

**HUNT, Mildred.** May 8, 1888–December 14, 1975.

DENISON UNIVERSITY (SHEPARDSON COLLEGE) (BA 1909), UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (MA 1916, PhD 1924).

Mildred Hunt was born in Fairport, New York, the second of three children of Helen (Metcalf) (b. 1855) and Horace Holmes Hunt (1852–1897), natives of New York. The other children were Mary H. (b. 1885) and Horace Holmes (b. 1890). Her father attended Rochester Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1879; he died in Fairport at forty-five, when Mildred Hunt was nine years old. In 1900 Helen M. Hunt was matron of Shepardson College for Women in Granville, Ohio. The college became a part of Denison University that year. Mildred Hunt's brother attended Denison University, Columbia University, and Rochester Theological Seminary before being ordained and serving as a Baptist minister.

Mildred Hunt prepared for college in the preparatory department of Denison University before attending the university as a student in Shepardson College (now fully merged with Denison). After her graduation in 1909, she taught in Woodland College in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and at high schools in Brownsville, Ohio, and Sistersville, West Virginia. She was an instructor of Latin and Greek at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, 1912–15. During the academic year 1915–16, Hunt studied at the University of Chicago, where she had courses in Analytic Mechanics with Kurt Laves, Differential Equations and Definite Integrals with G. A. Bliss, Elliptic Integrals with H. E. Slaught, Solid Analytic Geometry and Theory of Algebraic Invariants with L. E. Dickson, Differential Geometry with E. J. Wilczynski, and Geometric Introduction to the Theory of the Complex Variable with A. C. Lunn. Her master's thesis was directed by Dickson, and the work for her master's degree was completed in August 1916.

After receiving her master's degree, Hunt was an instructor of mathematics at Parsons College (now closed) in Fairfield, Iowa, 1916–17. She was professor of mathematics at Bessie Tift College (later Tift College, now closed), then a women's college in Forsyth, Georgia, 1918–22. Tift College records indicate that she also taught at Denison at some point, perhaps in 1917–18. She resumed her graduate studies at Chicago, wrote her dissertation under Dickson, and received her PhD in 1924.

Hunt's thirty-year career at Illinois Wesleyan University, in Bloomington, Illinois, began in the fall of 1924. She joined the two-person department as assistant professor and was promoted to professor two years later, when the department's previous professor left. She was the senior member of the department, which consisted of two people until a few years before her retirement.

While at Illinois Wesleyan, Hunt served on various university committees and sometimes as freshman advisor. She was secretary of faculty in the College of Liberal Arts after 1931 and assumed a major administrative position when she became registrar of the university in 1943. She remained in both of these positions and continued as professor of mathematics until she retired in 1954 as professor emeritus. Until she became registrar Hunt regularly attended meetings of the Illinois Section of the MAA and served as vice chairman 1939–40 and chairman 1940–41.

After her retirement, Mildred Hunt moved to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, to live with her family. Her death in 1975 at age eighty-seven in St. Petersburg, Florida, came after a lengthy illness.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, MAA, AAAS, Phi Beta Kappa.

**Thesis and dissertation:**

**1916** Fundamental systems of polynomial and single valued invariants of conic forms under rotations and translations. MA thesis, University of Chicago, directed by Leonard Eugene Dickson. Typescript.

**1924** The arithmetics of certain linear algebras. PhD dissertation, University of Chicago, directed by Leonard Eugene Dickson. Typescript. Abstract: *University of Chicago. Abstracts of theses. Science series.* 2:5–10.

**References to:** AmMSc 8, 9P.

“Dr. Mildred Hunt Dies—Taught at IWU.” *Bloomington-Normal (IL) Pantagraph*, 16 Dec 1975.

**Other sources:** Master’s thesis biographical sketch 1916; application for social security number 1951; Illinois Wesleyan University Archives; communications with Hillsdale College Archives and with Mercer College Special Collections (Tift College Archives); US Census 1900, 1910 OH, 1930 IL.

Last modified: December 11, 2008.