 for \$4 million, the building became the centerpiece of the Wilsons' vast Meadow Brook Farms operation 30 miles north of bustling Detroit.

Known as the pre-eminent example of the country estate lifestyle of America's automotive aristocracy, and for its Tudor Revival architecture and vast collection of original decorative and fine arts and archival documents, The Hall's 88,000 square feet and 110 rooms make it the fourth largest historic house in the United States.

Now an independent auxiliary of Oakland University, Meadow Brook Hall is totally self-supporting, relying primarily on facility rental revenue, touring fees and donations to preserve, interpret and operate the building as a major museum and community cultural center at a cost of nearly \$5,000 a day.

The engagement of friends and supporters becomes critical to our use of authentic three-dimensional history – things we can touch and feel – as a foundation for educating our citizens, children and grandchildren about what made America great.

Current friends and donors to The Hall will soon be receiving in the mail an invitation to join the cause as a steward of this incredible treasure, either as "Friends" or "Cornerstone Society" members. As the staff engages in activity to maintain and enrich The





“Unless all of us become aware of the importance of our heritage and take action to preserve it, our past won’t have a future.”

Richard Moe, President,
National Trust for
Historic Preservation

Hall’s value before passing its care on to those who follow behind, the new groups will help Meadow Brook in tangible areas:

Preservation

- Building preservation and restoration
- Grounds and gardens maintenance
- Collections conservation

Education

- Youth programming
- Student internships
- Lecture series
- Exhibitions
- Research and publishing

Community resource

- Public touring
- Special community events



When you receive the membership invitation, please take time to consider how your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives that follow.



New Membership & Gift Societies

FRIENDS

THE FRIENDS OF
MEADOW BROOK

THE GUILDERS OF
MEADOW BROOK

FRIENDS OF
MEADOW BROOK
STUDENT CHAPTER

THE CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

TIFFANY CIRCLE
PEGASUS CIRCLE
TUDOR CIRCLE

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ASSOCIATES

SPONSORS

PATRONS

THE BUILDERS OF
MEADOW BROOK

Painting Pictures: The Art of Portrait Photography

BY MEREDITH LONG, Museum Services Coordinator



This September Meadow Brook partnered with the Anton Art Center in Mt. Clemens, Michigan for its exhibition *Figure/*

Ground, a show that took a deeper look at the people, places and things represented in works of art.

Select artifacts from Meadow Brook Hall's extensive collection were exhibited in the center's Boll History Gallery, creating an additional layer of figure/ground interaction for visitors to the exhibition.

Guest curator and Chair of the Art and Art History Department at Oakland University, Andrea Eis, ably assisted by Meadow Brook Hall curatorial interns, Ashlee Kazirut, Olivia Marsh and Aimee Young, examined the portrait photography of three generations of Dodge and Wilson family members and how they dealt with issues including the repre-

sentation of social status, wealth, and family relationships.

Original clothing and furniture that featured prominently in these portraits were exhibited alongside of family photographs that explore two of the region's most prominent families.



“Portrait photography projects specific meaning (whether accurate or not) through deliberate choices made in pose, gesture, gaze, clothing, furniture, objects and backgrounds,” Eis said. “The result can be clichéd representations that look like thousands of others taken in the same time period, or highly individualized expressions of personality and presence.”

“A photographer can present a portrait subject in a vision that fits closely with the reality of that person's life, or asserts an assumed persona. Photographs can be a great equalizer, through studio props and backdrops, an outfit donned especially for the photograph, a directed pose, specialized lighting, and significant composition,” Eis continued.

“A photograph creates a seemingly documentary record that appears to express specific status, wealth and personal traits, but the 'document' can be an illusion, a performance by a shifting figure against a changing ground.” **MB**

Introducing the

MEADOW BROOK

Music Society

CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

INAUGURAL CONCERT SEASON 2010-2011

EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS MUSIC IN AN EXCLUSIVE AND UNIQUE EUROPEAN-INSPIRED SETTING,
A COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEADOW BROOK HALL AND
THE MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE DEPARTMENT OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY.



NELITA
TRUE

November 14, 2010,
3:30 p.m.
“A MUSICAL
JOURNEY”
featuring piano
solos by the famed
pedagogue Nelita True



REGINA CARTER

January 23, 2011,
3:30 p.m.
“A TRIBUTE TO
AHMAD JAMAL”
featuring Regina
Carter and the
Oakland Jazz Quartet



OAKLAND FACULTY ARTISTS

April 7, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
“QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME”
by Olivier Messiaen, performed by
OU faculty artists. Intro by music
scholar Jessica Payette

EACH CONCERT WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL'S TWO-STORY BALLROOM AND WILL INCLUDE
A DESSERT RECEPTION AND WINE AND CHEESE AFTERGLOW.

*Revenues from ticket sales and donations will support both preservation of
The Hall and a scholarship fund for university music students.*

Concert tickets are \$55 each or \$150 for the series. Series' subscribers will receive preferred seating.

Reservations are required. Call Meadow Brook Special Events at 248-364-6263
or order online at meadowbrookhall.org.

Inaugural season proudly sponsored by Evola Music.

HISTORIC LANDMARK



low Brook THE GREAT ESTATE



Tuesday Mornings at Meadow Brook



Every Tuesday, rain or shine, from April through October, a group of individuals meet at The Hall promptly at 9 a.m. No, this is not a Breakfast Club, although coffee and donuts are served. This is a group of 40 to 50 green-thumbed and hearty gardeners and “muscle men” of the Meadow Brook Garden Club who through the cold and heat and with tools in tow have the arduous task of beautifying the grounds. Each season, the club donates over 3,000 hours to accomplish their incredible feats of keeping 13 distinct gardens and acres of lawns, grounds and pathways in remarkably beautiful condition. In fact, visitors are often as taken with the gardens as they are with the house. Our sincere thanks for another sensational season! **MB**

You're Cordially Invited to the wedding of your dreams.



From exquisite dining and dancing to meetings and tours of the estate,
no place makes a statement like Meadow Brook.
Contact our event specialists to share your visions
and we'll transform them into reality.

BRIDAL SHOWERS | WEDDINGS | ANNIVERSARIES | CORPORATE ENTERTAINING

HISTORIC LANDMARK



THE GREAT ESTATE
meadowbrookhall.org

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



Meadow Brook

480 South Adams Road
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 17
ROCHESTER, MI

Take the stress out of shopping this Holiday season by purchasing your gifts at Meadow Brook Hall's own Museum Shop. The Shop offers one-of-a-kind items and Meadow Brook inspired products such as books, apparel, home decor, glassware, specialty food items and toys. Gift certificates are available. Stop by or order online at meadowbrookhall.org (click on Museum Shop).

Skip the Mall, Shop the Hall



Similar to the miniature tea sets owned by Miss Frances Dodge, little girls will enjoy the several tea sets available for \$27.95.



Assorted jeweled boxes, inspired by Matilda Wilson's own collection of boxes purchased on her worldly travels. \$7.95-\$23.95