

Maplelawn Farmstead: The Scott influence

Part II of a series

Last week we learned that John and Jane Wolf and their six children were the first family to settle on the property that became Maplelawn Farmstead. In 1900, the Wolf heirs sold the 80-acre parcel of land to Alfred Elroy Scott.

Scott's ancestors were Boone County farmers, beginning with his grandfather, Alexander Scott, who settled with his young wife, the former Mary Jane Fultz, on a farm near the present site of Whitestown. The eldest of their nine children was Silas, born in 1843. Silas and his wife, Margaret Harmon Scott, were Alfred Elroy's parents.

The younger Scott, legally known as Alfred E., but often called Elroy, and his wife Elmira Elizabeth Moore, had been married four years when they purchased the 80 acres originally settled by the Wolf family.

Elroy was born near Whitestown on Jan. 6, 1863, while Elmira, also a native of Boone County, was born near Zionsville on June 23, 1864. They became the parents of three children: Ernest, born in 1886, before his parents acquired Maplelawn; Fairy, born in 1892, and Merle in 1893, knew Maplelawn as the place of their birth.

Elroy's father, Silas Scott, recognized the importance of investing in land and was able, in 1907, to present warranty deeds for 80-acre farms to each of his three living children: Mrs. Charles Gochenour, Alfred Elroy and William. He also planned to provide another 80 acres to the children of his deceased daughter, according to an article in *The Lebanon Pioneer* edition of Sept. 12, 1907. It was reported that these gifts would still leave him in possession of 196 acres.

With this generous gift from his father, Alfred Elroy Scott owned at least 160 acres of Boone County farmland by the age of 44.

Maplelawn was a festive place in 1914, with activities preceding and including the marriage of the Scott's only daughter. It all began with this report in the

PAST TIMES

Joan P. Lyons



Oct. 15, 1914, edition of *The Zionsville Times*, edited only to break the copy into shorter paragraphs:

"Miss Fairy R. Scott delightfully entertained 15 of her girl friends Friday afternoon at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Scott, at Maplelawn farm. While light refreshments were being served in the dining room, little Miss Devota Scott, niece of Miss Fairy, entered the room with a small bird which had tied around its beak a note announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Scott and Ralph H. Lee in November. The rooms were decorated throughout with dahlias and ferns.

"The guests were Misses Bessie Brock, Ruby Tilton, Ruth Neidlinger, Elsie Henley, Cleo Kepple, Lessie Small, Elizabeth and Hazel Moore, Cleo Kinnaman, Ethel Klingensmith, Tressie Henley, Hazel Beeler, Helen Carter, Mrs. Bernice Brock Phillippi, Mrs. Ruth Gochenour Thompson.

"The bride-to-be received many congratulations and best wishes for the future."

Then came the showers (also reported in the local paper):

"The Misses Minnie and Bessie Brock entertained at their beautiful country home, Plainview, Wednesday afternoon, in honor of the brides-to-be, Misses Fairy Scott and Hazel Beeler.

"In spite of the gloomy day and steady downpour of rain, twenty-two guests arrived with smiling, happy faces, so, for the brides-to-be, the sun shown happily within.

"Aside from the one contest, consisting of guesses of 'What should be in a brides kitchen,' the afternoon was spent with singing by the girls and gay laughter and chattering by all present. They were called to the beautifully decorated dining

room at 4 o'clock, where the brides-to-be lead the others.

"The tables were decorated in blue and yellow, the center piece consisting of a large heart of yellow dahlias fringed with ferns. Large bouquets of dahlias were in each of the downstairs rooms.

"The ice cream was served in heart-shaped cups of yellow. The favors were gold hearts tied in blue. Bursts of laughter were heard when Miss Helen Carter found the wedding ring and Miss Eloise Essex the thimble in their cake.

"After all had enjoyed the bountiful 'feed' of ice cream and angel food cake, the hostesses brought forth a heavy laden clothes basket, telling the brides-to-be to see what they could find.

"The kitchen shower bursted forth with everything, from a mop to a mouse trap. Aluminum utensils, granite ware pans, cups, spoons, cake turners, pie pans, stew kettles and most everything and everything; but, alas! no rolling pin, but someone wisely suggested that a mop might be substituted as a 'weapon of defense.'

"The bride girls thanked their many friends, and all left, wishing them many, many happy days."

Two more parties were held in honor of Fairy. The first, a miscellaneous shower, was given by Ethel Hauser Scott, wife of Fairy's brother Ernest. She invited 30 guests to her home east of Whitestown, serving them refreshments of fruit salad with "real whipped cream" and angel food cake.

The final party, a reception, was given by the bride's aunt, Mrs. C.A. Gochenour, and her daughter, Ruth Thompson, who



Photo submitted
Miss Fairy Rose Scott

decorated with autumn leaves.

According to the newspaper account, printed on Nov. 12, "The main feature of the afternoon was when little Miss Rlou Gochenour descended the stairs dressed as Dan Cupid, entered the drawing room and led the bride-to-be to the dining room, where she found a shower of beautiful gifts hidden amidst a shower of autumn leaves.

"Refreshments of brick ice cream and cake were served. The favors were miniature horse shoes."

Next week Maplelawn Farmstead hosts a wedding.

Editor's note: Joan Lyons is a member of the Zionsville Historical Society's committee to preserve the Maplelawn Farmstead.