

Pioneer Hart dies at age 92

Was educator, activist

WILLIAMSTOWN — Margaret A. Hart of 24 Ide Road died Friday at Sweet Brook Care Centers.



Margaret Hart

She was 92.

Miss Hart was the first student of color to graduate from North Adams State Teachers College, now the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, in 1935. She received a master's degree at Columbia State Teachers College in New York and an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy from North Adams State Teachers College.

Miss Hart had a distinguished teaching career that spanned more than five decades. She taught at the Hampton Institute Training School in Alabama, in public schools in Evansville, Ind., and at the North Junior High School, the present Reid Middle School, in Pittsfield. She was the first African American to hold such posts.

She received numerous honors and awards over the years, including a portrait honoring her at Pitt Park in the West Side of Pittsfield. A scholarship has been established in recognition of Miss Hart's outstanding contributions to MCLA and Berkshire County.

She was a lifetime member of the NAACP. She was also a lifetime member of the First United Methodist Church of Williamstown.

Born in Williamstown on December 19, 1911, she was the daughter of Henry Hart Sr. and Kate (Alexander) Hart. She attended Williamstown public schools.

She leaves two brothers, Dr. Thomas A. Hart Sr. of Washington, D.C., and James Y. Hart Sr. and his wife, Mary, of Williamstown; a sister-in-law, Barbara Hart of Williamstown; and nine nieces and eight nephews.

Three brothers, Henry Hart Jr., William F. Hart Sr. and Allen W.P. Hart; a nephew, James Hart Jr.; and a sister-in-law, Alice Hart, are also mentioned.