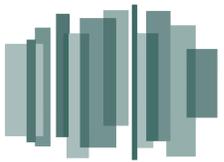
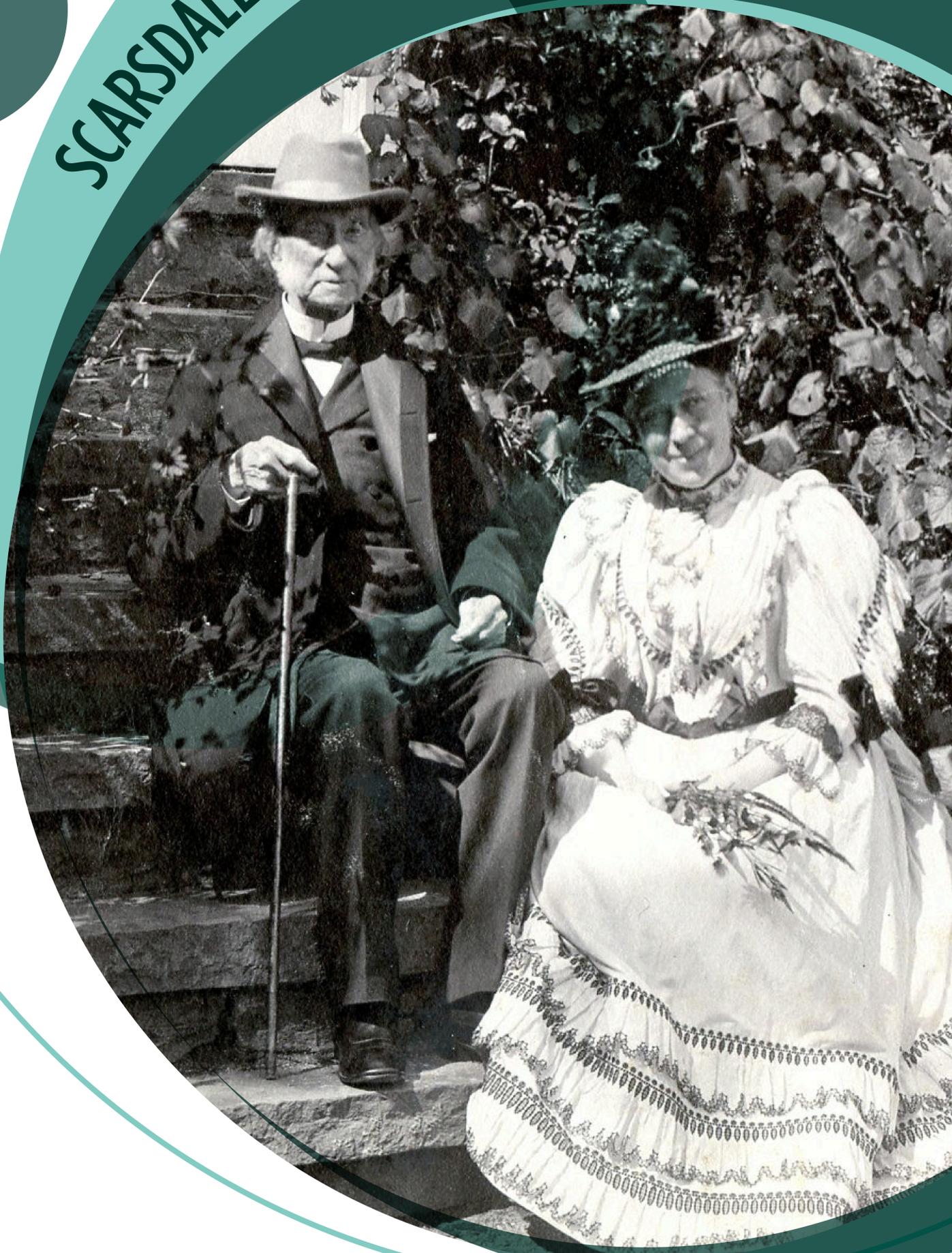


SCARSDALE THROUGH OUR PHOTOGRAPHS



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MEET THE
BUTLERS

Charles Butler was born Feb. 15th, 1802, at Kinderhook Landing, N.Y.

After graduating from the academy at Greenville, N.Y., he apprenticed in the law office of future President Martin Van Buren. He was admitted to the bar in 1824 and set up practice in Geneva, N.Y. He married Eliza Ogden in 1825.

In 1833, he went to Chicago, which was then a hamlet of less than 300 people.

There he invested in real estate and railroad enterprises. These investments made him a very wealthy man for the rest of his life. In New York he was a founder of the Union Theological Seminary. He became involved with NYU in 1836 when he was elected a member of the Council. Charles Butler was a lover of nature and towards the end of his life spent most of his time at his Fox

Meadow estate. His wife Eliza died in 1878. Charles died December 13, 1897. Of his six children, he was survived only by his daughter Emily O. Butler.

Charles Butler, Circa 1890



Emily O. Butler, Date Unknown



Emily Ogden Butler was born July 7, 1840. She was the eldest daughter of Charles Butler and Eliza Ogden Butler. She was a devoted daughter and remained with her father until he died in 1897. She never married,

and devoted her energy to the town of Scarsdale and to her many philanthropic endeavors. She spent most of her time at the Fox Meadow estate, which she kept open to neighbors for lawn tennis, courtship, sledding, and more. By the time she died at the age of 88, she had sold off or given away her entire estate, though she remained in the family house until her death on July 25, 1927.

Her contributions to the community include: 32 acres given to the Bronx River Parkway; Wayside Cottage and surrounding land given to the Village for use by the Scarsdale Woman's Club for as long as desired; land around Wayside Cottage for a Community Farm during World War II; and 4 acres for the High School along with 26 acres for Butler Field sold to the Village at a nominal price.



Charles and Emily Butler owned a Fox Meadow Estate in the 19th century. The estate stretched from Fenimore Road to Wayside Lane and from the White Plains Post Road to the Bronx River. It had greenhouses, orchards, peacocks wandering the grounds, and more!



“The lilacs directly opposite the window were never so beautiful, and have a fragrance quite overpowering. The patches of the shrubbery along the carriage road are variegated with bloom, and the grass and the evergreen trees are as green as plenty of rain can make them. The apple trees are loaded and white with blossoms and the birds are plenty and singing sweetly. I hear the lowing of the cows just coming up from the pasture, and shrill cries of the peacock, the cackling of hens and the crowing of cocks...”

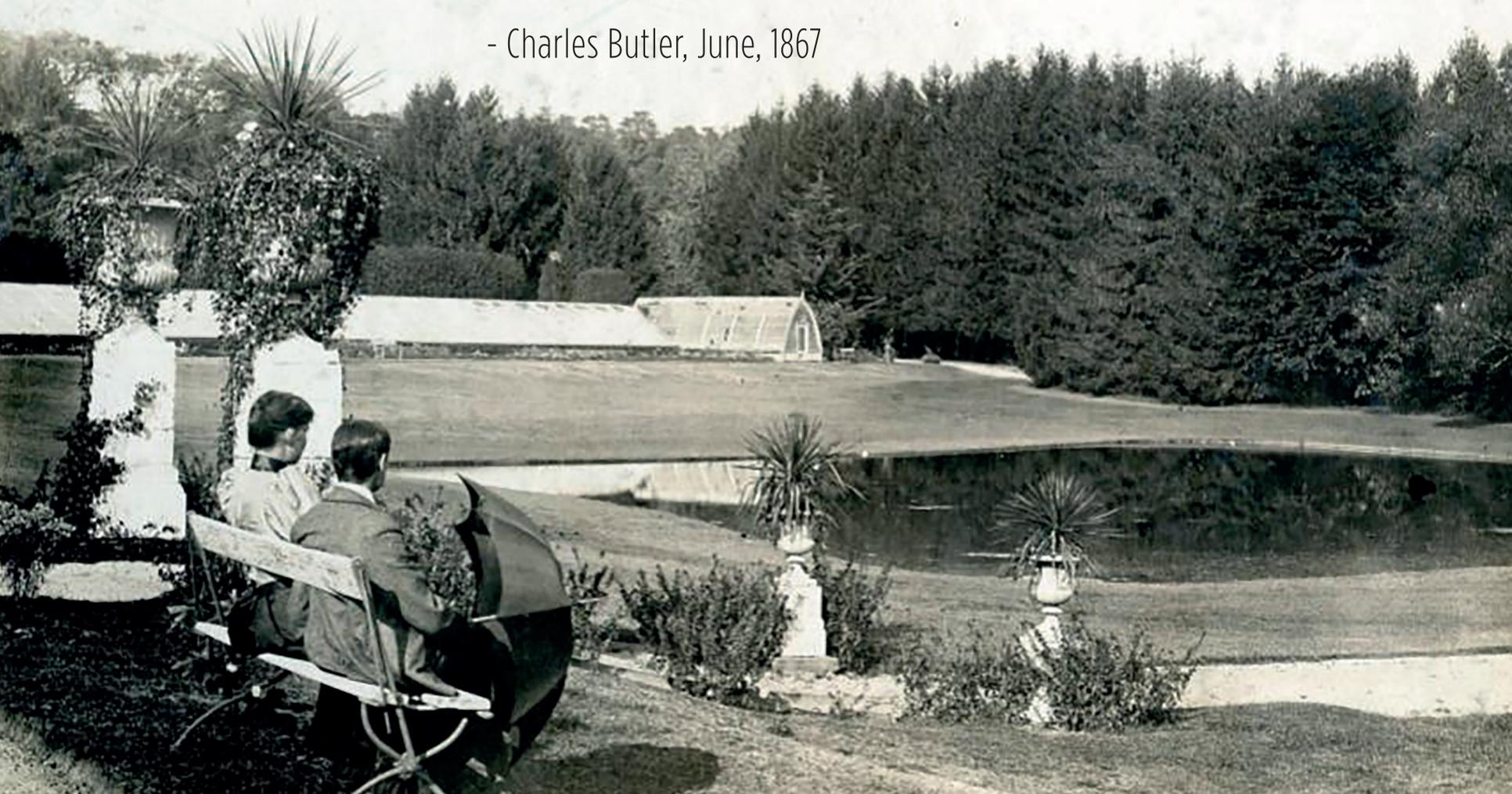
Charles Butler,
May, 1867

Fox Meadow Estate



“The garden terrace stretched out before me never appeared more beautiful; the grass, cut close, is very thick and velvety and of the deepest and richest green; the walks in beautiful order; the border lined with roses and verbenas; the large vases filled with scarlet geraniums and coleus leaves; and all nature calm, quiet and fragrant.”

- Charles Butler, June, 1867





The House on a Hill

The mansion of Charles Butler and his daughter Emily was located at what is now the intersection of Butler and Kensington Roads. It was torn down in 1933 and another house, still standing, was built in its place by George Hellmann, founder of Hellmann's Mayonnaise.

Much of the Butlers' Fox Meadow Estate was designed by Charles Butler's sickly son Ogden, who graduated from NYU in 1853. He built greenhouses and cultivated grapes on the shelf of land above what is now Brewster Road near Olmsted. Charles had hoped that the fresh air of the countryside would improve Ogden's health, but his illness proved fatal in 1856.

He was the fourth and last of Charles Butler's sons to die. In addition to gardens, greenhouses and other cultivation, the estate was used for recreational activities. The Fox Meadow Tennis Club, founded in 1883, was originally located on the Butler Estate.

Gardens and Greenhouses circa 1870

