NIELA GOODELLE

Late 19th century – Goodells were prominent family in Decatur  
They werte farmers, businessmen, public officials, politicians

Niela moved to Worcester in 1890

1910 Sept. 8 nee Helen Goodelle in Worcester; studied piano; 1st concert at siz yrs old

1924 part of family moved to Fla; Helen follows; graduates St Petersburg, FL high school

Started Stock theater; learned to sing & accompany herself on piano; Mastered blues genre

NYC show business mogul discovers her at a high society event

1930 began professional vocal career; sang/piano series on the radio (WJZ) and musical comedy reviews on Broadway

1935 Hollywood film debut w/company now Paramount; made a dozen short movies

1935 NBC musical review w/Walter Winchell, Ed Wynn

1936 own hour-long radio show on NBC  
“Who's Who in Radio” calls her “most beautiful girl on airwaves”  
Ziegfeld Follies voted her “Queen of Radio” by Ohio St student body

By that time, friend said name “reeked of kitchen;” so needed to lose small-town origin; turned “Helen” around, added “e”

1937 – turned down marriage proposal from Rudy Vallee  
(I did) “not believe he would ever be an ideal mate”

1938: had an episode on the TV series “Cabaret”

1939: singing at Palm Island Casino, Hollywood FL; met surgeon Dr Minton Hartz of Evansville IN; set-up by uncle/aunt

1940 m. West Palm Beach; gown copy of Scarlett O'Hara in Gone with the Wind; honeymoon Havana, Cuba

End of career, nat'l and internat'l known accomplished artist  
probably most famous person ever born in Wor

Evansville; country club, played bridge, small theatre productions

She had 3 children; visited Worcester in the summer;  
Twin son Daniel was killed in a car accident at 18

1988 died; buried in family mausoleum St. Joseph's Cemetery, Evansville, IL

Other Goodells are buried in Worcester