



From Winthrop to Washington

Cryptology at Winthrop College

6-6-2016

Margaret Nell Crosby Helms

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Recommended Citation

Lee, Susanna O., "Margaret Nell Crosby Helms" (2016). *From Winthrop to Washington*. 8.
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Margaret Nell Crosby Helms '43

Nell Crosby Helms was born August 27, 1922 in Union, North Carolina. She graduated from Winthrop College in 1943 with a degree in Home Economics. During her time at Winthrop she was active in the YWCA; where she was the Chairman of the Canteen. She was also active in the Secondary Education Club.

Following graduation Nell went to Washington to work as a cryptographer. Her job was to decipher German codes for their historical data. This was different from the course on cryptography that she took at Winthrop, but she understood its importance. While in Washington she lived with five other Winthrop girls because she did not like the over crowding at Arlington Farms.

After the war she worked as a home economics teacher in schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. In 1969 she married Henry Flow Helms. She passed away on September 14, 1974.