



**Samuel Hughes Watts**  
1868-1953

Memorialized by the  
Samuel Hughes Watts Memorial Fund in  
The New York Community Trust  
909 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

*The Samuel Hughes Watts Memorial Fund in The New York Community Trust is the successor to a foundation established on December 10, 1955 by Mrs. Watts in memory of her late husband, and dedicated to the youth of New Canaan, Connecticut.*

Mr. and Mrs. Watts had a great interest in young people and helped many of them who were seeking advanced education. In establishing the Foundation, Mrs. Watts declared it to be for the purpose of granting scholarships to graduates of the New Canaan High School each year. She stressed that the scholarships should be given to those needing help regardless of their religion, race or color. Her concern did not cease with the granting of the scholarships, for, until her death in 1970, Mrs. Watts followed the careers of the recipients with keen interest, often giving additional help when indicated.

Mrs. Watts, formerly Mary Bell McKerlie, was born in Canada. After completing her schooling there, she came to New York and entered the School of Nursing at Roosevelt Hospital. During the First World War, she volunteered as a member of the celebrated Dr. Blake's Medical Unit and served in France.

On her return she married Mr. Watts and in 1920 they went to live in New Canaan.

Mr. Watts, born in New York City, was graduated from Harvard in 1890. He was a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

While a resident of New Canaan, Mr. Watts worked quietly behind the scenes for many town improvements. He had a remarkable ability to foresee the future needs of the community. An-

nually he gave to local churches of all denominations as well as to local organizations. He had a keen sense of humor and while quite definite in his own beliefs always extended tolerance and understanding to those who differed from him.

Mr. and Mrs. Watts first lived on Country Club Road. Here, under her able direction, they created a beautiful home in a delightful and gay garden.

In early 1950 they sold it in order to be nearer town and on St. John Place developed a smaller but equally charming home.

They both were devoted to the out-of-doors, were ardent fishermen, and lovers of wildlife.

Mrs. Watts made careful provision for the continuation and growth of the Foundation and the thoughtful selection of scholarship recipients by a Board of Directors and a scholarship committee composed of interested friends and citizens. The faith Mr. and Mrs. Watts had in young people, and their fervent desire to further the education of the High School graduates of their town, is now bearing fruit in the many scholarships granted each year.



After the death of Mrs. Watts, in order to insure the continuance of the Foundation as she wanted it, responsibility for its administration was transferred to The New York Community Trust. The Distribution Committee of The New York Community Trust is assisted in its choice of candidates by an Advisory Committee drawn from the New Canaan community. The committee includes the Superintendent of Schools or another member of the New Canaan Public School System. Additional members are nominated by churches and other concerned New Canaan organizations, such as the New Canaan Library Association and the YMCA.



**The New York Community Trust is a publicly supported community foundation which provides centralized management for many charitable funds. The major New York banks serve as trustees. Trustee for the Samuel Hughes Watts Memorial Fund is the Bank of New York.**