

Cavanaugh Family Memorial Scholarship



In her fifty years as an educator, Marguerite "Maudie" R. Cavanaugh taught and inspired thousands of young children. Maudie first began her teaching career in September 1926 in Russell, MA. She taught there for twenty years, and then started with the Westfield Public Schools in 1946 as a first grade teacher at Prospect Hill School. Maudie transferred to Moseley School the following year and taught kindergarten there until 1956. Continuing as a kindergarten teacher at Southampton Road School, she retired from that position at the end of the school year in 1975.

Born in Westfield in 1906, Maudie Cavanaugh attended Westfield Schools and graduated from Westfield High School and also the former Westfield Normal School. Education was her passion and she earned her

Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Boston University's Springfield Division, and her Master's in Education from Springfield College.

Although she was a private person, Maudie was involved in the Westfield community. She was a member of the Retired Teachers Association, the Westfield Business and Professional Women's Club, the Westfield Women's Club, the Westfield Historical Society, and the Second Congregational Church. In her very private life, many friends and local charities were helped by Maudie's quiet generosity. These included but were not limited to the following: the elderly, the Athenaeum, and the Historical Society. The Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was her favorite charity.

Once she retired from teaching, Maudie remained active. She spent time working in her "old fashioned" garden. She was close to her cousins, and she kept busy with friends, as well as chatting with former students. Her wonderful sense of humor was appreciated by everyone!

Maudie Cavanaugh died at the age of 98 in December 2004. In her Will, she left a bequest to the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Westfield. It was her wish that her quiet generosity to CSF would help and inspire students to enter the teaching profession and others which would carry on her love of working with children. She also specified that these scholarships be established in memory of her family: John James Cavanaugh, her father; Martha Olivia (Legate) Cavanaugh, her mother; and John William Cavanaugh, her brother. The quiet generosity of Maudie Cavanaugh will continue to help Westfield students forever through this Cavanaugh Family Memorial Scholarship.

Written by: Donald W. Tuohey

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