

MARGARET OLIVIA SLOCUM SAGE

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Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage was born on September 8, 1828, daughter of Joseph Slocum of Syracuse, N.Y. She was one of the founders of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, being herself descended on her father's side from Captain Myles Standish, the Mayflower Pilgrim.

Following her husband's death she gave generously to the following:

- \$1,000,000            Emma Willard Seminary (her alma mater) in Troy, N.Y.
- \$1,000,000            Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- \$ 115,000            Public School at Sag Harbor, L.I.
- \$10,000,000          The Russell Sage Foundation for Social Betterment
- \$ 350,000            New York City Y.W.C.A.

But she is best known and remembered for her ambitious attempt to set up the model "garden city", later to be known as Forest Hills Gardens.

Mrs. Sage bought Marsh Island in the Gulf of Mexico and dedicated it as a home for wild birds in 1912. Her last donation was to found Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y.

She died at 604 Fifth Avenue on November 4, 1918 at the age of 90.



From a portrait by Cecilia Beaux

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*Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage*

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Inheritance. NYC. 1828-1918. Married, no children. Raised in genteel poverty by a family whose motto was "Vivit Post Funera Virtus" (virtue outlives the grave). Became a teacher and married capitalist Rus-



*Sage*

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sell Sage. Unable to do much to alter Sage's somewhat uncouth manners, clothes or opinions while he was alive, she lavishly dispensed his \$60 million fortune after his death in 1906. Founded Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y.; set up Sage Foundation for Social Betterment. By her death at age 90 bulk of fortune had been channeled into "good works." Left \$8 million to brother, Joseph Jeremiah Slocum, and family, split the remainder up among her favorite charities.

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