The Sun, 9 April 1915

MILLIONS TO HER FRIEND

Miss Garrett Leaves Nearly All Her Estate To Miss Thomas.

She Imposes No Restrictions

Each Had Made A Will In Other's Favor, Constituting Estates Practically A Common Fund.

A friendship so complete that it probably will become a classic in the annals of the feminist movement in this country was brought to public notice yesterday when the will of Miss Mary E. Garrett, who died Saturday, was probated in the Orphans' Court. Miss Garrett left the residue of her estate of millions to her friend, Miss Mary Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. And the residue is practically the entire estate.

In making the gift to Miss Thomas, her friend said in her will that she imposed no reservations or restrictions and she disclaimed any purpose to create a trust. She referred to the long association of herself and Miss Thomas in the work to bring to women higher education and greater opportunity and said that she was confident Miss Thomas would make wise and appropriate use of the gift.

Each Made Will In Other’s Favor.

Even more illuminative of the friendship between the two leaders among women than Miss Garrett’s large gift to Miss Thomas is a part of the will which indicates that each of them had made a will leaving the other virtually all of her possessions. The two women, who lived together at the Deanery, Bryn Mawr, and were almost as one in their work and purposes, apparently considered their individual possessions virtually a common fund and desired that the survivor dispose of the whole of the two estates.

The part of the will which indicates this is the provision for the distribution of Miss Garrett’s estate in the event that she survived Miss Thomas. In that event, Johns Hopkins University was to receive a share, Miss Garrett’s estate, but the provisions also state that any property which she (Miss Garrett) might have acquired or might have been authorized to dispose of by Miss Thomas should go to the members of Miss Thomas’ family.

Miss Garrett was the daughter of the late John W. Garrett, for many years president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and was the last of his large family. He had been interested deeply for years in the movement for higher education for women and in the more substantial feminist movement in this country. And she had made large gifts to educational institutions in furtherance of her ideals.

Miss Thomas’ Work.

Miss Thomas, with whom, as stated, Miss Garrett had lived at Bryn Mawr.
Miss Thomas, with whom, as stated, she lived at Bryn Mawr College, is one of the leading educators in this country. She is the daughter of the late Dr. James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore, and is a sister of Dr. Henry M. Thomas. She was born in Baltimore on January 2, 1857.

In 1877 Miss Thomas received a B.A. degree at Cornell; studied at Johns Hopkins in 1877 and 1878 and at the University of Leipzig from 1879 to 1883, and was given the degree of doctor of philosophy at the University of Zurich in 1885. She was given the degree of doctor of science by the Western University in 1896.

In 1885 Miss Thomas became professor of English at Bryn Mawr and has taught in that department since then. She became dean at the same time and continued in that capacity until 1913, when she became president of the college. Miss Thomas was the first woman trustee of Cornell University and has been a trustee of Bryn Mawr since 1903.

She is the author of “Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight,” “Education of Women,” and “Should the Women’s Colleges be Closed by the Church.” She was the author of “The College” and various papers on educational questions.

Miss Thomas was named as executrix without bond in Miss Garrett’s will. She appeared yesterday in the Orphans Court, when the will was probated, accompanied by counsel. On the whole, last night she was at Miss Garrett’s late Baltimore home, 101 West Monument Street. She declined to discuss the will.

For Two Contingencies.

The Garrett will provides for two contingencies. One of its parts distributes the estate upon the assumption that Miss Garrett would survive Miss Thomas. If Miss Garrett should die before Miss Thomas, the residue of the estate is to be managed by Miss Thomas, who will provide for certain bequests in the event Miss Garrett should die first. In the first contingency Johns Hopkins University is named residuary legatee; in the latter Miss Thomas is to take the residue after settlement of certain provisions.

The general tone of the will, with the provisions for two contingencies, is believed to indicate that an understanding existed between Miss Garrett and Miss Thomas that in either event the estate should go to the institutions for which they either worked or were devoted. The value of the estate cannot be fixed. Miss Garrett owned property in this city and in Baltimore and Garrett counties. A considerable part of the estate was in stocks. She inherited large property from her father. It is believed that the property, in the form of institutions and private charities, has been depleted her estate to some extent.

Some Specific Bequests.

Under the terms of that part of the will which is effective Bryn Mawr School for Girls at Preston and Cathedral streets, which was founded by Miss Garrett, one of which she has endowed, the school is to be conducted and maintained for girls as a college preparatory school. Before Miss Garrett’s death, the school is to be released from indebtedness to her amounting to $65,000.

Miss Garrett’s home in Baltimore, at the southwest corner of Cathedral and...
Miss Garrett's home in Baltimore, at the southwest corner of Cathedral and Monument streets, is given to Miss Thomas during the latter's life. Upon her death it shall go to Johns Hopkins University, provided the university will covenant to hold the property or the proceeds of its sale as a part of a permanent endowment of the medical school of the university.

Provision is made for Miss Rebecca Frances Harrison, an aunt of Miss Garrett, in a trust estate for $50,000.

Miss Garrett expressed particular desire that her invalid brother, Henry S. Garrett, should receive the same affectionate care and attention which she had bestowed upon him and she enjoined her executrix or executor to enforce her wishes in that respect.

Provision Not Effective.

The part of the will which would have become effective had Miss Thomas died before Miss Garrett, and which, of course, is invalid now, provided for a bequest of $100,000 to the Bryn Mawr School for Girls, of Baltimore. This sum was to be invested as a permanent endowment for the maintenance of the school, with authority to use any surplus of income to promote the establishment of similar schools elsewhere in the United States.