

# Fantastic Façade!



Our Merchandising Coordinator, Kelly Lenda, partnered with illustrator Maizie Clarke to create our newest custom product line. Maizie's whimsical hand-painted watercolor artwork features Meadow Brook Hall's facade and adorns several porcelain pieces, including a trinket tray, mug and ornament.

**Trinket Tray – \$18.95**

**Mug – \$16.95**

**Ornament – \$16.95**

**Dish towel – \$17.95**

*Don't forget that Ambassador members receive 15% off store merchandise! And all other members receive 10% off.*

# 30% OFF one item

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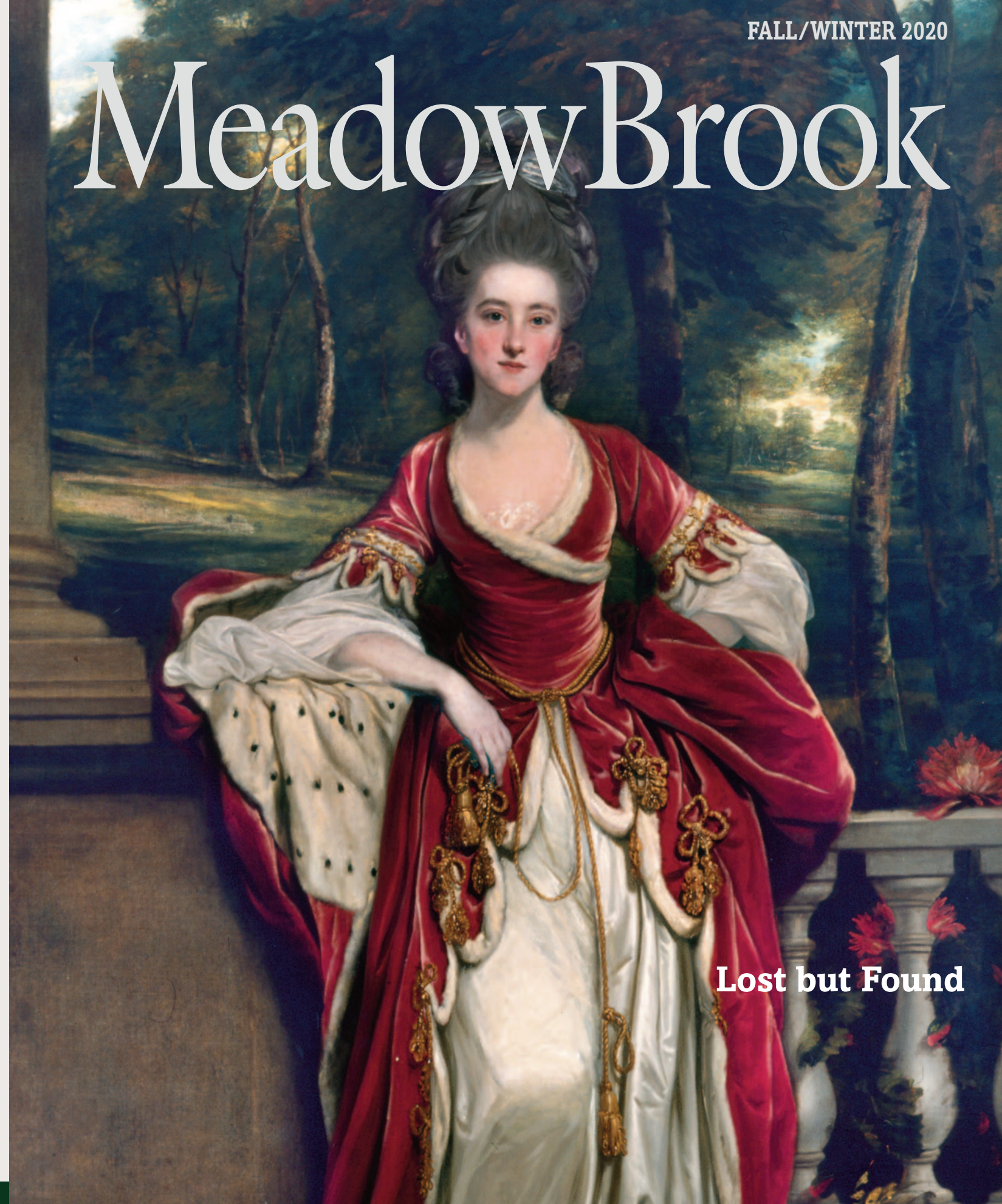
**This coupon good on merchandise in the MBH Museum Store\***

On behalf of the Meadow Brook team, we wish you health and thank you for your patience as we navigate these challenging times. Be safe and well.

*\*Coupon expires April 30, 2021. May not be combined with other discounts.*

**May be redeemed by phone (248-364-6206) or email [glaza@oakland.edu](mailto:glaza@oakland.edu) with coupon code THIRTYOFF. Shipping charges may apply.**

# Meadow Brook



**Lost but Found**

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order online at [www.meadowbrookhall.org/shop](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org/shop) or call (248) 364-6206

INSIDE: New Acquisitions | Dodge Retreat | Keys to the Kingdom





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Persistence is key

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Fantastic façade!

**ON THE COVER:** *Portrait of Caroline Spencer, Fourth Duchess of Marlborough*, Joshua Reynolds, c. 1776. Originally located in Meadow Brook's ballroom, this life-size portrait of the Duchess of Marlborough, ancestress of Sir Winston Churchill, was sold at auction after Matilda Wilson died in 1967. *Courtesy Rough Point Collection, Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, Rhode Island.*



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12 | Barbara's Life on View

From her custom-made debut gown to her graduation ring and wedding photos, donations from the family of Barbara Wilson after her passing made for a fascinating exhibit this summer and fall.

14 | The Lost Art of Meadow Brook

For more than a decade, Meadow Brook's curatorial staff has searched for significant paintings that once hung in The Hall but were sold at auction after Matilda Wilson's death. Recently replicated for re-hanging, the stories of the paintings themselves reveal fascinating insights into the art and collecting worlds.

22 | A Place of Refuge

Throughout their all-too-short lives, John and Horace Dodge shared an enduring affection for the slower paces and outdoor pursuits of country life. Though their careers as machinists and captains of industry constrained them to living in cities, they used their burgeoning wealth to secure recreational opportunities for themselves, their friends and families. *First of two parts.*

28 | Keys to the Kingdom

Keys make up one of the largest inventories of artifacts in The Hall. Numbering in the hundreds, the collection was carefully guarded and its management entrusted to one specific "keeper of the keys," Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson... and each one has a story to tell.



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# Meadow Brook

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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 univer-  
sity serves as an internationally renowned  
historic house museum and cultural center.*

## | Editor's Column

### Passing the keys of stewardship

By the late Dick Van Dyke's definition, I have been retired for a long time.

I began my professional career in 1974 and some 30 years later assumed what was to be the interim leadership of Meadow Brook Hall. I will retire and leave the employ of Meadow Brook and its parent organization, Oakland University, in January 2021. And to say that I have had fun for the past 16+ years is an understatement.

Actually, I would expand a bit on the definition of fun to mean enjoyment and, even further, fulfillment.

The phenomenon of the dramatically successful, but bootstraps, operation of Meadow Brook Estate since it opened to the public in 1971 draws from and, in fact, relies on the personal and collective fulfillment experienced by a small but mighty group of employees. Working at Meadow Brook quickly becomes a mission for new hires, a mission that embraces the founding principles of the Dodge Motor Car Company, Meadow Brook Farms, Meadow Brook Estate and, ultimately, Oakland University. You can call it passion, even love, and an undying respect and responsibility for the building, the stories it represents and the colleagues that staff members go into battle with to save it, every day, 24/7/365.

How do these employees make this self-supporting enterprise work? Through commitment, creativity, talent, an unbreakable work ethic and resolve, and a driving desire to make this National Historic Landmark successful for the betterment of the community and people young and old, people from far and wide. Sharing the lessons of the Dodge and Wilson families – who built and lived a legacy of American values during the first half of the 20th century – creates a common bond between staff members in working toward that goal.

I was fortunate to be able to work alongside a few hundred such colleagues – and that group includes volunteers, student workers, Dodge and Wilson family members, Wilson Fund trustees, and friends and donors – beginning in 2004, and that is a parting gift to me that will be unequalled.

And my parting wish is that all who can in some way support this small band of sisters and brothers will rise to the occasion, for the cause is a noble one. Help is needed; help is very much appreciated.

For me, I will stay connected; I can have it no other way, for Meadow Brook and its legacy of history course through my veins. To hijack a phrase, you can take the man (boy would be a stretch) out of Meadow Brook, but you can't take Meadow Brook out of the man.

Best regards and undying thanks to all those who have been a part of this amazing story. I, for one, will not forget what you have done.

*"To me, retirement means  
doing what you have fun  
doing." – Dick Van Dyke*



“What you leave behind is not what is  
engraved in stone monuments,  
but what is woven into the lives of others.”

– Pericles



In 1929, it cost approximately \$4 million to build and furnish Meadow Brook Hall. Today, it takes more than \$4 million *every year* to keep the building maintained and our doors open...or \$11,000 a day.

With a history of hospitality, the National Historic Landmark today hosts a vibrant community of learning and culture.

Please consider making a gift from your estate today.  
Contact External Relations Director Shannon O'Berski, (248) 364-6263, for more information.

Help us preserve Meadow Brook Hall for future generations.



# Planning for preservation

Recent planned gifts from several donors have significantly impacted Meadow Brook's endowment and will

go a long way to help ensure the sustainability of the building and collections.

Donna and Jon Block's foresight will transform preservation efforts at Meadow Brook Estate in the years to come. They have established the Donna Marie A. F. Block and Jon W. Block Endowment to support the preservation of Meadow Brook Hall, including

its furnishing, artifacts, and the automotive collection. A gift committed through their estate will ensure this important work continues in perpetuity.

For Donna and Jon, Meadow Brook Estate is a beloved and vital part of the community, and they are committed to preserving its presence.

"We loved Meadow Brook Hall the first time we saw it," Donna and Jon said when making the gift. "We were active with the Concours d'Elegance for 25 years, planned the sidewalk restoration, and provided engineering for the first permanent tent pad.

"Meadow Brook Hall is simply

magnificent inside and out, and we want to help preserve it for generations to come. It's an amazing, wonderful story..."

Geoff Upward, retiring executive director of the Meadow Brook Estate, is grateful for the generosity of Jon and Donna Block for their partnership in preserving Meadow Brook Estate and ensuring its everlasting legacy.

"The generous commitment from Donna and Jon Block to

Meadow Brook Estate is inspiring," he says. "Their steadfast support in preserving the estate's incredible historical, architectural, collection and intellectual treasures will benefit our entire community for many, many years to come."

Longtime volunteers Jan and Rich Caloia also included Meadow Brook Hall in their estate plan this fall. Their gift represents a major contribution to

Meadow Brook's endowment for preservation and collections care.

"For over 30 years, we have recognized Meadow Brook Hall as a community treasure representing a golden age in Michigan and America. Our goal is to help sustain The Hall for others to enjoy well into the future," the Caloias said.

"The Caloias are examples of the very best Meadow Brook supporters – both for their long service as volunteers and through their philanthropy," Geoff Upward said. "We could not be more grateful for, or impressed by, their willingness to help in any way they can, including Jan's leadership in advocating for Quester's grants for collections conservation and actually performing hands-on tasks."

"Their gift will significantly impact Meadow Brook's future as a historic house museum and educational resource."

In January, longtime Meadow Brook Hall supporter Bill Fox passed away, leaving an endowment gift to Meadow Brook. The William Fox Endowed Fund will be used for preservation, restoration, and maintenance needs of the estate.

To learn more about how you can help support this important community asset through estate planning, contact Shannon O'Berski

(248-364-6263 or [stobersk@oak-land.edu](mailto:stobersk@oak-land.edu)).



*Donna and Jon Block with Geoff Upward*



*Jan and Rich Caloia*

## An eventful summer and fall

Like most museums in 2020, Meadow Brook Hall had to develop new ways of doing business to meet CDC recommendations and state executive orders. Over and above gathering limits, social distancing and mandatory masks for everyone inside The Hall, Community Events Manager Jill Moran had to, "...reimagine many of our Community Events. This meant creating an environment where guests felt safe and protected, had an exceptional experience, and adhered to all the current executive orders."

The Summer Concert series format was altered as touring of The Hall and food were not offered. Guests were encouraged to bring their own food and picnic on the lawn. Bistro style tables were removed from the tent, chairs were set up in pairs, and seated drink service (from a cash bar) replaced a walk-up bar. Positive guest feedback from these modifications prompted the addition of two additional fall concerts.



*Kimmie Horne*



*Dave Bennett*

In September, the annual Wild Game Dinner morphed into Wild Happy Hour. Executive Chef Pat Gazzarato created special "wild and mild" butler-passed hors d'oeuvres to accompany seated drink service. Display tables were interspersed on the Loggia lawn with two-person tables, allowing guests to closely monitor the silent auction. The live auction took place on the Loggia Terrace, providing an exciting finale to a successful evening (*see sidebar, right*).

Going forward, Meadow Brook Hall will continue to modify our community event offerings to ensure guest safety and enjoyment.



## Wildly successful

Meadow Brook's Wild Game Dinner & Auction, created some 15 years ago by The Squires (volunteer handymen), had steadily grown into The Hall's second largest fundraiser (behind Holiday Walk). The 2018 and 2019 events each exceeded 340 attendees and \$90,000 in net revenue.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic on gathering sizes, the volunteer organizing committee and event lead, Shannon O'Berski (director of external relations), took a chance and decided to proceed with this fall's event that would fit within mandates and guidelines. The result was the "Wild Happy Hour," which did not include the traditional seated dinner and was limited to 100 guests on the Loggia and south lawn.

Results flew in the face of all the restrictions: The hybrid event not only netted \$47,000 in much-needed revenue, but was an acclaimed experiential success by participants who were happy to be back at Meadow Brook in a social setting for a great cause. We'll see what next year brings!



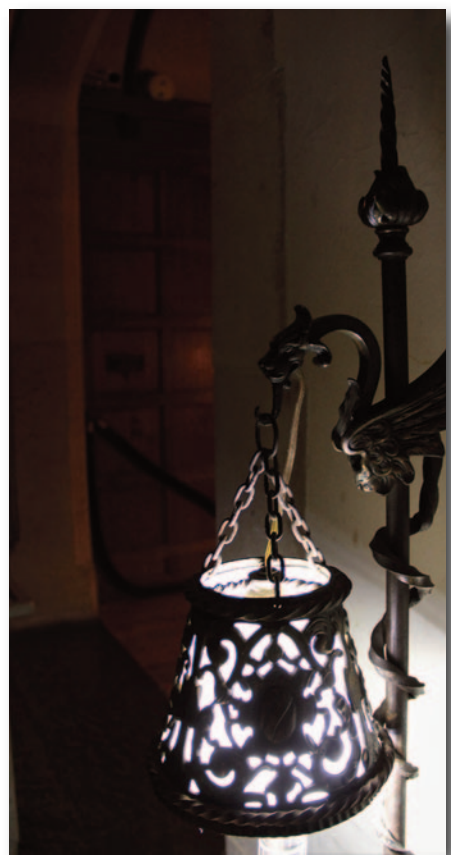


## New! Flashlight Tour!

See The Hall in a new light as its hidden details and exquisite craftsmanship are illuminated as never before by the curatorial staff. The Flashlight Tour is a newly designed tour experience that focuses on how light reveals, transforms and illuminates the architecture and artifacts inside Meadow Brook Hall.

Successfully test-driven this fall with a private group, the tour takes guests behind ropes, under tables and inside cabinets to highlight the secret spaces that are rarely seen in the daylight. From a domed ceiling painted with constellations to the glow of illuminated jade, the tour explores new sights and stories as it winds through the candlelit rooms of The Hall.

This new experience will be available by reservation in early summer. Gather some curious friends and prepare for an evening of discoveries, diversions and drinks. More details will be shared through electronic communications and social media.



## Cheers to our Volunteers

Each year, our volunteers are honored at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in the fall. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no banquet could be held this year. All volunteers receiving an award in 2019 will be honored at the banquet in 2021. In the meantime, we'd like to acknowledge just a few of the hundreds of members of the incredible team of people who generously gave Meadow Brook Hall more than 19,465 hours of their time and expertise in 2019.

Established in 2009 to honor long-time volunteer Barbara Thorpe, the award in her name is presented annually to an individual or couple who display not only dedication and service to Meadow Brook Hall, but embody a love of The Great Estate. Nominations and selection for this award come from the Meadow Brook Hall staff. We are happy to announce that the Barbara Thorpe Memorial Award winners in 2020 were Janet and Frank Cassise.

The Cassises have been active at Meadow Brook for more than 38 years. Janet is a docent, host and works in the museum shop. Frank works as a squire and a host, and recently joined the Wild Game Dinner and Auction coordinating committee.

When notified they had received this honor, Janet said, "We are probably among the few volunteers today who remember Barb and Doug [Thorpe]. Barb was very patient with me when I started 38 years ago, being her 'second' on guided tours. She taught me that crowd control was as important as knowing the facts. And, also to read the group to judge their level of interest. Frank and I are very proud to be the recipients of the



*Frank and Janet Cassise*

Barbara Thorpe award."

Additionally, thirty-eight volunteers achieved service milestones on their journey at Meadow Brook Hall, including Bill Cichowski, Diane Gurzick and Pat Koykka who earned an emer-

ald to add to their Gold Castles. This gemstone enhancement celebrates 25 years (or more than 1,250 hours) of consecutive service at The Great Estate.

Congratulations, everyone!

## Selling the Site



*Cheryl Donovan*

Meadow Brook recently hired a key staff member to expand its reach into the client rental community. Cheryl Donovan joined the team in July as the Manager of Sales & Events, bringing with her 20 years of varied sales and events experience. In her previous long-term role at Emerald City Designs, she actually spent many days onsite at The Hall on behalf of her clients.

Currently, Cheryl is responsible for securing the sales and managing the events staff for Meadow Brook's largest revenue source: facility rental.

Even under pandemic restrictions, Cheryl managed to safely conduct site visits, sell and oversee summer and fall event execution and aggressively book weddings and corporate events for 2021 and 2022.

Please join us in welcoming Cheryl to the Meadow Brook staff!





## Plug pulled on Winter Wonder Lights 2020

In order to fully comply with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service's public health order limiting outdoor gatherings due to the pandemic, Meadow Brook had to cancel its dazzling new Winter Wonder Lights 2020 event featuring half a million lights, which had been slated to open the day after Thanksgiving.

Working closely with regional officials to explore options to proceed safely, The Hall was unable to reach a workable solution.

The Meadow Brook team appreciates the understanding of supporters, volunteers and the community and is now looking forward to showcasing the Great Estate this coming November and December with both the indoor Holiday Walk (its 50th anniversary) and the debut of the outdoor Winter Wonder Lights show.



## Art in the Elements returns

Meadow Brook Hall's unique outdoor floral art exhibition, "Art in the Elements," returned with four days of touring in September through the woodland trails of the Great Estate.

A journey through art and nature, the 2020 Art in the Elements tour featured 21 fairy tale- and story book-themed large scale floral art sculptures and displays created by renowned floral artists from around the country in a collaboration with the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Industry of Floral Designers.

In addition to the floral exhibits on the grounds, the event featured floral demonstrations, plein air painting and tours of The Hall and the estate's three playhouses.



# The good old days...



## will soon be back!

Become a member of Meadow Brook and experience the best of Americana. Check out all of our membership benefits and activities at

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



# Be a driving force

*at Meadow Brook Hall!*

Meadow Brook Hall seeks the help of our friends to preserve the historic automobiles in our collection for the upcoming year. Your tax-deductible adoption will help us make necessary repairs, provide preventative maintenance and pay insurance for the historic vehicles in our care, ensuring they are there to inspire, educate and “spark” the imaginations of this and future generations.



1919 DODGE  
BROTHERS  
WRECKER



1919 GRAHAM  
BROTHERS  
TRUCK

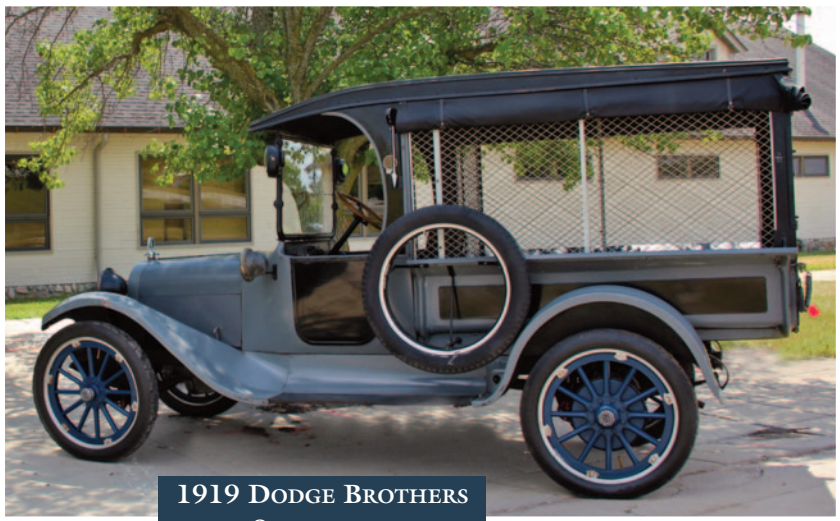
## ADOPT-A-DODGE

**DETAILS:** You will adopt the vehicle for a period of one year, beginning November 14, 2020 through November 13, 2021 (November 14 is the anniversary of the day John and Horace Dodge revealed their first car in 1914).

**COST:** \$750 per vehicle per year of adoption

### BENEFITS:

- Recognition of your adoption displayed by the car and on the Meadow Brook website for one year.
- An invitation to a special event to meet the volunteer team that maintains the cars and to receive a driving lesson (one eligible driver per car adoption).
- Opportunity for a photo shoot for you and family members and/or friends with the car.
- Information and updates on how your car was cared for during the year.



1919 DODGE BROTHERS  
SCREENSIDE



1938 PACKARD  
LIMOUSINE



1927  
DODGE BROTHERS  
DEPOT HACK



1915 DODGE  
BROTHERS  
TOURING CAR



1925 DODGE  
BROTHERS  
DEPOT HACK



1964 DODGE  
PICKUP



1947  
DODGE  
PICKUP

## Up for Adoption

Interested? Contact Curator Madelyn Rzadkowolski by phone at (248) 364-6253; by email at [rzadkowo@oakland.edu](mailto:rzadkowo@oakland.edu); or by U.S. mail at 350 Estate Drive, Rochester, MI 48309.





# Barbara's Life on View



BY MADELYN RZADKOWOLSKI

When Barbara Wilson stepped out for her debut party in 1950, the flounced daffodil yellow tulle of her custom-made dress fluttered around her legs as the topaz and pearl belt shone from the lanterns lining Meadow Brook's gardens. This dress, among many others, was highlighted in a recent exhibit celebrating the life of Barbara Wilson Eccles (1931- 2020) during her years growing up on the estate.

The exhibit would not have been possible without the generous donation of artifacts from Barbara's five children. Among the items, new photographs of her 1953 wedding to Lt. Thomas S.

Eccles provided a framework for this past year's re-creation of some of the ceremonial and reception scenes throughout rooms in The Hall.

The Games Room (where presents were typically collected during weddings at The Hall) displayed actual gifts to the couple of silver, art, linen and even a cookbook, all lovingly cared for over the years by Barbara and donated by her family.

The Library – where the Eccles and the Wilsons received the wedding guests after the ceremony in the Living Room – held the 37-page guest list, which included names of Detroit's elite as well as Barbara and Tom's classmates and former and then-current staff of Meadow Brook Hall. A letter to Barbara from Tom's best man and brother, stationed at an Air Force base in Washington, includes his suit and shoe sizes and his hope that she isn't too stressed from wedding planning.

An array of Barbara's dresses and coats were featured in the Upper Great Hall. Cabinets were filled with photographs, letters, jewelry and other treasured memorabilia, including her graduation ring from Miss Gill's finishing school in Bernardsville, New Jersey – and the silver trophy she won as "Winter Carnival Queen" at a boy's school in Boston in 1951. The new artifacts shed light on Barbara's life, personality and relationship with her family and friends; they surely will reveal new and exciting stories about Barbara for years to come.

While the exhibit was taken down in anticipation of Holiday Walk



*An exhibit celebrating the life of Barbara Wilson Eccles showcased donations from her family, including photo albums, jewelry, clothing, personal effects and gifts of silver and linen from her 1953 wedding. Opposite: After her debut into society in 1950, Barbara began collecting evening gloves, invitations and dance cards.*

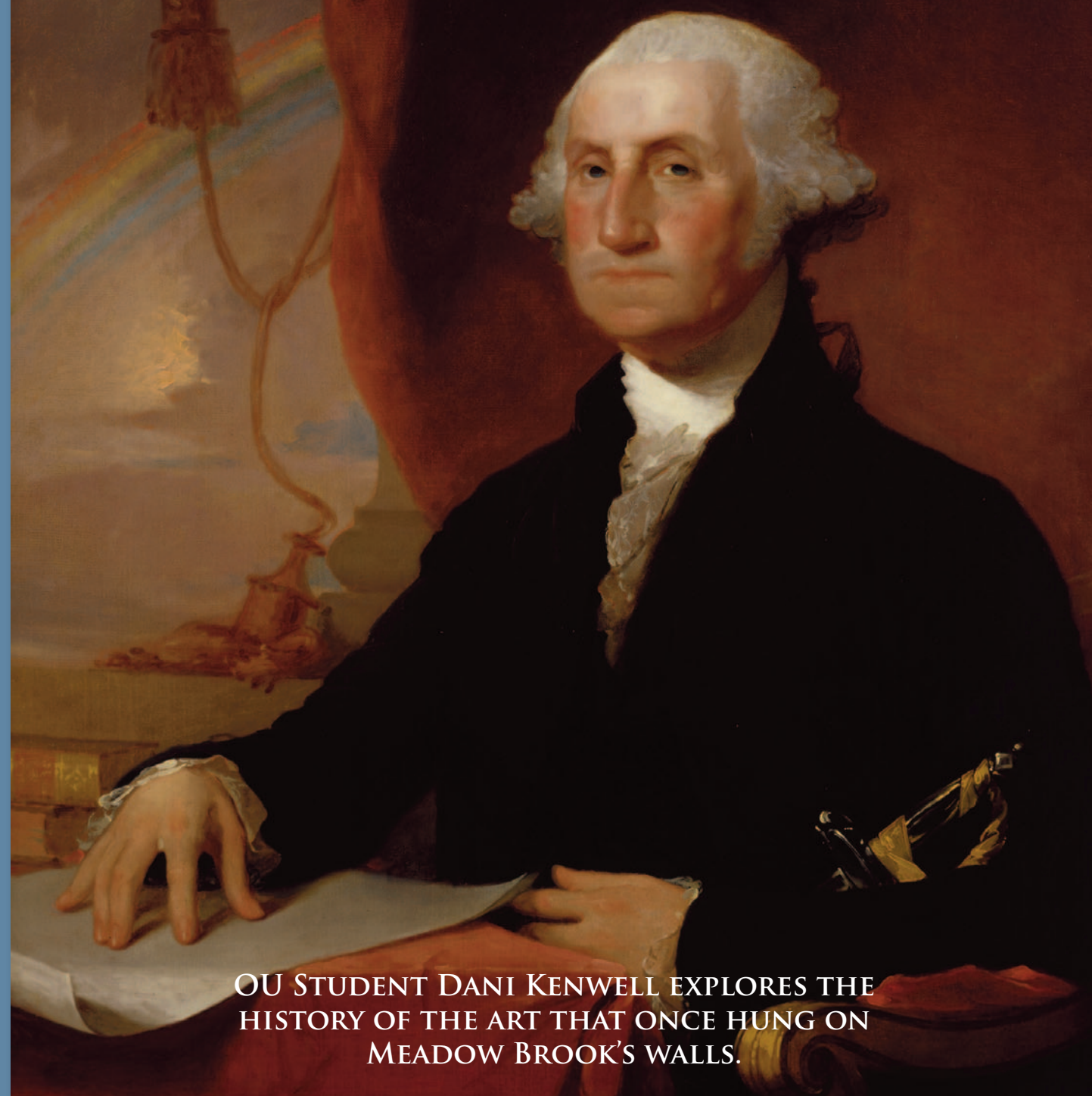


activity, Barbara's portrait remains in a place of honor in the Great Hall, reminding visitors that this was not just a home, it was the heart of a family. MB



# THE LOST ART OF MEADOW BROOK

BY DANIELLA KENWELL



OU STUDENT DANI KENWELL EXPLORES THE  
HISTORY OF THE ART THAT ONCE HUNG ON  
MEADOW BROOK'S WALLS.

## Mrs. Wilson's Rare Art Sold At Auction

Special to the Free Press  
NEW YORK—Two paintings from the estate of the late Mrs. Matilda Dodge Wilson of Detroit were sold at auction here Thursday night.  
The "Portrait of George Washington" by Gilbert Stuart was sold for \$205,000. The portrait shows Washington seated on a chair.  
"Coming to the Call" by Frederic Remington brought \$185,000. Painted in 1904, the oil painting shows a hunter in a birch canoe calling a moose.

After Matilda Wilson's death in 1967, some of Meadow Brook Hall's largest and finest pieces of art were sold at auction or bequeathed to her family. Many of the paintings were sold at a large auction by Parke-Bernet (a forerunner of Sotheby's) in 1970. For more than a decade, the curatorial staff have been looking for these paintings, locating 10 of the 12 at various museums and private collections around the world. The "Lost Painting Project" seeks to create high-quality replicas of these remarkable paintings and their frames and hang them in their original locations in The Hall.

As the fundraising campaign to replicate these paintings nears its end, Daniella Kenwell, an Art History major at Oakland University, examines several of the paintings more closely. Kenwell is a docent and curatorial intern at Meadow Brook Hall and has long been captivated by the history and legacy of Alfred and Matilda Wilson's art collection. She located one of the most elusive "lost paintings," the Portrait of a Young Nobleman, and has won awards for her research paper on the Duchess of Marlborough painting. — ed.



Matilda and Alfred Wilson (seen here in the dining room in 1961) were avid collectors of art. Many of their works were sold at auction in 1970. Opposite: Portrait of George Washington, Gilbert Stuart, 1822.

Gilbert Stuart is most famous for *The Athenaeum*, an unfinished portrait of George Washington he used as a model for some 100 additional portraits of the country's first president, and the likeness of which was used on the American one-dollar bill. The *Portrait of George Washington* that hung in The Hall was painted in 1822 for Philadelphia merchant William D. Lewis; the rainbow in the background

is said to suggest the hope of the young country. Many people purportedly offered to purchase the painting from Mrs. Wilson (who was the collector of the couple) when it was in her possession, including the Duveen brothers and the Rockefeller family, but she refused to part with it.

*George Washington* was purchased in 1970 from Matilda Wilson's estate by Dr. Armand Hammer for a record-breaking \$205,000, almost double its





Mrs. Hester Lushington, *George Romney*, 1789.

previous appraisal. The portrait hung at the Hammer Foundation in Los Angeles for decades until 2014 when the painting was sold for an undisclosed amount to the Louvre Abu Dhabi, where the painting currently resides, valued at more than \$8 million.

The Wilsons purchased *Mrs. Francis John Brown* by Thomas Gainsborough from Howard Young. A distinguished art dealer, Young counseled and sold Matilda and Alfred many of their paintings. Young owned an art gallery in New York, was the grand uncle to Elizabeth Taylor and friends with President Dwight Eisenhower. The Wilsons purchased *Mrs. Brown* in 1928 to prepare for the opening of Meadow Brook Hall.

The subject of the painting is depicted wearing a grey and turquoise chiffon dress decorated with a gargantuan pearl pendant and lightly powdered hair. This is a pendant, or paired, portrait and a painting of Mr. Francis John Brown completes the set.



Mrs. Francis John Brown, *Thomas Gainsborough*, c.1780s. Matilda Wilson (center) touring the dining room, 1961.



Mrs. Francis John Brown, *Thomas Gainsborough*, c.1780s.

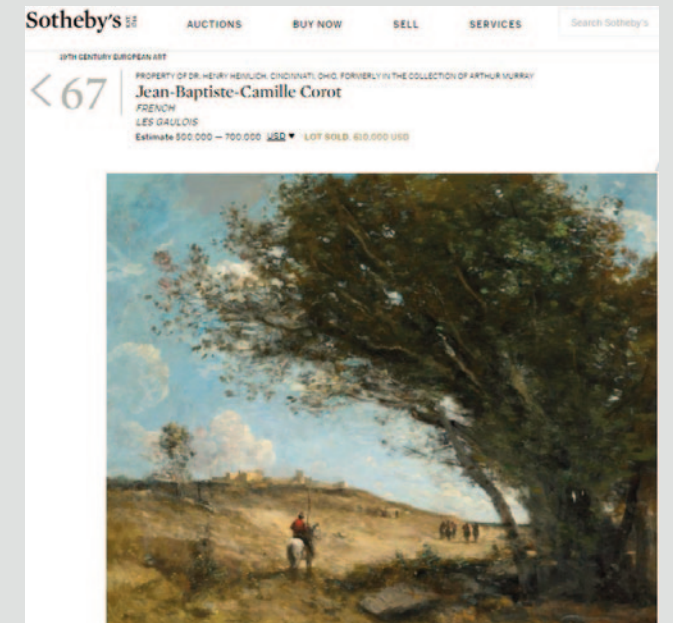
His portrait is housed in the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. *Mrs. Brown* failed to sell at the estate auction and was thus gifted to Matilda's daughter, Frances Dodge Van Lennep. It passed through Frances' family until her descendants gifted it to the University of Kentucky Museum of Art in 2003.

*Mrs. Hester Lushington* was painted by George Romney (late 18th-Century English portraitist). The painting shows *Mrs. Lushington* as if in mid movement, as she adjusts her pose and shifts her body to one side. Movement can also be seen in the subject's white dress and in the trees behind her. *Mrs. Lushington* is now in a private collection in Great Britain. *Mrs. Brown* and *Mrs. Lushington* once hung together in Meadow Brook's dining room; the newly replicated prints will soon be rejoined.

*Sir Robert Frankland-Russell* by Sir Thomas Lawrence (late 18th- and early 19th-Century portraitist) depicts the English politician and artist. This portrait hung in Meadow Brook's Great Hall, right outside the living room. "*Sir Robert*" is now back in the collection of Chequers Court, the 1565 Tudor mansion once owned by Sir Frankland-Russell. When his line



Sir Robert Frankland-Russell, *Sir Thomas Lawrence*, early 1800s.



*Les Gaulois* by Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, c. 1784, was sold by Sotheby's for \$610,000 in 2015. It can be seen in The Hall's living room behind Matilda at her 80th birthday party, pictured with children Frances, Barbara and Richard, 1963.





Caroline, Duchess of Marlborough, *Joshua Reynolds*, c. 1776, in the staircase of Doris Duke's home in Newport, Rhode Island, today a museum. The painting featured prominently in Meadow Brook's ballroom, 1963.

of descendants to the baronetcy died out in 1912, the estate was sold to Arthur Lee, a politician, philanthropist and the co-founder of London's Courtauld Institute of Art. The home was used as a hospital during World War I and was donated to the country in 1917, to serve as the private English country house of British Prime Ministers.

*Les Gaulois* by 19th-century French artist Jean Baptiste Camille Corot probably has the most famed provenance of all of the lost paintings. The landscape was once owned by opera singer Jean-Baptiste Faure, businessman J.P. Morgan and Matilda R. Wilson (see previous page). At the estate auction, the painting was purchased by famed dance studio instructor Arthur Murray. The painting depicts warriors in red with bronze helmets who can be recognized as the Gauls during the Roman times of France. The gargantuan forest encapsulates the majority of the right composite of the scene and a small town can be seen in the background along with a crystal blue sky. Sold for \$610,000 in 2015, *Les Gaulois* is now in a private American collection.

A favorite painting of many early Oakland University students was *Caroline, Duchess of Marlborough* by 18th-Century English portraitist Sir Joshua Reynolds. This painting is so fondly remembered because of the prominent place it occupied above the projection booth in The Hall's ballroom. Over eleven feet tall, it was by far the largest painting in Meadow Brook's collection. The subject, dressed in rich velvets and lavish ermine furs, was the 3x great-grandmother of Sir Winston Churchill, a point that deeply pleased the Wilsons as they admired the statesman. When *Duchess of Marlborough* was for sale in 1934 at Howard Young's gallery (the Wilsons' favorite art dealer), Matilda passed on buying it. Knowing how much she liked it, her son Daniel decided to surprise her with it as a Christmas present. Heiress Doris Duke purchased it at the 1970

estate auction for her summer home, Rough Point, in Newport, Rhode Island.

This painting was difficult to track down, with even the National Portrait Gallery in London joining in the search. But with the magic of the internet, a Meadow Brook volunteer found it at Rough Point, which now operates as a house museum.

Before the portrait of *Frances on Pendennis* by George Ford Morris (early 20th-century American equestrian artist) adorned the red velvet hanging in front of the organ tower in Meadow Brook's Great Hall, the *Duke of Bracciano* by Sir Anthony Van Dyck hung there. Belgian-born Van Dyck was one of the first court portraitists in early 17th-century Europe. The sitter, Paolo Giordano II Orsini, was an Italian nobleman and art collector, the grandson of the infamous Cosimo I de Medici, the first Grand Duke of Tuscany. Since being sold at the 1970 auction, the painting was cut down by several inches and the replica will require a custom frame to create the same impact the original had when it is re-hung in the Great Hall. The painting is now in a private collection in Europe.

One of the "lost paintings" that visitors to Meadow Brook might already be familiar with is *Portrait of an Officer* by School of Rembrandt, which has stayed in Detroit since the estate sale.

When it did not reach Parke-Bernet's auction estimate of \$300-400,000, the estate donated it to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). The wife of Detroit's then-mayor, Roman S. Griggs, publicly accepted the gift for the DIA in 1972.

The painting had been exhibited at The Hague in 1893 and the DIA in



Above: *Portrait of Paolo Giordano Orsini, Duke of Bracciano, Sir Anthony Van Dyck*, c. 1625. Left: *Portrait of an Officer, Workshop of Rembrandt*, mid-1630s.



*Paintings by old masters dominated Meadow Brook's Great Hall, pictured here at Matilda's 80th birthday party, 1963.*





Portrait of a Young Nobleman, Abraham van den Tempel, c. 1650. The current location of the elusive Portrait of a Young Nobleman, partially pictured in Barbara Wilson's 1950 debut portrait, was discovered by the author.



1930, authenticated by legendary DIA director Willem Valentiner as an original Rembrandt (17th-century Dutch painter). Featured in most Rembrandt literature, Matilda Wilson believed it to be an authentic Rembrandt when she purchased it around 1928...but in recent years it was determined the Dutch master likely did not paint it himself. Instead, it is believed to have been created by one of the students in his workshop, possibly even with Rembrandt as the model.

Matilda prided herself on being an informed art buyer but then, as now, fakes, forgeries and misidentified art slipped through to the open market. The most reputable art dealer, the slickest provenance and even today's technology cannot guarantee certainty.

In a similar vein to *Portrait of an Officer*, *Portrait of a Young Nobleman* has gone through an identity crisis. When Alfred Wilson bought it as a gift to Matilda in 1928, *Portrait of a Young Nobleman: "The Duke of Monmouth"* was said to be by Bartholomeus van der Helst. By the time it was auctioned in 1970, both artist and model were in question. Today, the painting is attributed to Abraham van den Tempel; though both 17th-century artists were Dutch and painted the upper-class society, scholars believe van den Tempel to be a more accurate attribution.

The painting depicts a young man dressed in elegant hunting clothes, carrying a staff, surrounded by many pure-bred dogs. Viewers might recognize the dogs, as Barbara Wilson posed in front of this painting for her debut portrait in 1950. The painting now belongs to the Rau Collection for UNICEF housed at the Arp Museum in Germany. [Editor's note: This painting was the one found by author Dani Kenwell, a remarkable feat considering Meadow Brook Hall did not know the correct title or artist of the work.]

Alfred Wilson's study is rustic, masculine, and might even resemble a log



Below: *The tonal* Coming to the Call, Frederic Remington, 1905, hung in Alfred's Study. Left: Interior of a Forest, Narcisse Virgile Diaz, 1874, can be seen on the wall in this photo of Alfred's Study (Alfred seated at left). It was sold privately to New York art dealer James Graham when it did not reach its reserve at the 1970 estate auction; its current location is unknown.



cabin in some respects. This makes it the perfect setting for *Coming to the Call* by Frederic Remington, late 19th-century to early 20th-century American West artist, illustrator, sculptor and writer. The 1905 tonal landscape features a hunter perched in a canoe, rifle raised toward a shadowy moose. The warm colored painting hung above the cabinets on the north wall of the family den, known today as Alfred's Study. The landscape is now in a private collection. Besides this painting, Alfred had a drawing and two bronze sculptures by Remington.

Despite years of research and hard work, there continue to be works of art that elude Meadow Brook's curatorial team. These works include a 15th-century *Madonna and Child* that hung above the fireplace in the Living Room (once said to be by Andrea del Verrocchio, the artist is now unknown); the interior of a forest by Narcisse Virgile Díaz in Alfred's Study, and many bronze works depicting both animals and humans from artists such as Remington and Barye. The paintings that have been traced,

however, will soon hang again at Meadow Brook Hall, thanks to the relentless research and the inspired support of project donors. MB



The Madonna and Child, *Circle of Andrea del Verrocchio* (c. 1435-1488), late 1400s, can be seen in this photo. Yet to be located, it has also been attributed to Francesco Botticini (1446-1498), Sandro Botticelli (c. 1445-1510), Domenico Ghirlandio (1448-1494) and Fra Filippo Lippi (c. 1406-1469).



Interested in helping with funding frame reconstructions for the painting replications? Contact Meadow Brook Hall Curator Madelyn Rzakdowski at 248.364.6253 or rzakdowo@oakland.edu



—A PLACE OF REFUGE—

# Munuscong Hunting & Fishing Club

BY MADELYN RZADKOWSKI



As current events encourage us to appreciate the natural beauty and refuge outside our doors – perhaps more than we ever have before – this two-part series will explore how John and Horace Dodge enjoyed the great outdoors, and how an enduring gift continues to benefit Michiganders.

After growing up in the small town of Niles, Michigan, which was perched on the peaceful banks of the St. Joseph River, brothers John and Horace Dodge throughout their all-too-short lives shared an enduring affection for the slower paces and prettier panoramas of country life. Though their careers as machinists constrained them to living in cities – with ready work and easy access to transport lines – the brothers used their burgeoning wealth to secure recreational opportunities for themselves, their friends and families, and later for many of those who contributed to their success as auto pioneers.

In the early years, John and Horace joined the ranks of the average city dweller yearning for outdoor pursuits. They raced bicycles on the ready track of Belle Isle, an oblong island park in Detroit. When the snow fell, flooded grass lots gave the Detroit Curling Club a practice sheet until the river froze

*Editor's Note: The rivers, bay and park of Munuscong were spelled as Munoskong for the first half of the century, including when the Dodge brothers visited; this article will use its modern-day spelling throughout.*

over, presenting a smooth surface for the brothers' brooms to sweep their curling stones along. The Detroit River also provided for ice yachting in the winter and cruising or racing their custom-built boats and yachts in the summer.

Once the brothers saw some success from their role in making Detroit the "Motor City," they had the money to seek more pastoral pursuits outside the noise and dirt of the city. In 1908, Ford Motor Company's Model T was released: it would famously "put America on wheels" and secure the standing of Henry Ford and his largest parts providers, John and Horace Dodge. The same year, John and new wife Matilda purchased the first 320 acres of Meadow Brook Farms, their country farm 25 miles north of Detroit. It would become a welcome weekend retreat for their friends and family, particularly once John built a private clubhouse with an indoor pool and adjacent 9-hole golf course.

(See "It Wasn't All Work..." on page 20 of MEADOW BROOK MAGAZINE, Fall 2015, for more on the clubhouse.) Meadow Brook Farms was also a safe haven for employees at the Dodge Brothers factory (to be explored in Part Two).

It didn't take long for the brothers to look farther afield for a break. In 1906, Dr. J. A. Cameron, who had studied at Detroit College of Medicine but moved to Pickford in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for the fresh air and hunting, joined with five Detroiters to create a game reserve in Pickford. The Munuscong Hunting & Fishing Club was located on the marshy shoreline of Munuscong Bay and a stretch of the St. Mary's River. The 2,000-acre preserve abounded with waterfowl, fish and game and boasted enduring views of the natural beauty of upper Michigan.

Dr. Cameron wished to make the club a "hunter's paradise" where members could "combine good companionship with the hunt." Club membership remained small so gentle-



men could be carefully chosen for their love of nature and respect for the sportsmanship of hunting. A small clubhouse and bunkhouses were built and gamekeepers lived on-site year-round. The club also sought to improve the natural resources of the site so it could remain a sustainable source of game and fish for perpetuity. They grew wild turnips and placed salt licks

*Opposite: John Dodge (right) and friends pose with their fresh catch, c.1915.*

*From top: The modern 5-bedroom bungalow John Dodge built, 1914; the cabin's east elevation, 1913; Horace (left) and John (right) with founding member Fred Postal, c.1914.*





to attract deer, sowed wild rice and celery in the marshes for the water-fowl and planted wheat for the partridges. Hunting and fishing were limited at times to allow for breeding and maturation of the animals.

To reach the club, members took a train to Sault Ste. Marie, then either a stagecoach 22 miles to the village of Pickford where a private 3-mile drive led to the club, or they took a naphtha launch (a small boat powered by a naphtha engine, popular in America due to a law requiring all steam boats to have a licensed engineer aboard at all times) to the dock.

John and Horace had become members by 1913, possibly through their friendships with founding members Oliver N. Gardner, manager of Otis Elevator Co., and Fred Postal, proprietor of the Griswold Hotel (where the Detroit Rotary Club was founded in 1910 and the Kiwanis Club was founded in 1915). In 1913, Horace and Fred Postal engaged in a real estate deal to build a new hotel, though plans fell through due to World War I. Other early members were Detroiters A. A. Schantz, president of Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co., William Essig, prominent nursery owner, James R. Hayes, proprietor of the Wayne Hotel, Oscar M. Springer, attorney, George Stroh, who ran a variety of businesses and in-

vented products for his family's brewery, and Dr. George Osius of Michigan Ammonia Co.

In 1913, John built a modern cabin on the property, a more comfortable lodge than the rustic bunkhouses that dotted the land. Built of white pine and cedar, the lodge boasted a large living room with built-in gun racks, a large porch and four bedrooms which shared one bathroom. The housekeeper's suite contained a second private bathroom. A tin-lined locker in the kitchen kept preserves safe from critters during the off-season.



Top: From left, Oliver Gardner, John, Horace and Fred Postal, c.1914. Bottom: Horace (left) and John (center) in front of the clubhouse, c.1915.

Family photographs reveal the excellent fishing and hunting as well as the lively personalities of the members. Cartoon caricatures were popular at the time and were in evidence at the Club. Many of the members, including John and Horace, were featured in a 1905 publication called *Our Michigan Friends as We See 'Em*, with newspaper cartoonists drawing likenesses of over 1,200 Michiganders. Similar drawings, but depicting the Munuscong Hunting & Fishing Club members at play (for example, dreaming of Daniel Boone, telling fish to lay eggs) were printed in a full-page article in *The Detroit Free Press* in 1906 (opposite page). Members must have admired the cartoons because in 1916, an artist mimicked the earlier drawings on a leather wall-hanging featuring the newer members. Horace Dodge drills open the mouth of a fish while John shouts “he’s a bear!” while he shoots at a man flying in the air (a direct allusion to the 1906 drawing, suggesting the joke was a keeper). John’s shot frightens Oliver Gardner, who is playing cards with Detroit mayor Oscar Marx, a close friend of the brothers.

The new lodge made Munuscong a popular vacation spot for the Dodge





*A leather wall-hanging (above) featuring John & Horace Dodge mimics the caricatures of other club members created when the club first opened, like the one of brewery heir George Stroh (right) using a liquor bottle as a fishing boat anchor.*

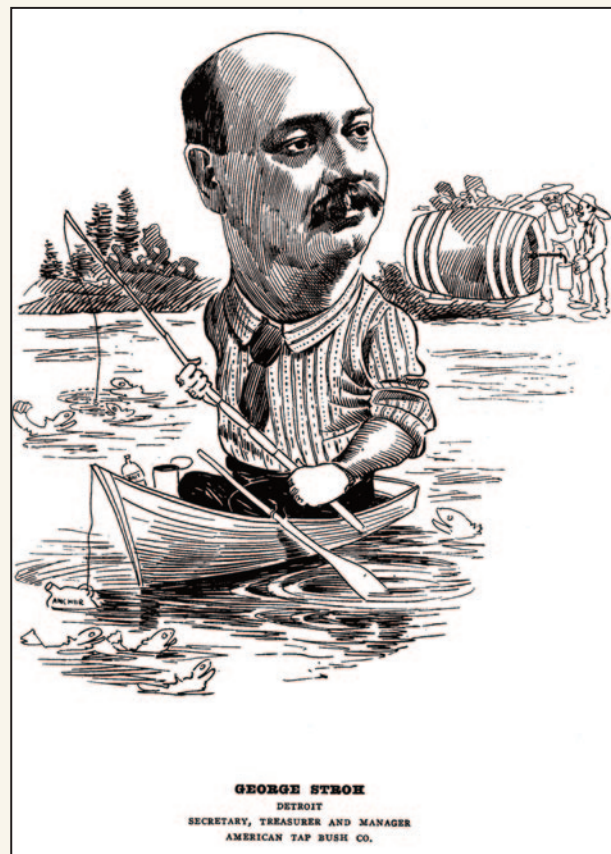
family members as well. In July of 1914, Horace and Anna Dodge brought friends up on their yacht *Nokomis*. Horace's yachts were often brought to Munuscong, although the marshy, narrow channels leading to the bay necessitated that they be anchored in Georgian Bay (where John's son Daniel would later buy his own hunting lodge). In November, John and Detroit Mayor Oscar Marx brought their wives up for a hunting trip. In 1923, Horace Jr. brought 10 of his friends up on the family yacht, *Delphine*, for what was likely the last Dodge trip to Munuscong. John and Horace Sr. had both died in 1920. Many of the other members, who had

been older than the brothers, had passed in prior years, permanently altering the dynamic of the group.

In 1924, the leadership of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company approached Munuscong Hunting & Fishing Club with an offer that would honor the original intentions of the club but also venerate the men who had treasured the land for decades. Dodge Brothers purchased the 2,400-acre property and donated it to the State of Michigan to be a public park. Dodge Brothers

noted John and Horace not only enjoyed the recreation and camaraderie they found there, but genuinely loved the land itself. Dodge Brothers President Frederick Haynes, longtime colleague and friend of the brothers, said that Munuscong, "beloved as it was by the founders of the business, should be preserved to the public as a memorial to those two men who so loved the outdoors and who wished to do so much for their fellow-men."

The new Munuscong State Park, valued at \$80,000, had six miles of shoreline, rare white pine, a variety of oak, spruce, maple and fruit trees, wild flowers and a variety of animals. Six-hundred acres was designated as a wildfowl refuge, with the marshland naturally providing a safe breeding ground for native and migratory waterfowl. Dr. Karl Christofferson was appointed superintendent of the park by the State Department of Conservation in 1927. He noted the abundance of native an-



imals, including bear, moose, coyotes, bobcats, beaver, mink, ruffed grouse, black-crowned night herons, evening grosbeaks, pine siskins and black duck, among others.

The former estate buildings were rented to vacationers, Boy Scouts and the Michigan Horticultural Society. A campground was established three miles from the main camp and a 50-foot-tall spruce log tourist observation tower was built in the woods by the Dunbar CCC Camp in the 1930s in an effort to attract visitors. As a state park, hunting was prohibited and the marshy shoreline prevented a swimming beach from being built. The lure of natural beauty – but not much else – was not enough for the masses of tourists to flock to rural Munuscong State Park. In 1962, the Dodge Lodge was sold, chain-sawed in half, and hauled by bulldozer across the frozen Munuscong Bay to Rocky Point, which was being touted as a new resort property. The lodge was never rejoined; one half remains a residence in Rocky Point subdivision and the other half was destroyed in a fire shortly after the move.

The isolation of the park, which was so treasured by the club members, led to the demise of it as a state park, with the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Conservation seemingly taking turns abandoning and restoring the property. But the very seclusion which made it disagreeable as a popular tourist location has allowed it to remain an important source for ecological research, even after the wildlife refuge was officially removed in the 1950s. In 1995, the Munuscong Wildlife Area Management Plan went into effect; its objectives were to remove an obsolete dike system and restore the open dynamics of the marsh, maintain grasslands and wetlands, improve public use and acquire coastal marshlands to have a more complete ecological system which could operate on its own with limited DNR upkeep. The idea



was that without human intervention, the habits, changes and evolutions of the plants, animals and waterways can be better observed and preserved. In 2015, this plan was updated to include some intervention to prevent issues caused by invasive species and climate change.

Today, Munuscong is a state forest, part of the Lake Superior State Forest range. There are miles of trails and 26 rustic campsites in the park, which boasts almost 8,000 acres; and hunting is now permitted. It is valued by residents and environmental researchers alike as a pristine example of untouched forest and marsh.

Perhaps it was the terms of the gift from Dodge Brothers that have saved the land: it was a free gift, to be used however the state declared, as long as it was a park for the people of Michigan. **MB**

**UP NEXT (SPRING 2021):**  
*Dodge Excursions*



*Top: In 1921, Munuscong members welcomed Dodge Brothers executives for a week-long trip to the place John and Horace had loved. Bottom: Fred Haynes, longtime friend and colleague, and John Dodge on a yachting trip c.1916. Haynes took over leadership of Dodge Brothers when John and Horace both died from influenza in 1920.*



# Keys to the Kingdom

BY KIM ZELINSKI



In the exterior entrance vestibule to Meadow Brook Hall, attached to a bracket and chain, hangs an ornamental relic, hand forged in iron and detailed with a crown-like design in its bow. The relic, an oversized skeleton key roughly 12 inches long, is displayed as a figurative symbol that is often associated with success, wisdom, status and power – including the metaphorical rule over everything from empires and kingdoms to single households.

While this key was intended to be a decorative object, it also numbers one of a vast collection of keys that make up one of the largest inventories of artifacts in The Hall. The key collection, numbering in the hundreds, opened locks to every door in every room including wardrobes and cabinets. And, adding to this were the special keys belonging to clocks, trunks, desks, decorative boxes, equipment, padlocks and numerous outbuildings on the estate. No question that a collection of this size needed to be carefully guarded and its management entrusted to one specific “keeper of the keys,” which at Meadow Brook Hall was one Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson.

The systematic organization of keys originated during the construction of Meadow Brook Hall when architect William Kapp of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls created an inventory protocol for the pending arrival of approximately 1,500 door hardware parts, including keys. The supplier, hardware artisans Ostrander and Eshelman of New York, were personally commissioned by owners Matilda and Alfred Wilson in 1928 to fulfill his tall order.

Kapp’s system involved recording and issuing the hardware to one person who would carefully place each door’s various components into a heavy manila bag and lock the items in a room (another key!) Kapp also directed that “under no circumstances are keys to be issued to anyone.”



Adding, that when delivered they were to be numbered with the associated lock, tested for operation, tagged and delivered to the owners.

In theory, the system was well thought out, however, when pilfering of hardware pieces and the possession of keys by unauthorized persons

began, Matilda Wilson was compelled to send back some 36 padlocks to Ostrander and Eshelman to be re-set. Ultimately, the security of keys fell to Smith Hinchman & Grylls superintendent, C.E. Murray. In this subsequent plan, which began in March of 1929, the house was systematically released to the owners on a room-by-room basis. Because the installation of hardware was the final task implemented by the general contractor, once it was completed, Murray would inspect the room, lock it and turn the keys over to the Wilsons. After that, the interior decoration of the rooms could begin. This practice not only reduced the chances of damage to the finished room, it also lessened the number of persons handling keys.

Around this time, Matilda learned that Murray made hand-crafted furniture. She gave him several small commissions, including a uniquely designed key cabinet. Murray’s correspondence to Matilda provided a description of the case: “Herewith [is a] drawing of key case according to your ideas. If you will be so kind as to make your suggestions, I will be glad to incorporate them in a new drawing. The case would serve your needs in a first-class manner as there will be ample hook facilities, 48 to the sec-



*Above: iron key at entrance vestibule;  
below: Meadow Brook Estate padlocks.*



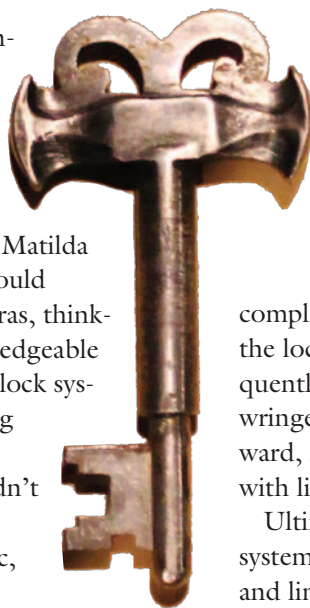


tion or 480 all told.” Given the fears the Wilsons had over the security of keys, he reassured her that “This drawing has not been blue printed therefore after[ward] leaves no records on hand.” Murray charged Matilda a discounted fee of \$1,247 and had it installed in her Morning Room vault.

The hardware provided by Ostrander & Eshleman was in part custom pieces fabricated by their in-house artisans, part commissions by 15 additional suppliers. The inventory of keys, depending on the type of door as well as its decorative merit, varied from the ornately designed skeleton keys made with either an iron or gold finish, to the more utilitarian Yale keys used for cabinets and padlocks. Given the large number of keys, important to Matilda was the ability to open the locks with a single master key. As such, two levels of master keys were provided: a “residence master key” and Matilda’s “grand master” key, which allowed her and her alone access to specific rooms such as the fur

and china vaults.

Matilda’s management of the key collection was what the late George Karas referred to as her “tremendous planning.” Karas, hired in 1957 as Matilda’s eighteenth engineer (and subsequently the first employee of Oakland University) recalled in a 1996 interview a suggestion he made to Matilda for what he thought would make her life easier. Karas, thinking he was quite knowledgeable about the scope of the lock system, proposed changing all of the locks in The Hall. While Matilda didn’t outright say no, her response was a diplomatic, “I would rather you wouldn’t do that”—pointing out that he was her eighteenth engineer and if there were to be a nineteenth, she needed to know about the lock system so she could train him.



*Above: gold-plated keys for Matilda Wilson's bedroom suite; Below: key for Alfred Wilson's Study door; Right: Matilda's desk drawer. Far right: key case in Matilda's Morning Room vault.*

Matilda later related to Karas the story about an incident that occurred to her young daughter Frances Dodge, who wanted to get into the farmhouse laundry room. A gardener graciously complied with her request, opening the locked room where Frances consequently injured her hand on the wringer washer. From that time forward, Matilda had her system keyed with limited staff access.

Ultimately, Matilda’s key access system for the estate basically divided, and limited, staff access to their respective work spaces. Karas explained that the mechanical engineer’s access was to the lower floor, and the houseman literally could not get down into the basement where all the mechanical

equipment was. Likewise, the mechanical engineer couldn’t get up to the other floors unless the houseman accompanied him.

However, in later years, Karas was briefly bestowed the grand master key when the Wilsons visited their home in Arizona, but only after he was given an eight-hour instructional tour of the estate buildings with Matilda. After the tour, Karas recalls a confident Matilda saying, “I’ll see you in April or the Spring.” Karas actually needed to use that master key to have a leak repaired at Sunset Terrace, the second home the Wilsons had built on the Meadow Brook property in 1957. Upon the Wilsons return, Matilda acknowledged the repair work and then politely asked to have the key back. Karas remembers that he both respectfully and nervously handed back the “golden key.”



Family members were not exempt from Matilda’s strict key management. In fact, Alfred and Matilda’s son, Richard, was not given a key to the house until he was a responsible 21 years of age. Prior to that, the watchman would let him in and out at the side door. And, Richard, unhappily, had to check in with Matilda to let her know when he returned home, no matter the time.

While the key case in the Morning Room vault housed the majority of the keys, Matilda also wore a large ring of keys around her wrist. When visitors were given a tour of The Hall, Matilda often brought along the ring

to open doors and bring objects out of cabinets, allowing guests to take a closer look. Toting this ring of keys around the house could also prove to be an annoyance to her, particularly when it came to The Hall’s laundry room. Matilda was known to personally sort her own laundry, usually at night. On several occasions she left the keys behind on a table. Because the door’s mechanism automatically locked when it closed, Matilda had to place late night calls to Frank Rewold, her personal carpenter and jack-of-all-trades (and in later years his son, Roy Rewold) to come out and pick the

door’s lock to retrieve her key ring.

Today, metal keys seem doomed for extinction, replaced with electronic access controls, such as the device currently installed at The Hall’s service door. However, the historic collection of keys that still hang in the special case in the Morning Room vault is a remarkable glimpse into an important security operation of days gone by on the Meadow Brook estate and Matilda Wilsons’s unique and well-played role as the “keeper of the keys.” (See related article on page 32.) **MB**






# Persistence is Key

BY RACHEL AND ANNA GAUDREAU

Matching keys to locks seems like a simple task but at Meadow Brook Hall, where nothing is ordinary, the task proved to be anything but simple. It's no surprise that an estate the size of Meadow Brook has over a thousand keys to doors and furniture. This summer, we took on the task of sorting, labeling, and organizing those keys.

The "Key Project," as we affectionately dubbed it, meant sorting through the keys that were already labeled and an even bigger pile of keys that were unlabeled. We first thought taking these keys around the mansion and trying to match them to anything with a lock was a good idea. We spent days exploring The Hall, and as we learned more about the rooms and furniture it became clear this was not the best strategy. Instead, we began comparing the unlabeled keys to those that were already identified. This proved to be more successful and lowered the number of unknown keys.

We were also faced with locks that no longer existed. The 24 keys to the original service elevator cab that was replaced during a 2014 renovation project was a revelation!

As with most things, persistence pays off. Every time we matched a key to a lock we felt successful and the pile of unlabeled keys has almost completely diminished. There are some mysteries left for us to solve like the key labeled "small table in AGW bathroom". Next time you tour The Hall, you'll notice that there isn't a small table in Alfred Wilson's bathroom with a lock! 

*Rachel (standing) and Anna Gaudreau are a sophomore and senior, respectively, at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills, MI. They proposed an unpaid internship at Meadow Brook for this past summer and fall, supervised by Senior Director of Operations and Estate Development Kim Zelinski. Their work – and work ethic – were invaluable and much appreciated. – ed.*



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