

MISS MARY WELLS, HUNTER '80 ALUMNA

Pioneer in Kindergarten Work in City Dies—Early Aide of Lenox Hill Settlement

Miss Mary A. Wells of Hyde Park, N. Y., a pioneer in kindergarten work, died there Tuesday. Born eighty-nine years ago in Montpelier, Vt., the daughter of Henry M. and Martha Ann Swift Wells, she was graduated from Hunter College in 1880, and afterward studied kindergarten procedure at the Madame Kraus School.

Her first position was with the Free Kindergarten Association of New York in charge of Kindergarten 2. She was one of the earliest workers in the plan to send underprivileged city children to the country for vacations during the summer.

Miss Wells was headworker of the kindergarten sponsored by the Hunter Alumnae Association. In 1894 a larger building, obtained for this work, became the Lenox Hill Settlement, with Miss Wells as first resident director. Later she joined the city school system as a kindergarten teacher, serving at Public School 37, the Bronx, until her retirement in 1932.

From 1900 until shortly after the first World War, Miss Wells had charge of the mothers and babies summer playgrounds in this city. She was a life member of the Hunter Alumnae Association.

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