

MARY LOUISE SANSBURY MILLS

1863 - 1930

The Faculty of Vassar College wishes to record its sense of loss in the death of Mary Louise Sansbury, wife of Professor Herbert E. Mills, which occurred after a very brief illness on March 1, 1930. She was born in Palmyra, New York, and educated in Syracuse at the Keble School. She had been closely connected with the college socially since coming here in 1890 as a bride; living for two years in Main Building before establishing their home on Academy Street in the city.

Her interest in student life was shown in the generous hospitality of their home and also in frequent participation in more formal affairs on the campus. The Penn School on St. Helena Island is essentially a Vassar enterprise. Mrs. Mills was Treasurer of its local sustaining club for many years, and in recent years a Trustee: visiting the school personally once, and planning for later visits.

She initiated, organized, and supervised the Eastman Park Garden School, in which some two hundred children had individual gardens, and were regularly taught much of gardening, nature study and related matters. For fourteen years she spent much of her time in this garden, and finally reluctantly gave up this work, a severe tax on strength and time.

As indicating Mrs. Mills' heredity, we note that her paternal grandfather, Ralph Sansbury, was for many years Steward (i.e. General Manager and Comptroller) of Princeton College.

These facts are less significant than her personality, in which her friends have rightly mentioned her constant thoughtfulness and her creative sense of beauty.

VIII - 378