

**TAYLOR, Mildred E.** July 25, 1898–November 3, 1978.

OXFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (BA 1921), UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (MA 1922, PhD 1931).

Mildred Ellen Taylor, born in Virginia, Illinois, was the eldest of eight children of Emily Elizabeth (Treadway) (b. 1874) and Angus Taylor (b. 1872), natives of Illinois. Her parents married in 1897, and her father was a farmer in the central part of the state. The other children in the family were William Marion (1900–1997), Miriam (1902–1989), Kenneth Archibald (1904–1996), Angus Donald (1907–1982), Emily Christine (1909–1995), Vivian (1914–2003), and Miza (1916–1989).

Mildred Taylor graduated from the high school in Virginia, Illinois, in 1917 and entered Oxford College for Women in Ohio that fall. In 1918–19 and 1920–21 she was a special student at Miami University doing course work in physics. While at Oxford College, which merged with Miami University in 1928, she was involved in many activities including the athletic association and YWCA all four years. After her graduation in 1921, she received a scholarship from the University of Illinois for the year 1921–22. She received her master's degree in 1922 and taught the next year in the Johnston City Township high school in southern Illinois.

From 1923 until 1929 Taylor taught as an instructor at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. During this time she was working toward her PhD at the University of Illinois and regularly attended meetings of the Illinois Section of the MAA. She took a leave of absence from Knox 1929–30 to spend her only full year in residence at the University of Illinois. All of her other course work occurred during the summers 1924 to 1926 and 1927 to 1930. She received her doctorate in 1931 with a dissertation in algebraic geometry and with a minor in physics.

In 1930 Taylor was hired as professor of mathematics and department head at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. This college for women, originally chartered in 1845, became first a seminary, then a junior college, and in 1923 a four-year college. When Taylor arrived in 1930 there were approximately 250 students. In 1937 her title changed to professor of mathematics and astronomy. She remained at Mary Baldwin until her retirement in 1968. Throughout her career at Mary Baldwin, Taylor attended national meetings of the AMS and the MAA and meetings of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section of the MAA. In 1938 she was elected to the executive committee of the section, and in 1953 she was elected its vice chair.

Taylor was also active in Pi Mu Epsilon, Sigma Delta Epsilon, and the AAUW. She was chair of the national alumnae committee of Sigma Delta Epsilon 1942–43 and was secretary of the Virginia branch of the AAUW in 1940–41. She attended a number of annual meetings of the NCTM in the 1950s; she was chairman of the ushers and secretaries committee in Chicago in 1950, and she gave talks about teaching geometry at the college level in Atlantic City and Cincinnati in 1953 and 1954. She indicated in about 1940 that she was a Presbyterian and a Republican.

Mildred Taylor was living in Staunton, Virginia, at the time of her death at age eighty in 1978. She was survived by her three brothers and four sisters. The funeral service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, and she was buried in East Lawn Memorial Park in Urbana, Illinois.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, MAA, NCTM, AAAS, Sigma Delta Epsilon, AAUW, Pi Mu Epsilon.

**Dissertation:**

**1931** A determination of the types of planar Cremona transformations with not more than 9  $F$ -points. PhD dissertation, University of Illinois, directed by Arthur Byron Coble. Abstract, 1932, reprinted from *Amer. J. Math.* 54:123–28.

**Publications:**

**1932** A determination of the types of planar Cremona transformations with not more than 9  $F$ -points. *Amer. J. Math.* 54:123–28. Abstract of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 58.1220.02 (G. Feigl); *Zbl* 003.36104 (O. Zariski).

**1954** Mina Spiegel Rees. *Pi Mu Epsilon J.* 1:395–99.

**References to:** AmMSc 5–8, 9P–11P; AmMWSc 12P; AmWom 1935–40.

“Mildred Taylor, Former Teacher at MBC, Dies.” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 5 Nov 1978.

**Other sources:** PhD dissertation abstract vita 1932; Owens questionnaires 1937, 1940; Miami University Archives; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 IL; SSDI.

Last modified: March 9, 2009.