

BRADY, Dorothy (Stahl). June 14, 1903–April 17, 1977.

REED COLLEGE (BA 1924), CORNELL UNIVERSITY (MA 1926), UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (PHD 1933).

Dorothy Elizabeth Stahl was born in Elk River, Minnesota, the eldest of four children of Agnes M. (Roche) and Henry V. Stahl, both born in 1875 in Wisconsin. In 1900 Agnes Roche and Henry Stahl were both teachers and boarded at the same address in Graceville, Minnesota. They married two years later. Their other children were a daughter, Margaret, born in Elk River in about 1904, and two sons, Donald and George, born in Wisconsin in about 1909 and 1910, respectively. In 1910 the family was living in Bayfield, Wisconsin, where Henry Stahl was a high school teacher. By 1920 they were living in Portland, Oregon, and Henry Stahl was working as an insurance agent.

Dorothy Stahl attended Lincoln High School in Portland and studied mathematics and physics at Reed College, where she was a student assistant and from which she graduated as a mathematics major in 1924. On June 14, 1924, in Portland, Oregon, she married Robert Alexander Brady (1901–1963), who had graduated from Reed College the previous year and remained at Reed as a teaching assistant in history 1923–24. Robert Brady, born in Marysville, Washington, worked as a principal of a high school in Florence, Oregon, 1924–25, studied at Cornell 1925–26, worked in the New York City area 1926–29, and received a PhD in economics from Columbia University in 1929. In 1929 he joined the University of California faculty.

Dorothy Brady attended graduate school at Cornell 1925–26. She received her master's degree in mathematics in 1926 with major subject mathematical analysis and minor subject geometry; her examination committee was chaired by W. A. Hurwitz. Brady was instructor of mathematics the following year, 1926–27, at Vassar College. In 1927 she worked at the National Bureau of Economic Research as a research assistant on a study of labor statistics before studying and teaching mathematics and economic statistics at New York University 1927–29; Robert Brady also taught at NYU during those two years. Dorothy Brady continued her study of mathematics at the University of Berlin in Germany during the winter of 1930–31 when Robert Brady had a research fellowship to study the “rationalization” of industry in Germany. She then attended the University of California 1931–33 and received a PhD in mathematics in 1933. The Bradys' son, M. Michael, was born in December 1933. They later divorced, and Robert Brady remarried in April 1936. Their son earned a master's degree from MIT in 1958 and was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study electrical engineering in Oslo for the following year. He is an engineer living in Oslo and writes about Nordic skiing and living abroad.

In 1936 Dorothy S. Brady began a long career as an economist and statistician working for the federal government and in academic institutions. She worked first for the government in Washington, D.C., for a dozen years. From 1936 to 1943 she worked for the US Department of Agriculture. She worked in the area of family expenditures for the Bureau of Home Economics (renamed Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in February 1953). She was an associate economist 1936–38, home economics specialist 1938–42, and senior statistician 1942–43. During the years 1937–39 she also studied statistics at the US Department of Agriculture Graduate School.

In 1943 she moved to the US Department of Labor, where she held positions within the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1943–44 she was chief of the family expenditure section within the cost of living division and served as assistant chief of the division. From 1944 to 1948 she was chief of the cost of living division and was responsible for the analytical procedures used in the consumer price index, the derivation and pricing of the city worker's family budget, and economic analysis of family expenditure data. During this period she wrote articles, some of which appeared without attribution, for the *Monthly Labor Review* of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. She was a lecturer for a graduate course at American University in the spring of 1946.

In 1948 Brady assumed positions at the University of Illinois. She was appointed professor of economics to serve half time to teach quantitative economics in the Department of Economics. She was also research professor of economics half time and conducted research in the field of consumer economics in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research in the College of Commerce. Seven letters of recommendation for Brady for these positions from persons she had worked with in academic and government settings are uniformly enthusiastic. A letter of February 13, 1948, from Milton Friedman, later to win the Nobel Prize in economics, begins, "I find it difficult to use anything except superlatives in describing Dorothy Brady's qualifications for a teaching and research position" (Staff Appointments File for Dorothy Stahl Brady, University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

In 1951, while at Illinois, Brady also became a consultant on costs and standards of living for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because of these research commitments, she requested and was granted a leave of absence without pay from her Illinois positions for most of second semester 1950–51. Because of her commitment to help with the revision of the consumer price index, she then resigned those positions effective August 31, 1951, in order to return to full-time government service in Washington. In her role as the consultant on costs and standards of living for the Department of Labor, Brady spoke at an equal pay conference called by the department's Women's Bureau in March 1952. She noted a dramatic decrease over ten years in the ratio of women's to men's earnings, "from 59 to 45 per cent" ("Crusade advocated to force equal pay," *New York Times*, 1 Apr 1952).

In 1953 Brady was chief of the division of prices and cost of living and was responsible for price indexes, consumer expenditure surveys, and other cost of living surveys. During the early 1950s she presented several papers at the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth of the National Bureau of Economic Research; she served on the executive committee of the conference and chaired the committee in 1953–54.

In 1956 she resumed her work in an academic setting when she joined the faculty at the University of Chicago as professor of economics. Two years later, in 1958, she moved to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, also as professor of economics, and remained until her retirement a dozen years later. For the period 1956 to 1960, she was again a consultant to the Bureau of Labor Statistics on prices and cost of living. From 1964 to 1971 she was a consultant to the Social Security Administration, Office of Research and Statistics, working mainly on a project on age and income distribution and on plans for a retirement history study. She served as book review editor of the *Journal of Economic History* 1969–74. Brady retired from the Wharton School in 1970 as professor emeritus but was a consultant there

until 1974. While at Wharton, she was research professor of economics and for the period 1964–70 was chairman of the graduate group in economic history.

In 1948 Brady received the National Women's Press Club Award in Economics for her work in developing the city worker's family budget. In 1950 she was made a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the following year she was made a fellow of the Econometric Society. Richard Easterlin, her colleague and friend at the Wharton School, describes some of her personal qualities in his article in the *Journal of Economic History* after her death. "She was sensitive, considerate, and utterly without pretense. I never knew a person less given to small talk; yet she was always interesting and fun to be with."

Dorothy Brady suffered from a heart ailment and died in 1977 at the home she shared with her friend and fellow economist, Eleanor M. Snyder, in Pine Hill, New York. Brady was seventy-three at the time of her death. She was survived by her son, Michael Brady, of Oslo, Norway, and her sister. There was no funeral and her body was donated to science.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, ASA (fellow), IMS, Econometric Soc. (fellow), Econ. Hist. Assoc., Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi.

Thesis and dissertation:

1926 Criteria for convergence of Fourier series. MA thesis, Cornell University, directed by Wallie Abraham Hurwitz.

1933 On the solutions of the homogeneous linear integral equation. PhD dissertation, University of California, directed by John Hector McDonald.

Selected publications:

1938 Variations in family living expenditures. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 33:385–89. Presented to the ASA, Atlantic City, NJ, 30 Dec 1937.

1944 with S. Fabricant. Appraisal of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living index: appendix. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 39:57-95. Prepared for a special committee of the ASA with the assistance of the staff of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1945 with F. M. Williams. Advances in the techniques of measuring and estimating consumer expenditure. *J. Farm Econ.* 27: 319–20.

1946 Expenditures, savings, and income. (In Five Views on the Consumption Function) *Rev. Econ. Statist.* 28:216–18.

1947a with R. D. Friedman. Savings and the income distribution. In *Conference on Research in Income and Wealth*, 250–65. Studies in Income and Wealth 10. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research. Presented to the conference, Nov 1945.

1947b Comment on "Resource distribution patterns and classification of families" by W. Vickrey. In *Conference on Research in Income and Wealth*, 317–21. Studies in Income and Wealth 10. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research. Presented to the conference, Nov 1945.

1948a Family budgets: A historical survey. *Monthly Labor Rev.* 48:171–75.

1948b with H. A. Barber. The pattern of food expenditures. *Rev. Econ. and Statist.* 30:198–206.

1948c with L. S. Kellogg. The city worker's family budget: General description of purpose and methods followed in developing the budget for 34 cities in the spring of 1946 and summer of 1946. *Monthly Labor Rev.* 48:133–70.

1949a Influence of age on saving and spending patterns. *Current Econ. Comment* 11 (Nov): 51–58. Updated in 1955 by M. M. Froeder, *Monthly Labor Rev.* 78: 1240-44.

1949b The use of statistical procedures in the derivation of family budgets. *Soc. Service Rev.* 23 (2): 141–57. Presented to the ASA, Cleveland, OH, 28 Dec 1948.

1951a Research in the size distribution of income. In *Conference on Research in Income and Wealth*, 2–55. Studies in Income and Wealth 13. New York: National Bureau of

Economic Research. Comment by M. Friedman 55–60. Presented to the conference, Apr 1949.

1951b Scales of living and wage earners budgets. *Ann. Amer. Acad. Polit. Soc. Sci.* 274, Labor in the American economy: 32–38.

1951c Review of *Shares of Upper Income Groups in Income and Savings*, by S. Kuznets. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 46:267–69.

1951d Review of *Variations in Working Class Family Expenditure*, by J. L. Nicholson. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 46:269–70.

1952 Family savings in relation to changes in the level and distribution of income. In *Conference on Research in Income and Wealth: Income Size Distributions*, 103–30. Studies in Income and Wealth 15. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research. Presented to the conference, Allerton Park, IL, June 1950.

1953a Changing consumer spending patterns. *Conf. Board Business Record* 10:244–49. Presented to the Natl. Industrial Conference Board, Cincinnati, OH, June 1953.

1953b Review of *Der Haushalt: Eine Darstellung seiner volkswirtschaftlichen Gestalt*, by E. Egner. *J. Polit. Econ.* 61:273–74.

1954a The Kinsey report on females. Review of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, by A. C. Kinsey, W. B. Pomeroy, C. E. Martin, and P. H. Gebhard. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 49:696–705.

1954b Review of *Bibliography on Income and Wealth, Vol. II. 1948–1949*, ed. P. Deane. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 49:395–99.

1955 Review of *Income and Wealth, Series III*, ed. M. Gilbert. *Rev. Econ. Statist.* 37:91–92.

1956a Review of *Consumers' Expenditure in the United Kingdom, 1900–1919*, by A. R. Prest. *J. Polit. Econ.* 64:176.

1956b with R. W. Goldsmith and H. Mendershausen. *A Study of Saving in the United States. Vol. III: Special Studies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Vols. I and II by R. W. Goldsmith. Reviews of vol. 3: *Econometrica* 25:370–72 (L. R. Klein); *J. Polit. Econ.* 65:449–50 (F. W. Paish). Reviews of vol. 1–3: *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 51:677–82 (G. Garvy) (vol. 1–3); *Rev. Econ. Statist.* 38:338–43 (H. Lydall).

1958 Individual incomes and the structure of consumer units. *Amer. Econ. Rev.* 48:269–78. Presented to the Amer. Econ. Assoc.

1963a Review of *1961 Survey of Consumer Finances*, by G. Katona, C. A. Lininger, J. N. Morgan, and E. Mueller. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 58:253–54.

1963b Review of *Household Saving and the Price Level*, by S. Thore. *Econometrica* 31:616–17.

1964a Relative prices in the nineteenth century. *J. Econ. Hist.* 24:145–203.

1964b Review of *Unionism and Relative Wages in the United States: An Empirical Inquiry*, by H. G. Lewis. *Ann. Amer. Acad. Polit. Soc. Sci.* 356, The non-western world in higher education: 201.

1964c with F. G. Adams. The diffusion of new durable goods and their impact on consumer expenditures. In *Proceedings of the Business and Economic Statistics Section*, 76–88. Washington, DC: American Statistical Association. Presented to a meeting of the ASA, Cleveland, OH, 4–7 Sept 1963; abstract *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 59:581.

1965a Review of *Anticipations and Purchases, an Analysis of Consumer Behavior*, by F. T. Juster. *J. Marketing Res.* 2:202–04.

1965b Review of *Estimates of Residential Building, United States, 1840–1939*, by M. Gottlieb. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 60:373–74.

1966a Introduction. In *Output, Employment, and Productivity in the United States after 1800*, ix–xiv. Studies in Income and Wealth 30. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research.

1966b Price deflators for final product estimates. In *Output, Employment, and Productivity in the United States after 1800*, 91–115. Studies in Income and Wealth 30. New

York: National Bureau of Economic Research. Presented to the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth and a meeting of the Econ. Hist. Assoc., Chapel Hill, NC, 2–3 Sept 1963.

1966c Review of *Consumer Demand in the United States 1929–1970—Analyses and Projection*, by H. S. Houthakker and L. D. Taylor. *Southern Econ. J.* 33:276–78.

1966d Review of *Distribution of Family Incomes in Puerto Rico: A Case Study of the Impact of Economic Development on Income Distribution*, by F. M. Andic. *Ann. Amer. Acad. of Polit. Soc. Sci.* 363, Ethics in America: Norms and Deviations: 196.

1970 Review of *Consumer Response to Income Increases*, by A. G. Katona and E. Mueller. *J. Marketing Res.* 7:266–67.

1971 The statistical approach: The input-output system. In *Approaches to American Economic History*, eds. G. R. Taylor and L. F. Ellsworth. Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia.

1972 with L. E. Davis, R. A. Easterlin, W. N. Parker, A. Fishlow, R. E. Gallman, S. Lebergott, R. E. Lipsey, D. C. North, N. Rosenberg, E. Smolensky, and P. Temin. *American Economic Growth: An Economist's History of the United States*. New York: Harper & Row. Drafted section on consumption.

Technical reports:

1940a with T. Dreis, D. Monroe, and G. S. Weiss. Family income and expenditures. Pt. 1, vol. 4: Family income. Southeast region. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 375. Washington, DC.

1940b with D. S. Martin, D. Monroe, and E. Phelps. Family income and expenditures. Middle Atlantic, north central and New England regions. Pt. 1: Family income. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 383. Washington, DC.

1940c with D. Monroe, E. Phelps, and E. D. Rainboth. Family income and expenditures. Pt. 2: Family expenditures. Five regions. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 396. Washington, DC.

1941a with K. L. Benson, J. F. Constantine, and D. Monroe. Family expenditures for automobile and other transportation, five regions. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 415. Washington, DC.

1941b with Y. A. Carmel, M. W. Ellsworth, D. Monroe, and J. H. Murray. Changes in assets and liabilities of families: five regions. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 464. Washington, DC.

1941c with M. H. Coffin, D. Monroe, and M. Y. Pennell. Family expenditures for education, reading, recreation, and tobacco, five regions. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 456. Washington, DC.

1941d with K. E. Cronister, D. Monroe, M. M. Perry, and E. D. Rainboth. Family income and expenditures, five regions: Pt. 2, family expenditures. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 465. Washington, DC.

1941e with H. Kyrk, D. Monroe, E. D. Rainboth, and C. Rosenstiel. Family expenditures for housing and household operation, five regions. Vol 2: Farm series. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 457. Washington, DC.

1941f with D. Monroe, M. M. Perry, and M. R. Pratt. Family income and expenditures: Southeast region: Pt. 1, family income. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 462. Washington, DC.

1941g with D. Monroe, E. D. Rainboth, and E. D. Riley. Family expenditures for personal care, gifts, selected taxes, and miscellaneous items, five regions. US Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication no. 455. Washington, DC.

1960 with E. M. Snyder. The relation of family status to income and to participation in the labor force, New York State, 1956. New York (State) Department of Labor. Division of Research and Statistics. Publication no. B-113. [Albany?]: State of New York, Department of Labor.

1962 with F. G. Adams. The diffusion of new products and their impact on consumer expenditures. Philadelphia: Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, for US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1965 Age and the income distribution. US Social Security Administration. Division of Research and Statistics. Research report, no. 8. Washington, DC.

Abstracts not listed above:

1956 with P. Kerschbaum. Adjustments of families to income reverses. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* 51:505–06. Presented to meeting of the ASA, New York City, 27–29 Dec 1955.

Presentation not listed above:

The relation of income to expenditures. Presented to the ASA and the Econometric Soc., Chicago, 19 Dec 1950.

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“Dorothy Brady, An Authority on Income, Savings.” (Obituary) *Washington Star*, 23 Apr 1977.

“Dorothy S. Brady.” (Obituary) *Allen’s P.C.B.* (Portland), April 1977.

Easterlin, Richard A. “Dorothy Stahl Brady, 1903–1977.” *J. of Econ. Hist.* 38 (Mar 1978): 301–03.

Other sources: Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library; University of California, Berkeley, Library; University of Pennsylvania Archives; Vassar College Archives; communications with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Archives and with Reed College Alumni Office; WhAm 4 (Brady, Robert Alexander); “Against decadence: The work of Robert A. Brady (1901–63)” by Doug Dowd. *J. Econ. Issues* 28 (1994): 1031–61; US Census 1900 MN, 1910 WI, 1920, 1930 OR, 1930 CA.

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