

# Ellen Axson Wilson HOMECOMING 2014

## THE ART EXHIBITION

JULY - OCTOBER 2014  
AT OAK HILL & THE MARTHA BERRY MUSEUM

The Rome Area Council for the Arts (RACA) and Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum will celebrate the life and art of Ellen Axson Wilson with an exhibition of 19 of her paintings on loan from the Woodrow Wilson House, a National Trust Historic Site, Washington, D.C., and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, VA.

According to RACA President, Emily Hjort, "This is one of the most significant art exhibitions to take place in Rome, Georgia in many years. Not only did Ellen Axson Wilson receive acclaim for many reasons as First Lady, she was also a very talented artist."

The Martha Berry Museum has worked for more than a year to coordinate the exhibition that will be hung in the museum's main gallery. Timothy Brown, Director of Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum, says that another significant painting of Ellen and her daughters will accompany the Ellen Wilson paintings. This painting, by American Impressionist Robert Vonnoh, features the First Lady serving tea to her three daughters. It was probably painted in Cornish, NH, during the summer of 1913. There are also several Ellen Wilson paintings in Georgia that may be added to the exhibition, including one from the Sara Hightower Regional Library.

In February 1913, a month before Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President of the United States, an exhibition of 25 of Ellen's oil painting opened in a gallery in Philadelphia. Many of the paintings sold, and Ellen donated the proceeds to The Berry Schools in Rome in memory of her brother Edward, who perished in a tragic drowning accident in the Etowah River (near Canton) in 1905.

The exhibition will be open to the public during Museum hours. Photographs, news articles and other memorabilia recalling Ellen Axson Wilson's life and her funeral in Rome will also be on display. Docents trained in the history the former First Lady and her paintings will be available to tour with groups, by appointment.

For more information about this exhibition, call Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum at (706) 368-6789, or visit the website at: [oakhillmuseum.com](http://oakhillmuseum.com)



A 1913 News article about Ellen Axson Wilson's Philadelphia art exhibit. She donated the proceeds of paintings sold to The Berry Schools.



This oil painting by Robert Vonnoh of Ellen Axson Wilson and her daughters will also be part of the Rome exhibit.