

# Origin of the Wisconsin Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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*George Parkinson was Chairman of the organizing committee, Temporary Chairman of the Section (1932-33), and first Chairman of the Section (1933-34). In 1966, he wrote the following summary of the origin of the section.*

Beginning in 1927 a group of teachers in both secondary schools and institutions of higher education in the Milwaukee area organized an informal club and met periodically to discuss questions of interest in the field of mathematics. These meetings were very interesting and were enthusiastically supported, and the number of participants grew over the years.

In 1930 it was decided that this group should formalize their organization and apply for a charter for a "Wisconsin Section" of the Mathematical Association of America, and further that all of the institutions of higher education who wished would be invited to participate. In due time, the charter was granted and the Wisconsin Section of the Association has held annual meetings ever since. These have been rotated among the host institutions, and very inspiring meetings have been held at most of the institutions of higher education in the state. Today the Wisconsin section is an active and vigorous agency for stimulating interest in problems of mathematical interest.

The originators of the chapter were:

- a. Sister Mary Felice, Mount Mary College
- b. Professor Harvey P. Pettit, Marquette University
- c. Professor George A. Parkinson, University of Wisconsin Extension Division

Shortly after the application for charter, Father DeCleene of St. Norbert College became an ardent supporter of the chapter.

George Parkinson

(October 6, 1966)