

vanced management program at the Harvard Business School. He also received honorary degrees from Assumption College and from Central New England College. Dick was loved and respected by all of his friends and associates for his devotion to his profession, to Wyman-Gordon, and to the Worcester community.

Joseph R. Carter

NATALIE JOHNSON RODERICK

Natalie Johnson (Allen) Roderick, a member of AAS for twenty-two years, died on November 17, 1998. She was elected a member on April 20, 1976, attended several annual meetings, and served on the nominating committee from 1976 to 1978. Her cousin Alden P. Johnson was a key member and supporter of the Society for many years through the Alden Trust, a board on which she served.

Natalie, known to her friends as Nat, was an elegant, joyous, and capable woman. She was born in Worcester and attended Bancroft School. From Dana Hall School, she went on to Smith College, from which she graduated in 1936. She was married to Charles A. Allen, who died in 1970, and then to William M. Roderick, who passed away in 1988. For ten years (1979–89) she lived in Florida, and after her marriage to Mr. Roderick also maintained a home in Manchester Center, Vermont, before returning to Worcester to live in 1989.

Nat was generous with her time, taking on the responsibilities of service to others as a board-level volunteer in each of the communities in which she lived. Among the leadership positions she held in Worcester were the presidency of the Children's Friends Society and the Junior League, along with numerous committee and corporator responsibilities for social service agencies and schools. Another interest was Republican politics, which Nat followed faithfully.

Nat loved sports and the out-of-doors. Gardens were a con-

stant source of pleasure. In fact, she maintained a beautiful and original garden at her Worcester home. At an early age, she became a proficient horseback rider and a successful competitor. She was also an avid golfer.

Nat's generosity, spirit, and loyalty will be missed by her friends and all with whom she served.

Francis H. Dewey 3rd

HELEN ESTABROOK STODDARD

Helen Estabrook Stoddard was a prominent philanthropist and cultural leader in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she died on November 28, 1998, at the age of ninety-four. Born in Worcester to Dr. Charles and Edith Estabrook, she graduated from Bancroft School and Vassar College, after which she attended the Katharine Gibbs School in Boston. In 1932 she earned a diploma in French civilization from the Sorbonne. This early stay in Paris prompted a life-long devotion to French art and culture. Returning to her hometown, she married Robert Waring Stoddard who, in his pivotal roles at Wyman-Gordon and *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, became one of Worcester's leading businessmen of the twentieth century.

Helen Stoddard's indomitable spirit made her a community legend. She was as determined as she was elegant. Always energetic and impeccably dressed, this petite but strong lady commanded a great presence wherever she went and could hold her own on any topic of conversation, from bird hunting in Scotland to the art of the Bombocianti in seventeenth-century Rome. Perhaps her greatest asset was her inquisitive mind.

Like her husband, Helen Stoddard was an active force in Worcester society by the late 1940s. She volunteered for numerous organizations including the First Baptist Church and the Junior League of Worcester. Her interest in nature found her active in the Worcester Garden Club, which she served as president, and

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