

SIMOND, Ruth G. March 7, 1904–September 15, 1958.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY (BA 1927, MA 1929), UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN (PhD 1938).

Ruth Gertrude Simond was the youngest of four surviving children, of five born, of Grace M. (Fifield) (1872–1967) and Walter A. Simond (1871–1962), both natives of New Hampshire who married in 1892. She was born in Franklin, New Hampshire. According to census records, in 1900 her father was a knitter of hosiery (a common occupation in Franklin at that time); he was described in 1910 as foreman of a hosiery mill, in 1920 as a draftsman in a machine shop, and in 1930 as a machinist in a hosiery mill. Her mother taught vocal and instrumental music. Her siblings were Flora (1894–1954), Maurice (1898–1990), and Marion (1901–1997).

Simond grew up in Franklin and presumably attended school there. She entered Boston University in 1923 and graduated in 1927. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she entered the Boston University graduate school, where she took courses in astrophysics, physical chemistry, and celestial mechanics as well as topics in advanced mathematics, curve tracing and graphical computation, the constructions of plane geometry, advanced calculus, and a survey of mathematics for teachers of elementary and secondary schools. It appears that she took one course in summer 1927, one in 1927–28, and the rest in 1928–29. She received her master's degree in June 1929 with a thesis on using graphic calculation in physical chemistry.

Simond was employed for the next four years. She classified mathematics books for the Harvard library during 1929–30. The next year she was an instructor at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), one of the historically black colleges and universities in Virginia; it was called Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute until 1930. She was a teacher at the Gorham (Maine) Normal School 1931–32 and returned to Hampton Institute as instructor for the school year 1932–33.

Ruth Simond began her graduate work at the University of Michigan in the summer of 1933 and was registered for courses throughout the academic years and summers until 1937. She was taking courses part time during the regular academic years 1934–35 through 1936–37. Her dissertation was supervised by W. L. Ayres, and the PhD degree was awarded in February 1938. Simond was in charge of the mathematics courses in the correspondence study department of the University of Michigan extension service 1936–38. During this period, she was among those who prepared or revised materials for supervised correspondence courses under the aegis of the Michigan Works Progress Administration (WPA). In 1936 she and one of her coauthors, Edith R. Schneckburger (PhD University of Michigan 1940), were the two nominees of the University of Michigan for membership in the AMS.

After leaving Michigan in 1938, Simond returned to Hampton Institute, where she was associate professor the next four years. She left in 1942, and a notation of "U.S. Navy Dept." was a part of her 1942 AMS membership listing. From August 1943 until March 1944, Simond taught in the Army Specialized Training Program at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. During that year nearly 250 military men were added to the regular civilian enrollment of approximately the same number at the college, although the army required that the military and civilians could not be in the same classes. The 1944 AMS membership list has only an address in Baltimore for Simond. It is unclear exactly what Simond was doing during the two years 1942–43 and 1944–45. According to her obituary Simond was a cryptanalyst for the Navy Department in Washington during World War II, possibly during

1942–43. Relatives indicate that she also worked as a “Grey Lady” or nurse’s aide during the war.

From September 1945 to June 1947 Simond was assistant professor at Berea College in Kentucky. She was originally invited to Berea to teach mathematics to members of the Navy V-12 unit there. The following year she taught at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. In 1948 she was appointed assistant professor at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and remained in that position for the next decade.

Simond lived in Essex Junction, just outside Burlington, Vermont, and belonged to the Essex Junction Methodist Church. She taught through the spring semester 1958 and died in Burlington of complications from diabetes on September 15, 1958, at fifty-four. She was survived by her two sisters and her brother. Her body was interred in Community Cemetery in Franklin, New Hampshire.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, Sigma Xi.

Thesis and dissertation:

1929 Alignment charts and some applications to problems of physical chemistry. MA thesis, Boston University. Typescript.

1938 Relations between certain continuous transformations of sets. PhD dissertation, University of Michigan, directed by William Leake Ayres. Printed version, 1938, reprinted from *Duke Math. J.* 4:575–89.

Publications:

1937–39 with M. Hopkins and E. R. Schneckenburger. *Supervised Correspondence Study*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Extension Service. Pt. 1, 1937: College Algebra (M. Hopkins, rev. by R. G. Simond). Pt. 2, 1938: Plane Analytic Geometry (R. G. Simond and E. R. Schneckenburger). Pt. 3, 1939: Conic Sections (R. G. Simond, rev. by E. R. Schneckenburger). Pt. 4, 1938: School Algebra (M. Hopkins). Pt. 5, 1938: Plane Trigonometry (R. G. Simond). Pt. 6, 1938: Solid Analytic Geometry (R. G. Simond).

1938 Relations between certain continuous transformations of sets. *Duke Math. J.* 4:575–89. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 64.0624.02 (St. Golab); *Zbl* 019.33303 (G. T. Whyburn). Presented to the AMS, Chicago, 9 Apr 1937; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 43:199 #210.

Reference to:

“Miss Simond, Ex-Professor at UVM, Dies.” *Burlington Free Press*, 16 Sep 1958.

Other sources: Owens questionnaire 1940; communication nephew Maurice H. Simond Jr. 1997; University of Michigan Alumni Records Office; University of Michigan Archives; communications with Berea College Archives, University of Vermont Archives, and Heidelberg College Archives; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 NH; SSDI.