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Interview with Julia Mobley Irwin

Julia Mobley Irwin

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #023
IRWIN, Julia Mobley**

IRWIN, Julia Mobley

Class of 1904

At Winthrop: 1901-1904

Interviewed: November 9, 1976

Interviewer: Sally Tyler

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 00:24:17

Abstract: In her November 9, 1976 interview with Sally Tyler, Julia Mobley Irwin details her life as a day student in the early 1900s. Irwin recalls her favorite classes, describes uniforms, insists that there was never a swimming pool at Winthrop, and relates the traditions of graduation week. Irwin also shares Benjamin Tillman's message to students at her 1904 graduation ceremony. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Day Student, Uniforms, Latin Class, Winthrop Training School, Graduation, Swimming Pool, Benjamin Tillman

Interview Session (November 9, 1976): Digital File

Time Keywords

00:00:00 *Start of Interview*/Interviewer's Introduction

00:00:20 *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* State school - more affordable. JI's sister lived in Rock Hill - JI lived with her until she graduated.

00:00:58 *Question:* What year did you graduate? *Answer:* 1904.

00:01:05 *Question:* How did you get to Rock Hill? *Answer:* JI describes the train route.

00:01:33 *Question:* How did you get to school? *Answer:* JI's sister lived on Johnson St. JI walked with three other girls. If it rained, JI road on the mule car.

00:02:15 *Question:* Uniforms? *Answer:* "You could always spot a Winthrop girl by her uniform." The skirts were wool.

- 00:03:50 *Question:* How did students get uniforms? *Answer:* Students measured at Winthrop. Uniforms were cleaned by the students.
- 00:04:23 *Question:* Professors? *Answer:* JI thinks the professors were kind and just. JI finished classes at 4pm.
- 00:05:30 *Question:* Favorite subject? *Answer:* Latin. Mrs. Roberts was the professor.
- 00:06:00 *Question:* P.E. requirements? *Answer:* Gymnastics. JI describes the required uniforms.
- 00:06:30 *Question:* Science classes? *Answer:* JI says she doesn't have a scientific mind. JI says students ate in the place where the pool was supposed to be. "There was no swimming pool." JI talks about Ida Jane Dacus.
- 00:08:14 *Question:* When could you go to the library? *Answer:* Open all day.
- 00:08:40 *Question:* Cheating? *Answer:* "I never did look for it myself." JI never heard of someone being punished.
- 00:09:20 *Question:* How did Winthrop prepare you for teaching? *Answer:* JI taught fourth grade at the Winthrop Training School. JI describes a boy in her class who kept falling asleep.
- 00:10:50 *Question:* How long did you practice teach? *Answer:* Two weeks, twice a year.
- 00:11:05 *Question:* Did you create lesson plans? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:11:15 *Question:* Day students have gardens? *Answer:* No.
- 00:11:30 *Question:* Home Ec. building? *Answer:* JI wasn't in that building. Courses were limited at the time, because Winthrop was "young."
- 00:12:35 *Question:* Industrial courses? *Answer:* Cooking and sewing. Mrs. Avel was the teacher for sewing.
- 00:13:22 *Question:* Other courses? *Answer:* JI enjoyed English courses. History was not a favorite of JI's.
- 00:14:50 *Question:* How many years at Winthrop? *Answer:* Three years. JI received an A.B. diploma. JI's school in Rock Hill only had nine grades at the time. JI took an exam and was placed in the sophomore class.
- 00:15:55 *Question:* Academic advisor? *Answer:* No.
- 00:16:15 *Question:* Freshmen required courses exempted? *Answer:* Yes.

00:17:12 *Question:* Assemblies/concerts? *Answer:* Star course.

00:18:10 *Question:* Activities for students? *Answer:* Nothing special for day students.

00:18:35 *Question:* Did school reach out to day students? *Answer:* No.

00:19:00 *Question:* Special rules and regulations for day students? *Answer:* If day students went out, they had to wear uniforms.

00:19:50 *Question:* Graduation? *Answer:* 77 people in JI's class. Benjamin Tillman made the address. Tillman said, "Girls had no business going out trying to do any kind of work."

00:21:00 *Question:* Other memories? *Answer:* JI summarizes graduation time. Daisy chain.

00:23:10 *Question:* Farm? *Answer:* JI says girls didn't go out to the farm.

00:23:34 *Question:* Teach right out of college? *Answer:* Yes.

00:23:55 *Question:* What did your diploma say besides A.B? *Answer:* Life license to teach.

00:24:17 *End of interview*