

**WOLF, Louise A.** October 20, 1898–November 14, 1962.  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN (BA 1931, MA 1933, PhD 1935).

Louise Adelaide Wolf was the elder of two daughters, both born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, of Caroline (Kupperian) (1875–1973) and John Theodore Wolf (1872–1953). Her mother, who was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1892, and her father, born in Milwaukee, were married in January 1898. Both were formally educated through elementary school. In the 1900 census, her father's occupation was listed as conductor on the street railroad; later he was a truck gardener. Her younger sister, [Margarete Wolf \(Hopkins\)](#), was born in November 1911 and also received a PhD in mathematics from Wisconsin in 1935.

Louise Wolf attended the 26th Avenue School and, for three and a half years, South Division High School, in Milwaukee. She attended Milwaukee-Downer College in 1915–16. She then took a number of positions over the next dozen years. These included working in a dental office and in a public library in Milwaukee, teaching two years in a district school in Nevada, and working two years in Florida. She returned to college at the Milwaukee Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin for the year 1928–29, when her younger sister began college there. They both moved to the Madison campus the following year to complete their undergraduate and graduate work. Louise Wolf was a member of the junior mathematics club her junior and senior years in Madison and was its president her senior year.

In October of her senior year, Warren Weaver wrote to the dean to request an assistantship for Louise Wolf. He noted that Miss Wolf was a senior mathematics major with a straight A record in math. He ordinarily would not appoint a senior to such a position but “Miss Wolf is an exceedingly capable woman, over 30 years of age, who has had experience in teaching and whose university education has been delayed by the fact that she is helping educate a younger sister” (Warren Weaver to Dean Sellery, October 1, 1930, folder 1929–31, box 1, Budget Files, Department of Mathematics, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison Archives). Louise Wolf taught a course as an assistant during the first semester of her senior year and most subsequent semesters while she was a student at Wisconsin. Typically she taught about three courses a year. She received her bachelor's degree in 1931 and finished the work for her master's degree in 1933. During her first year as a graduate student, the mathematics department, acting as a sustaining member of the AMS, nominated her for membership in the society. Louise Wolf and her sister, Margarete, finished the work for their doctorates in 1935, both as students of Mark H. Ingraham. In the early 1950s results from her dissertation and its published version, **1936**, were cited by several authors.

Louise Wolf immediately took a position with the University of Wisconsin's Extension Division. She was engaged in circuit teaching her first year and traveled regularly between Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc giving instruction. Starting in 1936, she taught at the Milwaukee Center, often referred to as the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Around the beginning of War War II she was also a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In Milwaukee she was an instructor 1935–38, an assistant professor until 1951, and an associate professor until her retirement as associate professor emeritus in January 1962. In 1955 the Extension Division had merged with Wisconsin State College to form the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

At her institution Louise Wolf served as faculty advisor to the junior mathematics club several times in the 1930s. She and her sister prepared a talk for presentation to the AMS in 1938. In the 1940s she became active in the Wisconsin Section of the MAA, initially serving on program committees. She was first elected secretary of the section in 1948 and served in that capacity for the next five years. She also served on committees of NCTM

related to its summer meetings in Milwaukee in 1940 and at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1950.

Louise A. Wolf died at age sixty-four in Milwaukee in 1962.

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

**Dissertation:**

**1935** Similarity of matrices in which the elements are real quaternions. PhD dissertation, University of Wisconsin, directed by Mark Hoyt Ingraham. Typescript. Summary: *Summaries of Doctoral Dissertations, University of Wisconsin* 1:128. See also **1936**.

**Publications:**

**1936** Similarity of matrices in which the elements are real quaternions. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 42:737–43. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 62.1078.03 (H. v. Caemmerer); *Zbl* 015.24206 (C. C. MacDuffee). Presented to the AMS, Ann Arbor, MI, 13 Sep 1935; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 41:630 #331.

**1944** Review of *Basic Mathematics for War and Industry*, by P. H. Daus, J. M. Gleason, and W. M. Whyburn. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 51:469.

**Abstract not listed above:**

**1938** with M. C. Wolf. The linear equation in matrices with elements in a division algebra. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 44:639 #384. Presented by M. C. Wolf to the AMS, New York City, 6 Sep 1938.

**References to:** AmMSc 6–7.

**Other sources:** PhD dissertation vita 1935; Owens questionnaire 1940; conversation between Margarete Wolf Hopkins (sister) and author, 23 May 1997; University of Wisconsin–Madison Archives; US census 1900, 1920 WI.

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