

**Some Notes on the Life
of
Gertrude Hildreth Mason**

Born on 26 July 1889 in Wilmington, New Castle, Delaware

Died on 11 January 1971 in Flushing, Queens, New York



Franklin Pierce Mason II

Gertrude Hildreth Mason

Franklin P. Mason II, written 2023

Gertrude Hildreth Mason Barnes was born on 26 July 1889 in Wilmington, Delaware. She was the daughter of Franklin Pierce Mason (1853-1928) and Ann Elizabeth Hildreth (1854-1923).

Refer to “A Brief History of Franklin Pierce Mason I and Ann Elizabeth Hildreth”:

Mason - 1853-1928 Franklin Pierce Mason I & Ann Elizabeth Hildreth.pdf (franklinmason.com)

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After graduation from high school, Dad attended the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn¹ in Brooklyn, New York. During this time, Dad lived with his mother at 41 W 16th Street in Manhattan and commuted by subway to school in Brooklyn. The tuition at Brooklyn Polytech was \$360 per semester. When Dad's grandfather, Franklin Pierce Mason, died in 1928, he left Dad an inheritance of \$1000 to be administered by Dad's Aunt Gertrude. Unfortunately, because of the Great Depression, most of the money was lost in investments that crashed with the stock market. Even though the loss of the money was not her fault, Aunt Gertrude felt responsible. Therefore, she paid 100% of Dad's college tuition for all four years of his higher education out of her own pocket. (Aunt Gertrude was a schoolteacher; and unlike many others she did not lose her job during the depression.)

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In 1947, the family moved to 6 Oak Ridge Park in Westport, Connecticut. The land acted as the down payment, and the house cost \$17,000 to construct. Aunt Gertrude contributed an additional \$3,000 to finish the second story. Jennie designed the house, and Dad did the electrical wiring. Dad also built two stone retaining walls in the back yard using large boulders that he retrieved from the Saugatuck River at the bottom of the street.

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In 1922, at the age of 33 years, Gertrude graduated from Pratt Institute² in Commercial Illustration.

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On 09 Oct 1923, at age 34 years, Gertrude married Charles Endrich in Queens, New York. Charles was an accountant. They spent their honeymoon in Bermuda. The addresses on the ship's documents showed that they both resided at Gertrude's father's home at 123 Pierson Street in Queens. This marriage did not last long, however. Gertrude and Charles were still together in 1925, and they were

¹ Now called the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering

² Refer to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pratt_Institute

still living with Gertrude's father in Queens. However, the 1930 US Census shows Gertrude living with her brother, with her last name reverted to "Mason" rather than "Endrich".

Appendix

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle
22 Feb 1912, Thu - Page 2

YOUNG PEOPLE CONFER.

400 Members of Reformed Episcopal Churches Attend Convention.

The Twenty-seventh annual convention of the Young People's Conference of the Reformed Episcopal Churches of New York and the vicinity was held this morning in the First Reformed Episcopal Church, Madison avenue and Fifty-fifth street, Manhattan. There were in attendance people from all the churches about Greater New York to the number of about 400.

The morning programme extended from 10:30 o'clock till shortly after noon. The Rev. Dr. William D. Stevens, pastor of the First Reformed Church, opened the convention with an address of welcome, in which he reviewed the history of the conference during the twenty-seven years of its existence, and especially during the past year. He spoke words of encouragement to the young people in their work and told of the good results of their labors in church circles. Miss Gertrude H. Mason of the Reformed Church of the Reconciliation, Brooklyn, read a paper on "The Place of Industries in Elementary Education."

The Constitution of the United States and the church was the subject chosen by the Rev. Dr. Manuel Ferrando, director of Christ's Mission. Dr. Ferrando's address was long and interesting. The closing prayer and benediction was read by Bishop R. L. Rudolph, D.D.

The churches participating in the convention were Reconciliation and Grace of Brooklyn, Redemption of Greenpoint, Emanuel of Newark, N. J.; St. Luke's of Murray Hill, N. J.; St. Paul's of Woodlawn, Cornerstone of Newburgh, N. Y., and Christ Church of South Ozone Park. This afternoon, from 2:30 till 5 o'clock, there will be a second session, at which several interesting addresses and papers will be read.

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SOCIETY GIRLS AID AT CHURCH FAIR

IN CHARGE OF BOOTHS IN RE-
FORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF RECONCILIATION.

Silk gowned young society women were conspicuous last night as dispensers of luxuries and useful and ornamental articles at the opening of the fair that is to last throughout the week in the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation at Nostrand and Jefferson avenues. The fair is being conducted in conjunction with the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the church. The celebration began with a service Sunday morning. In the evening Frederick Townsend Martin, the millionaire philanthropist and society leader, was the principal speaker at the evening service.

All social engagements for the week are to be foregone by the young women in order that they may devote themselves to the pleasurable task of disposing of a considerable stock of fancy and useful goods that the members of the congregation and their friends donated to the fair. The proceeds are to be placed in the church fund.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Edward Riegelmann officially opened the fair an address of welcome and an eulogy of the church and the accomplishments of the pastor, the Rev. Percy T. Edrop.

Miss Gertrude Mason was in charge of the refreshment booth; Miss Hazel Sykes, lemonade well; Miss Edith Radcliffe, the candy table; Franklin P. Mason, the art gallery; Mrs. George Williams, the toilet table; Miss Bertha Wilson, miscellaneous table; Mrs. William Boers, grocery table; Miss Anna Seibel, the Klondike; Miss Dorothy Seibel, the toy table; Mrs. Claude Comstock, dolls; Mrs. Franklin P. Mason, aprons and fancy goods; Mrs. Jane Evans, cake.

The Ladies' Aid Society, the Young Ladies' Aid Society and the C. H. C. Guild were well represented among the workers. Miss Gertrude Mason is the President of the Young Ladies Society, Miss Edith Radcliffe, Vice President, Miss Bertha Wilson, Treasurer and Miss Elsie Parseghian, Secretary.

The officers of the Ladies' Aid Society are: Mrs. Franklin P. Mason, president; Mrs. Jane Evans, Vice President; Miss Clifford, Secretary and Treasurer.