



Welcome to Nemours Estate!



Alfred I. duPont (1864-1935) built Nemours for his second wife, Alicia Bradford Maddox duPont, whom he married in 1907. Both Alfred and Alicia were Francophiles, and Alfred was particularly proud of his French ancestry. The name *Nemours*, a region in north-central France, was the former residence of Alfred's great-great grandfather. Pierre Samuel DuPont de Nemours served King Louis XVI before emigrating to America in 1800 after the French Revolution.

The Mansion and part of the Gardens were designed by the architectural firm of Carrère and Hastings. The design of the Mansion is loosely based on the Petite Trianon, at Versailles. It has 77 rooms and a total of five floors—the lower level, three floors of public and private rooms, and an attic level. The Mansion was completed in eighteen months, (1909-1910) but the Gardens were expanded and developed over a period of about twenty-five years.

Alfred and Alicia

In 1910 Alfred, Alicia, and her daughter from a previous marriage, Little Alicia, moved into their new home. Alicia and Alfred lived here for ten years, a period of many personal and professional challenges. During their marriage Alfred was ousted from the DuPont Company, and suffered a family division that would never be repaired. He lost a large part of his fortune, and he and Alicia lost four infant children. A bright spot of joy appeared in 1916 when an eleven-month old French war orphan joined their family; her name was Denise. Sadly, Alicia died unexpectedly in 1920, leaving Alfred heartbroken and with two young daughters.



Alfred and Jessie



Alfred's heartache was soon eased by a woman he had known for many years. He met Jessie Ball twenty years earlier when he visited her home and family in Virginia for a hunting trip. They had always had a friendship but after Alicia's death Alfred turned to her and received something he was in need of: sympathy.

In January 1921, Alfred married Jessie. For the rest of his life Jessie would be his champion, partner, best friend, and true love.

Alfred and Jessie spent most of their time at Nemours, but in the winter they would travel to their Florida home, Epping Forest, in Jacksonville. After Alfred's death in 1935, Jessie traveled and worked tirelessly leading the Board of Trustees of the newly-established Nemours Foundation. She died at Nemours in 1970. Although it was not built for her, Jessie lived on the Estate longer than anyone else.

The Hospital

In addition to leaving the Estate for the enjoyment of the public, Alfred I. duPont's Last Will and Testament also directed that a children's hospital be constructed right on the grounds of his beautiful home. The founding and success of this institution became Jessie's mission for the rest of her life. The hospital, then known as the Alfred I. duPont Institute, was completed in 1940, with subsequent additions completed in 1984 and 2014.



The Estate Today

Today, families receiving treatment at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children always receive free admission to the Estate. We also welcome all members of the public to visit the Mansion and our 200 acres of gardens and grounds! Please follow Nemours Estate on Facebook and Instagram @nemoursestate for additional information about our history and activities, and youth-focused educational programs may be found on our YouTube channel. We hope to see you again soon!

www.nemoursestate.org
