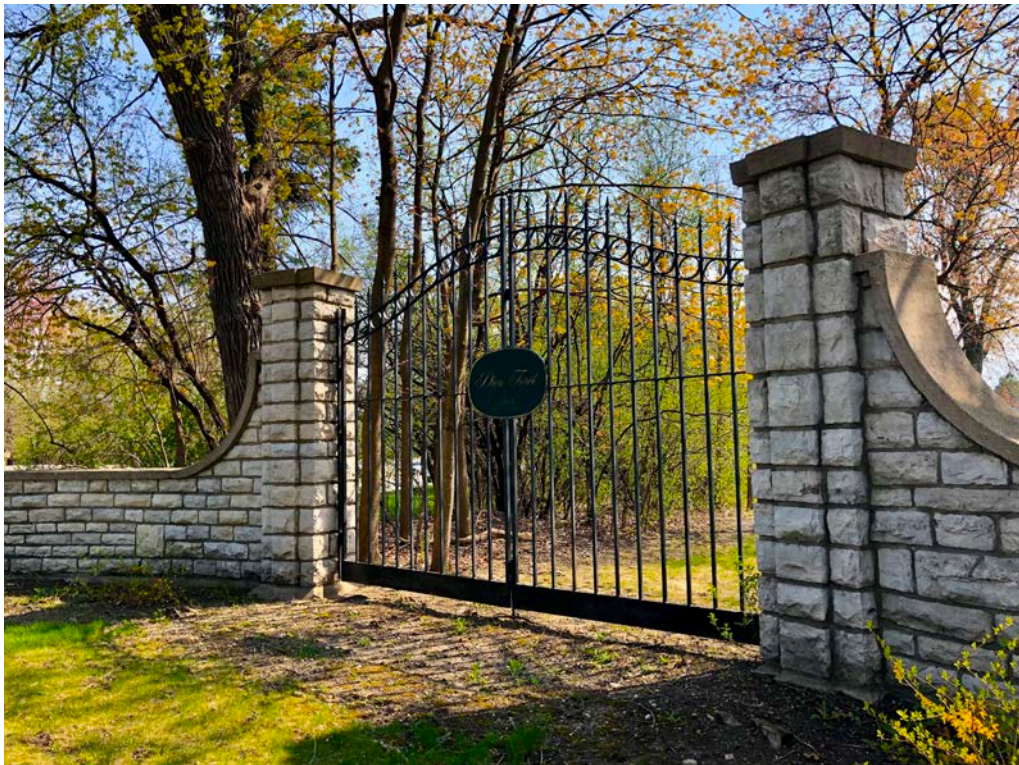


# ARCADY FARM AND ITS NEIGHBORS

## HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

### LAKE FOREST, IL



THE ARCADY GATE,  
NOW ENTRANCE TO DIEU FORET

## Walking Route for Historic Arcady Farm Tour

NORTH





AS IT WAS IN 1920, ARCADY FARMS' ENTRANCE GATE, MANOR HOUSE & SQUARE

NORTH ←

MELLODY FARMS' RAILWAY BRIDGE AND ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY FROM WAUKEGAN ROAD



1

**Begin at Christ Church at 100 N. Waukegan Road at the NW corner of Kennedy Road (a/ka Townline Road and Illinois Route 60).**



With its simple Puritan white architecture and cluster of buildings, the Christ Church complex has created a town square evoking the Gentleman's Farm called Arcady built on this location in 1907 by Chicago millionaire Arthur Meeker.<sup>1</sup>



**PHOTOS OF ARCADY FARM ARE COURTESY OF HISTORY CENTER OF LF - LB**



**ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF BESS BOWER DUNN MUSEUM**

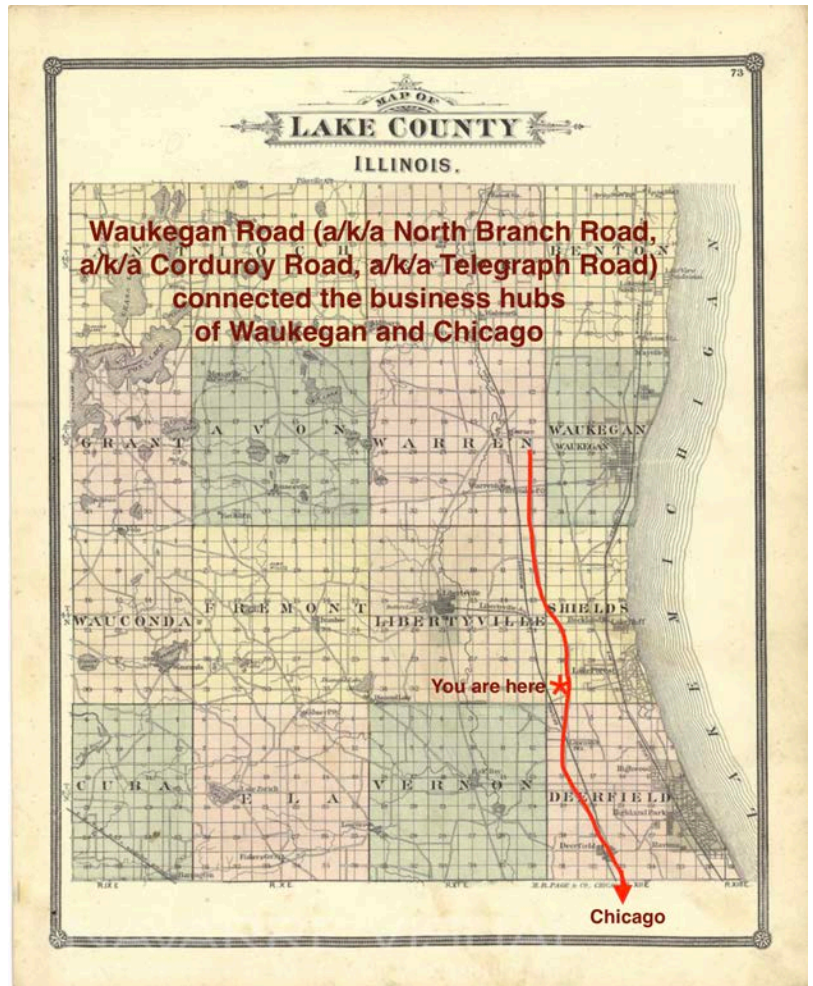


**Proceed north on Waukegan Road to Melody Road.** In the 1840s, Melody Road connected Kennedy Road directly to Waukegan Road. [See map on p. 4.] Later Kennedy Road was extended eastward to form a right-angle intersection with Waukegan, ending at S. Skokie Highway/US 41.

Originally, this land was home to the Potawatomi, who were relocated by the Indian Removal act in 1836 and soon replaced by mostly Irish settlers, such as J. W. Kennedy, for whom Kennedy Road (IL Route 60) is named. Another early settler was Martin Melody, who claimed his portion of the land in 1840, and whose name is given to Melody Road. In 1849 the Melody family, under Patrick Melody, offered their farm to create the bricks for St. Patrick Catholic Church and its adjacent parish house, as well as to house all the workers. J. W. Kennedy donated land for the original location for St. Patrick Church, where Christ Church now stands. After several fires, St. Patrick was relocated in 1908 to its present location, at the intersection of Waukegan and Everett roads.<sup>2</sup>

The wetlands were prized by game hunters for deer and water fowl. Although the land had only been used for simple hunting and farming, in the late 1800s rich Chicagoans began to view it as a way to escape the summer heat of the city and to develop gentleman farms. Multimillionaire J. Ogden Armour bought 1000 acres west of Waukegan Road, and in addition gave 100 acres to his friend and business associate Arthur Meeker. Both the Armours and the Meekers created gentleman farms on their Lake Forest properties with Arthur Heun as their architect. Heun designed an idyllic estate, Arcady Farm, for the Meekers on the Melody land in 1907. Its handsome collection of English style half-timbered and stucco buildings included a manor house, cow and horse barns, pig pens, sheep pens, chicken runs, haylofts, a workshop, dairy, several lodgings for all the help, a playhouse, treehouse, and other structures that formed a small village around a square along Waukegan Avenue and north of what is now Illinois Route 60.<sup>3</sup>

Waukegan Road was built to connect two industrial hubs, the cities of Chicago and Waukegan (originally called Little Fort or *wakaigin* in Potawatomi). Waukegan Road was also known as The North Branch Road, since it followed the North Branch of the Chicago River. Sections of Waukegan were known as The Corduroy Road, based on the logs laid corduroy-style along short bridges and through wetlands to make the road passable. Other portions were called Telegraph Road, since it ran next to the telegraph line.<sup>4</sup> Despite the Potawatomi being forced to leave, their name Waukegan has stayed, for both the town and the road.





The gate on your left at Melody and Waukegan Roads marked the entrance to Arthur and Grace Meeker's Arcady Farm, named after the legendary Greek paradise called Arcady, home to the fun-loving god Pan. Arcady Farm's Norman-style barn and other buildings on the corner of Waukegan and Townline Road were razed in 1979. Deciding the location was perfect for a new church complex, a member of Christ Church donated ten acres nearest the intersection for the construction of a new building in 1986.<sup>5</sup> Another 50 acres of Arcady Farm land was added. In order to fund their sizable new campus, the church sold two-acre parcels for housing and added a plaque to the Arcady gate, officially replacing the pagan name "Arcady" with "Dieu Foret" (French for "Forest of God"). Thus, in this location, first came the Potawatomie who invoked the Great Spirit and Maker of the Earth Wi'saka for wisdom; next it was settler J. Melody who helped build St. Patrick's Catholic Church; then the Meekers referenced the Greek god Pan on their estate here; and now Christ Church gives homage to their Christian religion in this area.

**After pondering that, but before going further, note two strange things:**

**First**, observe that the street sign west of Waukegan is written 'MELODY' while street signs east of Waukegan read 'MELLODY' — which has created a great deal of confusion. It's not because someone at the street sign factory couldn't spell, however. As noted earlier, the English language has many words with historical influences, and Melody/Mellody is one.

The two spellings go back to 1900 when J. Ogden Armour purchased the land from the Melody family in order to create his luxurious 1000 acre gentleman's farm. Mrs. Armour preferred the more distinctive spelling of *Mellody*, so that became the name of their estate. Armour then gifted Arthur Meeker, one of his business partners, with 100 acres, bordering Townline Road on the south and Waukegan Road on the east. The Meekers kept the name 'Melody Road' on their property, but as the road crossed Waukegan Road and continued to the east, its name was changed to 'Mellody Road' by others who obviously shared Mrs. Armour's preference in spelling.

**Second**, look northward along the western sidewalk on Waukegan. Note that the sidewalk and the fencing dramatically curve toward the street in one place. Why is that?



**Go west onto Melody Road until you come to the first two driveways on your right to discover why the fence and sidewalk curve outward toward the street.**

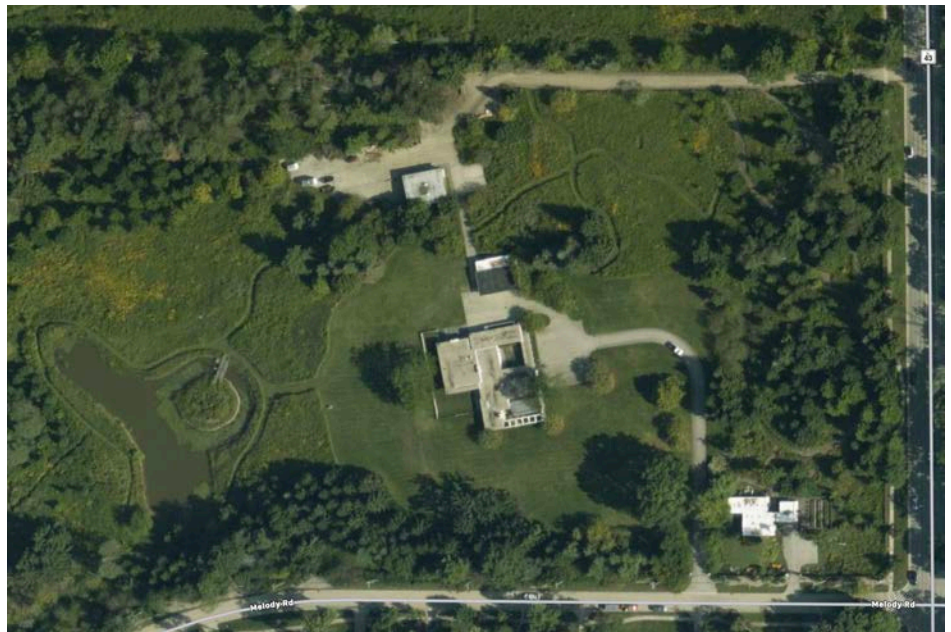
**3**

**1050 MELODY ROAD**



On your right are **1030 AND 1050 MELODY ROAD**, the former Elliott and Ann Donnelley estate, which had also been part of Arcady Farm. Situated on 21 acres of land, the Donnelley's 6,580 square foot modern house was designed in 1955 by Walter Frazier. Elliott Donnelley was vice chairman of the Chicago printing firm R. R. Donnelley & Sons, a global provider of printed materials, such as encyclopedias, catalogs, and telephone directories. Walter Frazier's architectural portfolio included homes, hotels, and banks in Chicago and on the North Shore; in fact, Frazier had designed an earlier home for the Donnelleys in Lake Forest. Surrounded by formal gardens on three sides, the 4 bedroom, 5.5 bathroom, glass and brick main house has floor-to-ceiling windows for panoramic views of the spacious property. Rustic and formal landscaping includes bluestone terraces, garden walls, a fountain, and sizable pond, the home of large chorus frogs whose harmonious croaking filled the summer evenings while the Donnelleys were in residence.

The Donnelley's three bedroom/two car garage guest house was later added to the estate. Now with its own address at **1030 MELODY ROAD**, the guesthouse was designed by Ike Coburn, a prolific architect well known for his modernist designs, many of which are situated along the Chicago North Shore and the University of Chicago campus.<sup>6</sup>



**But what about that large bulge in the fencing along the eastern border that you saw?** In the 1930s, Elliott Donnelley founded a large scale model railroad business before he became chairman of R. R. Donnelley. Upon retirement, Mr. Donnelley bought the 21 acre property at **1030 MELODY ROAD**, once part of Arcady Farm.

Here Mr. Donnelley erected his own private scale steam railroad, complete with several acres of tracks and landscaping to enjoy his passion of railroads with fellow enthusiasts. **The railway layout is the answer to the bulging fence question: the model railroad tracks veered close to Waukegan Road at this point and later fencing followed the tracks, not the road.**

The aerial photo shows the Donnelleys' garden train layout for the gauge 00 train tracks which lay north of Melody Road. Below that is a friend of the Donnelleys' in his engineer outfit, running one of the trains on their tracks.

Elliott Donnelley donated his extensive train memorabilia, art, and literature to the Donnelley Library at Lake Forest College. After his death, Donnelley heirs created a conservation easement of nine acres, maintained by Lake Forest Open Lands, that runs from Waukegan Road on the east to The Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve on its western border. In 2015, after 60 years of ownership, the Donnelley heirs sold the 21 acre estate for \$6,000,000, contingent upon the preservation of the conservation easement.

Current owners of the estate have replaced the Donnelleys' stockade fence with one of rustic vertical branches and posted "Wildlife Sanctuary." Look closely behind their fencing as you walk along Melody Road and you will see some of their wildlife plastic foxes.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARCADY FARM AND DONNELLEY ESTATE COURTESY OF HISTORY CENTER OF LAKE FOREST - LAKE BLUFF.



## Continue on Melody Road going west:

4

Building foundations and farm artifacts from **ARCADY FARM** still exist throughout Dieu Foret. For instance, a tour of **1077 MELODY ROAD'S** back yard by the owner, actor Daniel J. Travanti,<sup>7</sup> shows thick stone walls with semi-circular steps and capstones from the Arcady mansion's landscaping seen in the old photo on the right. Neighbors have unearthed barbed wire, stone fence posts, gravel roadbeds, and old farm tools.



THE WHITE GRAVEL CIRCULAR DRIVE APPROACHING THE ARCADY FARM MANSION,  
COURTESY OF WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

As you continue your walk westward along Melody Road, image **ARCADY FARM** as it was about 1910. The Norman style two story main house was a long white stucco structure with high-pitched roof, grand arches, screen porches, mammoth winding staircase, many bedrooms, and servant quarters. Because the Meekers entertained extensively, there was a “fiery kitchen” with a gargantuan coal stove, creating marvels in an atmosphere that must have removed all terrors from hell” and a large dining room which ran the whole width of the house.<sup>8</sup>

The Meekers also hired famous landscape architect Jens Jensen to create an elegant country atmosphere for the property. A long circular driveway of crushed white marble, bordered on both sides by stately elms, led to the house. In back of the house stretched an enormous lawn, boarded by more trees for privacy.

The 100 acre farm — which grew to almost 200 acres — produced and marketed the first certified milk sold in Illinois.<sup>9</sup> It also boasted a large apple orchard, a grove of beautiful oak trees, forty acres of corn, fourteen acres of flower and vegetable gardens, and quite a collection of animals. In addition to a herd of 600 milk cows, there were ponies, horses, mules, rabbits, guinea-pigs, cats, dogs, ducks, geese, peacocks, pheasants, foxes, guinea-hens, various other birds, and two buffaloes that escaped to terrorize the neighbors until the pair could be shot.

5

A large oval ring for riding ponies, hosting animal shows and other events was at **1161 MELODY**. The buckthorn trees that were planted around the ring grew into almost an acre of impenetrable woods in the decades after Arcady was sold, but have slowly been removed to create a garden with woodland paths.

## 6

**ACROSS FROM 1181 MELODY ROAD** — Note an often unmarked footpath to Melody Farms Nature Preserve across the street from 1181 Melody Road. [Bikes and dogs not allowed.] This is one of the entrances to the nine acre prairie and savanna restoration by Lake Forest Open Lands open to the public, created on the Donnelley estate property and named after J. Ogden Armour's Melody Farm estate. Mowed grass paths within the preserve can take you north to Longmeadow Lane, which was part of the original two mile driveway used by the Armours to reach their mansion from Waukegan Road. Other mowed paths can take you east to the gate on Waukegan Road or west to the Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. This area, with its with prairie flowers and woodland savanna is a gem, especially when in flower. Save this exploration for another day or do it on your way back, since you won't want to be hurried.



**THE PATH ON MELODY ROAD TO MELODY FARM USED TO BE COVERED BY A BOWER OF BUCKTHORN TREES, WHICH WERE ALL REMOVED BY OPEN LANDS IN 5/2021. ANCIENT APPLE TREES FROM ARCADY FARM'S ORCHARDS STILL EXIST IN THE AREA.**



**COMPASS FLOWERS — FOUND IN MELODY FARM —CAN GROW UP TO TEN FEET TALL AND ARE NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIES. BIRDS USE THEM AS PERCHES AND AS A SOURCE OF SEEDS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO FARMED FOR BIOGAS PRODUCTION.**



**Continue westward on Melody to the intersection of Savanna Court and Rue Foret.**

**7**

**Look to your right, down Savannah Court**, which follows the route of one of the Donnelley model train tracks.

**220 SAVANNAH COURT:** Vince Vaughn, well known actor, producer, screenwriter, and comedian, often visited this family home after he graduated from Lake Forest High School in 1988. The house's dominant arches and pillars may reflect the influence of Armour's nearby Italian villa Mellody Farms. West of the back yard's putting green lies a marsh, colored with duckweed and other aquatic plants in the summer. Jensen's preserved prairie is beyond, bordered by Longmeadow Lane on the north.



**8**

**Look to your left, down Rue Foret**, which culminates with an imposing view of Christ Church.

**70 RUE FORET:** One of the original Rue Foret residents was Dr. Dulce Milanes, who delivered her first infant at age 15 in Cuba, then went on to earn her OB/GYN degree in the USA and to deliver almost 17,000 more babies before passing away in 2013 at age 88. Over 15,000 of those births were at Lake County hospitals. Dr. Milanes holds the record for delivering the most babies in the United States.<sup>10</sup>



**Turn back to look eastward on Melody Road at the lush lawns of Dieu Foret, but now imagine that it is April 14, 1917**, and that you are standing here on Arcady Farm, looking at the Meeker home with its beautiful expanse of manicured grass and lovely gardens. However, on April 14, 1917, to show support of the war effort, J. Ogden Armour and other gentleman farmers like the Meekers will have started digging up their huge lawns in Chicago and here in Lake Forest to plant potatoes in an effort to show solidarity with the war effort.<sup>11</sup> In three more days, on April 17, 1917, President Wilson will declare war on Germany. Soon other lawns throughout the US will sprout Victory Gardens.

**Also imagine standing here in 1917 at sunset** with the Meekers of Arcady Farm, watching the sun going to bed behind their meadows, “setting the whole wide western sky aflame.” Later you would look up into a pitch-black sky filled with bright stars, those “magical breathless black-and-silver nights when sleepy birds chirped from the elms on the terrace, and crickets and treefrogs rasped their serenades [only] somewhat marred by the clouds of mosquitoes.”<sup>12</sup> Other things may change, but evidently not mosquitoes.

9

## Follow the footpath extension westward from Melody Road,

which will lead you to what was the western part of Meekers' Arcady Farm and into the Armours' Mellody Farm, but is now Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. This footpath was originally part of Melody Road and was the only connection between Kennedy Road and Waukegan Road until Kennedy Road was extended eastward to what is now Highway 41. Unfortunately, revised road maps weren't always used by motorists, so large trucks were often seen going west on Melody, trying to bypass the light at Kennedy and Waukegan by cutting through what they thought was a short cut, only to have to try to turn around laboriously. Luckily, their windows were usually up, so residents didn't hear their comments.

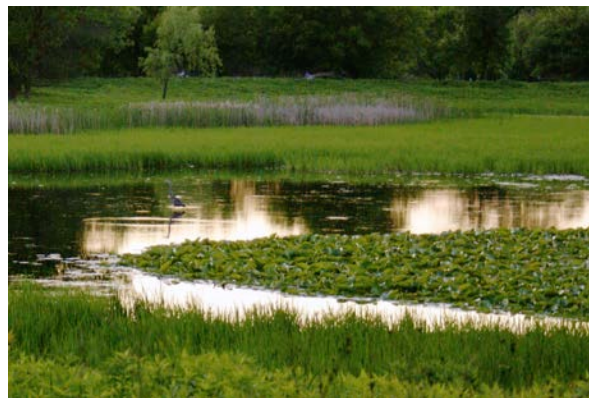
On your left is **130 RUE FORET**, a red brick Georgian house with indoor and outdoor pools, which has had an interesting, and sometimes checkered, list of owners. It has been for sale for several years by the current residents, owners of Studio41.

Behind the house you will see an Open Lands' prairie. Imagine the Meeker children playing hide and seek here in what one of them described as "a seemingly limitless field of Indian corn."<sup>13</sup> On summer nights when their parents were entertaining the Walgreens, Armours, Swifts, McCormicks, Rockefellers, Wrigleys, Ringlings, and other famous couples, the Meeker children were sometimes "farmed out" to the Mellody Farm mansion. Hurrying along this path, the children of a mere millionaire looked forward to the "ponderous pleasure palace"<sup>14</sup> where Arthur Meeker, Jr., said they happily ran wild amid the multimillionaire's expensively furnished rooms to play more games<sup>15</sup> and perhaps use the mansion's bowling alley.<sup>16</sup> The Armours' 125 house servants<sup>17</sup> must have been able to look after them.

On your right is a woodland with 200 year old burr oaks, shagbark hickories, and an occasional unfriendly looking Honey Locust. Also to your right is another marsh or slough<sup>18</sup> which attracts blue heron and white egrets. The Armours had a tribe of aggressive swans who used to terrorize anyone who came near, reported a young neighbor with personal experience.<sup>19</sup>



HONEY LOCUST



ORIGINALLY WETLANDS, THIS AREA IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING SLOUGHES, A MIXTURE OF SWAMP AND MARSH. SWAMPS ARE FORESTED WETLANDS,





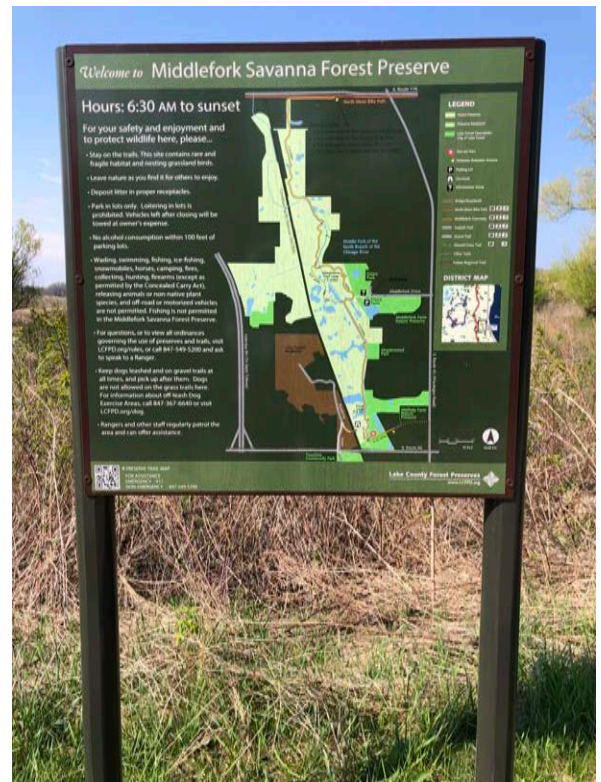
10

## Cross the Middlefork tributary of the North Branch of the Chicago River on a low concrete bridge built by the Meekers and the Armours, often used by livestock from their gentleman's farms. The Middlefork tributary begins about three miles north in Roundout, feeds into other branches of the Chicago River, and ends in Chicago about 30 miles south. The North Branch of the Chicago River is also called the Skokie Drainage Ditch, but this is not the name used by neighbors.

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Note the METRA railroad tracks ahead but turn right to follow the footpath into Lake County's Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve, formerly part of the Armour estate. The "Welcome to Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve" sign on your right is helpful in illustrating how parcels of Arcady Farm and Melody Farm have evolved. After the Armours left, the prairie landscaping created by Jens Jensen was not maintained. Depleted by heavy farming and cattle grazing, invasive buckthorn trees thickly filled the areas you see ahead of you. Open Lands has been removing the buckhorn and some other invasives, restoring some of the wetland, prairie, and large oak savannas. Depending on the season, wild flowers, such as trillium, coneflowers, shooting stars, milk weed, compass plant, bee balm, and other native species have grown back. In summer, bird watchers will find Cooper's Hawks, Mallards, Killdeer, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Blue Jays, Snipes, Sandhill Cranes, and more.

As you walk, see if you can find any of these:



**MILKWEED NECTAR ATTRACTS BEES, WASPS, AND BUTTERFLIES. NATIVE AMERICANS USED IT FOR MEDICINES AND MAKING ROPES AND STRINGS. DURING WWII, GERMANY & THE US UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED USING ITS SAP AS A RUBBER SUBSTITUTE, BUT ITS FLOSS WAS SUCCESSFULLY USED FOR INSULATION .**



**CHICORY (CICHORIUM) IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST PLANTS IN LITERATURE. ITS ROOTS WERE ROASTED BY NATIVE AMERICANS TO MAKE A COFFEE-LIKE DRINK, AND AGAIN BY AMERICANS DURING WWII WHEN COFFEE WAS RATIONED.**



**THE SHARP PRICKLES OF THE THISTLE PREVENT ANIMALS FROM EATING IT, BUT ITS POLLEN IS USED BY BEES, ITS SEEDS EATEN BY GOLDFINCHES AND OTHER BIRDS, ITS LEAVES USED BY BUTTERFLY LARVAE, AND ITS DOWN GATHERED TO LINE BIRD NESTS.**



11

Soon on your left you will see a utilitarian steel and wooden planked pedestrian and bicycle bridge crossing the METRA railroad tracks.<sup>20</sup> A slim and elegant concrete bridge was originally there, built by the Armours in 1909<sup>21</sup> to carry guests from the entrance on Waukegan Road to their elegant mansion. The new 221 foot long steel and timber bridge was installed in 2018 in less than three hours with freight trains still passing underneath!! Children especially enjoy watching passing trains from the bridge. If you want to take a side trip to look at the view from the bridge, return to this path.



IF YOU COME AT THE RIGHT TIME, THE HILL LEADING TO THE BRIDGE WILL BE COVERED IN BLUE AND PINK WILD PHLOX. OTHER TIMES YOU'LL SEE QUEEN ANN'S LACE, WILD IRIS, AND OTHER WILD PRAIRIE FLOWERS.

THE TOP TWO PHOTOGRAPHS (COURTESY OF HISTORY CENTER OF LAKE FOREST - LAKE BLUFF) SHOW J. OGDEN ARMOUR'S ORIGINAL CONCRETE BRIDGE CROSSING OVER THE METRA RAILROAD TRACKS. IT WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1954, BUT REMNANTS ON EITHER END NOW BOOKEND THE CURRENT BRIDGE, SHOWN ON THE BOTTOM RIGHT.



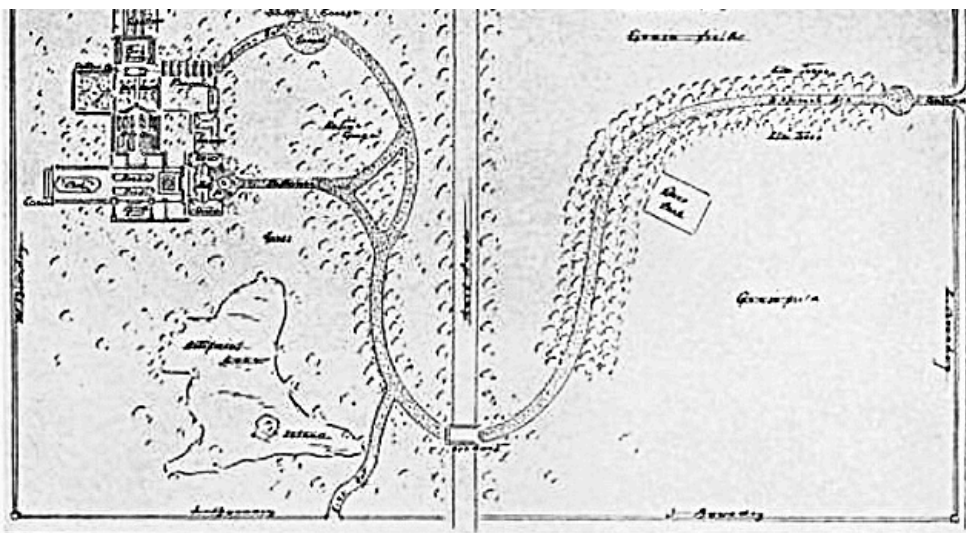


On the other side of the bridge, but out of sight, lies Melody Farm mansion, J. Ogden Armour's 20 room Italian revivalist home, which was also designed by Arthur Heun. Because the Armour fortune came from its meat-packing empire, one wag dubbed the mansion "A palace built with pigs."<sup>22</sup> In 1928 the Armour estate was sold to a Chicago syndicate planning to create a luxury golf course. One of the buyers was Samuel Insull, founder of Commonwealth Edison Company and business partner of Thomas Edison. Hawthorn-Mellody Farms, Insull's lavish estate in Libertyville, lay just west of Melody Farm. However, Insull's highly leveraged portfolio crashed in 1929, which is said to be one of the falling dominoes that led to The Great Depression. Both Insull's Hawthorn-Mellody Farms and Armour's Melody Farm were sold at huge losses in the 1930s, the immense estates eventually subdivided for housing and commercial use. Armour's Melody Farm mansion is now part of Lake Forest Academy, while 687 acres became the Lake County Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. Another 50 acres of the Armour estate now refers to Melody Farm Nature Preserve, operated by Lake Forest Open Lands.

Look to your right and imagine a mile long carriage route to Waukegan Road, lined with hundreds of majestic elms that stretched eastward to impressive gates and gatehouses (which are now a national historic landmark and headquarters for the Lockhart Family Nature Center). Dutch Elm disease destroyed all the elms in 1960.<sup>23</sup> Landscape architect Ossian C. Simonds laid out the original 2.5 mile carriage drive, while Jen Jenson designed a Prairie Style landscape centered on using native materials with horizontal lines in repeated plants and structures.<sup>24</sup> Now imagine crossing the RR bridge on your left, and following another mile of carriage route bordered with orchards, formal gardens, a deer park, and two 10 acre lakes before arriving at the Melody Farm mansion.<sup>25</sup> [Save making the trip to Melody Farm for a later time, since it's a tour you won't want to hurry.]



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH LOOKING WEST TOWARD  
MELLODY FARM.



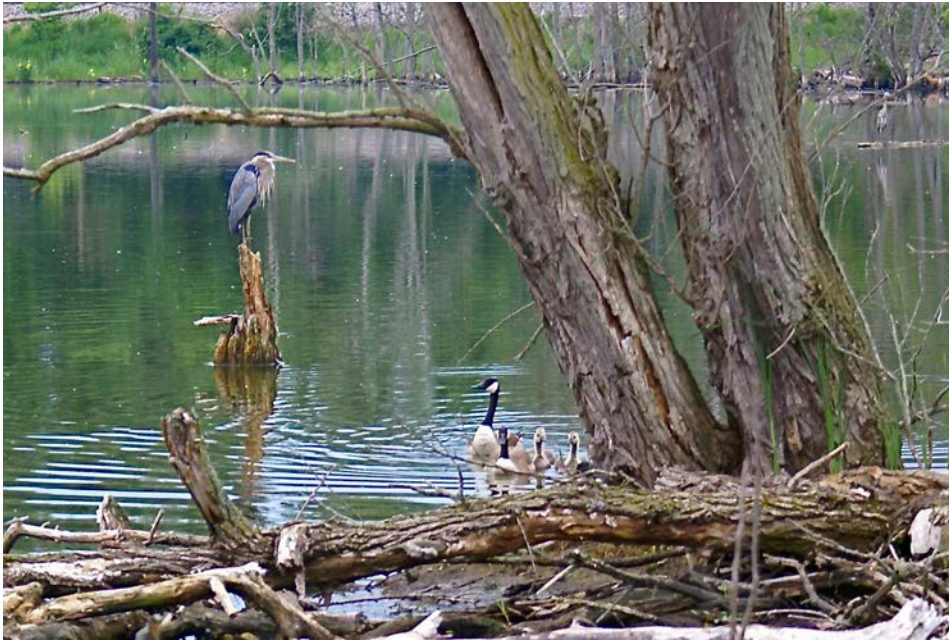
ON THE MAP NOTE MELLODY FARM'S WINDING ENTRANCE LINED BY HUNDREDS OF MAJESTIC ELMs, WHICH WAS NORTH OF ARCADY FARM'S MORE MODEST OAK-LINED ENTRANCE. MELLODY FARM'S WELCOMING GATES ON WAUKEGAN ROAD WERE ALSO MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE AND ELABORATE THAN ARCADY'S. THE OWNER OF ARCADY FARM WORKED FOR J. OGDEN ARMOUR, SO WAS CAREFUL TO BE MORE LOW KEY. (MAP COURTESY OF HISTORY CENTER OF LF-LB)





12

After passing the walkway to the RR bridge on your left, you will also pass a small footbridge on your right leading to a second path to Open Lands' Mellody Farms Nature Preserve. Again, leave this area for later. Continue to Middlefork Greenway North.



THE OPEN LATTICE CONCRETE BRIDGE CONNECTING MIDDLEFORK SAVANNA FOREST PRESERVE TO MELLODY FARM NATURE PRESERVE IS ONE OF THE DRIVEWAY BRIDGES USED BY CARRIAGES GOING TO THE ARMOUR ESTATE. IT WAS RESTORED IN 1998 BY LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS.

13

**Continue to the next path on your left; turn left on it to follow a loop around a double pond area.** Appearing on your left will be the tracks used by Chicago-Milwaukee-St.Paul-and-Pacific freight trains and now METRA commuter trains. J. Ogden Armour built his own siding to bring materials such as hand-cared wood panels, twenty marble fireplaces, and other materials necessary for his mansion, many shipped from Europe.<sup>26</sup>

These two water areas are favorites for Blue Herons, Great White Egrets, Canadian Geese, and Wood ducks. Bluebirds nest in elevated houses maintained by volunteers. Watch for box turtles sunning themselves on partially submerged wood, while shadows of bream, large mouth bass, and other fish dart below the water. [No fishing allowed.]



DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, YOU'LL FIND MAYAPPLES, WILD PHLOX, GOLDEN ALEXANDER, GROUND ELDER, ASTERS, AND OXEYE DAISIES OR MARGUERITES.



**After looping the ponds, return to the main path and turn right. Follow signs to Middlefork Greenway - South. Retrace your steps to Christ Church.**

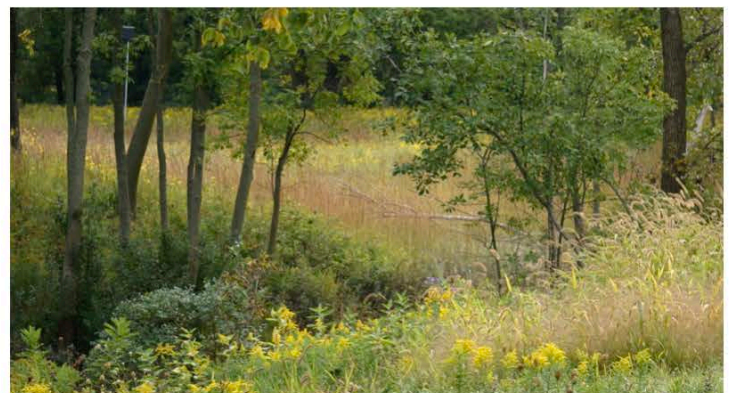


**12**

**ALTERNATIVELY**, you can return to Melody Road by cutting through Mellody Farm Nature Preserve on your left. Do not do this, however, if it has rained recently (as the paths may be muddy) or if you are on a bike or have a dog (as these are prohibited), Be sure to wear tick repellent, though, as foxes and deer roam here.



***Return during other seasons, when different savanna flowers & prairie flowers are in bloom!***



**TEXT & PHOTOS BY MARGE MCCLINTOCK  
MAY 8, 2021**

## ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Aerial photo of Christ Church courtesy of W. B. Olson, Inc., from History Center of Lake Forest - Lake Bluff at <https://flb.passitdown.com/stories/42325>.
- <sup>2</sup> "History of St. Patrick Church." <https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/history>.
- <sup>3</sup> Meeker, Jr., Arthur. *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*. Alfred A. Knopf, NY. 1955. pp 88 - 89.
- <sup>4</sup> "The Road Formerly Known as North Branch (and Corduroy) (and Telegraph): Waukegan Road. The History Center of Lake Forest - Lake Bluff. <https://create.passitdown.com/present/5d6fd9cf974fc3690fb45024/david/story/5de9b36eb2a29e29217ffbe9>.
- <sup>5</sup> *ibid*.
- <sup>6</sup> Rodkin, Dennis. Crain's Chicago Business. June 3, 2015.
- <sup>7</sup> Travanti, Daniel J. April 29, 2021. Mr. Travanti had the role of police captain Frank Furillo in "Hill Street Blues" and was the winner of a Golden Globe and two Emmy Awards.
- <sup>8</sup> Meeker, Jr., Arthur. *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*. Alfred A. Knopf, NY. 1955. pp 88 - 89.
- <sup>9</sup> Meeker. pp 90-92.
- <sup>10</sup> Sykora, Angela. Patch. July 22, 2013. <https://patch.com/illinois/grayslake/grayslake-doctor-who-held-record-for-delivering-the-most-babies-dies>.
- <sup>11</sup> J. Ogden Armour Lawns to be Made "Potato Patch". *Chicago Daily Tribune*. 14 April 1917.
- <sup>12</sup> Meeker, *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*, p 90.
- <sup>13</sup> Meeker, *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*, p 98.
- <sup>14</sup> Meeker, Arthur, Jr. *Prairie Avenue*. Alfred A. Knopf, NY. 1949.
- <sup>15</sup> Meeker, *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*, p 95.
- <sup>16</sup> "J. Ogden Armour." Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_Ogden\\_Armour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Ogden_Armour).
- <sup>17</sup> Carroll, Margaret. "The legacy of Mellody Farm: A slice of who the 'other half' lived." Chicago Tribune. Section 15, p 3. August 26, 1984.
- <sup>18</sup> In the unfathomable way of English spelling, the noun **slough** rhymes with **blue** — and **too few, you knew**.
- <sup>19</sup> Meeker, *Chicago with Love: A Polite and Personal History*, p 94.
- <sup>20</sup> Ewers, Jim. Bottom two photographs from "Middlefork Savanna Trail Connection." Civiltech Engineering, Inc. undated blog, at <https://civiltechinc.com/project/middlefork-savanna-trail-connection/>.
- <sup>21</sup> Powers, Jim. "Historical Photo Guessing Game: Plot of Land Is Mellody Farms." Patch. August 27, 2011. Online at <https://patch.com/illinois/lakeforest/historical-photo-what-plot-of-lake-forest-land-is-this>.
- <sup>22</sup> Hinchliff, William. "The J. Ogden Armour House - A Brief History." The Lake Forest Academy-Ferry Hall Antiques Show Catalogue 1983.
- <sup>23</sup> Christy, Stephen. "Bridging New Connections to Nature." Lake Forest Open Lands' Grass Roots. p 1. Fall 2014.
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- <sup>25</sup> "The Most Beautiful House Between New York and San Francisco." *Half Pudding Half Sauce* (2/5/2012 at <https://halfpuddinghalfsauce.blogspot.com/2012/02/most-beautiful-house-between-new-york.html?m=1>).
- <sup>26</sup> Carroll. p 3.