RUSSELL, Helen G. September 28, 1901–October 24, 1968.
Wellesley College (BA 1921), Columbia University (Teachers College) (MA 1924), Radcliffe College (PhD 1932).

Helen Gertrude Russell was born in Gorham, Maine, the third of six children of Winifred Parker (Stone) (1869–1970) of Bucksport, Maine, and Walter Earle Russell (1869–1948) of Fayette, Maine. Her mother graduated from Maine Wesleyan Female College in Kent's Hill and taught at Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton, Maine, and at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, before her marriage in 1896. Her father, a graduate of Wesleyan University, was a faculty member and, for thirty-five years, principal of the Gorham Normal School, a predecessor of the University of Southern Maine. Her parents had three sons: Earl Stone (1897–1973), Willis Cleaves (1898–1986), and Robert Edward (b. 1906); their two other daughters were Muriel Lincoln, who was born in December 1904 and died in June 1905, and Celia Asenath (1909–1995). Her two older brothers both received PhDs: Earle in education from Yale in 1934 and Willis in history from American University in 1932. It was reported in a genealogy published in 1926 that Robert was in the Wesleyan class of 1927 and that Celia was in the Wellesley class of 1929.

Helen Russell attended Gorham schools before entering Wellesley College. After her college graduation in 1921, she taught mathematics and Latin in the high school in Mt. Holly, New Jersey, 1921–23, and mathematics in the Horace Mann School for Girls in New York City 1923–27. She earned a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia, in 1924. For two issues of the 1924 *Mathematics Teacher*, the sections on mathematics clubs were prepared by Russell and four other members of David Eugene Smith's 1923–24 Teachers College class in teaching mathematics in secondary schools.

Russell returned to Massachusetts in 1927 to continue her graduate work at Radcliffe College. She was also an instructor at Wellesley 1928–29. In a February 1930 letter to David Eugene Smith regarding a reference for a Radcliffe scholarship, Russell wrote from Cambridge, "Three years ago I left Horace Mann School to come here to do graduate work in mathematics. Last year I taught two freshman classes at Wellesley and consequently did very little work at Radcliffe. This year I am again doing full time work" (Professional Correspondence, David Eugene Smith Professional Collection, Archival Collections, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries). She completed her work at Radcliffe in 1932. Her dissertation in analysis was directed by J. L. Walsh, and a paper she coauthored with him bearing the title of her dissertation appeared the following year in the *Transactions* of the AMS. Her collaboration with Walsh, who had received his doctorate from Harvard a dozen years earlier and spent most of his career as a faculty member there, continued for more than thirty years.

Russell again joined the mathematics department at Wellesley in 1932, the year Helen Abbot Merrill retired after nearly forty years on the faculty, the last sixteen as department chairman. Russell remained at Wellesley for the rest of her career except for leaves. She was instructor 1932–36, assistant professor 1936–45, associate professor 1945–51, professor 1951–66, and emeritus professor after her retirement in 1966. She was also named chairman in 1952 and the Helen Day Gould professor of mathematics in 1955; she held that professorship until her retirement.

While at Wellesley, Russell continued her research in complex analysis and contributed research articles and reviews to journals. She took several leaves, possibly all sabbaticals; the first, in 1942–43, was at the University of California. Her next three leaves were all at Harvard. The first of these was during the first semester of 1949–50 when she worked at Widener Library and audited a course with Oscar Zariski. Her next two leaves were in 1956–57 and in 1963–64. During her last leave she was a research fellow in mathematics. After each of these leaves Russell published a paper jointly with J. L. Walsh. The last of these papers appeared in 1966, the year they both retired. This last joint paper was the second part of a paper first published by Walsh the previous year.

Russell was also an active participant in college committee work and other extracurricular activities. At various times she served on the board of admission and on the administrative board. She was also a member of committees on scholarships; student records; curriculum and instruction; the library; war activities; nominations; reappointments, promotions and dismissals; and appointments. She participated in the Shop Club, the Chapel Board, and the General Court, and was a class dean.

Her professional activities included serving on the council of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England and on a committee on summer institutes for mathematics teachers. She was a member of the entertainment committee for various meetings, including the International Mathematical Congress in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1950. She was also on a committee on a cooperative Harvard plan for the preparation of teachers.

Russell was a Radcliffe alumna member of Phi Beta Kappa and held offices in the Wellesley chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and AAUP. She was a Republican and a Methodist. She was an enthusiastic traveler, whose trips included travel in Europe in 1925 and 1927, in the western United States in the summers of 1937 and 1939, and in the Orient in 1963–64 with her mother who was then ninety-five.

Helen G. Russell died in 1968 at age sixty-seven in Portland, Maine, after a brief illness. She was survived by her mother, three brothers, and her sister, and is buried in Eastern Cemetery in Gorham.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, AAUP, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi.

Dissertation:
1932 On the convergence and overconvergence of sequences of polynomials of best simultaneous approximation to several functions analytic in distinct regions. PhD dissertation, Radcliffe College, directed by Joseph Leonard Walsh. Summary: *Radcliffe College. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Summaries of Theses Accepted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy* 1:60–62.

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1934 with J. L. Walsh. On the convergence and overconvergence of sequences of polynomials of best simultaneous approximation to several functions analytic in distinct regions. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* 36:13–28. Reviews: *JFM* 60.0252.01 (W. Hahn); *Zbl* 008.21402 (G. Szegö). Presented by Russell to the AMS, New York City, 29 Oct 1932; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 38:490 #173.
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1950c Review of *College Algebra*, by J. B. Rosenbach and E. A. Whitman. *Math. Mag.* 23:270.

1953a Review of *Analytic Geometry and Calculus*, by F. H. Miller. *Math. Mag.* 26:276.

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1959b Review of *The Real Projective Plane*, 2nd ed., by H. S. M. Coxeter. *Scripta Math.* 24:162–63.

1961a Review of *Advanced Algebra, Part I*, by E. A. Maxwell. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 68:193–94.

1961b Review of *Modern Fundamentals of Algebra and Trigonometry*, by H. Sharp, Jr. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 68:683.

1964 The new mathematics. *Wellesley Alumnae Magazine* Oct.

1966 with J. L. Walsh. Hyperbolic capacity and interpolating rational functions II. *Duke Math. J.* 33:275–79. Reviews: *MR* 33 #1624 (Ch. Pommerenke); *Zbl* 148.30302 (H. Meschkowski). Part I by J. L. Walsh.

References to: AmMSc 6–8, 9P–11P; WhAm 5; WhoAmW 1–6.

"Helen G. Russell, Ex-Math Professor." *New York Times*, 26 Oct 1968.

Other sources: Owens questionnaire 1940; Archival Collections, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries; Wellesley College Archives; Morris Marden, "Joseph L. Walsh, In Memoriam," *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 81 (1975): 45–65; J. Gardner Bartlett, *Simon Stone Genealogy . . .* (Boston: Stone Family Association, 1926); US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 ME; SSDI.

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