



Dr. Anngenetta Fowler-Noble with young daughter Mary Anngenetta Noble circa 1905

Dr. Anngenetta Fowler-Noble was born on April 9, 1861 to Joseph and Anngenetta Fowler in Westfield, MA. Most of her life was spent in that town, where she graduated from the high school in 1878, and was subsequently a student in the Westfield Normal School, currently known as Westfield State University. She pursued further education at the Woman's Medical College of Baltimore and graduated in 1893 as a recipient of their gold medal for highest standing in scholarship.

Dr. Anngenetta Fowler married Reuben Noble, a tobacco farmer, nephew and namesake of the Noble Hospital founder, that same year. They purchased a home located at 21 Noble St. Westfield, MA where they raised their daughter, Mary Anngenetta Noble, who was born in 1898.

Although starting a family, her deep interest in the medical profession allowed Dr. Fowler-Noble to remain a continuous student, conducting practices in her home town of Westfield, MA among a select class of patients. She was the town's sole woman physician and her profound devotion to medical research led to her impeccable reputation in the medical field. This reputation allowed her to be elected in various memberships. Dr. Fowler-Noble was elected President of the Westfield Woman's Club in 1911, President of Westfield's first Parent-Teacher Association in 1913, Member, and first woman to be appointed as such, of the Town Planning Board in 1915, and President of the Westfield Visiting Nurse Association in 1919.

Her husband died in 1928 and Dr. Anngenetta Fowler Noble practiced medicine until 1935 and passed away on April 30, 1940.

Dr. Anngenetta F. Noble
WESTFIELD, April 30—Dr. Anngenetta Fowler Noble, 79, lifelong resident and this city's only woman physician, died early this afternoon at her home, 21 Noble st. She graduated from Women's Medical College, Baltimore, Md., in 1893. Her late husband, Reuben Noble, was donor of Noble Hospital here.
Dr. Noble was the first president of the first Parent-Teachers' Association, organized here in 1913, and two years later she was named a member of the Town Planning Board. She was a charter member and early president of Westfield Woman's Club and a member of the American, Hampden County and Women's Medical Associations.
She leaves a daughter, attorney Mary A. Noble, and a sister, Mrs. Merrill H. Hosmer both of this city.



Dr. Mary Anngenetten Noble

Mary Anngenetten Noble was born on September 27, 1898 to Reuben and Anngenetten Noble in Westfield, MA. Her mother was Westfield's sole female general practitioner and her father was a tobacco farmer who descended from Westfield's most prominent family. His uncle, Reuben Noble, after whom he is named, was responsible for the building of Noble Hospital. He was a whip manufacturer, the town Postmaster, a member of the House of Representatives, and at one time, State Senator.

Mary was raised in Westfield and graduated from the town's high school in 1916, but pursued further education out of state. Mary attended Bryn Mawr College, where she earned her B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), graduating Magna Cum Laude, in 1921. She earned her M.A. the following year from the same College. Her high ranks earned her a scholarship to Yale University where she obtained her Ph.D. in 1926. She continued her foreign language studies, traveling abroad in France and Spain, until 1930 when she began teaching Spanish. She taught for two years at Rutgers University, but decided to pursue a career in law.

Dr. Mary Noble earned her doctorate of law in 1936 from Northeastern University in Boston and accepted a position as a Title Examiner with a law firm in Springfield, MA. She purchased a large Victorian home, built in 1878, located at 45 Noble Street in Westfield, MA. By 1942, she started a private practice specializing in probate and taxes and ran the practice out of her home.

Dr. Noble was one of few female lawyers in the town and, just as her mother did, she became reputable in the town. Mary was elected into the School Committee as Board Secretary; she was elected as a member of the Quota Club of Springfield; Secretary of the Western Hampden Historical Society in Westfield; Secretary and Treasurer of the Westfield Bar Association; member of the Massachusetts Bar Association; and a member of the Westfield Business and Professional Women's Club.

Dr. Mary Anngenetten Noble never married nor had children. She passed away on August 11, 1988, leaving her estate in a Charitable Remainder UniTrust for the benefit of individuals close to her. The remaining funds were left for organizations, which have affected her life in some way. Her home was left to Westfield Housing Authority, but remained vacant for almost a decade. The home was damaged in a fire in 1997 resulting in its demolition. However, the city, through Mayor Daniel M. Knapik and the City Council, approved bonding for construction on the land donated to the city by the late Mary Noble. The site is now home to the Westfield Senior Center, which offers a wide range of services and programs to older adults.

DR. MARY A. NOBLE

WESTFIELD — Dr. Mary A. Noble, 89, of 45 Noble St., a self-employed retired attorney, died Thursday in Noble Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Westfield, she was a member of First Congregational Church.

She was graduated magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, and received a doctorate of law from Northeastern University School of Law, Boston.

She leaves a cousin, Rachael (Hosmer) Johnson of Scottsdale, Ariz.

A graveside service will be conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Pine Hill Cemetery. The Firtion-Adams Funeral Home is in charge.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Calling hours are omitted.