

**DEAN, Mildred (Waters).** February 17, 1904–September 11, 1981.

GOUCHER COLLEGE (BA 1924), JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (MA 1927, PhD 1929).

Mildred Caroline Somerset Waters was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the second of two daughters of Caroline F. (b. 1870) and Robert F. Waters (b. 1867) from Maryland. Her parents were married in about 1896, and her older sister, Ruth, was born in 1898. Robert Waters was proprietor of a feed store; in 1920 her sister was a kindergarten teacher.

Mildred Waters had her early education in public and private schools in Baltimore before doing her undergraduate work at nearby Goucher College. After her graduation in 1924, she was a graduate student in chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for the year 1924–25. She transferred to the mathematics department in the fall of 1925, continued her work in residence at Johns Hopkins the next two years, and received her master's degree in 1927. Her master's essay, directed by Frank Morley, was the beginning of the work in inversive geometry that she was to continue for her PhD dissertation.

In the fall of 1927, Mildred Waters married Charles Earle Dean (1898–1993), who had received his PhD in physics that year from Johns Hopkins. He was born in South Carolina and had earned an AB from Harvard in 1921 and an MA from Columbia in 1923. Since his work as a technical writer with AT&T required a move to New York, Mildred Dean discontinued her course work at Johns Hopkins. She continued her graduate work by taking a full-time program at Columbia University from the summer of 1927 through the spring of 1928. She also continued to work on her dissertation, mainly on her own, with occasional visits to Baltimore for discussions with Morley. She took her oral examination at Johns Hopkins in January 1929 and received her doctorate in February with subordinate subjects chemistry and geological physics.

From 1929 until 1963, Charles E. Dean worked as a technical writer and editor for the Hazeltine Corporation in Little Neck, Queens, New York. During that period, the Deans raised a family, and Mildred Dean had various teaching positions in the New York area. A son, Robert Waters, was born in 1929, and a daughter, Margaret Lewis, was born in 1932. Mildred Dean taught part time at Brooklyn College 1931–33, at Queens College 1942–47, and at Adelphi College 1947–48. She was a temporary instructor at Hunter College, taught at Hofstra, and in 1971 reported that she had retired from her last position at Queens.

In 1963 the Deans moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where Mildred Dean participated in the Forum for Professionals and Executives, a study group, and volunteered for Travellers Aid in Union Station and in the accounting office for the American Cancer Society.

Having suffered from heart and lung ailments for some time, Mildred Waters Dean died at her home in Takoma Park, Maryland, at seventy-seven in 1981. She was survived by her sister, husband, children, and grandchildren. She is buried in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville, Maryland.

**Organizational affiliations:** Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi.

**Thesis and dissertation:**

**1927** [Waters, M. C. S.] A configuration of six rectangular biquadratics. MA thesis, Johns Hopkins University, directed by Frank Morley. Typescript.

**1929** Studies in inversive geometry, with reference to a special set of six points. PhD dissertation, Johns Hopkins University, directed by Frank Morley. Typescript. See also **1930**.

**Publications:**

**1930** A system of six rectangular biquadratics. *Amer. J. Math.* 52:585-600. Published version of PhD dissertation. Review: *JFM*, 56.0555.01 (W. Fr. Meyer).

**1932** Review of *College Algebra*, by L. J. Rouse. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 39:423-24.

**References to:**

"Deaths: Dean, Mildred W." *Washington Post*, 13 Sep 1981.

"Dr. Mildred Waters Dean." (Obituary) *Baltimore Sun*, 13 Sep 1981.

**Other sources:** PhD dissertation vita 1929; Ferdinand Hamburger Archives, The Johns Hopkins University; communication with Goucher College alumnae office (via Rochelle Adler Effron); "Charles E. Dean, Engineer," *Washington Post*, 21 Nov 1993; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920 MD, 1930 NY; SSDI.

Last modified: July 19, 2009.