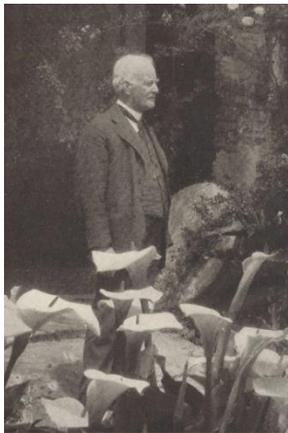


## E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary July 2, 2014

By Jim Wagner



**Dr. Edmund Mills, ARS  
President & Founder and  
President of SRS.**



**Lady Ursula Hybrid  
Tea Rose.  
Source of photo unknown.**



**Dorothy Perkins Wichuriana Climber Rose. The  
Edmund M. Mills Municipal Rose-Garden in 1924.  
Now known as E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden.**

July 2, 2014, will be the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden. When planning this rose garden, Dr. Edmund Mills, a Methodist minister and president of both the American Rose Society and the Syracuse Rose Society was very ill and unaware these gardens were being planned in his honor. But by the time of the dedication of this garden on July 2, 1924, Dr. Mills had recovered and took part in the dedication.

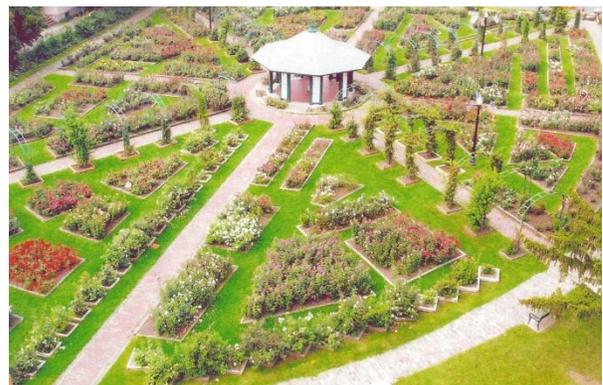
Above is a photo of Dr. Mills taken in 1923 and published in the 1924 American Rose Society Annual (Plate II). Next to this are photos of the Lady Ursula, a dependable, pink Hybrid Tea rose first introduced in 1908 and that some believe was the oldest rose planting in this garden and Dorothy Perkins, the Wichuriana Climber, (J & P Co. 1901) which covered most of the fence along the south side of this garden back then. Below are photos of this garden at the time of its dedication on July 2, 1924 and again in 2008. The building in the center of the 2008 photo, originally called a Pavilion at the time of its dedication in 1925, is now known as the Gazebo where many weddings and other special events take place.

Prior to the harsh winter of 2013-14, there were about 5,000 roses of many different types and varieties in this garden that need regular care from April through early November. This is a joint effort between the Syracuse Rose Society and the Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Adult Services.

On Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to noon volunteers from SRS and others interested in helping care for these roses including planting, weeding, fertilizing, deadheading, winter protection, etc. are welcome. The Parks Department maintains the lawns and provides for new plantings and garden supplies. For more historical data on these gardens and more and larger photos, go to the Syracuse Rose Society website, click on Mills Rose Garden and page down to the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary article.



**The Edmund M. Mills Municipal Rose-Garden,  
Thornden Park, Syracuse, NY, dedicated July 2, 1924.  
Plate III, facing page 33, 1925 ARS Annual**



**E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden, 2008.  
Gazebo added & dedicated in 1925.  
Photo by Joe Gibson**