

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 3A, AMS-MAA Special Session on History of Mathematics, I

1003-01-639 **Judy Green** (judy.green@marymount.edu) and **Jeanne LaDuke***
(jladuke@condor.depaul.edu). *American Ph.D.'s in Mathematics Before 1940: Spotlight on Women's Careers*. Preliminary report.

We briefly consider certain characteristics of the group of 229 American women who earned Ph.D.'s in mathematics prior to 1940 and focus on their employment histories both before and after the doctorate. The first of these women to receive a Ph.D. did so in 1886, but the first instance of employment for this group was nearly twenty years earlier. The last retirement of a member of this group occurred in 1980, so we are considering an employment span of well over one hundred years. We note patterns of employment that emerge and possible inferences that can be drawn about individual motivations as well as changing expectations and values within the mathematical community. We describe effects on career possibilities of gender, marital status, and personal and family obligations within changing economic, social, and historical circumstances. Attention is also paid to particular individuals, institutions, and practices that enhanced or detracted from opportunities for achieving productive and satisfying careers. (Received September 25, 2004)