

DICKERMAN, Elizabeth Street. November 13, 1872–April 24, 1965.
SMITH COLLEGE (BA 1894), YALE UNIVERSITY (PhD 1896).

Elizabeth Street Dickerman was born in West Haven, Connecticut, the daughter of Elizabeth Mansfield (Street) (1843–1926), born in New York, and George Sherwood Dickerman (1843–1937), of Connecticut. Her maternal grandfather was a minister who had graduated from Yale, and her father was a Congregational minister who earned a BA from Yale in 1865 and a BD from the Yale Divinity School in 1868. Her parents married in 1870 and had four children: Elizabeth Street; Sherwood Owen (1874–1930) and Amy Eliot (1879–1980), both born in Maine; and Alfred Deluce (1885–1920), born in Massachusetts. Her brother Sherwood received a BA from Yale in 1896, a PhD from Halle in 1909, and was a professor of Greek at Williams College. Her sister graduated from Smith College in 1900, attended the Yale School of Music the following year, and later married. Her brother Alfred attended Washington and Lee University.

Elizabeth Street Dickerman graduated from high school in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1890 before entering nearby Smith College, where her chief subjects of undergraduate study were mathematics, philosophy, social science, French, German, and music before her graduation in 1894. She entered Yale University that autumn and studied with Hubert A. Newton, J. Willard Gibbs, Andrew W. Phillips, Irving Fisher, and James Pierpont. She held a scholarship there her second year and received her PhD in 1896 with no advisor designated. The following year, 1896–97, she took a course on linear differential equations with Pierpont, and in 1899–1900 she attended a course on thermodynamics and properties of matter given by Gibbs.

In the decade after receiving her PhD, Dickerman was primarily occupied with private teaching. She also traveled in Europe for four months in 1897 and again in 1902 and was fluent in French, German, and Italian. The next several years she had formal teaching positions. She taught mathematics at Greenwich Academy 1904–05; substituted as professor of mathematics at the College for Women of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, 1906–07; and taught mathematics and psychology at Ingleside School in New Milford, Connecticut, 1907–13. In 1910 she registered with the Smith College faculty committee on recommendations seeking an appointment either in college teaching or administrative work. At this time she was a member of the New England Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

After 1914 Dickerman was mainly engaged in literary work and some private teaching while living in New Haven. During World War I, she selected and translated war poems for a calendar, *Songs of our Allies*, the proceeds of which were to go to wounded French soldiers. She served as assistant to the editor of the *Yale Review* in 1917. Her literary work includes translations of poetry from the French, books of poetical reminiscences of her travels, and various other articles. She made a trip to Bermuda in 1921 and followed that with a book of verse about the trip. In 1924 she conducted a Round Table on Industrial Relations in New Haven in connection with the AAUW.

Dickerman reported in 1936 that she was devoting time to the care of her father who was seriously ill. Her primary residence before his death in 1937 was her family home in New Haven; after his death she moved to an apartment there. From the mid-1920s, she also maintained a summer home on Squirrel Island, Maine, where her maternal grandparents had also had a home. In 1938, at sixty-five, she made a

trip to France. During her last few years, she lived most of the time at the home of her sister, Amy Humstone, in Greenwich, returning to her apartment in New Haven for a few weeks each spring and fall.

Elizabeth Dickerman died in Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1965 after a month in the hospital following surgery for a broken hip. She was ninety-two. After services at the United Church on the Green in New Haven, interment followed in the Centerville Cemetery in Hamden, Connecticut.

Organizational affiliations: AAAS, AAUP, Phi Beta Kappa.

Dissertation:

1896 Curves of the first and second degree in $x y z$ where $x y z$ are conics having two points in common. PhD dissertation, Yale University.

Publications:

1915 (Translator from the French) *Songs of Brittany: Chanson de chez nous of Théodore Botrel*. Boston, MA: Richard G. Badger.

1916 (Translator from the French) The song of the blowing wind [by Anatole Le Braz]. *Poet Lore* 27:357–58.

1917a Charles Péguy. *Poet Lore* 28:246–47.

1917b (Translator from the French) Saint Genevieve by Charles Péguy. *Poet Lore* 28:246.

1918a *Folk-songs of Brittany, selections from Théodore Botrel's Chanson de la Veillee*. New Haven, CT: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor. Written in English verse adapted to the original Breton airs.

1919a (Translator from the French) Du Guesclin, a dramatic poem by Théodore Botrel. *Poet Lore* 30:159–207.

1919b (Translator from the French) Madelon: the famous song of the French Poilus. *Poet Lore* 30:469–70.

1920 Centurions of France. *Poet Lore* 31:243–52.

1921 Emilie Marechal: a soldier-poet of Belgium. *Poet Lore* 32:136–39.

1922 (Translator from the French) Four poems of Chang-Wou Kiem 1879. *Poet Lore* 33:158.

1923 *A Spanish Journey*. (Poetry) New Haven, CT: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor.

1954 Portrait of two sisters, Emily and Lavinia Dickinson. *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (February): 79.

References to: [BioWMath](#), WomWWA.

“Elizabeth Street Dickerman, B.A. Smith College 1894.” *Alumnae Graduate School Yale University 1894-1920*. New Haven, CT: Yale University, 1920.

“Dickerman, Elizabeth Street.” (Death notice) *New York Times*, 26 Apr 1965.

“Elizabeth Dickerman.” (Obituary) *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (Summer 1965), 262.

Related manuscript material:

Elizabeth S. Dickerman Papers Relating to Emily Dickinson. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Other sources: Owens questionnaire 1937; Williams Papers; Smith College Alumnae Office; Smith College Archives; Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library; *Yale University Obituary Record 1937-1938* (George Sherwood Dickerman, BA 1865); E. M. Dickerman, *A Memorial of Two Lives* (Amherst, MA: J. E. Williams, 1888); US Census 1880 ME, 1900, 1910, 1930 CT.