

MORRISON, Sister Charles Mary. July 19, 1895–January 15, 1953.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (BA 1922, MA 1925), CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (PhD 1931).

Rose Mary Morrison was born in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, in 1895, before the community was annexed to Boston. She was the daughter of Mary Etta (Kennedy) (1864–1929) of Rhode Island, and Charles F. Morrison (1862–1924) of Massachusetts. At the time of the 1900 census, she was the youngest of three living children (of four born). An older brother, John, was born in 1889, and a sister, Mary, in 1891. In 1900 and 1910 her father was a grocer. By 1910 there were four living children of five born, with a sister, Catharine, age six. Later information indicated that she had two brothers, James K. and John M., and two sisters, Metta (Mary Etta) and Catharine. In 1920 her father was a clerk for the city of Boston, and her brother John was a lawyer. Rose Mary Morrison received her early education in parochial and public schools of Boston and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, in September 1916, at age twenty-one.

After making her vows, Sister Charles Mary was a high school teacher at Presentation Academy, Louisville, 1918–21. She was in residence at Fordham University from June 1921 to August 1922, when she received her BA degree. She then taught Latin, Greek, mathematics, and German at Nazareth College, the Louisville women's college opened by the Sisters of Charity in 1920. In 1925 she received an MA from Fordham and returned to Nazareth College to teach mathematics.

From 1928 to 1931 Sister Charles Mary was in residence at the Catholic University of America. She was one of four students who wrote their dissertations in algebraic geometry under the direction of Aubrey E. Landry and received the PhD in 1931. The others were [Sister Leonarda Burke](#), [Sister Mary de Lellis Gough](#), and [Sister Mary Felice Vaudreuil](#). Sister Charles Mary's degree was awarded with minors in philosophy and physics.

In 1931 Sister Charles Mary returned to Nazareth College, where she remained until August 1950. She was joined in the mathematics department there by [Sister Mary Charlotte Fowler](#) in 1937. While at Nazareth College, Sister Charles Mary also served as head of the mathematics department, as registrar 1925–42, and as dean after 1942. After her return to Nazareth and until she became dean, Sister Charles Mary attended almost every meeting of the Kentucky Section of the MAA. She presented three papers to the section, all in algebraic geometry. In 1934 she was president of the Kentucky Association of Collegiate Registrars.

In 1950 Sister Charles Mary moved to Massachusetts, where she joined the faculty of Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree and served as archdiocesan superintendent for Community High School. She died suddenly at the Carney Hospital in Boston less than three years later as the result of a myocardial infarction; she was fifty-seven. Her remains were interred in the Nazareth Cemetery in Nazareth, Kentucky. In August 1970 a residence hall at Spalding College, the coeducational successor to Nazareth College that is now Spalding University, was named Morrison Hall in her honor.

Organizational affiliations: MAA, NCTM, Assoc. of Collegiate Registrars.

Dissertation:

1931 The triangles in-and-circumscribed to the biflecnodal rational quartic. PhD dissertation, Catholic University of America, directed by Aubrey Edward Landry. Printed

for The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Review: *JFM* 57.0826.04 (F. Schaale).

Abstracts:

1932 The triangles in-and-circumscribed to the biflecnodal rational quartic. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 39:510–11 #1. Presented to the MAA, Lexington, KY, 14 May 1932. Based on PhD dissertation.

1934 Some geometric and trigonometric proofs of the theorem of Morley. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 41:204 #3. Presented to the MAA, Georgetown, KY, 13 May 1933.

1940 Inversion applied to conics. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 47:596 #2. Presented to the MAA, Lexington, KY, 27 Apr 1940.

Reference to: AmMSc 7.

Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1931; Owens questionnaire 1937; communication with Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Archives; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920 MA, 1930 DC.

Last modified: December 14, 2008.