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## Mary Ellen Adams Miller

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## Mary Ellen Adams Miller '39

Mary Ellen Adams Miller was born on November 9, 1918 in Cross Hill South Carolina. She was the daughter of Edward Archie Adams and Lyl Culbertson Adams. She graduated from Winthrop College with a Degree and a dual major in History and French.

Mary Ellen graduated from Winthrop in 1939, and accepted a teaching position at Dalton High School, in Dalton, GA, where she taught primarily French and History. Soon after her arrival in Dalton, GA, she was introduced to Carl Berry, whom she married on June 26, 1941, at her parent's home in Cross Hill, SC. When World War II began with the Pearl Harbor attack, Carl volunteered for the Army Signal Corps and began basic training followed by two years of electronic training. Mary Ellen interrupted her teaching career in 1943 and was able to accompany Carl during a portion of his training in Bradenton, FL in the fall of 1943. Shortly after Carl was deployed to Europe in early 1944, Mary Ellen was recruited for an assignment as a Cryptanalyst with the Signals Intelligence Service (SIS). SIS was the US Army's code-breaking division Headquartered at Arlington Hall, Virginia.

After the war Mary Ellen was a stay at home mom until 1959 when she began teaching French and History at Dalton High School on a part-time basis to alleviate a shortage of teachers. After the untimely passing of her husband, Carl, in 1963, Mary Ellen resumed teaching full time. As a French teacher, she organized and chaperoned annual trips to France for summer studies at several locations under the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). Several of Mary Ellen's students later earned advanced degrees and made the teaching of French a career. In France, she met a French teacher accompanying students from Pennsylvania, and was married to Francis C. Miller in 1966. As a team, Mary Ellen and Fran continued to support students studying abroad each summer, Mary Ellen retired from teaching in 1981 and with Frank and several friends and former students made a final trip to Europe for sightseeing in the summer of 1989.

Mary Ellen Miller died on April 23, 2013 in Pontiac, Illinois due to complications from Alzheimer's disease.