

FIRST LADY

Ellen Axson Wilson

MAY 15, 1860 - AUGUST 6, 1914

Wife of Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States

Born in Savannah, Georgia on May 15, 1860

Moved to Rome, Georgia in March 1866

Graduated from the Rome Female College in 1876

Attended the New York Art Student League, 1884-85

Her father, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Edward Axson, was pastor of Rome's First Presbyterian Church, 1866-1883, where Woodrow Wilson first saw her, April 8, 1883. They were married in Savannah in June 24, 1885. The Wilsons were parents of three daughters.

A gifted painter, she contributed to humanitarian causes, including The Berry Schools. As America's First Lady, she advocated for improved working conditions for women and better housing for Washington's poor. Eleanor Roosevelt considered Mrs. Wilson a mentor on social issues and an inspiration to her and future First Ladies to champion their own agendas. She was also the First Lady who designed and established the White House Rose Garden.

Ellen Wilson died on August 6, 1914, in the White House. A memorial service was held at Rome's First Presbyterian Church on August 11, 1914, followed by burial at Myrtle Hill Cemetery beside the graves of her parents.

First Lady, Princeton University, 1902-1910

First Lady, New Jersey, 1911-1912

First Lady of the United States,

March 4, 1913 - August 6, 1914



FIRST LADY

Ellen Axson Wilson HOMECOMING 2014



Events & Exhibitions

July - October - Exhibition of Ellen Axson Wilson's paintings at The Martha Berry Museum

August 11 - Centennial Memorial Service at First Presbyterian Church of Rome

September 11 - Lecture at Berry College by Pulitzer Prize Nominee, Kristie Miller, author of *Ellen & Edith, Woodrow Wilson's First Ladies*

September 13 - Ellen Axson Wilson Gala at Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum

Fall 2014 (dates TBA) - Exhibitions of Ellen Axson Wilson Photos and Memorabilia at Rome Area History Museum and Sara Hightower Regional Library

Fall 2014 - Announcement of a permanent legacy for Ellen Axson Wilson in Rome, Georgia — A bronze statue of Mrs. Wilson at a prominent Rome location



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ART STUDENT LEAGUE



ABOVE: An oil painting by Ellen Axson Wilson, *Landscape in Spring*.

RIGHT: Painting by Robert Vonnoh, *Ellen and Her Daughters at Tea*. Both paintings are included in the exhibition at The Martha Berry Museum.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.romearts.org or www.oakhillmuseum.com or call 706-368-6789