In September 1935, Elizabeth Gaus and Harriet Beaudry, two recent Williamstown High School graduates, established a private kindergarten in rented rooms on Wood Fourth Street. Their first class had 14 children. The kindergarten curriculum used by the young women was based on the educational teachings of renowned German educator Friedrich Froebel. Froebel and the school simply was called "The Froebel Kindergarten." Fifty years later, in 1985, when the Froebel Kindergarten closed, the school closed. By that time, Miss Gaus, or "Miss Gaus" as she was called by her students, was 86 years old, her younger sister, Edith Caroline Gaus, who had replaced Beaudry in 1900 and was known as "Miss Edith," was 84. Over the decades that students entered the Froebel Kindergarten, hundreds of students from Williamstown Presbyterians sent their children to "Miss Gaus and Miss Edith." Among the famous alumni of Williamstown Presbyterians were the W.V. Van Person family and the Ginns family, and both George and Harriet Gaus were kindergartens for decades. Froebel's popularity was such that the Gaus sisters were bombarded with requests from parents to put their own children's names on the waiting list. "We just make the rules," Bear Gaus said in a humorous manner. "As long as you have capacity, you may have the help from the community." An article in the 1934 issue of the national publication Kindergarten Review noted that "a Kindergarten Association" had been formed in Williamstown, its offices were Misses N. Barrows Beall, Mrs. George S. Maxwell and Mrs. Louis A. Courtenay.