



GLENSHEEN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

Driven to Discover



THE TOUR MANUAL

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Volume 2

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Mission Statement

To inspire Minnesota pride by preserving and sharing the legacy of Glensheen and to serve as an incubator for positive change.

Vision Statement

To be the best historic house museum in the upper Midwest by engaging our community through our dedication to education, inspiration, preservation and innovation.

Core Values

Preserve Educate Inspire Innovate Experience Community

Educational Goals

We are committed to the land grant mission of the university of Minnesota; it is our role to educate all citizens of Minnesota.

- One** Assert the importance of preserving authentic spaces
- Two** Insure an appreciation of the arts with an emphasis on Minnesota artists & craftspeople
- Three** Explore Glensheen's grounds and waterways to showcase Minnesota's outdoor surroundings
- Four** Interpret Glensheen's story to share the broader history of Minnesota

Ethics Statement

To Maintain professional standards in all functions of the museum by adhering to the recommended practices and the code of ethics of the American Alliance of Museums.

"General Admission"

Tour Information

Walk-Up Information

The 22 acre estate was built for Clara and Chester Congdon, their 6 children, nephew, and typically 8 domestic servants (7 servants who lived on the property and one who travelled for work). Construction began in 1905. The mansion and most buildings were occupied by late 1908, and the estate had a price tag of \$854,000.^{1*} Roughly adjusted for inflation: \$23,721,520² Chester was an attorney by trade and financier; he notably made a large fortune in iron speculation on the Mesabi and Vermillion Ranges. Duluth was a growing urban area, and a major hub of finance, industry, trade and shipping in the upper-midwest (See section: A Brief Duluth History). The buildings were designed by Minnesota architect Clarence Johnston Sr. with landscape by Charles Leavitt Jr. of New York. The 'Carriage House' includes, milking parlor, horse stables, tack room, storage, and maintenance area for carriages and automobiles. The parking lot was initially pasture and paddock space for horses, cows, and chickens. We still have the original 8 carriages and sleighs on the second floor of the carriage house that can be viewed as a part of our exclusive Nooks and Crannies Tour.

The end section of the carriage house (north side) was used as quarters for male employees and their families if they had any. Between 1908 and 1915 there were at least three men living in this area. The stableman/coachman Aaron Anderson (1906-1910) took care of animals and the stable area. The first houseman on record is Barney (last name unknown) he started employment in 1912, this gentleman was in charge of maintenance, pest control, and boiler/fireplace operations. Finally, Rudolph Miller a driver/chauffeur and German immigrant specialized in automobile and carriage transportation. (Dates of employment unknown, he was around to drive the Congdons during a 1911 road trip in Europe). Today this area is used for administrative offices.

Next is the gardener's cottage which housed the Head Gardener and his family. Most recently this is where Bob and Elsie Wyness lived. Bob first came to Glensheen in 1921 when he was only six years old and his father, George Wyness, was hired as a fourth head gardener. Bob grew up here, learning all about gardening from his father and eventually took over his father's job, as the fifth head gardener in 1945. Bob retired in 1985, he and his wife lived in the cottage until 2004. Next to the gardener's cottage are vegetable gardens. Most of our produce currently is given to local food pantries. Beyond the first tier are two

^{1*} This number is an approximation of totals taken from day books recording construction cost, architectural design by Clarence Johnston Sr., and interior furnishing & design by Wm. A. French & Co.

² <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1908?amount=854000>

The CPI inflation Calculator for the Bureau of Labor Statistics will adjust for the year 1913 this may also be used.

formal gardens, then the clay tennis court and then the bowling green, which was designed for lawn games such as croquet and lawn bowling. There was at one point 3,000 square feet of greenhouses attached to the gardener's cottage that would run up the terrace space, it was removed in the 1970's because of costs.

The building by the lake is the boat house, which used to store the Congdon's 53-foot yacht, the *Hesperia*, named after Clara Hesperia Congdon. The yacht burned in 1916, and the family never replaced it.

The mansion has three floors, a basement, and an attic: five levels in all. The home has approximately 32,000 gross square feet and within that is 20,000 square feet^{3*} of living space, over 39 rooms, 15 bedrooms, 15 fireplaces, and originally 10 bathrooms (7 full and 3 half baths). Living in the home with the Congdons there were two maids and a cook. A butler was here almost every day as well; he managed the house.

Main Hall and Entryway

Guests to Glensheen were greeted at the doors by William Atherton the family's first butler.

- The stained glass throughout was done by the **Linden Art Glass Company** of Chicago
- Green hexagonal floor tiles in the **anteroom** are from the **Grueby Tile Company**.
- The main hall is paneled from floor to ceiling with fumed white oak which is not stained in a traditional sense, but exposed to ammonia fumes which causes a reaction with the tannins in the wood causing it to darken. The longer the wood is fumed the darker it gets. This oak likely went 8-12 hours of fuming.
- The glass light shades are from the **Quezal Art Glass Company** of Brooklyn, New York.
- The brass fixtures were designed by the **Edward F. Caldwell Co.** of New York.
- These large chairs and settees are designed after 17th century pieces.
- Several fixtures include depictions of "lions heads" and what some attribute to be "pineapples." Speculation as to the meaning of these symbols is arguable. Other woodworks include 'rosettes' and elaborate '**strapwork**'.

[Note: It is up to the guide to give context and historical background on content. Most individuals have never heard of the Grueby Co. for instance. If you use names of people, companies, or broad terms please give some background and a brief explanation. Great chance to use the GLOSSARY!]

The butler escorted guests to the Reception Room, where they would wait until

³ St. Louis County, MN. "Property Details Report 010-1370-07230." 2/26/2018., pg. 2

* University of MN Building floor list, building 567 (Glensheen) 20, 659 Assignable Square Feet & 32,212 Gross Square Feet

their hosts were available to receive or greet them. On occasion a guest may present a calling card: a card bearing a person's name and address, sent or left in lieu of a formal social or business visit.⁴

Reception Room

- The **Circassian walnut** used for the woodwork and furniture is native to the Black Sea region of southwest Russia and was imported to England and the eastern U.S. for cabinetry and furniture manufacturing. Even today it is sought after for gun stock manufacturing.
- The walls are covered in silk **damask**.
- The ceiling is finished in **gold leaf**, which is complemented glass shaded lights made by the (**Quezal Co.**)
- The bowl pendant light as well as the urn and vase are from Italy and made of **alabaster**.
- Also from Italy is the small coffee table made with inlaid marble.
- Two sets of **portieres**, or door curtains, hang in each doorway. One set complements the decor of the room it faces. The other complements the hallway.
- Electric lighting is original to the home. The first electric generator in Duluth was installed in a sawmill in 1882.⁵

Den/Smoking room/Chester's Office

The room's exotic design is currently attributed to **John Bradstreet**, a famous interior designer of Minneapolis, who helped found the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The wood used throughout the room is Japanese cypress. The wood treatment technique is called **jin-di-sugi**, which John Bradstreet adapted after study in Japan. Part of the process uses a torch to burn away the soft fibrous part of the wood leaving a highly textured feel that highlights the grain.

- The grasscloth wall covering is not original. The original walls were hung with "Golden Bronze burlap paper"⁶ and the ceiling between beams was hung with "Metal Japanese Burlap stained dull gold"⁷ according to the Summary of Estimate by Wm. A French.
- A water lily motif is evident in the hand-beaten light shades, designed by an instructor with the **Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis**.
- The intercom was installed in order to communicate throughout the estate. Not only was there this closed circuit estate phone but there was a city phone on almost every floor of the mansion and in the other buildings. Phones were gaining much use in America at the turn of the century. In 1904 there were 3.3 million⁸ phones in the U.S. and Duluth's first phone company was organized in 1881. The annunciator system is a series of buttons that connect to a panel in the kitchen. This servants bell system is run by

⁴ Google Dictionary

⁵ Macdonald, Dora Mary. *This is Duluth*. Ashland, WI: Paradigm Press, 1999.

⁶ Wm. A French & Co. Summary of Estimate Sept. 16-08, sheet 1.

⁷ Ibid., sheet 1.

⁸ "AT&T: History: Origins". Corp.att.com. Archived from the original on 20 August 2012.

magnets and electric current, off the city electric grid (and supposedly a dry cell battery as a backup.) Mechanical call systems were in use even in the mid-1800s. With the growing influx of immigrants making up the domestic servant class in the U.S., many middle class homes had annunciators and servants to attend to them.

#1 Educational Moment

The estates construction was possible because of Chester's success on the **Mesabi Iron Range** as the attorney for **Henry Oliver**. As his attorney, Chester would soon rise from middle class to become one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Minnesota.

Chester moved to Duluth in 1892 at request of his friend William Billson. Billson wanted Chester to become his business partner at his law firm here in Duluth. Chester was reluctant at the thought of moving his family and leaving behind the prospects of a solid, successful law firm in St. Paul. However, he could not turn a blind eye to the potential of Duluth. It was booming at the time and, with its port, was primed for major economic development from lumber, and the newfound iron ore reserves on the Mesabi Range. As the Congdons were making their transition to Duluth, others were becoming interested in the Mesabi as well.⁹

One of the great Pittsburgh steel makers, Henry W. Oliver, did take interest in the Mesabi and incorporated the **Oliver Mining Company** (see History of Oliver Mining Company for more info) in 1892 buying his first lease from Leonidas Merritt in the same year. He was told the best legal advice available in the area was William Billson. When Oliver went to Billson's office, though, he discovered that Billson would be away for an extended period of time. He agreed reluctantly to meet with Chester Congdon and, when the two met, a lifelong connection was formed both professionally and personally.¹⁰ By 1894 Congdon became Oliver's legal counsel overseeing the company's second mining lease purchase.¹¹

In 1901 Oliver sold his Oliver Mining Company to **J.P. Morgan** which became a part of the United States Steel Corporation virtually unemploying both Oliver and Congdon.

Congdon formed two new companies Chemung Iron Company (with Henry Oliver) and Canisteo Mining Company (with Guilford Hartley.) Primarily using Congdon's knowledge attained during his Oliver years, these companies bought up lower grade iron ore lands, mostly on the western Mesabi, then after some convincing leased out the properties to **U.S. Steel**.^{12,13}

Congdon had a number of other investments including Congdon Orchards in Yakima, WA and copper mines in Bisbee and Ajo, AZ.

⁹ (Hoover 48-49)

¹⁰ (Hoover 51)

¹¹ (Evans 216)

¹² (Boese 12-17)

¹³ (Evans 282)

Living Room

- The large fireplace, faced with red **Numidian marble** from Algeria.
- Mahogany is used throughout the room in the woodwork, furniture, and the custom-case Steinway piano
- The walls hung with "Antique Goats Hair Satin."¹⁴ This is most likely **mohair**.
- Paris by Day Paris by Night Lamp in the corner shows Paris during the day when off and during the night when on. When the lamp is on light only shines through windows in buildings, street scenes, storefronts, and signs (no cars or stars.)
- The piece on the eisel used to hang to the left of the fireplace and was acquired by CAC while traveling to Japan year 1914. Depicted is the Yoro waterfall in the providence of Mino (silk embroidery) by Naraga Yozo.

William A. French of St. Paul was one the most well-regarded interior designers at the turn-of-the-century in the Midwest. Mr. Congdon served as the Vice President of Wm. A. French & Co. and commissioned the company to design and manufacture almost every room in this house. Some of the furniture was custom-made for the interior and exemplifies the highest level of craftsmanship. French & Co. even designed piano legs for the Steinway Parlor piano these would match the design of other mahogany pieces in the room like the table, sofa, and music cabinet.

[Note: The french doors flanking the fireplace open to the porch. The porch had wicker furniture and a view of Ticher Creek which is located in a "glen" (a narrow valley), which may be the source for the name Glensheen. The "sheen" has had much speculation as to its origin but was likely added to reflect to the shine of the waters of the creek and Lake Superior. The earliest known use of the term seems to have been by Clara in 1904.¹⁵]

Library

Hanging to the right are portraits of CBC 1904 & CAC 1907 by **David Ericson**

- The facing of the mantle is highlighted with **lustre tiles**.
- The pair of hanging lamps that flank the fireplace were brought here from an Egyptian mosque.
- As in the Living Room, mahogany was used throughout for furniture and woodwork.
- The ceiling is made of **anaglypta**; an embossed blended paper.
- Italian wool tapestry line the walls.
- Clara enjoyed painting and was quite good at it, as you can see from the painting on the mantel. Mrs. Congdon painted this copy of Peter Paul Rubens' David.

¹⁴ Wm. A French & Co. Summary of Estimate Sept. 16-08, sheet 1.

¹⁵ Congdon, Clara. *Clara Congdon Diary 1853-1907*. Diary. University of Minnesota, *Glensheen Collection*.

- The portraits in the upper corner are of Chester and Clara Bannister Congdon. Chester died in 1916-at the age of sixty-three, due to a pulmonary embolism.¹⁶ He lived at Glensheen only eight years. Clara continued to live at Glensheen until her death in 1950, at age ninety-six. Elisabeth, their only child who never married, remained in the family home until her death in 1977.

(Photographs of illustrations are from the inside of the Edgar Allan Poe book, and there is a photograph of Chester's opinion from the True History of the Civil War. Chester occasionally left negative reviews in books he did not enjoy.)

If you have person(s) on your tour who can not use the stairs, alert the nearest "Associate or Security Staff". In order to have a video played for them while you continue your tour on the second floor and pick the guest backup once back on the second floor.

Stairway Landing/Second Floor Hallway

The stained glass windows, overlooking the formal gardens, feature a shield and a Tudor rose design which is repeated in the stenciled borders of the canvas wall covering on the second floor. A Tudor rose is a stylized five-petal rose with a smaller rose set in its center. It became the royal emblem of England beginning in 1485. English style was being revisited by the 20th century western ideals of "Anglo superiority" and the growing 'new' wealth in America that sought its value and meaning in reflecting the culture of wealth in feudal England. The grandfather clock on the landing dates back to 1812 it was family heirloom.

Mr. and Mrs. Congdon, their daughters, guests and three female servants occupied the bedrooms on the second floor. On the third floor are six more bedrooms for the three Congdon sons, their cousin Alfred Bannister, as well as an infirmary, and guest bedroom.

Marjorie's (Blue) Room

Marjorie was born in St. Paul on January 12, 1887 she was the third child and was Chester and Clara Congdon's oldest daughter. In 1908 Marjorie was 21 years old. Marjorie Congdon was a graduate of Dana Hall in Wellesley, Mass. After graduation, she lived and studied in Italy for a period of time. She married Harry Dudley, a mining engineer, in 1917 at the age of 30. Marjorie was active in the First Methodist Church here in Duluth. She was a member of the Duluth YWCA Board and played an active role in the function of the national Board of the YWCA, as well as being a member of its World Service Council. She was also a member of other organizations, including the Duluth Women's Club, The Junior League, the Duluth Art Institute, the Duluth Women's Republican Club, and the Ladies Auxiliary

¹⁶(Hoover, 142)

of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Known as a philanthropist, she was a donor to the University of Minnesota, Duluth, including specific donations for such gifts as the Dudley Experimental Theatre.

- Enameled birch woodwork has always been painted. All the painted wood throughout the house is birch.
- The bookcase by the window spins all the way for easy access to books.
- Beside the bed is a paper lamp shade that “blooms” when it is lighted.
- The drop-leaf table on the right side of the bed has a cloth basket to store sewing supplies.
- A ventilation system aired out closets during summer months and was designed as a breezeway for general home cooling. By opening an outside window in the bathroom and the windows in the closet, the cool lake breezes could circulate through the closets.
- Each room in the house has its own thermostat (Each house is zoned for its own series of radiators). Some thermostats have an odd descriptive scale, for instance: “Freezing” at 32 degrees fahrenheit and “blood heat” for 98 degrees fahrenheit, a trendy addition for the time.

More Hallway

- Portraits of Clara and Chester Congdon, which are on the left side upper wall as one approaches the master bedroom suite, Clara’s was painted in 1936 by Gaspar Ruffolo. Chesters portrait is attributed to David Ericson. Though they were the same age, Mr. Congdon appears younger because his portrait was painted after his death from a photograph. Mrs. Congdon is shown at the age of 82.
- Across from the portraits is a cherry secretary desk, another family heirloom.

Master Bedroom Suite/Mrs. Congdon’s Room

At the entry are Linden Art Glass panels, there is a small closet with a ventilating window and large brass hooks for hat storage. On most blueprints and call system labels this is called Mrs. Congdon’s room.

- The woodwork is American walnut.
- The fireplace is the focal point of the room and is faced in lustre tiles similar to those in the library. The tiles feature a pomegranate design which is repeated on the chair, pillow, and curtain embroidery. The pomegranate is regarded as a western symbol for happiness and fertility.
- Originally, a stenciled border of pomegranate, leaves and flowers appear above the picture rail. More than likely covered in the 1950’s.
- The small statue in the room is of Mrs. Congdon doing her needlework and was given to her by her children in 1931.

Leaving the bedroom, you will pass through the **Dressing Room**.

- On the dresser is a photo of John who died two days shy of his second birthday. The doctor believed it was German Measles (Rubella) although he admitted he didn't truly know.¹⁷
- The balcony is directly over the porch, and extends the full-width of the west end of the house overlooking Tischer Creek (the glen).

The next room is the **Master Bathroom**.

- It has the floor's only shower, which contains nine shower heads, and has the availability for 18.
- The small tub is a sitz bath for bathing or soaking the nether regions.

Chester's Room

A custom for wealthy Victorians was to have the man and wife sleep in separate quarters. By the time this house was being built that custom was quickly on its way out.

- High above the fireplace is a small light bulb that was part of a security system installed when the house built. In key locations throughout the house are similar bulbs wired to a circuit that could be activated by a switch on each floor. This allowed the house to be illuminated in case of an emergency.
- The clock on the mantel is a family heirloom with no specific history. It was made by Chauncey Ives (Bristol, Connecticut).
- Chester Congdon, served two terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives 1909 and 1911 as a Republican. The large poster shows a composite of all members of the 1909 legislature.

#2 Educational Moment in Chester's Room

As a legislator, Chester influenced change for Minnesota.

Probably one of Chester's greatest legacies is the spurring the creation of the North Shore Drive, a vision he set forth in his last years. He envisioned a boulevard between Duluth's east end to Stony Point near Two Harbor. At one point publicly committing to a one million dollar donation towards it. He called it the Lake Superior International Highway. Met with controversy from a small number of local property owners for its annexation of property and extension of Duluth's 'wealthy east-end'. After his death the Congdon family moved forward with this vision and paid for 1/3 of the cost of the boulevard to Lake County in 1922. Chester also tried to 'reapportion' the state in 1911 to strengthen the influence of the Republican party and the northern steel trusts.

Female Guests' (Gold) Room

¹⁷ Congdon, Clara. *Clara Congdon Diary 1853-1907*. Diary. University of Minnesota, Glensheen Collection.

This room typically housed female guest. It was common for guest to stay for weeks or months at a time.

- The furniture is Circassian walnut, the same wood as the woodwork in the Reception Room, and are upholstered with silk.
- Originally, a decorative border circled the room below the picture rail.
- A rest couch is found in the alcove. It is also called a chaise lounge, which is French for long chair.

The adjoining bathroom is shared with Elisabeth's.

Unless your group is very small, describe Elisabeth's while you are still in the Guest Room.

Elisabeth's Pink Room

Born April 22, 1894, Duluth. Died June 27, 1977. Elisabeth Mannering Congdon attended Dana Hall and Vassar College, though she never finished a college degree. Elisabeth was an active volunteer who worked with many charitable and civic organizations. She also served on the boards at Syracuse University and Dana Hall. She was the first president of Duluth's Junior League, served on the board of St. Luke's Hospital Guild, organized Duluth's American Red Cross Nurse's Aide Committee during World War II, and established a woman's clinic with Dr. Elizabeth Bagley, a close friend, in 1936. Elisabeth never married, though as a young woman she was proposed to by Fred Wolvin, son of industrialist Capt. August Wolvin. She rejected his proposal for unknown reasons but continued to wear the ring he proposed to her with for the rest of her life.

Elisabeth adopted two girls as a single mother. In 1932 she adopted a three-month-old from North Carolina and named her Marjorie after her sister. In 1935 Elisabeth adopted another baby and named her Jennifer Susan.

In June of 1977 Elisabeth and Velma Pietila, her nurse, were murdered by Roger Caldwell, Elisabeth's son-in-law. Elisabeth had a stroke in 1968 which left her right side paralyzed, and she required 24-hour nursing care until her death. The motive was to hasten a multi-million-dollar inheritance that was to be paid to Marjorie and Roger upon Elisabeth's death. Roger was prosecuted and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for the murder of Velma and Elisabeth. Marjorie was implicated for conspiracy to commit murder, but was acquitted of the charges. Because of newer evidence presented in Marjorie's trial (which happened after Roger's conviction), Roger had the option to retry his case. To prevent a mistrial due to this new evidence, the state allowed Roger to be freed with time served as long as he signed a confession. Shortly after this, in 1983, he took his own life, leaving a note that implicated Marjorie in the murders of Elisabeth and Velma. (The murder is currently not a part of the spoken narrative; this is done out of

respect for guests and colleagues. If people ask nicely, you are allowed to give these details, but don't feel pressured to if guests are being rude or you feel uncomfortable talking about this subject.)

- The furniture is delicately painted **satinwood**. The enameled birch woodwork is complemented by pink flowered wallpaper, which is not original. (This wallpaper replaced the former Edwardian striped and flowered paper.)

Helen's Gray Room

Helen was the fourth child of Chester and Clara Congdon and was 19 when they moved into Glensheen. She was born on February 16, 1889 in St. Paul. On the table is photograph of Helen on her wedding day taken in this room. Helen attended Vassar College. Helen was posthumously inducted into Arizona's Women's hall of fame 1986 (Used by permission from the Arizona Historical Society) Helen Congdon d'Autremont's life displayed her commitment to be involved with, and concerned for her community. She gave generously of her wealth, but she had such a consuming respect for the basic dignity and rights of those who were deprived or oppressed that she often chose to remain anonymous in her giving. She was so unassuming and unpretentious that many examples of her philanthropic efforts will never be publicly known. Indeed, it has been said that the extent of Helen d'Autremont's generosity was one of Tucson's best-kept secrets.

The d'Autremont family came to Tucson in the late 1920s and both Helen and her banker husband, State Senator Hubert H. d'Autremont, became active in civic affairs. During the Depression years, the d'Autrenionts were real benefactors to the needy, perhaps the largest individual contributors to Tucson charities.

Helen d'Autremont's friendships were wide-ranging and without concern for social or cultural status. She quietly gave aid to students at the University of Arizona; she help found an interracial low-cost housing development, then gave her own financial resources to enable families to meet the heavy closing costs for new homes. She worked in health and childcare efforts with the Pasqua Village, and helped found the Amerind Foundation, an American Indian social aid society.

Helen also served on many committees and boards, including the Mayor's Committee on Human Relations and the boards for the Association for Papago Affairs, the NAACP, and the YWCA. Before the YWCA facilities were fully equipped, Helen d'Autremont would often take the young children to her own home and teach them to swim in her own backyard swimming pool.

Founder and first president of the Tucson Chapter of League of Women Voters, Helen d'Autremont also served as an early president of the state organization. She

was a founding Trustee of Prescott College, the Tucson Medical Center, and the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. But she still found time to be active in the First Congregational Church and gave generously of artifacts to furnish a small chapel. Later, when a new church building was erected, Mrs. d'Autremont commissioned the well known artist, Charles Clements, to design and build a mosaic over the stage in the fellowship hall.

In 1962, Tucsonans honored Helen d'Autremont for her efforts on behalf of interracial housing by naming her Tucson's "Woman of the Year." In 1973, it was deemed appropriate by the Arizona Historical Society, the Tucson Heritage Foundation, and the d'Autremont Memorial Association to again honor Helen and Hubert d'Autremont, for their outstanding civic services. In their honor, a permanent scholarship for needy students was established at the University of Arizona and a foundation and plaque at the John C. Fremont House was dedicated to them.¹⁸

- The room is in the style of **Art Nouveau**, which is French for "New Art." the style became popular in Europe 1880's. Characterized by flat patterns of sinuous curves and flowing lines, it was strongly influenced by Japanese and Gothic art forms.
- Art Nouveau floral designs are in the mosaic tiles of the fireplace, woodwork and the light fixtures.
- These silver sconces have Quezal shades in a drawn feather design. The color changes when they are on (fireplace) and when they are off (far wall).
- The original wall-covering is gray and white hand blocked paper.
- The doll in the rocking chair is named Evangeline, and it came from Germany in the 1880's.

Servants' Quarters

Upon entering the servants' quarters there is a pronounced change in decor. Although simpler in style, a great amount of planning continued into this area. In fact, all the walls in the servants quarters were covered in hand drawn stenciling. Today that is covered with two layers of paint. The three rooms belonged to the downstairs maid, the upstairs maid, and the cook. The Carriage House served as living quarters for male staff, which included the Chauffeur/Coachman, Stableman, and Houseman. The Head Gardener lived in the Gardener's Cottage. Other staff, which would have included the Butler, and part-time staff, all lived off site. Depending on the time of year, we estimate up to 30 staff may have been working on the estate many worked 12-16 plus hour days six days a week.¹⁹ Men were compensated two to three times more than women. Most domestic workers were first or second generation immigrants, Swedish was the most common nationality at Glensheen. The walk-in linen closet has a marking system because each room had a corresponding linen. The help was given one sheet and one pillowcase

¹⁸ <https://www.azwhf.org/copy-of-mary-russell-ferrell-colton-1>

¹⁹ Soetebier, Virginia O. *Footnote to History*. N.p.: University of Minnesota, 1995.

per week and they were exchanged on Friday. The former top sheet was to become the bottom sheet and the new sheet was to be the top sheet for the next week.²⁰ It is said that Mrs. Congdon always kept the key to the linen closet.²¹ (Why? Speculation could lead us to a distrust for the lower class immigrant laborers or perhaps a power dynamic that allowed Clara to feel as if she had an active role in managing some aspects of the mansions domestic affairs).

The maids were required to wear a morning uniform that they had to purchase themselves and in the evening they had another type of uniform furnished by the employer,²² typically black with white accents. This “finery” was the typical outfit of most female domestics in the early 20th century. The round fixture on the baseboard is one of many inlets for the central vacuum system, quite common in large homes for the era. The elevator was originally an electric lift it could be used to carry the linen and firewood from the basement to each floor, it could also be used transport passengers between floors.

On the next level down, the Sewing Room, and servants entry way is to the right of the staircase. The servants dining room and kitchen is to the left.

The railings of the stairs end before the steps, after the newel post there is another step.

Staff Dining Room

If your group is large this room should be discussed in the Kitchen.

The house staff used the oak furniture and built-in oak china cabinet. The servant ate the same food as the family, which was common practice. Staff began work early, so breakfast was served to them before the family. More than likely dinner was eaten after serving the family.

Kitchen Area

The overhead gas and electric light fixtures, wall cabinet, and stove hood provide a glimpse of the original Kitchen, which has been highly modified over time.

- The cook's pantry features a marble slab, pull-out bins for flour and sugar, and oak cabinets for utensil storage. A large wooden ice box has been replaced by a modern refrigerator. Ice blocks were delivered through a door on the outside wall. This door can be seen from the kitchen porch.
- The area under the hood once housed a large gas and coal range. The range had two bake ovens, a broiler oven, and three warming ovens. It had six coal burners and four gas burners.
- The stove on display is from the early 20th century and smaller than the 'original' stove.

²⁰ Footnote to History

²¹ Citation needed, likely FtH

²² Soetebier, Virginia O. Footnote to History. N.p.: University of Minnesota, 1995.

- The cookbooks in the spice cabinet contain some of the family's favorite recipes. (This cabinet interior can be seen on the Servants Tour, this can be mentioned to promote other tour options or ignored completely.) Some are marked as family favorites Mr. Congdon's favorite dishes (e.g., strawberry shortcake and fish dishes).
- Between the lake-side windows on a glass shelf is a large cookie cutter from Germany called the 12 days of Christmas. Blueprints label this shelf as the area for the kitchen clock.
- The original floor was 'rubber tile' to soundproof the area.

Near the basement door is an annunciator panel it's wired to several other rooms throughout the house and powered by the city electric and allegedly a back-up wet cell battery. When a button in a room was pressed, the bell rang and the magnet next to the labeled room attracted the metal arrow to the room from whence the button was pressed. Under the Annunciator board, the cook also had her own call button to summon maids to the Kitchen (there is a bell outside the bathroom in the servants' quarters).

Butler's Pantry

If you have a large group, you should tell about this room from the Kitchen.

This room provided well-organized storage for the china and serving pieces used in the dining room and breakfast room.

- At the kitchen end there is an under-the-counter ice box used for food that needed to be served cold.
- The sink is composed of German Silver which is an alloy of copper, nickel, and zinc. The hope was the softer alloy might spare dishware from damage during washing.
- Within the tile-lined space under the sink are hot water pipes that were used to warm plates.
- There is a small stained glass window in the door leading to the dining room. This window allowed the butler to discreetly check on the needs of the dinner, such as when plates needed to be cleared or glasses refilled.
- The area to the right of the sink is labeled 'desk' on several blueprints and has a light installed under the cabinet so the butler may illuminate any books he was keeping.

Breakfast Room

The woodwork has the same style of burned wood as in the Den, but this wood has a dull green layer of stain to complement the green **Rookwood** tiles used throughout the room.

- There are oak leaf and acorn motifs in the windows, and on the furniture and wall fountain.
- The table extends to seat eight, and the chairs were originally covered in horsehair cloth.
- The ceiling light has a verde antique finish, and was designed by an instructor of metal work at the **Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis**.
- The water fountain was installed most likely for ambiance and could have served as an outlet to obtain water for indoor plants. The fountain was part of an irrigation system on the estate for non-potable water supplying the indoor and outdoor fountain and some 30 irrigation spigots. The system was fed from a **60,000 gallon reservoir** on the upper flowage of Tischer Creek.

Dining Room

This was the room where formal dinner was held nightly.

- Originally there were 15 chairs²³ purchased from Wm. A French & Co.
- **Georgian** design is the dominant theme.
- The furniture was designed by the William A. French Company of St. Paul and purchased for \$4585.00 an equivalent of \$114,625²⁴ today. The dark mahogany wood has "specially designed hardware hand chased and finished Old English Silver".²⁵
- Under each head of the table are built-in buttons which rang a bell in the kitchen let the staff know that the next course was needed or other needs had to be attended to. Dining room call buttons were very common in middle and upper-class homes (usually built into the floor).
- The ceiling is molded plaster, more than likely from the Decorators Supply Corporation who a majority of the plaster was purchased from.
- The damask wall covering is similar to the original, which was moss green and gold.
- The fireplace hearth is Sienna marble from Italy.
- All the fixtures in the room (andirons, lights, switch plate, etc.) are plated silver. The chandelier itself takes about 12 hours to do. The maids would have polished the silver 3-4 times a year.
- The carpet is a replica of the original Saroul and has been in place since 1986. The original carpet is stored in the attic.
- The sterling silver service on top of the mahogany linen chest was made by Barbour Silver Company and purchased at Tiffany & Co. of New York.

²³ Wm. A French & Co. Summary of Estimate Sept. 16, 1908, sheet 11.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

- Hand-beaten hammer marks are visible on the silver pieces.
- The wood on the pocket doors is double-faced, meaning the wood on each side matches that in the room it faces.

Billiard Room

Billiards was a popular turn-of-the-century leisure activity. It is different from pool as the table has no pockets and the game only plays with three balls.

- The accessories are housed in the cupboards by the sofa.
- Billiards rules (along with other cue games) can be seen in the corner window. This likely came with the table.
- The light fixtures, which are from the Linden Art Glass Company of Chicago, harmonize with the upper windows.
- Outside the windows is an area called the Subway or we assume the Winter Garden. During the summer, the Subway was used as an enclosed porch and was decorated with wicker furniture and plants. In the winter it was a heated space to store potted plants.

Amusement Room

It functioned as a multi-purpose entertainment space, where the family could show vacation slides, play music, or entertain. Christmas parties and other large gatherings were typically held here.

- Photos of this room are out on stands, as well as photos of the third floor, taken in 1910.
- Along the west and south walls are four cabinets, these curio-cabinets contain artifacts and curiosities that the family collected on their travels.

[Note: Walk guests to the servants area of the basement. Guests should be encouraged to tour the remainder of the Basement Level on a self-guided basis. Public restrooms are near the east end of the hallway, along the south side.]

Boiler Room

The original boilers, each building having its own, could use depending on the year 65-150 tons of coal (as an industrial comparison the William A. Irvin, ore carrier, coal bunker would house 266 tons of coal and burned 1.2 tons per hour)²⁶ They were hand-stoked with a frequency of up to every two hours in the winter, likely by the houseman.²⁷

- The coal bunker was behind the door on the north wall.
- An automatic coal hopper was installed in 1927. Today, the system is fueled by natural gas.
- A central vacuum system is behind the door on the east wall.

²⁶ Blake Romenesko February 26, 2018.

²⁷ See houseman duties document

Wood Room

The wood room contained the wood supply for the fifteen fireplaces throughout the house. Wood was transported to different floors on the lift. The Wood Room is currently used as the security office.

The Vegetable Cellar (Cold Room)

The Cold Room was a properly vented cellar used for storing fruits and vegetables over the winter. The door beside it is the electric lift.

Milk Room

Milk was brought up from the stables in the Carriage House and prepared in this room. The tile floor is sloped for drainage. In the middle of the room is a milk separator which separates milk from the cream. There's a floor drain in the southeast corner, this room needed to be sanitized after use, there is also a drain in the laundry.

Laundry Room

This room has both modern and original laundry equipment (mid-century washer in the corner). A laundress came to Glensheen to do the washing, which was done on every Monday. Ironing was done on Tuesday.²⁸

- The sliding clothes rack and drying chamber are original (it's like a gas oven for clothes). Laundry was hung over the drying rack bars and secured by metal pins, the rack was pushed back into the drying chamber.
- In the alcove to the right of the dryer is a gas hot plate designed to heat starch, water, irons.
- On the east side of the room there were three large wash basins for washing.
- When the laundry was dry, flat articles were pressed using the gas mangle. The oak board is a safety feature and was used to position the clothes before the clothes were fed through the revolving press (Incredible unsafe for the operator).
- Other linens were ironed on the padded table under the side windows.

East/Servants Courtyard

- This area had a clothes line.
- There was also a dog house.

²⁸ Footnote to History

"The Full Mansion Tour"

Full Mansion Tour

3rd floor & Attic

Tour Walk-Up Commentary

The time limit is crucial, any extra time that you use will affect the timing of the tours that follow Full Mansion Tours run every half hour - in other words, you would cause traffic jams and embarrassing moments for your co-workers who are behind or in front of you. Also, keep in mind that the larger the group, the longer it takes. Practice, improvisation, and timing are the keys to success here.

Introduce yourself: Hello, and welcome to Glensheen! My name is _____ and I will be taking you to the Mansion where we will begin our tour and remember after the tour the grounds are open for viewing.

Start by collecting the groups ticket stubs (side with the bar code) and give back the rest of the ticket; check that all visitors are on the right tour! Guests who buy tickets ahead of time may have digital tickets on their phones.

[Note: If there is inclement weather; rain, sleet, snow or cold... you may walk the group into the mansion and then begin commentary or, space permitting, engage commentary while in the gift/ stable.]

Go over the House Museum etiquette: Food, non-water drinks, and chewing gum are prohibited inside the museum. There is a garbage can in the Carriage House and at the front door if your guests need to dispose of any of these items (One, can inform guests of the etiquette before or after the walk to the front door). Most importantly, please refrain from touching anything except for the handrails going up and down the stairs and the chairs provided for sitting.

Photography is encouraged, please refrain from using flash. Tell your guests that if they are active on social media, so are we. We give out weekly awards for unique photos of Glensheen on Instagram.^{29} Make sure you use the '#glensheen' that way we can see it. Good luck! Encourage guests to ask questions or ask you to speak louder!*

²⁹ * This is usually seasonal promotion on Instagram. Guests may also be encouraged use #glensheen on social media as well as follow the museum on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or sign up for the email list.

Introduction

For the third floor rooms, instruct your guests not to walk on original carpeting (it shifts it slips and could be a hazard).

The third floor includes the bedrooms for the Congdon sons and Alfred Bannister, the Infirmary, the West Guest Room, and the third floor Lounge.

The design of the hall, Edwards room, Walters room, and the lounge is a late 19th and early 20th century-style called **Arts and Crafts**. The style was an international movement that began in England, and is based on a philosophy by **John Ruskin** and his student, **William Morris**. The design philosophy counters the formal and lavish designs of the **Victorian Era**, which coincided not only with the rise of the industrial revolution, but also with the revolution's labor exploitation and inequality.

As a reflection of social and economic ideals, Arts and Crafts quickly caught on in the industrializing America of the early 20th Century. A major proponent of Arts and Crafts in America is **Gustav Stickley**. The American movement is often referred to the American Craftsman movement or American Arts and Crafts, it was basically an extension of the English Arts and Crafts, but with less gothic influence. Arts and Crafts ideals would shape the western 'Mission' style and Midwestern avante-garde 'Prairie' school of design.

Basically, Arts and Crafts designs are simple, and interior dwelling space appears less cluttered. For example the use of built-in bookcases, hutches, and cabinets inset into the walls. Specific features were well-built and easy to maintain. For example, an Arts and Crafts chair is more geometric, plain, and sturdy-looking than a Victorian Era chair with its upholstery fringes or intricate carvings.

Area at Top of Stairs

- The large glass-enclosed storage room and the cedar lined walk-in closet are still used for storage today. Clothing and other collection pieces are stored in the cedar closet.
- The small door on the hallways south wall, near the infirmary door, is a laundry chute. The door to the right of the laundry chute is a fuse box. (Each floor has its own.)
- On the floor, the metal fixture below the laundry chute door is a central vacuum connection.
- The floor snaps are to keep hallway carpets in place.

Infirmery/ East Room

Originally designed to be a guest room, the Infirmery isolated sick individuals who could be treated by a doctor or nurse making a house call, possibly avoiding a trip to the hospital. (The doctor would not spend the night in the home.)

The bookshelf on the south wall is mounted on wheels. Therefore, it can be positioned between the beds, not only providing easy access to books but also serving as a privacy screen.

The fireplace is boasting priceless Grueby Faience tilework. "The Pines" was a designed in 1906 by Addison B. LeBoutillier, Grueby's chief designer.³⁰

East Bathroom & Darkroom

The shower stall in the bathroom has 13 heads with the potential for 18. The valve marked 'needle' controls the heads on the walls. The valve labeled 'shower' is the large shower head above. In addition to wash hair, a rubber hose with a head attachment would be connected beneath the 'shampoo' valve.

Since domestic water in the mansion was heated by the boiler and stored in a large tank behind the boiler, the shower hot water supply was plumbed through an anti-scalding mechanism that regulated temperature. The thermometer at the top of valve apparatus indicated the temperature of the water, hypothetically you could 'set' the water temperature with mixtures of hot and cold water.

The call button just above tub connects to the annunciator panel in kitchen. Towels could be delivered from the one linen closet to the bathroom where they were needed.

On the west side of the bathroom there is a short passageway that leads to Edward's bedroom. Edward did photography as a hobby, so there is a dark room where he could develop his photos. The dark room has a lead sink and a vented hood to exhaust fumes.

Edward's Room

Edward Congdon, also known as Ned, was the second oldest child of Chester and Clara. He was born on March 1, 1885 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He went to prep school at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and graduated with a B.A. from Yale University in 1908, the same year the Congdons moved into Glensheen.

In 1909, Edward joined the Weed Iron Company, which was operated by Congdon Office Corporation. He was considered one of Duluth's most eligible bachelors. In 1916, the year of his father's death, Ned was commissioned as a Second

³⁰Museum of Fine Arts Boston. <http://www.mfa.org/collections/object/tile-39927>.

Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps. In 1917 he enlisted in the army where he received a commission as Captain (never served in battle). Upon returning from the army he assumed his father's interests in mining exploration and development with the Congdon Office Corporation.

In 1920, Edward married Dorothy House, who was the daughter of railway executive. In 1929, he became the director of First American National Bank, a position which he held until 1940. He was active in the Kitchi Gammi Club, Northland Country Club, University Club of Chicago, Yale Club of New York, Pilgrim Congregational Club, American Iron and Steel Institute and American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. He died on November 27, 1940 in Duluth at the age of 55.

- The room's woodwork and furniture are oak.
- The mantel facing and hearth has Grueby tile and is accented with an antiqued copper hood and corner trim.
- The cove to the left of the fireplace is for gun storage.
- The balconies on this floor are just for the architectural appeal of the exterior.

Lounge

The walls are covered with painted burlap. The pattern of the upper stenciling is similar to that in the hallway. (This was redone in the 2000's.) The furniture, which is oak with ebony inlay, is attributed to the interior designer **John Bradstreet** (though his involvement in design is still disputed) of St. Paul, Minnesota.

- The "Y" on the leather pillow is a reference to Yale, where Walter, Edward, and Robert Congdon went to college. Yale references include the other sofa pillow and the two pictures in the hallway that are visible from the lounge.
- The privacy screen facing the hallway served as an unobtrusive partition and beautiful piece of decorative art. Although the screen's hand-painted forest scene is faded, the original image can be made out in the 1910 photograph of the room. The ledge around the room is a trophy shelf.
- The goat heads are original, from unknown origin (who, shot what, where, and when, is not know).
- On the floor is an original **Tabriz** rug. (Tabriz is the name of a city in northwestern Iran.)

Walter's Room

The eldest son of Chester and Clara Congdon, Walter Bannister Congdon was born on November 5, 1882 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He attended grammar school in Duluth, prep school at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and graduated with a B.A. from Yale University in 1905. After graduating from Yale, he attended the Minnesota School of Mines.

Walter was employed by the Oliver Mining Company from 1906-1911. In 1906 Walter was working as a surveyor on the Iron Range when he lost his foot in a work accident.³¹ He also served as an official with the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company in Bisbee, Arizona. In 1908, when the Congdons moved into Glensheen, Walter was 26 years old and spent most of his time on the Iron Range. He married Jessie Hartley on November 4, 1914. Jessie was the daughter Guilford Hartley, a local industrialist and business partner of Chesters. Walter and Jessie Congdon made numerous trips to Glensheen and were often visited by Marjorie and other family members. Trips were even more frequent during the summer of 1915, when Jessie Hartley Congdon was expecting Mr. and Mrs. Congdon's first grandchild. Chester Adgate Congdon II was born December 13, 1915. After Mr. Congdon died in 1916, Walter then began working for the Congdon Office Corporation where he served as president from 1916-1949. He also served as president of Congdon Orchards, Inc. in Yakima Washington. Walter Bannister Congdon died October 20, 1949 at the age of 66.

Above Door Case leading to bathroom.

The Widower - C.F. Goldie (English), oil on board over the fireplace pictures a Maori women. Mr. Congdon purchased this in 1914 on a trip to New Zealand.

West Guest Room (Couples Guest Room)

Married couples would most often stay in this room, which even has "his and hers" closets and a large bed. The furniture is an Edwardian style mix of both mahogany and natural willow. The bedspread and much of the upholstery features anemone flowers and would have matched some painting done around the room above the picture rail. This pattern was eventually covered by paint. On the south-side **soffit** of the southerly ceiling beam, a paint analyst was able to remove a small patch of paint covering the original stencil design. Because it was an oil-based paint, it required the use of a scalpel and took hours just for the tiny area. As a historic site we continuously work on the preservation of original spaces and the restoration of areas to originality.

Robert's Room

Robert Congdon was born September 4, 1898 in Duluth, Minnesota, making him 10 years old by the time the family moved into Glensheen in 1908. Like his

³¹ Boese, Donald L. *John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi*. Grand Rapids, MN: Itasca Community College Foundation, 1975.

brothers, Robert attended Hill School for Boys, but he also attended the Taft School in Watertown Connecticut. He went to college at Yale, where he was elected to a senior society called the Elihu Club, and graduated in 1921. He married Dorothy Moore in 1923.

He received a law degree from Yale in 1925 and returned to Duluth, where he and Dorothy made their home. Robert Congdon was admitted to the Minnesota Bar and worked with the Congdon Office Corporation, Inc. serving first as Vice President and later as President. He served as a Director of the Executive Committee of the American Exchange National Bank of Duluth. In 1960, he was named "Banco Man of the Year." He served on various corporate and community boards. At age 68, Robert died June 12, 1967, in Duluth.

Robert's bedroom was irrevocably altered when Elisabeth converted it to a painting studio. Originally, the walls had hand-blocked, bird and leaf-patterned paper. Along the upper wall, birds were painted as if in flight. The birds had been painted over with white latex paint, but it was removed in 2014 by professional conservators from the Midwestern Art Conservation Center. This room, which is an example of how ticket sales support to restoration, was opened to visitors in 2015. The original furniture was a combination of both American walnut and Willow.

Storage/Trunk Room

This room contains many of the family's trunks and suitcases. Many of the steamer trunks were used by the Congdons on their voyages, and have stickers from the **Cunard** and **White Star** ocean lines. The family had the means to travel and could take leisure time much more than the average American at that time. They travelled the U.S. extensively as well as several other countries.

Alfred's Room

Alfred Bannister was born in California to Clara's brother and sister-in-law. Alfred's mother died in childbirth, and his father died a few years after that. Orphaned at age six, Alfred came to live with Clara and Chester in 1898. Like the Congdon sons, he attended the Hill School, but for college he went on to Cornell instead of Yale. After graduating from Cornell, Alfred went to MIT and graduated as a mechanical engineer. In fact, the miniature steam engine that sits on a table is rumored to have been built by Alfred.

Alfred worked in Duluth and lived in this room until 1929, when he moved to Michigan. A couple years later he married and had two sons. A photo of Alfred is on the dresser.

Also on the dresser is a photo of the 53-foot yacht, Hesperia, which is Clara's

middle name. It was built in Bath, Maine, and launched in 1911. After taking delivery of the yacht in New York City, Alfred and two friends sailed up the Hudson River, entered Lake Ontario via the Erie and Oswego canals, and then up the other Great Lakes to Duluth. The total distance was about 1,500 miles. A newspaper account of the voyage stated that it was the longest cruise ever made by a yacht of her size, "without a hired crew or pilot."

Perched on a stand is the 1911 edition of Lloyd's Register of American Yachts, which shows a listing for the Hesperia. Lloyd's Register is a non-governmental organization that establishes and maintains standards for maritime construction and operation.

The room's woodwork and furniture are American walnut. The grass-cloth on the wall was redone. The stand-alone sink that is on the east wall does appear in the architectural floor plan. But a specific reason behind the decision to install a sink is not known, more than likely installed for Alfred's practical use since his room doesn't have a bathroom.

As with Robert's room, the upper walls in this room were also covered with latex paint. But the paint was removed in May, 2017, (by Midwestern art conservation center) revealing the original stencil design.

Attic

The attic runs the length of the mansion. The Congdons used it as storage which we still do to this day to store Glensheen's collection items, such as original carpets and rugs, furniture, canvas camping supplies, magazines, books, and newspapers from the turn of the century. Overhead are extra pieces of wood molding and trim.

Other heavy-duty construction features in the mansion include concrete floors that are a foot or more thick, **structural terracotta** in the walls and between steel floor beams, and load-bearing brick and terracotta walls that are approximately 12 inches thick and finished with plaster.

The visible, bottom layer of the roofing material is made of book tiles (18" x 12" x 3"), which are positioned between horizontal supports called **purlins**. Every second tile is separated by a strip of wood that extends up from the eave to the roof peak. Its purpose was so boards could be nailed on the exterior side. The boards were covered with either tar paper or canvas, over which terracotta roof tiles were applied. With all these components, the original roof weighed about 43 pounds per square foot [Citation Needed]. These are conventional building materials for the time.

'Show and tell' in the attic (if you want/ have time)

- Structural terracotta
- Tiffany Enameled Brick Co. (no relation to Tiffany studios or store)
- Rookwood tile
- Asphalt and cork brick: Armstrong Circle "A" cork and asphalt brick
- Star/stomp tile
- Cast plaster
- Small piece of terracotta roofing
- Chapman Plug

"Nooks & Crannies Tour"

Edited November 2018 & April 2019

Tour Starts at Carriage House in 1st floor Carriage Room, near carriage on display.

Welcome Statements

Opening remarks should be something like follows:

"Welcome to the Nooks and Crannies tour. This is an exclusive tour that takes you behind the scenes. You will see spaces that most visitors and even some staff have never seen."

Go over the rules.

Carriage Room

(If it is a busy day you may skip this part and go straight upstairs)

The Rockaway Depot Wagon

The Rockaway is a 19th-century passenger carriage made by **Brewster & Co.** Of the seven carriages owned by Glensheen, only the **Studebaker** Mountain Wagon was not made by Brewster.

This was the carriage that was used to pick up guests at the Depot. It could carry four passenger and was pulled by one or two horses. Its style was an American innovation that was duplicated throughout the world.

A unique feature is a roof extension that helped protect the driver from rain and snow. For additional protection, a folded weatherproof cover secured to the floor could be pulled up over the knees.

The interior has beveled glass windows and a dark green wool broadcloth interior. A speaking tube allowed passengers to communicate with the driver.

Some details and highlights of the wagon include:

- The lanterns were not used for illumination, but for indicating presence.
- There's a wheel changing kit (a large wrench is inside the cab).

History of Brewster & Co.

The Brewster Carriage Company was started in 1810 by James Brewster. It quickly gained a reputation for fine carriages. The firm won international acclaim at the Paris carriage exhibition in 1878. By the time Brewster retired, his son Henry was running the New York branch, which became Brewster & Co.

By 1905, Brewster & Co. had franchises in Europe, including Delaunay Belleville in France and the Lanchester Motor Company in England. It was around this time that the company started making bodies for automobiles. By 1911, they abandoned carriages entirely.

In 1914, the company became the sales agents for Rolls-Royce, Ltd., and would be their main supplier of bodies in the United States. Brewster also supplied bodies to Renault, Panhard et Levassor, and Mercedes. From 1915 to 1925, Brewster was making an automobile in its entirety.

By 1925, Brewster's car sales dropped and their car division was eventually bought out by Rolls Royce. However, Rolls Royce continued to use car bodies made at the Brewster plant.

After Rolls-Royce of America stopped production, Rolls Royce of Britain began shipping their Phantom II chassis to the Brewster plant in Long Island City. But this lasted only from 1931 to 1934. Being the early years of the Great Depression, wealthy people became sensitive about flaunting their status. Therefore, sales of the Brewster-bodied Rolls Royce cars dropped.

In 1934, a Brewster employee named J.S. Inskip took control of the company and attempted to save it. He designed a new body for the Ford V8 Roadster, and purchased 135 chassis. The new look was a hit at the 1934 New York Auto Show. In fact, the car's body was worth more its chassis. The car was registered as a Brewster (not as a Ford), and it was sold at Rolls-Royce showrooms. Edsel Ford acquired the first shipped example, which was the third Ford Brewster ever built. Inskip marketed the car to New York celebrities, with whom it became popular. The Ford Brewster project was initially profitable. But soon Brewster was taking losses, bondholders and directors demanded that something be done. On August 18, 1937, the company was sold at public auction.

2nd Floor of Carriage House

Bring guests outside to awkward tall door or inside by clothes racks. Ask the last guest to shut the door carefully behind them. Turn on the light at the top of the stairs.

The majority of the Congdons' carriages were purchased in 1907. In fact, an entry in Clara's journal states, "December 27, 1907. Went to inspect new carriages."

Most of these carriages, excluding the Hartley Canadian Sleigh and the Studebaker Mountain Wagon, were made by the J.B. Brewster Company of New Haven, New York. A Brewster carriage was of the highest quality. It was made of a lighter, more durable wood than its European counterparts. All of the Brewster carriages have Chester's initials on them.

The axle length between the carriage wheels was determined by a law. Therefore, with so many carriages with the same axle length running on the same road, deep ruts inevitable. The lamps on some of the carriages were lit with candles. Their purpose was not for illuminating the road ahead but to provide visibility to others so they became aware of the carriage's presence.

Show carriages left to right along the west wall.

Phaeton

This carriage model is a drop front, cut-under phaeton, which is the general name for an open four-wheeled carriage for two passengers. Phaeton is the name of the son of the Greek god Helios. He drove his father's chariot of the sun with such recklessness that Zeus had to strike him out of the sky with a lightning bolt for fear that he might scorch the earth.

One horse pulled it. It was light and elegant, and designed to be driven by the owner, not a coachman. It was the perfect vehicle for an outing on a nice day. The Congdons' phaeton has dark green broadcloth upholstery and a built-in lap robe that could be pulled up over the knees of the driver and passenger. The fenders and the dash have been restored to their original appearance. Chester's initials, CAC, are on each side.

Brewster Panel Boot Victoria

These open, four wheel carriages with a folding top were of English origin. It is the most formal carriage in the collection, and is said to have been the preference of women. Its low slung, graceful lines not only provided easy access, but also afforded a view of the passengers wearing their elegant fashions.

The Victoria is fitted with beautifully bent gig shafts, which were designed to complement the family's finest carriage horses. A small fold-down child's seat is behind the coachman's seat.

The Victoria is a full-turn fifth wheel, which means that the front wheels can turn in a tight radius, allowing for easy maneuvering in constricted spaces.

Brewster Brougham

This carriage was named for Lord Brougham of England, who designed this vehicle for easy and elegant travel for businessmen. Chester used his Brougham carriage regularly. The Brougham carried two passengers, which is why it was also referred to as a bachelor Brougham. It was pulled by either one or two horses. The exterior color is dark green with black accents. In the passenger compartment, the upholstery is green wool broadcloth. The entire interior is padded, including the side straps that passengers could grab if traveling over a rough road. For privacy, shades could be drawn over the side windows and the back window could also be covered. In order to get the coachman's attention, passengers could use a leather pull to ring a bell under the his seat. Or, the front window could be slid open to communicate verbally.

(center of room)

Studebaker Mountain Wagon

The mountain wagon was purchased in 1907. It has three seats and a canvas top and was used for large family outings or for meeting guests with luggage at the train station. In the summer of 1921, coachman John McKay took this wagon to the Union Depot to meet the new gardener George Wyness and his family, including his six-year-old son Robert. Robert 'Bob' Wyness later succeeded his father as head gardener for the estate until he retired in 1985 and proceeded to occupy the gardeners cottage until 2004.

The Studebaker Company made this type of heavy-duty wagon before it started making cars. The wagon was pulled by two draft horses and is the only one that had brakes. The Studebaker mountain wagon's original bright red and green colors have faded. This is the only carriage in the collection that was not made by the Brewster Company of New York. Studebaker would manufacture automobiles until 1967.

(North-east wall)

Concord Side Spring Buggy

This Concord side spring buggy was built for one passenger and was drawn by two horses. The side spring allowed the buggy to ride lower to the ground making it easier to board. This carriage was most likely used exclusively by the servants for running errands. The buggy was the plainest looking of all the carriages, but like the others, was also well built by the Brewster Carriage factory.

The weight (large weight on floor) was attached to the horse's bit to keep the animal from straying while 'parked'. The detailing on the buggy used to be bright red in color, which made for a sporty looking vehicle.

- Notice the 1916 Duluth license plate is attached to the floor mat. It was registered for two horses.

Carriage Lift

We assume... A Kieckhefer Elevator Company
Milwaukee, Wis. 3987
Inspected by Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, Baltimore
(Taken from engravings on the lift)

The company was organized by August Kieckhefer in 1889. The company built both passenger and freight elevators in Milwaukee and shipped to all parts of the world.

It is said to have employed about 150 people and was an important productive industry in Milwaukee. In 1892, August Kieckhefer also organized and incorporated the Milwaukee Brewing Company he also worked in the Iron Industry at Wisconsin Foundrymen's Association. When August retired in 1919, his son Edwin K. Kieckhefer took over as President.

The carriage lift is manually operated and is used today to move cargo that is too large for the stairs between the floors. When the lift is fully raised, it becomes part of the ceiling. The lift is operated by two people. The work is eased by the use of a counterweight that moves up and down inside the wood panel on the wall at the rear of the lift. The thinner piece of metal surrounding the inner-circle of the big pulley is the band brake. Pulling the rope clamps the band onto the circle and stops the lift, to lock the lift in the raised position or in the event of an emergency stopping it from falling.

(South East Corner)

Spare parts

- Show spare Armstrong Circle A cork bricks for horse and cow stalls.
- Show spare globe lights and the barrel the lights were shipped in.
- Show glass prisms - unknown - maybe part of the greenhouse.

Glensheen owns three sleighs. They were made for either shallow or deep snow.

Canadian Bobsleigh

This Canadian sleigh, with its ornamental metal, was popular for winter transportation. This and another sleigh were often used as decorations near the main doors of the house at Christmas. The term bobsleigh refers to the four runners called bobs: short sleds that are used together, but are actually separated. The body of this particular sleigh was made to be on runners. Of the four ornate runners only the front two would turn.³²

The beautiful rein rail in front has knobs that can come off in order to hold fancy plumes if occasion dictates. The shiny black body had festive red detailing along its surface and beautiful burgundy seats. Unlike many sleighs, this one has springs that allow for a more comfortable ride. This shiny black sleigh is also unique among bobsleighs for the gorgeous red upholstery.

Red Russian/Hartley Sleigh

Despite its name, this sleigh is Canadian. By the 1880's sleigh makers in Canada heavily developed the Russian style sleighs. Typical of the style, the runners of the sleigh are wood rather than metal, and they are completely enclosed.

The Congdons and the Hartleys often went on winter outings together and the Congdons liked the sleigh so much that Clara noted in her diary, "December 9th 1919, bought Mr. Hartley's Canadian Sleigh." The vehicle was strictly coachman driven. The sleigh is so heavy that two big draft horses were needed to pull it. The toboggan style of the body on this sleigh was meant to glide over snow, but the extreme weight of the sleigh caused it to sink. A unique feature of this sleigh is the high seat backs that protected the passengers against the cold winter wind. The large side doors were also unusual. The leather clips on the sides of the sleigh were used for clipping large buffalo robes into place to keep the passengers warm.

Portland Cutter Sleigh

Designed for speed, the Portland Cutter became the standard two-passenger sleigh throughout the United States and Canada. These lightweight vehicles, painted in harmonizing colors, have curved dashers, thinly curved one-piece runners and delicate spreaders.

Hay Loft 1

Currently storage for storm windows and screens. Large arched screens from the mansions west porch are stored here, these are not original and put in later by the family. In 2005, they were removed to restore the porch to its original condition.

³²Green, Susan, ed. *Horse Drawn Sleighs*. 2nd ed. Mendham, NJ: The Astragal Press, 2003.

There is another room that could have been used for domestic servant living quarters.

Hay Loft 2

Turn on photography lights.

- Red Cushions likely came from the Hesperia. The bottoms are marked with their positions.
- Wicker furniture from outside spaces and West Porch.
- Canvas tent by Poirer Tent and Awning which is now known as Duluth Pack.
- Under the plastic are law books from the Billson Congdon & Dickinson law office.
- The long, curved green ladders would have been for the exterior of the greenhouses.
- The large grain hopper in back is where feed, hay, and straw would be dumped to the animal spaces below.

On shelves

- Barrel from the Fitger's Brewing Co.
- Shelf of nicknacks belonged to Bob Wyness and were removed from the Gardener's Cottage after his death.
- More embossers from the Congdon Office Corp. Most date after Chester's death.

Bring your tour back through to carriage area

In carriage area show off the central vacuuming systems 'vacuum producer' this part would create suction for the system. (behind rockway wagon)

By the spring buggy are parts to another carriage. These are all the parts we have, but clearly show it belonged to the Marshall-Wells Hardware Co. Chester was a director of the company.

Before heading down stairs there is a green metal trunk by the sleigh. This trunk likely came from a 1930's Cadillac. It would have been on the exterior of the car in the back.

Boathouse

- Show historic photos of Hesperia and Boathouse
- Show original size of pier. It went further out then 65ft to the right.
- Turn on the light to show the space (turn off when not in use).
- The large lift could hoist the yacht out of, the water so it wouldn't freeze in.
- The tiled room would have been used to house the pump.

- We are in early planning stages to restore the Boathouse and pier.

Hesperia the Love Boat

Alfred was friends with Porter Alexander whose father owned a cottage on Clough Island in the St. Louis Bay. Porter's sister recounts this story:

"My brother entertained an older group of friends at his parties. They played baseball and had target practice and swam from the Chester Congdon's yacht which Mrs. Clara's nephew, Alfred Bannister, would navigate up the river. Well in the summer of 1916 or 17* my mother decided Agnes (sister) should join my brother's crowd. She had just returned from finishing school. Agnes was an excellent swimmer and made beautiful dives from the deck of the yacht. I remember Roger Spencer's eyes were on her. He began inviting her to some of their parties... a courtship that eventually ended in marriage."³³

*Hesperia burned in 1916, so it wasn't in 1917.

Fountain

This is the third fountain installed in this garden. Show historic photos.

- The first one had four jets coming from the sides.
- The second was a fountain of water in the center.
- The third and current is this marble fountain installed in 1913. It was carved by George Thrana, Duluth's master stone carver. Thrana learned the trade in his home country of Norway and made that his career after coming to America. He did most architectural carvings in Duluth including Redstone, the Congdon's previous home. This fountain features a Medieval depiction of dolphins.

Laundry Room

Dryer

Chicago- Francis Dryer

Manufactured by Chicago Dryer Company

Patented June 12, 1906 and October 16, 1906

Other pats pending, machine no. 9334

Chicago Dryer Company is still around today producing industrial laundry machines.

- In the alcove, you can see the gas stove that was designed to warm irons and boil water, the water was placed in porcelain wash sinks bolted to the floor along the east wall (see blueprint).
- Damp laundry was hung over these bars, held in place by a metal clothespin and pushed back into the drier. There is a metal door in

³³ Schumacher, Claire W. The Whiteside Story. 4th ed. Duluth, MN: Zenith City Publishing Co., 2007.

- the alcove that the servants could use to check the laundry for dryness.
- When dry, flat articles were pressed using the gas mangle. The oak board is a safety feature and was used to position the clothes that were fed through the revolving press.
 - Detailed table linens and additional articles were ironed on the padded table. (Taken from the Utilities Tour narrative).

Boiler Room

Show off all individual hot water valves.

Central Vacuum System

Vacuum Cleaner Company
427 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY
Patented Feb 26, 1907

Inside the closet is the main collection unit for the central vacuuming system. This system was installed in 1908. The earliest patent dates back to September 1903. The vacuum is the Kenney System from the Vacuum Cleaner Company in New York. There are two hose adapters on every floor. A 40' hose was connected to these adapters and the big switch next to the outlet would turn the unit on. Since this vacuum hose was cumbersome and the mechanical nature of the job, the houseman would likely handle all vacuuming duties.³⁴(Taken from the Utilities Tour narrative)

The inventor, David Kenney, dominated the vacuum cleaner industry in the United States until the 1920s. Kenney's first vacuum cleaner installation was in the building of industrialist Henry Clay Frick in Pittsburgh in 1902. Its stationary 4,000 lb. steam engine powered pipes and hoses reaching into all parts of the building. In 1906 his company claimed to have installed electric vacuum cleaning systems in the White House and the Times building.

Kenney's most significant patent was granted in March 1907. He had filed the application in 1901, when the notion of an electrically powered cleaner was only beginning to be seen as a possibility. Kenney purchased one of the English inventor H. Cecil Booth's vacuum cleaners, and after the 1907 patent was granted, Booth withdrew his own application for a US patent.

The first introduction of a system similar to a central vacuum cleaner was in the late 19th century. A ducted machine that featured copper tubes connected from a bellows chamber, typically located in the basement, and extended to several locations throughout a building, was used in a select few homes in the 19th

³⁴Taken from Footnote to History by Virginia Soetbeir, Elsie Wilke recalled Mark Roper doing this job in the 1920s.

century. Because of the machine's cost and weak dust-removal capabilities, only a few of these units were ever sold in the U.S.

Central vacuum systems made economic sense to owners. In a time when domestic help was finding better workplace opportunities, a vacuum on every floor would help close the "servant gap." The central vacuum cleaner was in the basement. Pipes from throughout the house terminated at a pump, fan, or turbine that pulled air through a crude filter system and exhausted it outdoors. The power was often supplied by early electric motors but not always. Gasoline engines sometimes provided the mode of power. Whatever the design, in two or three locations on upper floors pipes ended in spring loaded valves or caps that opened to accept cleaning hoses and wands, then snapped shut to seal the tube (wall connector located in basement hall).

Architects and domestic science critics applauded the systems as being both practical and hygienic. The thoroughness of the central system in day-to-day cleaning has completely vanquished spring cleaning. In an era when eliminating dust and dirt was hailed as a primary offensive against disease spreading microbes, vacuum cleaners of all sorts were quickly crowned as hygienic marvels and the most popular electric household machine.

Coal room

On an average year the main house would go through 65-110 tons of coal a year. Part of the reason the Greenhouses were taken down was that they took 60 tons of coal a year to heat. In 2013, we at Glensheen spent \$17,000 [citation] on our heating expenses. Coal would be dropped into this room from the driveway above (opening covered by sod). There are two separate compartments of the coal room. The closest compartment to the boiler is for boiler coal and the other compartment can be accessed through the wood room and would contain coal for the cooking range. The wood room held wood for fireplaces, today it is the tour office.

Dual Boilers

Two Crane No. 4 Sectional boilers would function as one whole system to supply all buildings with steam for radiators and hot water. These boilers would be constantly running in order to supply a heating source to each room which contained their own thermostats. The system would have to be periodically stoked and the ash would be cleaned daily (this was the job of the houseman). By the 1920's there was an auger feed installed to supply coal the the north side boiler. We still use the south side boiler to heat the home and it has been converted to use natural gas for sometime.

- Turn on light and bring guests two at a time to the back of the boilers.

- Watch your head and use caution around the boiler it may be hot.
- The white plaster covered tank on the west wall would store hot water. Exhaust from would leave the system by the large plaster covered ducting to a chimney. Behind the west wall there is another room, this room would contain the mass coil system.

Below is a drainage room that collects water when the boilers are flushed (show photos of tunnels.) There would be a manhole to access this area for utilities purposes in front of the house (it has now been covered with asphalt). The area under the boiler fills with groundwater and currently has a sump pump to drain the space regularly.

Bottom of basement stairs

Show the changes made to make it ADA compliant.

- Show the lack of decoration on the banister versus the rest of the staircase.
- Show where the staircase landing used to be (basement blueprints help).
- Show burlap above door which was taken from the UMD Kirby Student Center and painted to match.

Basement Bathroom and Humidifier

Family and guests would use this bathroom during gatherings in the basement. Notice the break in the marble where a stall door would have been separating the toilet to the sink. Today we use this space for events storage.

A forerunner in home humidification this room contains many radiator like structures called coils which are supplied hot water from the boiler. A fan would force this moist air through ductwork in the home. When the system wasn't being used for humidification the fan could generate additional airflow through the home. It is also speculated this may have been used a cooling system/ air conditioner, if the pipes had cool water running through them the forced air would pass this cool air through the mansion.

Show small secret cabinets on landing.

We do not know what would have been stored in these originally if there was anything specifically meant to be stored here. The cabinets could have many uses and are common in many homes.

It is helpful to talk about **Wm. A. French & Co.** They executed interior design and the next few areas will feature hidden compartments in furniture manufactured by this company.

Secret Desk Compartments

- Hidden Cabinets on the main staircase.
- Marjorie- Pull out drawer, and push secret button.
- Master- This one doesn't work well. Leave them open. When closed you would press on the lower trim causing side doors to open.
- Helen- Door in the back of desk.

Clara's Balcony

This would be a private area for Chester and Clara to enjoy beautiful vistas.

- Show off the West Gate
- Show off Tischer Creek, west hiking trail system & Chesters gift of Congdon Park.
- Show off the little window in Attic
- Show off the Formal Garden, Lake, & Boathouse

Servants' Quarters

Show skeleton key for closet door.

Open up the closet door with key.

Show the financial records to exhibit the level of detail that exists in the meticulous record keeping. Most of these in this closet are ledgers keeping track of construction expenses. Additional historic financial records are kept in the UMD Special Collections Library.

On the wooden ledge there are several corporate seal embossers from many different companies Chester had financial interest in. It is more likely that these records would have originally been kept in a different area such as the Congdon Office Corporation headquarters in the Lonsdale Building. Some of these embossers date after Chester's death. As the last part of the Nooks and Crannies tour, we will take your ticket or pass book and stamp it with a Glensheen seal this works just like the embossers in our collection. (Now that your guests have a seal of approval...)

Breakfast Room- Talk about the Fountain

Water came to the fountain from Tischer Creek for ambiance and plant water. About 1,500 feet up the mouth of Tischer Creek a dam and 60,000 gallon reservoir system was built. One 10 inch diameter pipe carried creek water to a grounds irrigation system (around 30 heads), the formal garden fountain, and toilets in the mansion which may have been piped to flush creek water (it is not known if the toilets used creek water for flushing or city water, the creek system was added

to have the option, and is addressed in several letters between J.C. Bush the construction superintendent and various individuals).

The End: Allow guests to do start General Admission Tour

Announce that this is the end of the Nooks and Crannies Tour and walk the group to the main hall. Say goodbye (optional) and orientate them on how to take the General Admission Tour. If there are any, address guests questions and inform them of restrooms and exit in the basement.

"Flashlight Tour"

March 2018

Flashlight Tour Narrative

Setup Prep

- Turn on TV, stoke a fire
- Close Door to Servants Quarters (main and second)
- Close Door to Master Bedroom
- Small lights up stairs (3rd floor, servants, main staircase, and hallway obstructions)

Main Hall - Two Guides per tour

At this point a tour guide will walk to the entryway turning their flashlight on when standing directly in front of the tour group. The second guide will walk behind the group throughout the tour to be security, to keep the tour together.

- Welcome the guests to the home.
- Mention that in case it is too dark or uncomfortable for anyone, the basement where the tour will end is lit up and at anytime one of the guides can escort you to the basement if needed.
- Point of Narrative: See Glensheen from a unique perspective - the dark.
- One of the most exciting things in the home at night is how the artwork and family belongings shine, in the daylight it can be hard to pick up on details when there is so much to look at. For this tour you will highlight your favorite pieces that "shine" or "sheen".
- This is not a tour that dives into the family history too much, its just to really highlight certain pieces.

Turn left down hallway, open Servants door, up servants stairwell next
This is a backwards tour!

Staff Quarters

This will be a breather for tour groups before heading up to the boys floor. Because of this take your time explaining what it was like working for the family.

Objects of interest with the flashlight

- Central Vacuum inlet
- Numbering system on Cabinets
- Lion at bottom of stairs to 3rd floor

3rd Floor

Once you get to the top of the stairs briefly explain that this is where all the boys had their bedrooms. (guests may catch their breath)

- Do not walk on rugs!
- TURN OFF YOUR light. - Showcase how dark the 3rd floor is.
- Turn on light and flash the light down the long hallway towards the West Guestroom
- Then begin walking all the way down the hallway to the couples bedroom.
- Along the way point out 2-3 pieces of artwork.
- The Lion print, (for lack of title) at the end of the hall was purchased in 1910 for \$85. This is a piece by the master etcher Henry Thomas Dicksee in 1909. He came from a long line of accomplished artists and is well known for his animal etchings that paid particularly close attention to anatomy, many of which he exhibited at the Royal Academy (might be helpful to know what the Royal Academy is). This piece is really beautiful to point out with the detailing!

Married Couples Guest Bedroom

Objects of interest

- Stenciling
- Congdon purses

Walter's Room

Objects of Interest

- Fireplace: The facing consists of a modular design depicting beanstalks that extend from the bottom to top on each side of the fireplace.
- Ebony inlaid furniture

Boys Lounge

Objects of interest

- Yale Pillows
- Telescope
- Goats

Edwards room

Objects of Interest

- Copper Hood on the Fireplace (even matches the thermostat cover)
- Hidden gun rack
- Congdon camera collection
- Dark room

Infirmary

Objects to Highlight

- Fireplace! You can find Grueby tiles covering the fireplace. This is from a company in Boston founded by William H. Grueby in 1894. William H. Grueby was a pioneer in the development of ceramic mat glazes in America. Decorative tile panels featuring landscapes were popular offerings in the catalogs of faience manufactories like Grueby in the early 1900's. The panel in the Infirmary features the type of veined glaze that was one of the unique innovations that made the Grueby Faience and Tile famous. Intended to give more of a handcrafted appearance. Grueby matte glazes were the product of five years of experimentation after finding inspiration in examples of french pottery that Grueby first saw at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago (helpful to explain what this was). Unfortunately in 1909, shortly after construction of this estate was completed, Grueby had declared bankruptcy and was forced to re-tool his business.

Helen's room

Objects of Interest

- Light fixtures! Quezal Art Glass and decorating Company was incorporated a century ago on March 27th, 1902. The founders of the Art Glass named the company after the rare and elusive Quezal, a bird which dwells on the treetops in the remote tropical forests of Central America. One of the prized characteristics of the Quezal Glass is the shimmering quality and iridescent glow of beautiful colors reflected in the interior and exterior of the glass. Shades of opal, gold, blue and emerald are the most common decorative motifs found on Quezal glass. The fixtures are designed to be flowers this is liken to an Art Nouveau style which is seen throughout Helen's room. This style is based on organic shapes and naturalistic motifs.
- DO NOT stick a metal flashlight under or too close to the shade, we don't want to break the glass.
- Keep pointing out these light fixtures in the home, the colors really pop at night.

Elisabeth's Room

Objects of Interest

- Satinwood furniture

Single Women Guest Bedroom

Objects of Interest

- Tucson Garden, David Erickson (oil on canvas)
- Picture hanging system
- Lampshades (not original to room)

Chester's Bedroom

Objects of Interest

- Clothes
- Bamboo cane- picked up in Chesters trip to the Pacific Rim Emergency light bulb

Master Bathroom

Objects of Interest

- Shower
- Sitz bath

Master bedroom

Objects of interest

- The Wharves of Quebec, Birge Harrison (pastel on Paper) above fireplace
- Quezal Lights, the flashlight shows off the multifaceted colors in the glass.
- Pomegranates
- Portraits
- Paris, Knute Helder
- Glass doors

Marjorie's Room

Objects of Interest

- Ventilation system
- Blooming lamp
- Thermostat
- Fire place

Down the Main Staircase Landing

Objects of interest

- Artwork
- Stenciled Burlap design
- Art glass- the flowers change colors at night time
- Grandfather clock
- Secret cabinets (do not open)

Living Room

Objects of Interest

- Too many to list, pick a couple of your favorites.
- Paris by Day, Paris by Night- looks amazing! Use the remote clicker.
- Waterfall of Yoro at Mino

Library

Objects of Interest

- Fireplace: Lustre Tiles
- Hanging light fixtures (by fireplace)
- Glensheen was built in the waning decades of the Spiritualism movement, a time when the country was swept up with mediums, séances and traveling trance lecturers (charlatans). Also a great time of scientific illiteracy.
- Library was the room that Chester's body was kept in for the home wake /funerary service which was a societal norm.

Chester's Office

Objects of Interest

- Antique Brass light fixtures, Water lilies (Chester's favorite)
- Japanese Cyprus
- Annunciator System

Dining Room

Objects of Interest

- House at Lyme, Moonlight, (1906) Childe Hassam
This piece was purchased in 1910 from the artist for \$4,500 - He was a significant representative of American Impressionism movement. He painted many moonlight scenes near Old Lyme, CT. In a letter to a friend Hassam writes "We are all doing moonlights. The weather has

been so bad that we have been forced to it."

Breakfast Room

Objects of Interest

- Rookwood Tile (maybe know a little about the company)
- Art Glass
- Wall fountain

Butlers pantry

Objects of Interest

- German Silver sink
- Glass panel to dining room
- Laundry Room

Kitchen

Objects of Interest

- Stove
- Annunciator system

Head down the stairs to the Basement, remember to shut the door behind you.

Billiards room

Amusement Room

Wrap up tour

"Servants Tour"

2019, spring edit

Incomplete, yet most 'accurate'

Intro

Here at Glensheen, our other tours focus on the lives of the family and their guests. The goal of this tour is to tell the story of people who built and ran the estate because there are many voices to a historic house.

When a guest came to visit Glensheen it was a notable event in their lives. Sometimes it even made the social columns in local papers.

On the other hand this estate was one of the largest in Minnesota and it took many working people to support the lifestyle of the Congdons and their guests. Even being a construction worker here was a tough job.

For the staff, the daily commute to work or to pick up provisions was intense in winter. During the early years this likely meant a 10-block walk to the **streetcar**, which didn't extend past the house until the 1920s. Much of Duluth's working class lived on the western half of town while the middle class and wealthy built their homes and mansions on the east. West Duluth had a large and active group of Scandinavian Socialists where most female members worked as domestic workers. A son of one of these women recalled his mother speaking unaffectionately about the "Eastenders."³⁵

[Note: Even with Chester's "humble" middle class beginnings he grew up with domestic help. When he was six years old the U.S. Census recorded a 30 year old American woman named Rebecca Buckley as a live in domestic with the Sylvester Congdon family. Most likely she would have been a maid-of-all-work.³⁶]

Garage

First stop is the Garage, which was opened for this Servants Tour.

Tiffany Brick

These bricks are made by the Tiffany Enameled Brick Company. This Company has affiliation with Tiffany and Co. the high end retailer and jeweler or the luxury glass and lighting manufacturer Tiffany Studios. Tiffany Enameled brick was manufactured in Mokena, IL (just south of Chicago) between 1884 and 1943 and was nationally recognized for manufacturing process and enameled glaze.

- This garage from the start was not made for Carriages. If you look above you can see the built in lift for automobiles. At this time the Congdons even

³⁵ Hudelson, Richard, and Carl Ross. *By the Ore Docks*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

³⁶ United States Department of Commerce. "United States Census, 1860." FamilySearch. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCO7-BFX>.

- owned an electric car.
- **Mercury Arc Rectifier** used to charge their electric car. A Mercury Arc Rectifier was used to change high-voltage alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC).
 - Oil Pump is designed to be able to choose how much oil you needed and get the exact amount.
 - In a letter home, a friend of daughter Helen Congdon referred to vehicles they rode in to the bonspiel in town as "the machines."

It would have been up to the chauffeur to maintain and drive the cars of the Congdons. Also keep in mind the era - at this time the driver would have driven with goggles for safety. Cars were seen almost as a sport and given that the electric car was steered with a stick rather than a wheel - it probably took some practice. Later on they did hire a mechanic to maintain the vehicles.

One of the Congdons earlier chauffeurs was Rudolf Miller. A German immigrant, he worked for the Congdons. In 1911 the Congdons took a tour of Europe and sent Rudolf and their Pierce Arrow on a ship across the sea to drive them around a number of countries.

Overtime, the car quickly became more useful than their carriage collection. The Congdons were known to own two **Pierce Arrows** and an electric car.

The two automobiles you see in the photo are their two Pierce Arrow Cars. Pierce Arrow Motor Company was one of the most expensive car manufacturers of its day. The Pierce Arrow was the first official automobile used by the President of the United States, President Taft and President Wilson. It was status symbol used by society's "elite".

We do not know who is in the photos with the cars, but it was possibly James Mackay. He was the stableman in the 1920's tending to cows and horses, but also worked as the chauffeur.

Pierce arrows were marketed in 1908-09 for \$6500 to \$7750 depending on model, that's approximately \$162,500 to \$193,750 in 2019.

In 2016, a 1910 Pierce Arrow Seven Passenger Touring car was sold for \$687,000.

Tack Room

Here is where you can find the family's original tack. Here are their **yokes, bridles** and three saddles. To the right is an **English style saddle** because it does not have the handle or horn in the center of the saddle. On the left is an **American saddle**. Also, if you turn around you and look at the table, you can see one of the yokes

with the CAC insignia on it and on the other is GGH or Guilford Graham Hartley. Note that CAC yokes are silver plated and would have to be polished regularly. The Hartley family was good friends with the Congdon family. Eventually, the oldest son Walter Congdon would marry Guilford's daughter Jessie.

All the equipment and the horses were maintained by the stableman. His role was to keep the animals healthy as well as keep the stables and paddock clean. It is hard to envision today, but in 1910 this side of the Carriage House would smell far more like the barn as it was designed for at least horses and cows.

Second Floor Bedroom

Although there isn't too much we know of this room, we do know it was designed as a bedroom. Most likely lower ranking male staff would have been housed here.

- Show "Rules for house work and barn work" detailing the expectations and job duties of some of the male staff. (Room Furnishings coming soon)

Cow Stanchions

It was here where Jersey dairy cows would be fed and milked. The stableman would have lived directly above where we are today in the male servants quarters. He would share the space with the coachman, who drove the carriages and the chauffeur, who drove their automobiles.

Below is a short bio of one of the men working in this building.

Anderson, Aaron:

Aaron Anderson was a stableman and later coachman at Glensheen from 1906-1910. He appears in the Duluth public record in 1895 working as a hostler (someone who attends to horses) in Endion at the age of 23, an immigrant from Sweden. He married and worked as a coachman for other homes in the East End until his time at Glensheen. After leaving Glensheen, he worked for a short time as a driver for Fitger's Brewing, and then turned to gardening for various private homes. It is unclear when he died or where he is buried, but his wife and children ended up in Massachusetts by the 1950s.

There were many newly arrived immigrants in Duluth at this time with Swedes, Germans, Finns and Scots making up much of the staff. They were learning English but still more comfortable speaking their native tongues, cultural prejudice was all around. In April of 1909 Mrs. Congdon wrote in her diary "Ned troubled about men at stable. Scots don't speak to Swe[des]"

Vegetable Gardens

The first gardener at Glensheen was John Kenny, who worked at Glensheen until 1917. A man named Shepard was Head Gardener from 1917 to 1920, and was followed by the short tenured gardener, Aston Plague, till George Wyness replaced him in 1921. George Wyness came from Scotland, where he had become famous for his skills in gardening at the Usan estate of Lord Keith in Montrose, Scotland. He would use his reputation to move to America and eventually work at a couple of the Frick estates including Eagle Rock. When the Congdons were looking for yet another gardener, they took went out east and hired George Wyness to take over the Glensheen grounds. (Fourie, Ada. *Their Roots Run Deep*. N.p.: University of Minnesota.

George would stay in charge of the grounds up till 1945. His family had the pleasure of growing up at the Glensheen, so we have different photos of them enjoying the estate, such as his son, John Wyness, riding horseback and his other son, Bob Wyness, fishing in Lake Superior. (These photos can be seen in the Laundry Room)

Shortly after World War II, his son Bob took over as Head Gardener of the estate in 1945. After the UMD began to operate the estate he stayed on as a university employee being represented by Teamsters Local 320 until his retirement in 1985. Bob had lived at Glensheen since he was 6 years old and would remain living on the Glensheen property with his wife Elsie until May 2004.

The vegetable garden was originally used to help feed the family throughout the year. The original gardening staff varied from three to nine people. The gardener planted a wide assortment of vegetables and fruits. Your common vegetables such as carrots, lettuce, rhubarb, corn, and radishes were grown. Likewise, fruits such as raspberries and strawberries were grown periodically.

The Sundial garden in the past was comprised mostly of annual flowers so it has also been named the Annual Garden. The name that was placed on this area by the landscape designer was the Flower Garden. Back when there was a Greenhouse, all the annuals were grown in there from seedlings and transplanted to the garden, which would explain the large gardens of beautiful annuals in the old 1930s photos. Most of the annuals you see on the property today have been purchased at local businesses.

The Rose Garden was built to be just that since the property was constructed in 1907.

Greenhouse

The gardener continued to work year round in part due to the Greenhouses. They comprised of four rooms: the Palm House, the Rose House, the Carnation House, and General Growing House. The Palm House was the largest and most stylistic section of the Greenhouse. The gardener would purchase seeds and begin growing the plants in this section of the Greenhouse. More than 6,000 seedlings were grown each year. Almost all of the annuals used to be grown in the Greenhouse until they were torn down.

The University urged the Congdon Corporation, which was the body running Glensheen between Elizabeth and before the University gained full ownership, to tear down the Greenhouse because of the heating costs. Between 1908 and 1927, the Greenhouse boiler needed to be hand stoked periodically, even in the middle of the night. This was also the job of the head gardener. In 1927 the Congdons purchased an automatic stoker; this also was the same year the GC was remodeled. But on January 15th , 1971, the Greenhouse was terminated. Today you can see the old rooflines on the back of the GC where the Greenhouse connected to it. Also, the heating pipes are still in the ground. Many spare parts that belonged to the Greenhouse are still in existence today, such as panels of glass. We are lucky to have so many great photos of the Greenhouse today. It's the dream of many to reconstruct the Greenhouse.

Cornerstone

Construction began in 1905 as you can tell. But it was not completed until early 1909. Which was not a small feat in itself. In order to complete Glensheen, it took at times over 300 people throughout the 3 year construction with as many as 70 or more people working in a day often six days a week. In the early years of construction, staff were laboring 10-11 hours a day. By the last two years they'd slowed the pace to 8 or 8.5 hours a day. General laborers were paid around 20 to 22.5 cents an hour while bricklayers and plasterers would make 62.5 to 75 cents an hour (Lane). Many of these laborers or tradesmen were English, Swedish or Finnish.

In May 1907, construction was halted by a city-wide builders' strike. In a letter to Congdon, William A. French states, "all work on the house has ceased."³⁷ Initially twelve unions demanded higher wages and better working conditions. Eight of those unions' demands were met, but the construction companies refused demands from the electricians, carpenters, roofers, and laborers. The next day 1,000 workers across Duluth went on strike. A local Bishop stepped in as **arbitrator**. The strike lasted about two weeks before raises were won. Although all of the workers' demands weren't met it was seen as a big win for labor.³⁸

³⁷ William A. French to Chester Congdon, May 7, 1907.

³⁸ Labor World, Duluth News Tribune, and Duluth Evening Herald, May 1-May 13, 1907.

Comparing the living quarters of the workers to the house they were constructing. Many lived in multi-family homes or even boarding houses. One young laborer, William Westerlund, made the newspaper after there were many cases of food poisoning at the boarding house where he lived. That boarding house was located in the red light district we call it Canal Park today.

Many skilled workers went on to build homes after working at Glensheen, and went on to raise families who still reside in Duluth today. Living descendants are now 2 or 3 generations away from those original builders and may not be aware of the connections. Our current congressman, Pete Stauber, is the great-great-grandson of Walter Stuber who worked on Glensheen in 1906.

Servants' Entrance

This is the servants front entrance. Many of you may have gone through Glensheen before, but you may not have fully realized how separate the servants' quarters were from the family's. To the family and staff, these were separate homes for people of different classes.

Even today some of the returning Congdon family feel odd going into the servants spaces because they were not allowed to enter these areas. For example when a new family guest would arrive at Glensheen, the guest would be welcomed by the Butler into family's front door. But the guest's Chauffeur or Coachman would be escorted to this door here.

Front Entry

As you bring the tour into the house, show the closet, staff coat storage

Sewing Room

This room in particular would have been a place the staff would have spent many hours. One of their part time staff would have been a seamstress.

In the built-in cabinets show off:

- Hanging dresses
- Silk shoes
- Sewing kit
- Bear gloves, used for driving sleighs (not part of Congdon Collection)
- Wedding dress, unknown wedding, possibly Helen or Elisabeth's daughters.

Clara Congdon, was likely the manager of the servants. Most records indicate that prior to 1916, Glensheen employed around 30 workers for daily estate operation. Of the 30, about 7 to 10 were permanent staff. These staff would have their own support staff below them. Some who would be part time and seasonal.

To live onsite at Glensheen may be viewed as a privilege to some or just a means to survive by others. It's likely the Congdons paid their staff the going rate in Duluth, maybe even below some of the other wealthy families. They occasionally granted vacations, intermittently lent out their cars and boats for outings, and gave wedding and "get well" gifts.

The 1900 census reported that 20.6% of women 16 years of age or older were fully employed with 24.1% of those being employed as a servant or waitress. Only 26.2 percent of domestic workers in the U.S. were white and born to American parents.

After World War I the number of domestic servants dropped by half. After World War II, domestic servants became rare. This significant change took place because of the new shift in the US economy with a larger variety of occupations for men and women. Rampant and overt sexism, classism, and discrimination was abundant and directed at those who were not assimilated into the the dominant culture.

These were the senior positions around 1912:

- Butler \$75 per month
- Houseman \$110
- Gardener \$75
- Stableman \$50
- Chauffeur \$65
- Coachman
- Upstairs Maid \$35
- Downstairs Maid \$35
- Cook \$45

We can compare these wages with workers on the Iron Range to see that these are standard working class wages.

Oliver Mining employees monthly wages, 1907:

- Shovel Engineers \$125 plus bonus (up to \$25)
- Shovel Cranes Men \$90 plus bonus
- Foreman \$80-\$120
- Locomotive Engineers \$3.50 per day (about \$84 a month) plus bonus
- Firemen/Brokers \$2.50 per day (about \$60 a month)
- Blacksmith \$2.25-3.25 per day (\$54-\$78)
- Blacksmith Assistant \$2-2.25 (\$48-54)
- Carpenters \$2-3 (\$48-72)
- Teamster \$2.25 (\$54)
- Watchmen \$2-2.25 (\$47-54)
- Mules drivers \$2.40 (\$57.60)

- Pumpmen \$2.25-2.60 (\$54-62.40)
- Talley Boy \$1.65 (\$39.60)

While some management wages per month include:

- Harry C. Dudley \$2,200
- Leroy Salsich \$2,700
- John Greenway, \$6,600³⁹

Servants' Quarters

This area housed the live-in female staff including the upstairs maid, downstairs maid, and the cook.

- No photos of servants quarters, this area was never for show and often ignored.
- Early blueprints can help us piece together what the space would have looked like.
- The walls would have featured stenciling

Servant's Room

A diary of a former maid, Else Wilke, was compiled in English⁴⁰, this is our best insight into knowing what it was like to be a domestic servant at Glensheen.

**Show photo of Else Wilke and Lenore*

Else was a German immigrant who found her first American employment at Glensheen. She worked here from 1922-23.

She started out as the upstairs maid taking care of the bedrooms and bathrooms. In the evening during dinner she would get the beds ready to get into. Later on she was "promoted" to downstairs maid. A typical work day was 10-12 hours. Else had Thursdays off. Sundays were the cook and butler's day off, which Else had to work 16 hours to keep up with the extra work.

She had two uniforms. In the morning, it was a blue and white striped uniform for cleaning; this she had to pay herself. During lunch she would change into a formal black dress, provided by the employer, with white lace aprons.

Her room would have been furnished with only bed, dresser, and a chair.

Else's time at Glensheen was over after she was married as Clara had strict rules about married woman working. Many rules and expectations of domestic workers came from women's magazines which would give suggestions to wealthy women of ways to manage a house staff.

³⁹ Working class and management wages from: Boese, Donald L. John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi. Grand Rapids, MN: Itasca Community College Foundation, 1975.

⁴⁰ Footnote to history is a compilation of diary entries translated into english and given a narrative account of the Else Wilke. We do not possess the original diary of Else. Footnote to History does have some inaccuracies.

Putz, Jennifer. *Voices from the Backstairs*. Dekalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010.

(Coming Soon: Second Bedroom)

Staff Background

Most of the servants were either immigrants or first-generation Americans. Records indicate that the most common ethnic background was Swedish. As far as we are aware all the servants employed at Glensheen were white belonging to English and northern European ancestry. This would be inline with mainstream "science" at the time that which promoted hierarchy of races generally: "Nordic" northern Europeans, then descending to central Europeans, southern Europeans (Slavic and Italians,) Asian, American Indians, then with Africans on the bottom rung. A book in the Congdon library titled *The Conflict of Color* follows these ideas of white supremacy. The theories were given perceived legitimacy by the Federal Government's U.S. Senate's Dillingham Commission Report of 1910-11.⁴¹

The Butler was in charge of all the staff, but that doesn't mean that Mrs. Congdon didn't hear about trouble. In her diary in 1909 she wrote:

"More or less dissension among servants."

One of the longest employed staff members in the early 20th century was Essie Larson. Essie started working for the family at their old Superior Street residence.

Who was Essie Larson?

Essie Victoria Larson was a maid she was hired in 1906 and worked for the Congdons until her marriage in 1914. She grew up on a farm in Polk County, Wisconsin to Swedish immigrant parents. By age twenty, she had moved to Duluth to work in domestic service, beginning on Park Point for a middle class family.

She married at age 29 - and at that time, when maids on staff married it was conventional that they leave service. Glensheen was no exception. Because women had almost no rights or social recognition at the time.

Asking someone to leave a job after marriage today is discrimination. Why was this conventional? Because you become your husband's property.

None of the laborers were protected by any laws preventing discrimination against sex or race. Even when the federal government passed the Social Security Act in 1935 it excluded agricultural workers and domestic servants.

- Clara Congdon had a rule that most of the staff needed to be unmarried.

⁴¹ Hudelson, Richard, and Carl Ross. *By the Ore Docks*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

- As a product of that rule, Glensheen became a perfect place to meet other single people.
- For example, Esther Larson was a downstairs maid, who while working at Glensheen meet one of the gardeners, **Erick Erickson**. It didn't take long and they were to be married.
 - Clara followed her rule and said they could no longer work at Glensheen. But she asked if they would be willing to be the caretakers of their newer home at their Orchard & Ranch in Washington State. A "castle" nicknamed Westhome. They said yes.

Down this hall is the upstairs maid, and then the cook's room. At the very end you can see their bathroom. It was common for indoor plumbing at this time and electricity.

Linen Closet

This is another new space not seen up close by the public.

Notice the numbered cabinets. These numbers could be used for reference by maids to know what linens went where in the house. Each number did not correspond to a certain room, but rather was a reference tool.

Example - "Clara told me to place those blankets in cabinet 8"

- Note the monogrammed towels
- Also monogrammed napkin sets.
- The ledger contains many pages listing various linens used in the house.
- Insecticide bottles that were found only recently, but had been in the drawer for many years.
- The original upholstery of the large furniture in Main Hall.
- 1930s calendar with notes written

Servants' Dining Room

Imagine he has taken his coat off and he is relaxing after a long journey. This is more than likely were the house staff would entertain him while he waited for his employer. This is the room the staff would eat their meals, but also it is most likely the space the staff came to unwind especially during the winter.

Congdon family oral history says that this table belonged to the Congdons when they lived on Superior St. in the Traphagen home.

In the United States it was customary for servants to eat the same meals that was prepared for the family. Putsz, Jennifer. *Voices from the Backstairs*. Dekalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010.

Servants had a longer days, so they would eat breakfast before the family, dinner was served after.

Cook's Pantry

- show them cabinet drawers that pull open
- show the old wooden ice box
- open up cabinets to show inside
- show the silver that needs to be polished.
- show granite counter
- show butter paddles (these were used for mixing salt into the butter and kneading the butter into the desired consistency)

Who was the first cook? Beda Boya:

Beda Frederika Boya was the Congdons' cook beginning in 1907 at 1509 Superior St. and then on to Glensheen until 1911. Boya (or Boija) was born in 1880 in Timrå, Sweden, first immigrating to the United States in 1903 to join her sister Helen in Superior, Wisconsin, who was then working as a maid. She never married.

In addition to the cook, there would be temporary help who worked for the cook. It was common practice to "borrow" a cook from neighboring household for larger dinners and gatherings. None of these staff seemed to be named directly by the Congdons in their financial ledgers.

Kitchen

This Kitchen has no photo, but we do have a blueprint of the original layout. So we can guess to its original look and feel. The sink would probably be similar to a country style sink with the counter portion draining into a tub.

Throughout the home are little white buttons. If at any time the family needed assistance, they would push the button and a staff member would come to assist. Here you can see where a servant was needed.

But for certain it was a busy place. Especially around the holidays when the larger family was all in town. The Stove in the back would have been a ten burner stove.

**Show photo of stove and blueprint of room with stove and sinks*

Recipe cabinet next to stove:

- Canning labels
- Cookbooks
- Open cookbook with recipe written in Swedish.

Swedish was the most common nationality of domestic workers at Glensheen especially among the female staff. Most American girls were raised with a stigma of working as a servant. Many European immigrants did not hold such stigma. Swedish servants found better wages and working conditions in the United States, however that didn't stop them from being subject to cultural stereotypes.

The 1881 book *The Servant Girl Question* tells its readers that a Swedish servant is only good "while she is fresh."

Mary Sherwood's *Manners and Social Usages* (1918) suggests, when hiring a chambermaid, to hire an English girl, but Irish or Swedish would be second choice. She also advises on hiring newer "green" immigrants who were easier to mold to the house's needs.

Servants Porch and Courtyard

This porch was servants' access to the outside world. The milkman would deliver the milk here. The mailman would deliver mail to this door. Because those roles are accepted as servants, not as a guest, they would have to enter the property through the east service gate entrance and not the formal west gate entrance. That way they did not disturb the lives of the family and the family's guests on the west side.

Lastly, this area is where staff would go to relax and smoke. Smoking was very common back then, more so than today and this was a known common gathering spot to do so. It was their refuge.

** show **icebox** from this side*

Throughout the home are little white buttons. If at any time the family needed assistance, they would push the button and a staff member would come to assist. Here you can see where a servant was needed.

Butler's Pantry

Here is where the family stored their dishware. Likely, they had monogrammed dishware with a Congdon insignia of CAC or large C.

Hidden in the back here is the laundry chute, which reaches up to the 3rd floor down to the basement level directly into the laundry room. It should be noted that the laundry chute is a great way to eavesdrop on people on other floors - I'm sure no Congdon servant did this - but tour guides sure do!

Near the laundry chute is a small ice box.

**Grab a glove and open up ice box.*

Sections of ice would be broken from the ice container in the Cook's pantry and placed in here to help smaller items stay cool.

The most famous item in the room is the **German silver sink**. Please do not touch. The sink itself dents very easily and touching it leaves fingerprints which our morning crew need to polish out and could permanently stain it. At the neighboring mansion, they also have a German silver sink, but it is heavily dented.

Why is it made to dent easy?

That way when the butler is washing the dishes and if by chance he drops one of the dishes into the sink, it would dent the sink and not break the dishware.

Under the sink you can see a small insulated space. This is like an old version of a microwave. With the heat of the hot pipes and the insulated cabinet you could place a portion of the meal on the pipes to keep it warm.

Also, notice the drying rack for towels and napkins.

Lastly, you can see this door, which swings both ways. That way the staff can enter and exit with ease. But especially notice the little window in the door. It was the job of the Butler to stand here and watch to see if the family needed anything and when needed he would pop out for assistance.

***Pause - big moment**

Notice, we have not yet entered the family's home at all so far on this tour. This entire tour has taken place in the servants' portion of the home.

Whenever staff would enter the family's home it was with caution. Their presence was meant to be kept at a minimal. In many circumstances the maids would wait for guests or family to leave before cleaning their rooms. In the Chester years, most oral history indicates that the Butler would have been one of the few staff members to often enter into the family's portion of the home.

Breakfast and Dining Rooms

On the floor in the Breakfast Room and under the table in the Dining Room you will see call buttons. These buttons would ring a bell in the kitchen notifying the staff when services is needed such as when the family is ready for the next course. Call buttons (usually on the floor like in the Breakfast Room) were common in middle-

class and wealthy homes that employed domestic work.

Also in the Dining Room you can see the silver fixtures and service which would require frequent polishing by the maids. Luxuries like these were purchased with the intent that the family would never need to labor for their care.

Main Hall

Silver Safe

Behind this door housed the Silver Safe. Located across from the Dining Room this was primarily used to lock away the family's silver service when not in use. Features like these remind us servants were often viewed among wealthy families like the Congdons as employees and not family, national anti-immigrant sentiments and rampant stereotypes of immigrants perpetuated by media at the time frame the the portrayal of the "other" in society.*

Door Bell

The butler would watch this panel to be notified of what door a guest or family member was entering. Then he could greet and assist them if necessary.

Coat Closet and Powder Room

This small bathroom and closet was maintained by the Butler. Since it was his duty to greet and assist you at the door, many of the guests would come with coats or outdoor weather clothing. He would take articles of clothing and store them in this closet. You may notice the holes in the top of the closet doors. This would allow airflow for the melting snow that may have accumulated on someone's coat.

In addition, many of the guests like today came to Glensheen from a long prior journey and would need a restroom. This space allowed that without having them enter too far into the home, in case the person they were there to see was not available.

The family's first butler was William Atherton who was an English immigrant. It was a status symbol to hire a butler from England in fitting with an English-style estate. But it seemed that the butler had some personality conflicts with the house staff - causing Mrs. Congdon to note: "Beda & Essie report Atherton very rude & horrid yesterday."

The Congdons themselves had some run-ins with their formal butler. In 1913 Clara wrote, "Had flare with Atherton about pressing H's suit...I think I must make him do it."

Finally in 1914 - the Butler and Glensheen had enough with each other. After some

more noted disputes with the cook, "Atherton left in a rage before noon. Did not say good-bye....Everyone satisfied to see him go."

Who was William Atherton?

William Thomas Atherton (Jr.) was the butler from 1908-1914. He was born in Norfolk, England in 1873 to parents who worked in service, his father was both a gardener and groom, and his mother a cook. Atherton became a butler by 1901 and worked in at least one fine estate in Norfolk. He and his family immigrated to Minnesota in 1906. He was a prominent member of social club Clan Stewart in Duluth.

After quitting Glensheen in a bit of a huff, he ran Ye English Inn with his father and mother at what is now 199 Howard Gnesen Road (crossroads of Middle Rd and Howard Gnesen Rd.) which was a popular social destination for a short time during the Great War.

Keep in mind, that a staff member was also responsible for maintaining the 15 fireplaces of the home and attending to them, if the family wanted it lit. This more than likely was the job of a part-time staff member.

Bring group into servants quarters, into kitchen, and downstairs to basement hallway.

Boiler Room

In this room is where all the heating units for the entire mansion are located. At the time each room had its own temperature control. As you can see it had a coal fed boiler. For many years it had an **automated auger** that shifted coal into the furnace. But in the Chester years, it did not. All the coal had to be fed by shovel. More than likely this was another job done by a part-time staff member.

Behind that door in the back is the coal room.

Bring group back into hallway.

The room you are passing is an office. It is the old wood room for those 15 fireplaces.

Milk Room

This is where the milk from the cows was processed. Just as now, there was concern about food safety, you can see the slanted floors for ensuring good drainage.

And Clara wrote in her diary that "Beda to clean milk room floor with acid"

Cold Room

With all the vegetables being grown on the estate, many were canned to be used by the family later. The family spent a great deal of money to be self-sustaining. Similar to today, there was a movement to grow locally.

In the 20s, staff have accounted that great fruit boxes of apples from the Congdon orchards in Washington would arrive and the staff were allowed "to eat all of them we wished."

Laundry room

This is another room, where the **Laundress** would have spent a great deal of time. She was a part-time staff member who came in on Monday to do laundry.

- Laundry was hand washed with large sinks along east wall. (See blueprints)
- The large dryer from the Chicago Clothes Dryers would be used for a variety of linens, but especially bed sheets. Clothes would also be hung in Servants Courtyard.
- The mangle, which was used to iron the large linens and other clothing.
- Padded table for ironing clothes
- Point out small implement on table between two baskets. This is a fluter and was heated and then used to make ripples or ruffles in clothing. Also on this table is a sleeve ironing board, made specifically to iron sleeves without leaving a crease.

End of Tour

This brings us to the end of the servants' tour. I hope this gave you a different way to view Glensheen. In addition, we hope you got to see a little into the daily lives of the servants of the time.

Bring your tour to the Main Hall. They will then view the house as General Admission.

"Limited Mobility Tours"

March 2018

Offered 8:50 AM & later afternoon (Exact time TBD), There may also be a noon tour (TBD)

This tour will be a guided tour like any other, but it will begin in the ticket house. This will allow easy pick-up of the tour and time to point out the gift shop that can be visited after the tour is complete. Like other self guided tours begin in the hall and continue through the rooms on the west side as usual. Then return down to the east end going with the flow of tours through the servants dining room. When you exit the dining room exit the front door. On the walk outside to the basement explain the second floor. Once you have entered the basement continue to point out the laundry room and walk toward the amusement room. Drop your guests off in the amusement room and encourage them to look around.

- Ticket house
- Enter front door
- West end of 1st floor
- East end with the flow of tours (starting in the Servant's Dining Room)
- Exit out the front door
- Walk guests to basement, while talking about the second and third floors
- Enter mud room
- Guide through the spaces starting with the Laundry Room
- Continue toward amusement room while discussing spaces
- In the amusement room wrap up the tour and tell guests they exit the same way we entered
- Remind them the Stable and Gift shop is available to view as well as the rest of the estate

"Summer Evening Tour Route"

(Friday and Saturday 2019)

2 hour tour.

Start - Carriage House (Usual location)

Bring through **Vegetable Garden**, if possible, bring group by raspberries and allow to pick through fence.

Bring group through **Sundial Garden**

Bring group to steps to show **Tennis Court**

Bring group to **Rose Garden**, show U of M roses

Bring group down steps towards **Bent Brook** in the **Fox Forest**

Bring Group into Bent Brook, tell story about playing cards in brook with water going through your feet

Bring group back to path and bring up to **West Gate**, near large staircase leading to Tischer Creek

Showcase view of **Mansion**

Showcase **view of Stone Arch Bridge** on way back

Bring into home and **give full mansion Tour**
- 75 minutes pass

Bring group into **Formal Garden**

Bring group to **Stone Arch Bridge**

Bring group to **Outlook** which looks onto Stone Arch Bridge and Lake Superior

Bring group to **Boathouse**, show inside

Drop off group by Gift Shop

"Grounds Tour"

(Offered by special request)

Updated June 9th, 2014

Greeting

Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to the Glensheen Estate, and the new Grand Gardens and Grounds Tour. I am _____(tour guide's name), and I shall be your tour guide. If you have any questions, feel free to ask at any time.

Introduction

Begin standing near Ticket House.

The Glensheen estate was **owned by Chester Congdon**, who was in his late 40s at the time of Glensheen's completion. Mr. Congdon became wealthy during the Gilded Age in America; and he like other fellows of his time, such as, Andrew Carnegie, rose from the poor class straight to the stratosphere of the wealthy, the **modern American dream**. He then earned incredible amounts of wealth from land speculation later in his life, but his skills as a lawyer brought him into the small circle of powerful men who defined the Industrial era. When he decided to build a new home in Duluth around 1901, he and his wife, Clara Congdon, wanted to live in a more private environment than their home in east Duluth, which Mr. Congdon called the Traphagen house. It was called the Traphagen house⁴² because it was designed and lived in by the famous Duluth architect Oliver Traphagen.⁴³ That home was a duplex, and it was where the Congdon's lived during the construction of Glensheen.⁴⁴ Mrs. Congdon was excited to move away from the Traphagen home because of the noise of the neighborhood.⁴⁵ Her new neighbors at Glensheen would be quiet because on one side there was a Norwegian cemetery and on the other, nothing. When they arrived on the property, the beauty of Lake Superior, Tischer Creek and Bent Brook touched the couple. By 1903, they were already on the property doing measurements.⁴⁶ They would later agree to the idea of having the home between these two streams of water. This would provide a very majestic and naturalistic foundation to their landscaping project.

⁴² Sheldon T. Aubut and Maryanne C. Norton, *Images of America Duluth Minnesota* (Chicago: Arcadia, 2001), 99.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 99.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 99.

⁴⁵ Judy Vick, "A Palace Called Glensheen," *Twin Cities*, March 1981, 36.

⁴⁶ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual* (Duluth: Glensheen, 1990), 2.

To design the grounds of the estate Mr. Congdon chose **Charles Leavitt Jr. as the landscape designer**. Mr. Leavitt was a civil and landscape engineer from **New York City**.⁴⁷ The home was being constructed in an era when the naturalistic designs of **Frederick Law Olmsted** inspired all. Mr. Olmsted became famous for his design of New York City's Central Park, which focused on preserving nature with man as more of an onlooker than a participant.⁴⁸ At the time, Mr. Leavitt was one of more renowned in his field. He became known for his work on such projects as Long Beach, NY, Monument Valley, and the estates of George Post and John D. Rockefeller.⁴⁹ The grounds were designed almost entirely from his office in New York City. After the designs were completed and then approved by Mr. Congdon, Mr. Leavitt's chief subordinates, **Arthur Nichols** and **Anthony Morrell**, would adapt them to the property.⁵⁰ Sometimes the designs would change in order to adapt to the property, but most of the time Mr. Leavitt was able design the grounds flawlessly. These two men would later become pioneers in landscape design as well. Mr. Morrell and Mr. Nichols would go into business together and would complete such projects as the community of Morgan Park and develop plans for Lester Park and Washington Square.⁵¹ After Mr. Morrell passed away, Mr. Nichols worked on a section of Skyline Parkway and later the Minnesota State Capitol.⁵² While Morrell worked with Nichols on many projects as a team with Leavitt, it seems from the correspondence letters we have that he was the higher-ranking employee to Leavitt at the time of the construction of Glensheen.⁵³

The property the Congdons originally purchased in 1905 was around 22 acres,⁵⁴ and at the time the University of Minnesota was donated the home, it was **22.7 acres**.⁵⁵ When Mr. Leavitt purchased the plants for the grounds, he purchased over **266 varieties** at a cost of 1,506.50 on March 21st 1907.⁵⁶ These plants were hand-selected by some of the best nurseries in the country.⁵⁷ To help grow all these new plants, over **500 pounds of black soil** was brought to the estate.⁵⁸ Now, let's starting walking!

Pasture/ Parking Lot

Start speaking near entrance of parking lot.

This parking lot you are standing in used to be a Pasture for the horses and cows. In the early days of Glensheen, they had a goal of keeping enough animals and

⁴⁷ Ibid., 6.

⁴⁸ "A Celebration of the Life and Times of Frederick Law Olmsted, founder of American Landscape Architecture.", <http://www.fredericklawolmsted.com/Lifeframe.html>.

⁴⁹ Gregory Kopischke, *American Landscape Initiative*, National Park Service, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hli/p2sample.htm>.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Morell & Nichols Landscape Architects, Board of Park Commissioners Duluth Minn., "Plan for Improvement of Lester Park", (Minneapolis, January 1911)

⁵² Kopischke, *American Landscape Initiative*.

⁵³ Charles Leavitt Jr. (Landscape Designer), letter to Chester Congdon, October 5 1908. File 302b Glensheen agreement 1/15/1907 with city of Duluth covering dam across Tischer's Creek, etc. Large File Box, 2nd floor closet near elevator

⁵⁴ C M C, Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual, 6

⁵⁵ Robert J. Reichert, Utilization Study for Glensheen Final Report, September 1978, 8.

⁵⁶ Charles Leavitt Jr (Landscape Designer), invoice for Plant purchases, March 21, 1907. Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 7

plants to be **self-sufficient**, so an area for grazing and riding horses was necessary. After Mr. Congdon passed away in 1916 due to heart failure, Clara inherited full ownership of the estate till her death in 1950 at the age of 96, when her youngest daughter, Elizabeth, assumed ownership of the estate. During Clara's years, the Pasture more than likely transitioned into an open field or prairie. From the photos we have in 1969, it was a very plush, tall field.⁵⁹

You should be standing near the retaining pool.

The Pasture/ field was turned into a parking lot when the University took over the property in the late 70's. The Parking Lot can hold 300 people for events if need be.⁶⁰ The lot itself has changed over the years as well. The lot initially was divided by a paved lot and a dirt lot. The dirt lot was generally the staff lot while the paved lot was for the guests and docents. As years progressed, the University decided to update the lot due to environmental concerns. The goal of the University was to reduce the runoff of the lot.⁶¹ The runoff can be unhealthy for the environment because of the oil, gas, and other forms of pollution that would fall off in a concentrated area closer to Lake Superior.⁶² It's safer for the environment if you can have the pollutants go through the ground in smaller doses,⁶³ this way the ground can act as a filter.⁶⁴ In 2004, **UMD built a retaining pool** at the southern end of the lot and a swale between the dirt and paved lot to help solve the runoff issue.⁶⁵

Gardener's Cottage

Start speaking near the front of the GC.

The GC has gone through two different styles. It was initially done in the **Jacobean Revival style** to match the home.⁶⁶ Later on, it was enlarged to fit the family of the **Wynesses in 1927** and was remodeled in its current style, which is the English Tudor style.⁶⁷ This is also the same style as the Carriage House today. After it was remodeled by the **Duluth Architectural firm, Starin and Melander**,⁶⁸ the Gardener's cottage had nine rooms, including three bedrooms,⁶⁹ with a total square footage of 1,916.⁷⁰ They transformed the potting room into the kitchen and pantry.⁷¹ When the Greenhouse was still in existence, the room you entered the greenhouse from was the potting room, where the gardener kept most of the pots and maintenance tools for the Greenhouse.⁷² Also in the basement of the GC,

⁵⁹ photo, the Glensheen pasture, 1969. Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

⁶⁰ Kathy Bergh, interview by Daniel Hartman, March 18, 2005.

⁶¹ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman, February 24, 2005.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 19.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 19.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 19.

⁶⁹ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

⁷⁰ Dan Mc Clelland, room footage chart, circa 1990.

⁷¹ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 19.

⁷² Ibid., 19.

two pipes are visible that were used to heat the Greenhouse.⁷³ These pipes were attached to the boiler in the basement.⁷⁴

The first gardener at Glensheen was **John Kenny**, who worked at Glensheen till 1917.⁷⁵ A man named **Shepard** was Head Gardener from 1917 to 1920, and was followed by the short tenured gardener, **Aston Plague**, till **George Wyness** replaced him in 1921.⁷⁶ George Wyness came from Scotland, where he had become famous for his skills in gardening at the Usan estate of Lord Keith in Montrose, Scotland.⁷⁷ He would use his reputation to move to America and eventually work at one of the Frick estates. When the Congdons were looking for yet another gardener, they took the advice of Frick's daughter and hired George Wyness to take over the Glensheen grounds.⁷⁸ This would be the start of a long Wyness gardening legacy. George Wyness would transform the grounds to a new style, one that would be plush, full, and more similar to the current grounds layout. George would stay in charge of the grounds up **till 1945**. His family had the pleasure of growing up at the Glensheen Estate, so we have different photos of them enjoying the estate, such as his son, **John Wyness**, riding horseback⁷⁹ and his other son, **Bob Wyness**, fishing in Lake Superior.⁸⁰

Shortly after his son, Bob, returned from World War II, he let his son **takeover as Head Gardener of the estate in 1945**.⁸¹ Bob had lived at Glensheen since he was 6 years old and was considered a part of the Congdon family and later the University family. Bob would remain living on the Glensheen property with his wife Elsie till May 2004. Bob not only became a part of the staff and family of the Glensheen community; but, also, he himself became a living monument of the history at Glensheen. Many times, Bob would venture out of his home and would mingle with guests. He was well known for his kindness and compassion.

The Gardener's Cottage went through a major renovation in 2015 and 2016. The ground floor was restored back to its original layout and look in 1908. In addition, unlike the other structures of Glensheen, the utilities are fully updated and the building is ADA compliant. This came at a cost of \$400,000. This was only possible because of a private donation from **Richard Nicholson** at \$100,000 and the remainder was paid through with **ticket sale surplus dollars** from the prior successful year. Today it is a space used by Glensheen staff for offices on the second floor and multi-purpose space on the ground floor. During the week it is used by staff as a meeting space and by interns. On weekends it is used by couples as the Wedding Cottage. Overall, the GC will always stand as a memorial to the Wyness family.

⁷³ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 19.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 19.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 8.

⁷⁸ H.B. Frick's Daughter, Letter to Mrs. Congdon, Recommendation for George Wyness, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

⁷⁹ photo, *John Wyness*, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

⁸⁰ photo, *Bob Wyness fishing*, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

⁸¹ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 8.

Vegetable Garden/ Sundial Garden

Start speaking at the entrance of Vegetable Garden and eventually walk them up to the Sundial Garden.

The vegetable garden was originally used to help feed the family throughout the year. It was one of the many functions to help keep the Congdon family entirely self-sufficient. The original gardening staff varied from three to nine people.⁸² Today the staff is around six strong, mainly composed of university students led by our Head Gardener, Sher Lind. The garden itself had a wide assortment of vegetables and fruits. Your common vegetables such as carrots, lettuce, rhubarb, corn, and radishes were grown. Likewise, fruits such as raspberries and strawberries were grown periodically. One of the unique things about the location of the grounds of Glensheen is how close it is to the lake. Since the gardens are so close to the lake, the plants are in a different climate zone than plants in Hermantown, which is just on the top of the hill.⁸³ This makes the growing season a little different than it would be in more inland locations in Duluth.⁸⁴ When the University acquired the property, they used the Vegetable Garden as an **experimental garden**. The plants, which were grown at Glensheen, were picked by the Minnesota Extension Service; and some were even scientifically modified. These different types would be grown to compare growth rates, size, and many other variables.

*You should be standing in the **Annual Garden**.*

The Sundial garden in the past was comprised mostly of annual flowers so it has also been named the Annual Garden. The name that was placed on this area by the landscape designer was the Flower Garden.⁸⁵ Back when there was a Greenhouse, all the annuals were grown in there from seedlings and transplanted to the garden, which would explain the large gardens of beautiful annuals in the old 1930s photos. Most of the annuals you see on the property today have been purchased at local businesses.

The Rose Garden was built to be just that since the property was constructed in 1907.⁸⁶ Today there are more than roses in there, but the University plans on using only roses again sometime in the near future.⁸⁷

⁸² Chester A. Congdon, financial record from 1906-09, Journal C CAC, Right side of closet, 2nd floor closet near elevator, Glensheen Archives.

⁸³ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

⁸⁶ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

⁸⁷ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

Greenhouse

You should start speaking on the east side of the Annual Garden.

The **Greenhouse** used to exist right behind the GC and extended up to the Tennis Court. There was also a row of **Lombardy Poplars** alongside the East Gate Entrance to act as a windbreak, but they were taken down because the branches would fall and break the Greenhouse glass panels.⁸⁸ **Lord & Burnham Company** built the Greenhouse in 1907.⁸⁹ The Greenhouse was comprised **of four rooms**: the **Palm House**, the **Rose House**, the **Carnation House**, and **General Growing House**.⁹⁰ The Palm House was the largest and most stylistic section of the Greenhouse. It was 25 by 50 feet and was used to store exotic plants such as orchids and banana trees.⁹¹ It was featured in most photos of the Greenhouse because of its external aesthetic quality. The other Greenhouse rooms were not of this style. The Rose House was 18 by 25 feet and was used to grow roses for the family year round.⁹² Easter lilies were also grown in the Rose House. The Carnation House was 18 by 25 feet and grew carnations for floral arrangements.⁹³ Carnations in the early 20th century served as purpose of style and were a symbol of prestige. It has also been said that Mr. Congdon was a fan of the carnation. The General Growing House was 18 by 40 feet and was used for seedling and bedding plants.⁹⁴ The gardener would purchase seeds and begin growing the plants in this section of the Greenhouse. More than **6,000 seedlings were grown each year**.⁹⁵ Almost all of the annuals used to be grown in the Greenhouse till the University asked the Congdons to tear it down.

The **University urged the Congdon Corporation**, which was the body running Glensheen between Elizabeth and before the University gained full ownership, to tear down the Greenhouse because of the heating costs. When the home was heated by coal it needed 70 tons a year, but the **Greenhouse needed 65 tons**.⁹⁶ It wasn't a big deal back when coal was \$12 a ton, but with modern heating costs, it became unreasonable.⁹⁷ Between 1908 and 1927, the Greenhouse boiler needed to be hand stoked periodically, even in the middle of the night.⁹⁸ This was the job of the head gardener. In 1927 the Congdons purchased an automatic stoker; this also was the same year the GC was remodeled.⁹⁹ But on January 15th, 1971, the Greenhouse was terminated.¹⁰⁰ Today you can see the old rooflines on the

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 18.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 18.

⁹¹ Ibid., 18.

⁹² Ibid., 18.

⁹³ Ibid., 18.

⁹⁴ Ibid., 18.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 8.

⁹⁶ Ibid., 8, 18.

⁹⁷ Ibid., 8.

⁹⁸ Ibid., 8.

⁹⁹ Ibid., 18.

¹⁰⁰ Congdon Corporation, Letter to Bob Wyness, Termination of Greenhouse, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

back of the GC where the Greenhouse connected to it. Also, the heating pipes are still in the ground.¹⁰¹ Many spare parts that belonged to the Greenhouse are still in existence today, such as panels of glass.¹⁰² We are lucky to have so many great photos of the Greenhouse today. It's the dream of many to reconstruct the Greenhouse.

Tennis Court

Start at the staircase of the Tennis Court and lead them around the fencing towards the Bowling Green.

The Tennis Court at Glensheen is a unique item itself. It was one of the few natural red clay courts that are not made of synthetic materials in Minnesota today. Most clay courts that are built in the present and the last 90 years are not all natural clay courts. Clay courts, synthetic in particular, are staging a comeback though, despite them being expensive and time consuming to maintain.¹⁰³ The surface is more forgiving than concrete, and they help prevent injury which helps provide an additional level of safety and comfort for the player.¹⁰⁴ Also, there is a nostalgic feel to these clay courts. In 1909, fast dry clay courts were invented in England, and the modern day concrete courts didn't become popular for quite some time.¹⁰⁵ But in 1908, this was a modern court. The downside to the court is how slow it takes to dry after even a little rain and is the reason it needed to be flattened daily. Most US clay courts today are made of synthetic materials or are fast dry because of this reason.

Tennis became formally a sport in 1873 as a lawn sport.¹⁰⁶ Tennis comes from the **French sport** "Real Tennis" which is similar to our tennis "Lawn Tennis" but is indoors and setup more in a Racquetball/Tennis like environment.¹⁰⁷ The name "Tennis" comes from the French word "Tenez".¹⁰⁸ The modern tennis game we play today, "Lawn Tennis", was termed by Arthur Balfour back in the early 1900's.¹⁰⁹

The Glensheen Tennis Court is in some need of repair. For example, the fencing is broken in several sections throughout the court, and the retaining walls and staircases are in dire need of repair. Still, the University is making headway; for example, in 2004 they cleared the court of the massive field of dandelions and even held a short tournament. To this day, we still have the **concrete roller** that was and is still used to flatten the surface for playing. In 1904, the Congdons purchased some tennis shoes for \$1.25 and some laces for a nickel.¹¹⁰

¹⁰¹ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Andrew R. Lavalley, *Clay Courts: What are they anyway?*, XSPORTS, <http://www.xsports.com/clay.html>.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Cliff Richard, *The History of Tennis*, Planet Tennis, http://www.cliffrichardtennis.org/planet_tennis/history.htm.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Congdon Corporation, Letter to Bob Wyness, Termination of Greenhouse, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

Bowling Green

You should be standing in the middle of the Bowling Green.

The term Bowling Green is defined as a field of closely mowed turf for playing **Lawn Bowling**.¹¹¹ Lawn Bowling is an old lawn sport consisting of a jack and biased wooden balls.¹¹² The rules are similar to Bocce ball with the jack replacing the smaller white ball used in **Bocce**.¹¹³ The object would be to throw the jack and then try to throw the biased wooden balls as close as you can to the jack.¹¹⁴ The biased wooden balls are not round but are curved balls, which make it very difficult to anticipate rolls.¹¹⁵

The Bowling Green at Glensheen originally was a very quiet and majestic environment. It used to be one of the **quieter sections of the property** because it was away from the waves of the lake and the flowing creek water, which added more background noise than you would assume. Today, it does not seem that quiet because of the busy traffic on London Road, but it still manages that feeling of isolation from the road. The road wasn't as busy before because the automobile was not a popular icon of transportation; originally, it would have been the sound of horses and carriages.

At the far west end of the Bowling Green used to be a stone staircase down to the Bent Brook London Road Bridge.¹¹⁶ None of the staircase is in existence today due to the loose clay soil in this location and the near hundred years of aging. The Bowling Green was used for other lawn sports as well by the Congdon family such as Bocce Ball and Croquet. Today the Bowling Green is used still for lawn sports.

Bent Brook

You should be standing on the upper Bent Brook Bridge.

Bent Brook is one of two creeks that run alongside the home, the other is Tischer Creek on the opposite side of the estate. Bent Brook is the smaller of the two. During the construction years of the estate, soil was transported all over the property to help grow the new trees planted on the estate. There was a worry that all the new soil added to the estate might wash away because of the creek, so they placed stones in concrete along the entire Bent Brook route on the property. This solved the problem of runoff and created a unique, quick-flowing creek. The concrete needs to be repaired yearly, which can be a tough job. On a rainy day, the creek flow will be tripled and wild. Also on a rainy day, the creek will carry so much sediment from the soil that it will push the dirty brown sediment far into Lake Superior, which can be easily seen from the beach.

¹¹¹ Ask Jeeves, <http://web.ask.com/web?q=what+is+a+bowling+green&qsrc=0&o=0>

¹¹² Tripod, *The Rules of Lawn Bowling*, <http://wardw123.tripod.com/Physics/Rules.html>

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), Glensheen Estate original design.

On **June 23rd 1952**, the concrete walls couldn't hold the water back from a tremendous rainstorm that struck Duluth, and the result was 15,000 dollars in damages to the estate.¹¹⁷ In under an hour, **1.9 inches of water** fell upon Duluth.¹¹⁸ It goes down as one of the worst storms in Duluth history.¹¹⁹ There was unprecedented damage all over the city. The heavy rains overflowed the top of the concrete walls in Bent Brook and destroyed everything in its path.¹²⁰ Water even leaked into the basement of the home in the Recreation Room.¹²¹ The concrete walls themselves were even destroyed.¹²² Because of the damage, the Congdons hired an appraiser, **Richard Northup**. The only reason we know of this storm is because we have his appraisal on record here at the Glensheen archives.¹²³

You will notice a wooden bridge that crosses Bent Brook. This is obviously a new version, but this bridge has always been wooden. Sometimes the shifting ice in the winter will move the bridge, and this maybe the reason it is wooden. That way it's easy to repair or inexpensive to build a new one if the winter was especially rough. In the early days, this bridge was very rustic.¹²⁴ It was comprised of small logs of cedar and oak made into post and rails as we can tell from old photos.¹²⁵ The bridges made in the northern part of the West Trail System were of similar design to this.¹²⁶

East Trail System

Start speaking at the east entrance of ETS and move towards the creek.

The East Trail System is one of two series of trails here at the Glensheen estate. This set of trails is the less adventurous of the two, but also is possibly the more relaxing. As you enter the East Trail System near the Rose Garden staircase, you immediately walk into Bent Brook. You will notice the **stone staircase down to the creek**. If you come down to the creek on a sunny day, you can walk up the creek on the stones to the Bent Brook London Bridge Tunnel. In this immediate area, it's hard to imagine a more peaceful fall setting, with the creek water flowing and the colorful leaves falling into the creek. There used to be a trail on the east side of the creek that met with a stone staircase from the Bowling Green which would lead you into this peaceful environment.¹²⁷ The University would like to place a small table and chairs in this area to invite guests to enjoy its isolation and beauty.¹²⁸

¹¹⁷ Richard Northup, appraisal report of Glensheen estate, October 6, 1952. File name: Miscellaneous east Duluth lots trust u/w Chester A. Congdon, Deceased, Large Envelope on top of Large file box, 2nd floor closet near elevator, 1.

¹¹⁸ Ibid., 6.

¹¹⁹ "Cloudburst Causes Heave Loss Here", *Duluth News Tribune*, June 24, 1952, sec. A.

¹²⁰ Richard Northup, appraisal report of Glensheen estate, 7.

¹²¹ Ibid., 7.

¹²² Ibid., 6.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ photo, Bent Brook Wooden Bridge, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Photos, two different Wooden Bridges in the Northern West Trail System, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹²⁷ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

¹²⁸ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

As you cross the creek, you enter into a small forest with a circular path that would lead you directly to the front of the home. In the north side of this small forest is a **maintenance valve**, which was part of the original construction of the estate. The valve is connected to a holding tank; and the valve controls to where the **reservoir water system** is allowed to flow.¹²⁹ So if you wanted water to only flow to the Tennis Court, you could do that here. Today, the University uses the city water so there is no need for creek water from the reservoir system.¹³⁰ The University in the future would like to renovate the trails back to their original design and also repair the reservoir lines so that the valve can be of use again.¹³¹

West Gate Entrance/ Retaining Wall

Start speaking in the Court Entrance and move towards the West Gate.

In the early design of the estate, Mr. Leavitt decided to build an **S curve driveway** at the West Gate Entrance to take advantage of the **natural shape** of the landscape. This S curve also provided a more naturalistic touch that the landscape designer was for which aiming. Since the driveway was built on a hill, they needed to build a retaining wall to level it. The retaining wall is made of the same brick as the home, and its design matches seamlessly. When builders constructed the home, they dug out a tremendous amount of dirt and gravel.¹³² They used this excess to build the driveway and retaining wall, which was sealed by the brick wall. Alongside this 15 ft retaining wall is a staircase that leads down to the **West Trail System**. Today the staircase could use some repair; but overall, it is in pretty good shape. It is only roped off today because of the inherent danger of falling while going through the West Trail System.

The forested area between London Road and the home has gone through different cycles. In the early years of the home when Chester lived there, little brush existed between the home and the road.¹³³ Then around the time of George Wyness, brush was grown, and the house was barely visible from the road.¹³⁴ It stayed this way till recently when the University gardening crew started cutting down the brush again to make the home more visible from the road.¹³⁵

The West Gate Entrance is the main entry point of the estate while the **East Gate Entrance** is designed to be used by the servants. It was even referred to as the service drive in the early layout of the home.¹³⁶ So the wealthy that would come to visit Glensheen would enter through the West Gate Entrance. The carriages and

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Michael Lane, *Construction Years*, 6.

¹³³ photo, undeveloped land between London Road and Entrance Court, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. Circa 1910.

¹³⁴ photo, undeveloped land between London Road and Entrance Court, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. Circa 1930.

¹³⁵ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹³⁶ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

automobiles usually would turn around in the Entrance Court in front of the home and leave through the West Gate Entrance.

You should be standing at the West Gate.

The mouth of the West Gate Entrance near London Road is gated with steel fencing and stylistic brick posts similar to the home, which stretch the entire length of the Glensheen London Road distance. The immediate entrance is flanked on both sides by two larger, stylistic brick posts. The eastern brick post by the entrance has the name Glensheen on the north side of the post. This fencing, which is the most visible section of the estate from London Road, is in need of much repair. The brick posts that hold up the steel fencing is falling apart all along the way. The steel fencing itself has rusted and broken throughout as well.

North Side of the Home

You should be standing near the 1905 cornerstone.

Here is the stone that clarifies for you when the construction of the home began in 1905. The construction of the home was busiest in the summer, because the winters were so cold and snowy. The home took 45 months to complete with most materials coming by train and unloading at **Howard's Crossing**.¹³⁷ So there were more employees in summer than any other time. We are lucky enough to have the pay logs of the construction workers. The **construction supervisor was J.C. Bush**, who answered to Clarence Johnston for the construction of the exterior of the home. William A. French company and its designer, John Bradstreet, worked on the interior of the home. Charles Leavitt Jr, and his subordinates Anthony Morrell, and Arthur Nichols worked on the design of the landscape, and finally all answered to the demands of Chester Congdon.¹³⁸ On a busy day, there would be up to **300 workers** on the estate working 8-10 hour shifts a day.¹³⁹ There were many different specialty occupations utilized. There were bricklayers, electricians, carpenters, masons, night watchmen, laborers, and plumbers.¹⁴⁰ Bricklayers were paid the most at 75 cents an hour and water boys were paid the least at 7 ½ cents an hour.¹⁴¹ The peak year of construction was 1907.¹⁴² When the home was finally **completed on February 9th of 1909**, it was at the total cost of \$854,000, and was 27,000 square feet, with 39 rooms, 15 bedrooms, and 15 fireplaces.¹⁴³

¹³⁷ Michael Lane, *Construction Years*, 1

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, 1.

¹³⁹ J. C. Bush, Pay log, June 1906, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, north Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

¹⁴⁰ Michael Lane, *Construction Years*, 24.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 24.

¹⁴² J. C. Bush, Pay log, 1905-9.

¹⁴³ Rachel Martin, Glensheen House tour manual, Bring up tour, pg 2. 1998.

Servants Porch and courtyard

You should be standing in the center of the Servants Courtyard.

In the initial layout of the home, this was and still is the Servants Porch and Courtyard.¹⁴⁴ Most mansions of this era would have sectioned off the living area of the staff from the family, and this mansion was no different. The door on the front side of the home near the 1905 cornerstone is the servant's entrance door. If you were a servant riding along with your boss on a trip to Glensheen, you would have to enter through this door while your boss could enter the main front door to show class distinctions. Generally speaking, the east side of the home is the servant's side. It is where you find the Kitchen, Laundry Room, Milk Room, Boiler Room, Coal Room, and the Servants Dining Room. So on the east side of the home, you have the Servants Courtyard where they would dry laundry on the **clothesline**. Also the **Congdon doghouse** was kept in the Servants Courtyard. The courtyard itself is gated in three different directions.

The Servants Porch, which is connected to the home, is a unique place to sit and relax after a long day's work. We are sure the porch was utilized for relaxation in its early days for now it is one of the most common places for the current staff to sit back. Also the porch is an extension of the kitchen so it is, and was, used for many practical purposes. On the wall of the porch is a small metal door that was used for bringing ice blocks inside. This way the workers wouldn't bring dirt into the kitchen from their boots while bringing in the ice blocks. Also, there is a door right into the kitchen from the porch, which was used for carrying food items and other such necessities inside.

Today we don't use the courtyard and porch for strictly servants, but rather it's open to the public to stroll through. All the steel gates of the courtyard are generally always open. The University gardening crew has built a small garden about where the clothesline used to be and another small garden right in front of the east entrance of the courtyard. Generally, these are filled in with annuals such as petunias and impatiens. Also, the exit door for all tours of the house is located below the porch and all tours entering the house walk by the courtyard and porch. So almost all tours today see both these areas. It is unlikely many guests would have entered the home this way when the Congdons lived here. When caterers and other outside businesses participate at Glensheen, they tend to park their vehicles in the courtyard and unload their material from here. Either way, today the courtyard and porch are still used for the servants of Glensheen, but also are now open for the public to view.

Terrace

¹⁴⁴ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

Gather the group around the Juliet Balcony.

Where the group is standing is called the Juliet Balcony and is one of the best views on the estate. Surrounding the Juliet Balcony, there are two parts to the terrace: the Upper Terrace where you are standing now and the Lower Terrace right below you. The Upper Terrace reaches to the Green Room and then all the way to the Living Room Porch. The Lower Terrace leads east towards the Servants Courtyard or west towards the West Trail System entrance.

The **Juliet Balcony** was named by the University, because it's a perfect location for a romantic setting, and, therefore, reminded UMD of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". Of course, this is a great location for a wedding, and there have been many different weddings at Glensheen through the years. Robert Congdon, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Congdon, was married on the grounds of Glensheen; and today almost every summer weekend is booked with a wedding at Glensheen. And, of course, the perfect location is the Juliet Balcony with the bridal party flowing down the corresponding staircases. We know it to be one of more common locations for the Congdons to take photos. We have a fabulous photo of all the Congdon children sitting at the Juliet Balcony.¹⁴⁵

Move the group to the entrance of West Porch.

The porch was built to be open, half outside, half inside. The room is located right near a **rock bluff alongside Tischer Creek**; and on any summer day, the sound of the creek flowing is easily heard. The view and sound of the creek provides a very majestic, relaxing scene, a location Chester Congdon himself enjoyed. It is known that Chester Congdon would sit, read his newspaper, and eat breakfast in this place.¹⁴⁶

You should be standing by the main center door.

The Upper Terrace's focal point is the main south door, which is at the center of the terrace and mansion. The family is said to consider both the north and south doors to be the front doors. This maybe true because many of the early guests may have come by boat and would enter the home through the south door. The large main door is made of oak. Its frame has many Neo-Classical themes and is made of Vermont granite.¹⁴⁷

The Lower Terrace is more of a transition between the Upper Terrace and Formal Garden but still acts as peaceful place of meditation that many guests use today. It has the grass and trees of the Formal Garden but the brick flooring that is common on the terrace. It is from the Lower Terrace that you can see into the

¹⁴⁵ photo, Congdon Children, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹⁴⁶ photo, Chester in Living Room Porch, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹⁴⁷ Michael Lane, Letter acknowledging possibility of Vermont Granite at Glensheen, official in Vermont, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives

Winter Garden of the home. The Winter Garden is a unique room, but we don't know much about it. The Winter Garden was always unheated until the University acquired Glensheen. Today, it is used to hold dinners and conferences and is the largest room in the house. It is picked for many wedding receptions because it is the length of the home and was recently renovated for that purpose. The west side of the Lower Terrace has a staircase that leads down to the West Trail System. The most common staircases used by guests of the Glensheen are the two staircases that lead into the Formal Garden.

Formal Garden

You should bring the group near the fountain.

The **Formal Garden** architecturally is an extension of the Jacobean revival design of the home and has 10 flower plots, one grass plot, a fountain, and a pool.¹⁴⁸ On each side of the Formal Garden are two extended wings with granite benches. On the north and south side of the Formal Garden lie two large garden plots both dominated by the existence of 9 ft tall colorful delphiniums that have graced the estate for more than 70 years.¹⁴⁹ These are not the same ones, but rather they are in same location. In the far north plot alongside the brick wall grows clematis, a beautiful vine that has bright purple or blue flowers in late-mid summer. On the north side of the pool is a grass plot that is today used for seating for weddings and other events. The focal point of the formal garden is the fountain and pool.

The pool was filled with **creek water** from the water reservoir located up in northern section of the West Trail System and was filled with lily pads and goldfish. The lily pad was one of Chester Congdon's favorite flowers. The color of the pool was initially the color of the granite that frames the pool; but in the summer of 2004, it was painted a more vibrant blue. In the early days of the pool, it was used for swimming. We have found at least one photo of the family swimming in the pool.¹⁵⁰ In the southeast side of the pool is the drain. Today, the University invites anyone to throw change into the pool for good luck. The change will go towards restoring the grounds of Glensheen.

The fountain of Glensheen is not the first, nor the second, fountain installed at Glensheen, but rather the third. The first fountain installed at Glensheen was not a fountain but a series of fountains that shot out from all different angles from the sides of the pool.¹⁵¹ This initial design worked but rusted out quickly and was soon replaced.¹⁵² The second fountain was a large central fountain that gushed into the sky from the center of the pool.¹⁵³ The third, and lasting, fountain was the one sculpted by George Thrana in 1913.¹⁵⁴ **George Thrana** was a famous local master stone carver who carved many of the buildings in and around Duluth. Some of the

¹⁴⁸ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 6

¹⁴⁹ photos, Delphiniums from circa 1930 to 2004, C M C, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹⁵⁰ photo, kids in pool, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. Circa 1910.

¹⁵¹ photo, 1st fountain, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹⁵² C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 24

¹⁵³ photo, 2nd fountain, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos.

¹⁵⁴ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 23

more famous buildings are the Lyceum Theatre, Central High School, and Denfeld High School.¹⁵⁵ George Thrana immigrated to Duluth from Norway in 1889, where he had been trained as a stone carver.¹⁵⁶ His exceptional talent is well showcased in this fountain. George Thrana's son remembers his father installing the fountain because he remembers delivering his father's lunch to him.¹⁵⁷ The water for the fountain was originally from the creek; and if all the lines were let wide open to the fountain it would shoot 75 feet in the air.¹⁵⁸

The **Formal Garden**, like the rest of the grounds, has gone through several planting transformations. In its early stages, it was more exotic and almost classically fashioned. All the annual flowers were first grown in the Greenhouse and then transplanted to the Formal Garden. In the age of George Wyness, the gardens may have begun the transfer. This transfer could have occurred before George, but we have no photos to prove the earlier existence of this transformation. The flowers and overall gardening went from a more ornate classical development to a more plush, and almost overwhelming, look. Some speculate that the change is less due to George Wyness and more to do with the death of Chester Congdon in 1916. Chester, in the years before his death, began a keen interest in gardening and landscaping with special attention to trees and paths instead of flowers. It seems that after his death, many sections of Glensheen seemed to be of less interest to Mrs. Congdon and were given less, if any, attention. But it seems Mrs. Congdon did care maybe more than Chester about the flowers of Glensheen, which may explain the growth in flowers on the estate. Today, the University gardening crew follow the model set by Bob Wyness, the son of George; and it is probably similar to George's initial designs. So the current grounds plant layout has followed more along the lines of Clara's wants in the 1930s instead of Chester ideals in the early 1910s. But in 2005, the University gardening crew combined two 1916 Leavitt plant layouts for the Formal Garden, once again bringing forward **Chester and Leavitt's vision**.¹⁵⁹

South Side of the Home

Stand at the junction of the Stone path and the tarred lake path.

This is one of the **best locations for photos** of the home, so take advantage of scenery while you can. When the home was completed, this entire area was covered in trees and brush to seclude the view of the home from the lake. This stone path was a trail down to the lake, where now it seems there is a stone path alongside an open yard. In 1942, George Wyness cleared away the trees and brush that used to make up the south yard to open the view of the lake from the home.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁴ C M C, Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual, 23

¹⁵⁵ Sheldon T. Aubut and Maryanne C. Norton, *Images of America Duluth Minnesota* (Chicago: Arcadia, 2001), 42 -43,54, 85.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 43.

¹⁵⁷ Miscellaneous correspondence, son of George Thrana, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

¹⁵⁸ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 22.

¹⁵⁹ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman

¹⁶⁰ C M C, Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual, 8.

The fact that boating declined dramatically from the early times of the home helped their decision to open the area up. This location is one of three must-see locations for photographers. The first one is the view from the Upper Terrace, the second is from here, and the third is from the Stone Bridge.

Stone Bridge

You should be standing in the center of the Stone Bridge.

There is no other location on the grounds of the estate more photographed by the Congdons than the Stone Bridge over Tischer Creek. The Congdons cherished the Stone Bridge so much that they had postcards made of the Stone Bridge with the home in the background.¹⁶¹ Also, the Congdons had printed these square paper prints of the Stone Bridge and the home, which they would seal to the inside cover of their books.¹⁶² Today, when weddings are held at Glensheen, it is very common for the wedding party or at least the bride and groom to take photos on the Stone Bridge. Also, in early spring, it is a great place to come and watch fish in Tischer Creek down below.

Tischer Creek is only called Tischer on the Glensheen Estate. Once the creek is off the estate, it is referred to by locals as Congdon Creek, technically it is Tischer Creek though. The Creek itself begins somewhere near the UMD campus. In the early spring, many fisherman can be found at the mouth of Tischer, even though Glensheen is private property. It is not uncommon to see fairly large fish swimming around in the creek.

West Trail System / North West Trail System

Start walking towards the Outlook from the West end of the Stone Bridge.

One of the main differences between the grounds today and after the completion of the estate in 1908 is the condition of the **West Trail System**. In the original design of the estate, there was a series of trails alongside Tischer creek. They started near the mouth of the creek and followed up to Superior Street. These trails were beaten dirt paths that at sections were solidified in rock and cement. All the staircases were made of a mix of cut stones and cement. This is the same material used at the connecting Congdon Creek Park that begins after Superior Street. Throughout the West Trail System, there were more than 15 staircases, 2 miles of trails, and possibly more than 4 bridges across the Tischer Creek. Once again, these trails were more important, it seems, to Chester than Clara, because shortly after his death, the condition of the trails diminished. At the time the home was designed and completed, hiking trails were a new, popular phenomenon. The eccentric **US President Theodore Roosevelt** spearheaded this adventurous trend.

¹⁶¹ photo, Postcard of Glensheen, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. Circa 1920.

¹⁶² sketch of Glensheen estate, small square printed sketch, circa 1910.

President Roosevelt is the president best known for conserving vast tracts of land. He was also very well known for his many wild and crazy adventures. He may not have represented the average American male well, but he represented what most American males wanted to be in the turn of the century.

You should be standing in the Outlook.

The West Trail System begins with the **Outlook**. The Outlook was a concrete and stone pavilion that overlooked Lake Superior. It was built on a rock bluff on the shore of the lake. It is about 20 feet high from lake level and provides one of the best panoramic views of the lake. From the Outlook looking westward, you can see the Aerial Lift Bridge of Duluth, and eastward you can see the endless jagged lakeshore of Lake Superior. Not much is known about the Outlook because we have zero photos or blueprints of it. And we have very little written documentation. But still today there are fragments of the early structure, so we know it was built and of what. We know its basic shape because it is in the early grounds layout design, but without much detail.¹⁶³

The dam at the mouth of Tischer Creek does not exist today, but you can easily understand why they would have built it. The dam was built to build up enough water for a swimming hole for the family. The reason the Congdons would rather swim in the creek than the lake was two-fold. First, Lake Superior's water temperature is bitterly cold almost year round. Second, the sewage from the house poured directly into the lake out of a pipe from the end of the pier.¹⁶⁴ The pump room in the Boathouse today was originally used as shower facility for after swimming.¹⁶⁵ This is why the room is lined in white tile similar to the bathrooms in the mansion. Today, Glensheen uses a modern sewage system, so today it is not uncommon for staff to go swimming after work in the summer in the Lake. But today few people ever swim in the creek because it is too shallow.

The original location for the Boathouse, according to the 1904 plan, was alongside Tischer creek, but there was too much movement from Tischer Creek so the Boathouse location was adjusted to fit alongside Bent Brook.

Begin walking back towards the Stone Bridge.

The retaining walls you see today on the south west side of Tischer were probably not part of the original design, but later put in to help slow down the erosion of the west bank. At the bottom of the retaining wall could possibly be a walking path right alongside the creek. This path looks similar to the concrete path that follows underneath the Tischer Creek London Road Bridge. So it is possible that the retaining wall was built at the same time that the concrete path under the bridge

¹⁶³ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), Glensheen Estate original design.

¹⁶⁴ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹⁶⁵ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 20.

was constructed. It's puzzling because certain sections of potential walkway are underwater, but barely. It is possible that at the time the walkway was constructed, the water level was lower.

Walk to view of TCLR Bridge.

There is a trail from the Outlook to the Stone Bridge but then it splits with one trail leading west towards the Scandinavian cemetery and the other continues north toward a broken up stone staircase. This broken staircase leads down toward the water level of the creek. In front of the TCLR Bridge used to be a **stepping stone bridge** across the creek. We have a photo of a Congdon sitting and another walking across the stones.¹⁶⁶

The concrete path under the TCLR bridge leads you into northern section of the West Trail System while the stone staircase alongside the east bank leads you into the trail system on the east side of Tischer. Within these trails are **3-5 stone staircases**. Some are very little; others are fairly large, such as the staircase leading down from near the Formal Garden down toward the midway path. This midway path is built about ten feet above the level of Tischer and leads back to the stepping-stones or the West Gate Entrance retaining wall brick staircase. The West Trail System is not an easy trail system to walk on and at points, is quite dangerous, especially today considering most staircases have deteriorated. It is also fairly difficult to walk through because of its many staircases up and down the banks of Tischer, especially if you follow it all the way up through the north section of the West trail system. This may be an additional reason why Mrs. Congdon seemed to not care about the condition of the trail system, considering her age at the time of Chester's death.

The Congdon Creek/ Northern West trail system

If you were to follow the concrete path under TCLR Bridge, you would enter into the other half of the West Trail System.

This northern section contained the reservoir, **the Swiss Chalet**, the northern dam, the apple orchard, up to two wooden bridges, and the pavilion over the intake well. This area, like the South West Trail System, slowly deteriorated at probably the same pace.

The reservoir system was located in the center of Tischer Creek and could hold **60,000 gallons of water**.¹⁶⁷ The filter chamber that is located immediately next to the reservoir is filled with sand, gravel, and leaves which is meant to be a natural

¹⁶⁶ photo, Stepping stones across Tischer Creek in the Southern West Trail System, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos, circa 1910.

¹⁶⁷ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 21

way of filtering the water of impurities.¹⁶⁸ The filter system as of today is still in good working order.¹⁶⁹ The reservoir itself has a 25 ft radius.¹⁷⁰ The vacuum system in the home was powered by the water reservoir.¹⁷¹ There was a propeller in the mass coil room that would be turned by the water coming down hill from the reservoir.¹⁷² This helped the **humidifier system pump moist air** throughout the home.¹⁷³ The reservoir used a gravity pressure system to pump water down to the irrigation and fountain lines on the estate.¹⁷⁴

Reservoir water was fed downhill through a **ten-inch water main** that cost an estimated \$5,200 in 1908.¹⁷⁵ The water went into the home, the fountain, and the 20 or so water spigots around the estate.¹⁷⁶ In the early days of the estate, this provided the grounds with local uncontaminated water that is better for plants on the estate than the chlorinated city water.¹⁷⁷ Today, the ten-inch water main and the irrigation system is in need of repair and doesn't function quite the same as it had in the past. The current head gardener of Glensheen would like to repair the irrigation system so that they once again can water the plants and the grounds with the natural creek water instead of the chlorinated city water.¹⁷⁸ Also, it would make available many more convenient water spigots. Today, there are only two functioning water spigots used by the Grounds crew. One is located in the East Servants Courtyard, and the other is located near the Gardener's Cottage, so you can see the need for the old irrigation system.

One of the mysteries of the NWTS is the existence of the **Swiss Chalet** on top of the reservoir.¹⁷⁹ Charles Leavitt sent blueprints for a Swiss Chalet to be built on top of the reservoir, and we have slips and a letter with the estimated costs of this possible little guest house.¹⁸⁰ But today there is no material existence of the Swiss Chalet. But if it did exist, this would be an almost perfect location for a couple to sit back and relax, surrounded by the creek and the forest. The location sits inside a narrow valley and is hidden away from the normal bustle of city life. From this location, you would have no idea that you were surrounded on both sides by homes. Even today, this location provides a level of calm that is unheard of anywhere else on the estate.

Further up the creek past the Swiss Chalet site is the dam that stops the creek to

¹⁶⁸ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ C M C, *Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual*, 3.

¹⁷¹ Ibid., 4.

¹⁷² Ibid., 4.

¹⁷³ Ibid., 4.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid., 4.

¹⁷⁵ H. Thomas, estimate cost of reservoir system, May 24, 1907. File 302b Glensheen agreement 1/15/1907 with city of Duluth covering dam across Tischer's Creek, etc. Large File Box, Closet near elevator.

¹⁷⁶ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ Charles Leavitt (Landscape designer), blueprint of Swiss Chalet, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. 1908.

¹⁸⁰ Charles Leavitt Jr. (Landscape Designer), letter to Chester Congdon, October 5

flow through the water reservoir. Right next to the dam that cost an estimated \$350 in 1908 is a small round brick structure similar to a small tower called an intake well.¹⁸¹ Leavitt had sent blueprint plans of a **small round pavilion** to be placed on the top of this intake well.¹⁸² Once again there is no sign of its existence today, but we know from the blueprints and a letter that the materials to build it could have easily deteriorated by today. For example, the roof was to be built with straw thatch.¹⁸³ Once again, though, this small pavilion would have added even more to the naturalistic landscaping of the estate. It was something that did not take away from the natural surroundings, but complimented them.

Up the west bank of Tischer Creek leads you to the **Congdon Orchard**. The orchard used to contain **59 trees in 1909** and was one of Mr. Congdon's favorite pet projects.¹⁸⁴ The orchard had Apple, Crab Apple, Pear, Plum and Cherry Trees.¹⁸⁵ Before Mr. Congdon started building his orchard, he had sent letters all around the city of Duluth looking for recommendations on growing fruit trees.¹⁸⁶ He wanted to know the length of the season, and what type of fruit trees grow well. At one point, Mr. Congdon had written to a Duluth insurance agent, E.C. Little, who recommended that Mr. Congdon contact one of his friends, L.P. Hall, living in Deerwood, Minnesota, who was a regional expert at growing apples in Duluth before he moved.¹⁸⁷ Mr. Congdon's interest is well-represented by him spending thousands of dollars on an apple orchard in Washington. Later this large Washington apple orchard would produce apple juice for the **Treetop Apple Juice Company**.¹⁸⁸ Mr. Congdon also built a vacation home in Yakima, Washington, called **Westhome**, which was modeled after a castle in Great Britain. It was 42,000 square feet compared to the 27,000 square foot home at Glensheen.¹⁸⁹

If you were to walk through the trails, you could have possibly walked across two wooden bridges and multiple stone staircases.¹⁹⁰ When the trails and bridges were completed, they cost Mr. Congdon \$971.21.¹⁹¹ The NWTS is more difficult and longer than the SWTS but very little is known because today it is in absolute disarray. Neither wood bridge exists today, and only chunks of the stone staircases exist. We know of the two bridges only because of photos taken in the early days of the home and some historical data.¹⁹² But the views in NWTS are more spectacular and breathtaking than the SWTS and well worth the hike. Some of the

¹⁸¹ H. Thomas, estimate cost of reservoir system.

¹⁸² Charles Leavitt (Landscape designer), blueprint of Pavilion, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. 1908.

¹⁸³ Charles Leavitt Jr. (Landscape Designer), letter to Chester Congdon.

¹⁸⁴ Dan McClelland, *Glensheen Estate Orchard (former Congdon Orchard)*, 1990.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ John Norton (county attorney of St. Louis), Fruit tree recommendations, June 25, 1910, Digital Database of Glensheen grounds photos.

¹⁸⁷ E.C. Little, recommendation of what to grow in Duluth to Chester, July 5, 1910, Digital Database of Glensheen grounds photos.

¹⁸⁸ Dick Charley (Treetop, grower distribution contact), phone interviewed by Daniel Hartman, March 22, 2005.

¹⁸⁹ Westhome file, closet near bathroom, 2nd floor, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

¹⁹⁰ photos, two wooden bridges in the Northern West Trail System, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos, circa 1915.

¹⁹¹ Anthony Morrell, bill to Chester A. Congdon for North West Trail System paths and bridges.

¹⁹² photos, two wooden bridges in the Northern West Trail System.

rock bluffs carved by the creek are 60 feet high on both sides. The University has a long-term plan of reconstructing the entire West Trail System so that it would lead right to Congdon Creek Park like it did in 1908.¹⁹³ This would provide over 5 miles of hiking alongside one of the most breathtaking creeks in Duluth and return the Glensheen estate to the more naturalistic and adventurous setting it was meant to be.

Lakeshore

Begin standing at the Shelter and eventually walk towards hidden staircase.

The Shelter was a project initiated by Elizabeth when she was young.¹⁹⁴ The legend goes that Elizabeth began building it herself; and when Chester saw this, he paid the Gardener to build it for her.¹⁹⁵ Later on, this would be one of Elizabeth's favorite places to sketch.¹⁹⁶

Lake Superior was created because of volcanic activity and at one point was covered by a Glacier.¹⁹⁷ When the Glacier receded, Glacial Lake formed.¹⁹⁸ The shoreline of Glacial Lake would be where the Skyline drive is today.¹⁹⁹

The Lakeshore of Glensheen has undergone different transitions that match the changes of the Lake. In its initial state, it was similar to how it looks today, but the shoreline was closer to the home. But probably sometime in the 1930s, the water level of the lake dropped drastically. It dropped to a level so dramatic that the Congdons had built a stone staircase leading down to the lake.²⁰⁰ Today this staircase is covered in beach rocks and can only be found after digging through them.

This plot of land may have been picked also because there is a larger beach with no rock bluff in the front of the home. Leavitt may also have leveled the beach more to produce a smoother rolling beachfront than had existed before.

Boathouse/ Pier

Bring the group to north side of the Boathouse and eventually lead them to the Pier.

When the **Boathouse and Pier** location was finally decided, construction began on September 6th 1906.²⁰¹ Construction on the Boathouse was no easy operation because of the freezing cold waters. Large concrete slabs were dropped in timber

¹⁹³ Sher Lind, interview by Daniel Hartman.

¹⁹⁴ Judy Vick, "A Palace Called Glensheen.", 34.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid., 34.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid., 34.

¹⁹⁷ Phil Hammer (former Landscape Gardener of Glensheen), *Glensheen Gardens and Grounds*, August 1997, 1.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., 1.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid., 1.

²⁰⁰ photo, hidden staircase on lakeshore, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos, circa 1930.

²⁰¹ Michael Lane, *Construction Years*, 13.

cribs made of hemlock, which would be the foundation of the Pier.²⁰² The rock needed for the Pier construction came from Engle's quarry.²⁰³ These timber cribs can still be seen today on a still day. The original length of the pier went out in the water an estimated thirty feet further and turned right for a hundred feet.²⁰⁴ So the original pier was in the shape of an L. This **L shape** provided a breakwater for boats and yachts to flow smoothly into the Boathouse. Today there is no L because the waves of Lake Superior have destroyed it; and because the L was broken, the boathouse has been landlocked by rocks washing ashore.

The Boathouse probably stored sailboats that were purchased before the home was constructed originally, but later, with the purchase of the **Hesperia** in 1911, were placed elsewhere.²⁰⁵ The *Hesperia* was a registered yacht in **Lloyd's register of American yachts in 1911**.²⁰⁶ designer was Morris M. Whitaker, and it was built in Bath Marine Construction Company in Bath, Maine.²⁰⁷ It had a four-stroke, six-cycle gasoline engine.²⁰⁸ It arrived at the Glensheen estate July 22 1911 from Maine, and it was 53 feet by 12 feet.²⁰⁹ The Congdon family yacht was a favorite pleasure of the family. But tragedy struck the *Hesperia* in 1916. While refueling the *Hesperia*, it set on fire by accident so it was sent up to Two Harbors for repair but never returned. The Congdons eventually sold the hull for \$300.00.²¹⁰

The Boathouse itself is the only building on the Glensheen estate made of large stones and has only a hundred less feet of square footage than the GC.²¹¹ The retracting wall in the front of the Boathouse no longer retracts. When the Boathouse was still in good shape, the family would play shuffleboard on the roof.²¹² The family used the Boathouse to store rowboats after it was landlocked. The staircase on the northern side is in disarray today. The roof of the Boathouse was layered in fine arts tile. Today, some of the tile still exists but only because of the garden that had grown on the top of the Boathouse. In the summer of 2003, a full-grown Lilac tree flourished on the roof of the Boathouse. The inside of the Boathouse used to be another unique item of the estate; but after it was landlocked, the family seemed to stop caring. The shower room was turned into the pump room or engine room.²¹³ In the landlocked pool of the Boathouse is a **diving bell**, that had resided there long before the University owned the property. Since the University took over the estate, very little has been done to the inside of the Boathouse.

²⁰² Ibid., 18.

²⁰³ Ibid., 13.

²⁰⁴ Poor sketch of Pier, delicate cheap paper, closet near bathroom, 2nd floor, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

²⁰⁵ C M C, Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual, 20.

²⁰⁶ Ibid., 20.

²⁰⁷ Ibid., 20.

²⁰⁸ Ibid., 20.

²⁰⁹ Ibid., 20.

²¹⁰ Miscellaneous Correspondence, Sold hull of *Hesperia* for 300.00, 2nd floor closet near bathroom, North Carriage House, Glensheen Archives.

²¹¹ Dan McClelland, room footage chart.

²¹² Robert J. Reichert, Utilization Study for Glensheen Final Report, September 1978.

²¹³ Sher Lind, Interviewed by Daniel Hartman.

One of the unique stories involving the Boathouse revolves around the wedding of Robert Congdon. It is said that for Robert's wedding, they set **Chinese lanterns** all around the Boathouse and yard. In addition, they had an orchestra play on the roof of the boathouse to an audience on the pier and in the yard. From photos we have found, we know that there was electrical wiring all around the boathouse, so the Chinese lanterns were a definite possibility and the roof of the Boathouse would still be ideal for a band.

In recent years, the roof of the Boathouse has been cleared off better than it has in over probably 30 years. The University plans on fixing up the roof of the Boathouse so that bands can once again play on the roof.²¹⁴ They also want to set up the inside of the Boathouse so that tour groups can partially walk in and see the inside.²¹⁵ One of the local museums in Duluth has offered Glensheen money for their diving bell so that may be transported elsewhere or be used as an historic piece on site.²¹⁶

You should be standing on the Pier.

The Pier itself was broken up long before the 1950s,²¹⁷ but before then, it was listed in maps of Lake Superior because of the Pier and Dock lights.²¹⁸ In the corner of the L was a concrete seat.²¹⁹ And at the entrance of the Boathouse was another wall of concrete to fasten the yacht to before going into the Boathouse. The Pier today is one of the more visited ground's landmarks in the summer, and its view of Lake Superior rivals only the Outlook.

Carriage House Yard

Move the group to the center of the Carriage House Yard.

Well, congratulations you made it this far. This is the last stop on the Glensheen estate tour and the quickest one. The Carriage House itself is part of the self-guided section of the tour so feel free to roam through it. When Glensheen first became the property of the University, they planned on converting the estate into a conference center for advanced studies.²²⁰ With the occurrence of a specific event and unexpected additional costs for the home, the University decided to move towards a mix plan, one that included conferences and tours of the estate.²²¹ Part of the initial plan was to convert the second floor of the Carriage House to hotel rooms and to convert the Sleigh and Carriage Room into a conference room.²²² This may come up sometime in the future, but it doesn't look to be happening anytime soon.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ Richard Northup, appraisal report of Glensheen estate, 6.

²¹⁸ C M C, Glensheen Grounds Tour Manual, 20.

²¹⁹ Poor sketch of Pier, delicate cheap paper, closet near bathroom.

²²⁰ Robert J. Reichert, *Utilization Study for Glensheen Final Report*, September 1978, 1.

²²¹ Ibid., 1.

²²² Ibid., 77-88.

The Carriage House Yard had a **paddock** for the cows and horses located today near where the **large cottonwood trees** are today.²²³ A paddock was a pen where racehorses are saddled and paraded before a race.²²⁴ The paddock fence was to be made of green posts with white paneling that cost \$337.51.²²⁵ It was outlined in a sketch from Leavitt in July of 1908.²²⁶ These Green posts would eventually be the reason that Glensheen would be associated with the color Green.

²²³ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), *Glensheen Estate original design*.

²²⁴ Ask Jeeves, <http://web.ask.com/web?q=what+is+a+paddock&qsrc=0&o=0>.

²²⁵ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Designer), invoice to Chester about Carriage House Yard Paddock, August 31, 1908.

²²⁶ photo, Blueprint of Carriage House Yard Paddock, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. July 1908.

Timelines

Congdon Family Timeline

- 1853:** - Chester Adgate Congdon born 12 June, Rochester, New York, to Methodist minister Sylvester Laurentius Congdon and Laura Jane Adgate Congdon.
- 1854:** - Clara Hesperia Bannister born 29 April, San Francisco, California, to Methodist Minister Edward Bannister and Elizabeth Bannister.
 - Congdon's move to Syracuse, New York, where Sylvester took on a larger Congregation.
- 1871:** - Chester and Clara began freshman year at Syracuse University.
- 1874:** - Chester teaches in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 1875:** - Chester and Clara graduate Syracuse first four year degree program.
 - Chester A.B. degree Clara B.S. degree.
 - Chester "reads law" and is tutored at firm of Hiscock, Gifford, and Doheny in Syracuse 1875-77.
- 1876:** - Clara Assistant Preceptress of Alexandra College, Bellville, Ont., 1876-78.
- 1877:** - Chester is admitted to New York Bar to practice law.
- 1878:** - Clara becomes Teacher of Art and Modern Languages in Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Penn., 1878-81.
 - Chester became Principal of the Second Ward High School in Chippewa Falls Wisconsin 1878-79.
- 1880:** - Chester admitted to Minnesota Bar.
 - Accepted to firm of Pierce, Stephenson, and Mainzer.
- 1881:** - Chester and Clara marry after 6 year engagement in Syracuse, New York, then start a life together in St. Paul, Minnesota.
 - Through practice Chester meets W.W. Billson U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, Billson asked Congdon for help with several cases and recommended Congdon receive appointment as Assistant U.S. Attorney for Minnesota.
- 1881-82:** During this time, the Congdons lived between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota and moved several times to accommodate a growing family.
- 1882:** - Congdon's' first child, Walter Bannister Congdon, was born.
- 1883:** - Clara noted in her diary that in Minneapolis she and Chester saw an electric street lamp.
- 1885:** - Edward Congdon was born.
- 1886:** - Chester resigns as Asst. U.S. Attorney and returned to private practice.
- 1887:** - Marjorie Congdon was born.
 - Ontario Land Corporation created and venture at Grays Harbor

- begins.
- 1889:** - Helen Congdon was born.
During travels west Chester purchases land in Yakima, Washington.
- 1891:** - John Adgate Congdon born
- 1892:** - Chester was invited to join Billson's Private practice in Duluth.
Henry Oliver employs Congdon as legal counsel for Minnesota.
- 1894:** - Elisabeth Mannering Congdon born
- 1898:** - Robert Congdon born
- 1901:** - Oliver sells last portion of Oliver Mining Company to U.S. Steel.
Oliver and Congdon form Chemung Iron Mining Company.
- 1903:** - Chester Congdon becomes a member of the Duluth Charter Commision.
- 1909:** - Chester elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives
- 1915:** - Chester donated funds for a Lakeshore Boulevard from Lester Park to Two Harbors.

Duluth Timeline 1874-1915

- 1874:** - Charlemagne Tower creates Duluth & Iron Range Railroad (D&IR).
- 1881:** - Duluth streetcars operated by the Duluth Street Railway Company
- 1882:** - Duluth Phone Company was founded and first Phone directory was issued.
The first electricity for lighting and power became available.
- 1883:** - Duluth Herald first published.
Kitchi Gammi Club founded.
- 1884:** - Board of health established.
First ore from Vermillion Ranges Soudan mine arrived in Two Harbors to be loaded onto boats and shipped east to Chicago, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.
- 1885:** - The Duluth Boat Club was founded.
A connecting railroad link between Duluth and Two Harbors was completed.
Incandescent lights installed in some municipal buildings.
- 1886:** - Duluth economy begins to flourish after its decline in 1873.
Population appx. 35,000
Lumber is the major industry.
Steel ships over 300 feet in length were making an appearance to transport iron ore.
- 1887:** - First National Bank and Saint Louis County Bank established
Board of Public Works established
- 1889:** - Guilford G. & Caroline Hartley had the first home in Duluth wired for electricity in 1889.
Duluth's bloodiest labor strike

- 1890:** - First electric street cars
- 1892:** - Merritt Brothers Incorporate Duluth, Missabe and North Railroad (DM&N)
- 1892:** - Duluth has approximately 50,000 residents in addition to that 41 churches, 34 schools and over 100 saloons.
Central High School completed.
Congdon Family moves to Duluth.
The Union Depot is constructed 506 West Michigan St.
- 1893:** - Duluth and Superior connected via telephone
Lake Superior Consolidated Mines created by Rockefeller and Merritt merger
DM&N Railroad expands track to Duluth and creates first St. Louis Bay ore dock in Duluth at 34th Avenue West.
Duluth manages to make it through 1893 national economic panic on its grain, timber and iron trade.
- 1894:** - Curling and bicycle rink constructed on First Street at Third Avenue East
Northland Country Club under construction
St. Mary's Hospital moved to Fifth and Third Streets the new facility accommodated 300 patients with the best in "modern hospital science".
The Northwest an exclusively passenger steamer line travels from Buffalo to Duluth it could carry up to 400 passengers.
DM&N Railroad is acquired by John D. Rockefeller
Thirty-two mills employed 7,700 in Duluth and Superior – and more mills operated along the western Lake Superior shores
- 1896:** - River and Harbor Act by U.S. Congress unites Duluth and Superior Harbors.
- 1897:** - 1,155 telephone customers in Superior and Duluth
- 1899:** - President McKinley visits Duluth
- 1900:** - Duluth's Population: 52,869
Lighthouse construction begins
Population of Italians, Germans, Turks, and Russians takes a significant leap upward
- 1902:** - Lumber peaks when 443 million board feet were produced
Duluth Ski Club organized
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) established.
The Commercial Club membership over 1,200 local businessmen.
- 1903:** - First Trans-Pacific cablegram received in Duluth
- 1904-07:** Duluth Scandinavia Socialist Local established
- 1905:** - City fathers make the oft-repeated claim that Duluth had "more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in the U.S." (please see note)²²⁷
The Great Northern Power Company constructed the Thomson Dam,

²²⁷ A claim that was not quantifiably true and used to market the city and its abundance of "wealth"

- bringing an abundance of electricity to town.
Aerial Transfer Bridge Built would take passengers across for 5 cents round trip.
- 1906:** - First successful car trip from Minneapolis to Duluth completed in 17 hours and 15 minutes.
- 1907:** - Duluth overcame New York in tonnage that moved through the harbor Morgan Park is created, a company town designated for U.S. Steel "Duluth Works" plant.
- 1910:** - More than 78,000 documented people live within the borders of Duluth U.S. Steel "Duluth Works" plant construction begins.
East Superior Street lighted by electric bulbs.
Alworth Building constructed and is tallest building in the state at 16 stories.
Duluth's Women's' Club founded
Soo Line Depot built 7th Ave. West
- 1913:** - Ore-dock strike: Superior workers strike for improved safety standards and Duluth workers follow in solidarity.
- 1915:** - U.S. Steel "Duluth Works" plant construction is complete

National Timeline

- 1900:** - Gold Standard Act.
- 1901:** - Platt Amendment limited autonomy of Cuba and made it a protectorate
- 1902:** - Cuba gained independence
Panama breaks from Columbia and is recognized by Theodore Roosevelt
- 1903:** - Panama Canal Treaty signed
- 1906:** - Air Conditioner Patented
Antiquities Act
- 1907:** - Bankers Panic, also known as Knickerbocker Crisis
NYSE plunged up to 50% from previous year.
- 1909:** - Formation of NAACP
- 1910:** - U.S. census population 92,228,496
First domestic tourism to Glacier National Park
Bureau of Mines authorized by Congress
Standard Oil deemed unreasonable monopoly and dissolved under Sherman Antitrust Act.
- 1912:** - Woodrow Wilson Elected President
- 1913:** - 16th Amendment ratified income tax.
Congress establishes federal reserve system.
- 1914:** - Basic wage rate: Ford Motor Co. \$5 per day for 8 hours work compared to national rate of 2.40 for 9 hours, still no mandatory

- minimum wage in U.S.
- The Great War begins, U.S. remains neutral
- 1915:** - First transnational telephone conversation between New York City and San Francisco
- Lusitania sunk by German torpedo
- 1916:** - Wilson signs into law National Park Service

Oliver Mining Company (History 1892-1901)

In 1892, Andrew Carnegie, the largest steel manufacturer in the nation, wanted nothing to do with the Mesabi Range, because he felt the quality of the ore was inferior and not worth investment.

Henry W. Oliver traveled to the Duluth and the Mesabi Range to inspect the mines. He liked what he saw, incorporated the Oliver Mining Company in 1892 and soon purchased his first mining lease from the Merritts. (Evans 203) Oliver was not particularly happy about the price he was able to negotiate with Leonidas Merritt, so he felt he should have legal representation in the area for his future dealings. He was referred to William Billson. When Oliver went to Billson's office, though, he discovered that Billson would be away for an extended period of time. He agreed reluctantly to meet with Billson's partner Chester Congdon. When the two met, a lifelong connection was formed both professionally and personally. (Hoover 51). By 1894 Congdon became Oliver's legal counsel overseeing the company's second mining lease purchase. (Evans 216)

On May 3rd, 1893, the stock market collapsed and Oliver was desperate for cash. forced to approach Henry Frick of Carnegie Steel for help. Against Carnegie's wishes the two worked out a deal where Frick loaned Oliver \$500,000 in exchange for ½ interest in Oliver's company. By this time, Frick was convinced the profit potential of the Mesabi Range. Thus, the Oliver-Carnegie partnership was created. Prior to the **Oliver-Carnegie deal** being worked out, oil king John D. Rockefeller played a bigger role in the mining industry through the takeover of the **Merritt Brothers'** mining company. The brothers had previously borrowed money from Rockefeller and then went on to form a lasting business alliance with him to ensure financial backing through the creation of the Lake Superior Consolidated Mines. Unfortunately, after the 1893 stock market crash, the Merritts were unable to fulfill their end of the financial arrangement, and Rockefeller took control of all company holdings (Hoover 53). This included the mines, the railroad, the docks, and the steamship fleet.

Rockefeller and Oliver-Carnegie continued to compete against each other (in 1895 the Oliver was out-producing the Rockefeller interests) until 1896 they came to a deal which decided that Oliver Mining would take charge of the mining operations while Rockefeller received royalty payments and tonnage on his transportation networks. This more efficient mining operation took out many of the smaller

mining operators that Carnegie or Rockefeller would absorb becoming bigger entities.

This deal did falter in 1898-99. The two camps started to blame each other for breaches of agreement which led to a battle of businesses. Such as when Rockefeller made new ore purchases and hinted at building a steel mill of his own, or Oliver incorporated a railroad company and bought ships to circumvent Rockefeller transportation. This continued until a deal was made where Oliver had a sustainable supply of ore for 50 years with Rockefeller receiving new ore properties and (Evans 249-252)

J.P. Morgan, a powerful eastern banker, entered into the steel business and by the turn of the century was the second largest steel producer in the country. Morgan was obsessed with vertical integration and total control of industries and decided to buy out Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Oliver's steel interests to create the largest corporation in the world, United States Steel Corporation. (Boese 10-11)

Hoover, Roy O. A Lake Superior Lawyer. Castro Valley, CA: Kutenai Press, 1997
Evans, Henry Oliver. Iron Pioneer: Henry W. Oliver. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc, 1942.

Boese, Donald L. John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi. Grand Rapids, MN: Itasca Community College Foundation, 1975.

Glossary

Andirons: Metal braces placed in a fireplace to hold logs.

Alabaster: An ornamental stone consisting of a fine-grained, compact, translucent form of gypsum or (esp. with reference to ancient artefacts) calcite, typically white or tinted or clouded with yellow, red, and other colours, and suitable for carving into vases, figures, etc. In modern use the term alabaster generally refers to a form of gypsum, but ancient alabaster statuary is often calcitic.²²⁸

Andrew Carnegie: Scottish American industrialist who led the expansion of the U.S. Steel industry. Built Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Corporation and became one of America's richest people in history.

Anteroom: A small room or entryway leading to a larger room.

Anaglypta: An embossed cotton-paper blend wallcovering. It became popular as a washable wall surface.

Arts and Crafts: Decorative design and handicraft; spec. work done by or under the auspices of the Arts and Crafts Movement, or similar later work; freq. attrib. The Arts and Crafts Movement (founded as the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society in London in 1888) sought to revive the ideal of craftsmanship in the decorative arts in an age of increasing mechanization and mass production.²²⁹ Often used as an umbrella term to describe several different types of similar design between 1860 and 1925²³⁰

Arts Nouveau: which is French for "New Art." the style became popular in Europe 1880's. Characterized by flat patterns of sinuous curves and flowing lines, it was strongly influenced by Japanese and Gothic art forms.

Butler: A servant who has charge of the wine-cellar and dispenses the liquor. Formerly also, one who hands round wine, a cup-bearer. He is now usually the head-servant of a household, who keeps the plate, etc.²³¹

Circassian Walnut: Native to eastern Russia & Georgia this wood was transplanted to the west Europe and England for making furniture and cabinetry in abundance

²²⁸ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Architect), Glensheen Estate original design.

²²⁹ Ask Jeeves, <http://web.ask.com/web?q=what+is+a+paddock&qsrc=0&o=0>.

²³⁰ Charles Leavitt (Landscape Designer), invoice to Chester about Carriage House Yard Paddock, August 31, 1908.

²³¹ photo, Blueprint of Carriage House Yard Paddock, Digital Database of Glensheen Grounds Photos. July 1908.

before the discovery of the Americas which opened a new wood market.

Clarence Johnston: Today he is one of the most celebrated and prolific architects in Minnesota History. As the state architect Johnston and his firm designed many buildings for the University of Minnesota and its many campuses, around thirty homes on St. Paul's Summit Avenue, and the Minnesota Senate Office Building.

Cunard Line: British owned transoceanic steamship line. Operators of such ships as the Carpathia, one of the vessels that rescued Titanic survivors and the Lusitania, which was sunk by German U-Boats in 1915 during WWI. The vessel was torpedoed and sank losing 1,198 lives 106 of which were Americans this would become a key talking point in the argument for American involvement in the war.²³²

Damask: Reversible figured fabric of linen, cotton, wool, silk, etc. with a pattern formed by weaving. These are woven with one warp yarn and one weft yarn.

David Ericson: A Duluth painter who mostly worked in Impressionism and portraiture. A number of his works are in Glensheen and the Tweed Museum of Art.

Decorative Arts: Arts concerned with the production of high-quality objects that are both useful and beautiful. Decorative arts may include but is not limited to: furniture, interior design, pottery, or textiles. The term is not to be confused with fine arts which would include objects that solely seek aesthetic appreciation: painting, sculpture, architecture, poetry & music.

Edward F. Caldwell & Company: Custom designers and manufacturers of decorative metal: gates, chandeliers, lighting fixtures, andirons, etc. based out of New York City and founded in 1895. Caldwell Co. attracted commissions from renowned architects McKim, Mead, & White and Cass Gilbert among others. Some building commissions include: the White House, Rockefeller Center, and Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The company also would be used in the residences of J.P. Morgan, Frederick Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Frick, J.J. Astor and many others.

Faience: Pronunciation: (fay-ons) /'fajɒns//fʌɪ'ɒns/
'A general term comprising all the various kinds of glazed earthenware and porcelain'²³³

Fumed White Oak: White oak which was been exposed to ammonia fumes which react to the natural tannins in the wood. The longer the wood is exposed, the darker it becomes.

Glen: A mountain-valley, usually narrow and forming the course of a stream. At first applied to the narrow valleys of the mountainous districts in Scotland and Ireland,

²³² "Cunard Fleet". ChrisCunard.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 11 Apr. 2017.

²³³ "faience, n.". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/67646?redirectedFrom=faience> (accessed April 10, 2017).

²³⁴ "glen, n.1". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/78888> (accessed April 12, 2017).

but now extended to similar places in other countries.²³⁴

Gold Leaf: Hammered or pressed gold used in architecture, art, and culinary creation. Gilding, as a term, covers many techniques used to apply gold leaf. Gold leaf is most commonly 23k, but can vary.

Grueby Faience Company: Founded in 1894 in Revere Massachusetts by William Henry Grueby. Renowned globally for its American Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau architectural faience and art pottery. Sold by Tiffany & Co. and used by Tiffany Studios in lamp bases. The pioneering company closed its doors in 1909 and continued to have some limited runnings until its liquidation in 1920. Grueby stands as one of hallmark examples of American decorative arts ceramic manufacturers.

Gustav Stickley: 1858-1942 American designer, furniture manufacturer, writer, and advocate of the American Craftsman style. Stickley would publish *The Craftsman*, printed between 1901 and 1916 this magazine showed many examples of the Craftsman Style in architecture as well as interior design and furniture.

Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis: Active 1904-1918 a handicraft school and workshop it was created, led, and to a fair extent staffed by women. The trade school was incorporated for goals of creating craft, education, and personal development. The goal of education was realized when the guild became absorbed as the University of Minnesota's art education department in 1918. The guild manufactured leather works, metalwork, and pottery out of Red Wing clay.

Henry Oliver: Irish American industrialist, steel and freight financier active in Pittsburgh. Owner Oliver Iron & Steel Co. early in the late 19th century and third largest coke coal producer in the country. Oliver would be involved in Mesabi, Vermilion, Northern Wisconsin and Michigan ore mining by incorporating the Oliver Mining Co.

Jacobean: Of or pertaining to the reign or times of James I of England; spec. in Archit., a term for the style which prevailed in England in the early part of the 17th cent., consisting of very late Gothic with a large admixture of Palladian features; also transf. in other arts, as Engraving, etc.²³⁵

Jin-Di-Sugi/ Jin di suigi/ jin-daisugi: A traditional Japanese process of curing wood by way of burial in the ground. The resins in the wood reacts the soil creating a textured faint green colored finish. In the modern American reinterpretation of the process, the wood is often burned to remove surface fibers, scrubbed with wire brushes, washed and waxed. Bradstreet has been know to use many different chemical concoctions and closely kept trade secrets to cure sugi in various ways

²³⁴ "glen, n.1". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/78888> (accessed April 12, 2017).

²³⁵ "Home: Oxford English Dictionary," accessed February 9, 2017, <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/100550?redirectedFrom=jacobean#eid>.

for the needs of his customers.

John Bradstreet: Interior designer, furniture manufacturer, antiquarian, and general importer. John Scott Bradstreet was known as the Minneapolis tastemaker. In the early 1900s' he combined oriental influences with arts and crafts style and is recognized for his use of jin-di-sugi wood treatments created at his Craffhouse starting around 1904. Second to none in the State and nationally renowned his closest competitor was William A. French. He is subcontracted by Wm. A French & Co. to execute interiors inside Glensheen manor.²³⁶

John D. Rockefeller: Oil industry magnate considered wealthiest man in American history. Controlled the Standard Oil trust which at its peak controlled 90% of the American oil market.

John Ruskin: 1819-1900 Victorian Art critic, social thinker, artist and craftsman. His writing emphasised nature, art, and society. Ruskin was a progressive social economic thinker and advocate of labor reform and partnership. In 1871 he founded The Guild of St. George, recognized internationally today following Ruskin's values, the guild had medieval (pre-industrial) values practicing progressive social reform against labor exploitation.

J.P. Morgan: John Pierpont Morgan, financier and banker, head of Morgan financial dynasty. Best know for mergers of AT&T, Edison Electric, General Electric, U.S. Steel Corporation, and International Harvester. Criticised for his creation of industrial monopolies and trusts.

Linden Art Glass Company: Originally the decorating firm of Speirling and Linden, they became a leading producer of stained glass in the Midwest. Most notably did work on Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School buildings.

Lustre Tiles: Glass tiles with a metallic coating or glaze.

Merritt Brothers: Known regionally as the founders of the Mesabi Range. They eventually lost all holdings in mining, leasing, and shipping raw ores to John D. Rockefeller during the panic of 1893.

Mesabi: is the proper name for the largest of four major iron ore deposits in Minnesota's Iron Range. The Mesabi Range is located primarily in Itasca and St. Louis counties; it was known to the local Ojibwe as Misaabe-wajiw, which means "Giant's Mountain" or "Big-man's Mountain."²³⁷

Mohair: A fabric made from the wool of angora goats.

²³⁶ Michael Conforti and Jennifer Komar, "Bradstreet's Craffhouse: Retailing in an Arts and Crafts Style," in *Minnesota 1900: Art and Life on the Upper Mississippi 1890-1915*, ed. Michael Conforti (Associated University Presses, 1994), 23.

²³⁷ Lundgren, Paul. "Mesaba, Missabe or Mesabi? What's correct?" Perfect Duluth Day. July 29, 2015. Accessed April 12, 2017. <https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2015/07/29/mesabamissabe-mesabi-whats-correct/>.

Numidian Marble: Found “in the ancient provinces of Africa and Mauritania, now Algeria, Morocco, and Tunis. The marbles are not found in Numidia proper, but in the ancient provinces of Africa and Mauritania, now Algeria, Morocco, and Tunis.

Oliver-Carnegie deal: Oliver sells his interests in Mesabi ore to Carnegie in 1893. This allows Carnegie a foothold to push Rockefeller out of his investments in Iron Range mining.

Oliver Mining Company: Henry Oliver's mining company, later he co-owned with Andrew Carnegie (and others) then was sold to J.P. Morgan. After 1901 it became a subsidiary of U.S. Steel. See “History of Oliver Mining Company (1892-1901)” after glossary.

Pilaster: A square or rectangular column or pillar projecting from a wall or on either side of a doorway, usually with a base and capital. Formerly applied also to the square pier of an arch, abutment of a bridge, or similar structure.²³⁸

Portieres: A curtain hung over a door or doorway, to prevent draughts, to serve as a screen, etc.²³⁹

Purlins: A horizontal beam which runs along the length of a roof, resting upon the principal rafters at right angles and supporting the ordinary rafters or boards of the roof.

Quezal Art Glass: (Kway-zell) Quezal is a trademarked name, issued 1902, to the Quezal Art Glass and Decorating Company of Brooklyn New York. Quezal is a take on the south American quetzal bird known for its bright plumage. Quezal founders once worked with Tiffany Lighting, many Quezal patterns match that of Tiffany Favrile glass and Steuben Aurene glass both of which are in trend and renowned for their beauty in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Rookwood Pottery Company: Handicraft organization that was started by Maria Longworth Nichols in Cincinnati Ohio in 1880. The company gains global notoriety at the 1889 Paris Exposition Universelle and the 1893 World's Fair Columbian Exposition. Most renowned for its original design and innovative

²³⁸ “Home: Oxford English Dictionary,” 1690, accessed February 9, 2017, <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/143809?rskey=MAeTxL&result=18#eid30155345>.

²³⁹ “purlin, n.,” OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/154935?redirectedFrom=purlins> (accessed April 09, 2017).

painted and glazed pottery the company also created architectural faience (glazed earthenware) several fireplaces and rooms in the manor display this skilled craftsmanship. Many male and female artisans worked for the company until its official closing in 1967. The company is currently in operation today after many other failed attempts at restarting. Rookwood displays in Glensheen mansion include many pieces of art pottery and several ceramic tile faced fireplaces.²⁴⁰

Satinwood: A wood native to Sri Lanka that was very popular in the Victorian era.

Soffit: The under horizontal face of an architrave or overhanging cornice; the under surface of a lintel, vault, or arch; a ceiling.²⁴¹

Structural Terracotta: Made from natural clay and fired in a kiln interior cells give the structure strength.

Tabriz Rug: The name of a city in north-western Iran, used attrib. and absol. to designate carpets and rugs made there, the older styles of which often show a rich decorative medallion pattern.²⁴²

U.S. Steel: Founded 1901 by J.P. Morgan and Elbert H. Gary. The Corporation as it was known on Wall Street was the world's first billion dollar corporation. Its first years of production yielded 2/3 market share in American steel manufacturing (a monopoly).

Victorian Era: Of or belonging to, designating, or typical of the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901).²⁴³

White Star Line: Formerly British merchant marine company. The line become a part of J.P. Morgan's vast holdings and a subsidiary of International Merchant Marine Company in 1902 making it an American held company. Most notable ship: the Olympic Class, RMS (Royal Mail Ship) Titanic.

William A. French: One of Minnesota's most prolific interiors decorators and furniture designers in the early 20th century. Founder and director of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Interior Decorators.

²⁴⁰ Herbert Peck, *The Book of Rookwood Pottery* (New York, Crown Publishers, Inc., 1968)

²⁴¹ "soffit, n.". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/183895?redirectedFrom=soffit> (accessed April 09, 2017).

²⁴² "Tabriz, n.". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/196840?redirectedFrom=tabriz> (accessed April 09, 2017).

²⁴³ "Victorian, adj.2 and n.1". OED Online. March 2017. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/223221> (accessed April 09, 2017).

William Morris: Disciple of John Ruskin 1834-1896 Morris was a socialist activist, artist, author, and renowned textile designer. Morris & Co. was created in 1875 as a medieval revival of textile manufacturing in Victorian England. Morris and colleagues used natural dye, hand processing, and quality materials all while being environmentally conscious to the waste and pollution of industrialization. His colorful and vibrant textiles were favored internationally among middle and upper classes.

Further reading/reference

We don't expect all guides to know everything but if you love the job and want to continue to learn here are some recommendations & the list will grow.

- Glensheen The Construction Years. By Michael Lane
- By The Ore Docks A Working People's History of Duluth. By Richard Hudelson and Carl Ross
- Life and Art on the Upper Mississippi 1890-1915. By
- Minnesota Architect The Life and Work of Clarence Johnston. By Paul Clifford Larson
- Glorified Fishing: Memoir of a Mining Engineer. By Harry C. Dudley
- ron Pioneer Henry W. Oliver. By Henry Oliver Evans
- A Lake Superior Lawyer. By Roy O. Hoover