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12-6-1980

## Interview with Katharine Strozier

Katharine Strozier

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

**Interview OH #112  
STROZIER, KATHRYN**

**STROZIER, Kathryn**

Daughter of President Kinard

*Interviewed:* December 6, 1980

*Interviewer:* Rebecca Myers

*Index by:* Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

*Length:* 00:53:41

Abstract: In her December 6, 1980 interview with Rebecca Myers, Kathryn Strozier shares the details of her life at Winthrop from the time she was in Training School until the time she graduated. Included are the memories of her life after Winthrop as a teacher and how her mother lived after the death of President James P. Kinard. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: President Kinard, Lee Wicker Kinard, teaching, Great Depression. WWII

**Interview Session (December 6, 1980): Digital File**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Keywords</b>
00:00:00	[no question] KS describes her mother and father. Father used to teach at Winthrop. Father left to teach at the Citadel. KS recalls going to the Charleston library. KS didn't go to school until she was eight years old. No twelfth grade when KS was in high school. Took entrance exam to Winthrop when KS was 16. KS's father was Dean of Students at Winthrop. KS was a day student. KS talks about a dance where half the girls dressed as boys.
00:03:39	<i>Question:</i> Couldn't get boys to come to dances? <i>Answer:</i> Not allowed. Boys could sit in the parlor. Day students had to stay in uniform. Student suspended for breaking dress code. Pink slips. KS's father read off the students with pink slips – KS was one of the students once.
00:06:10	[no question] KS tells story of girls going to Clemson for dances.
00:07:18	[no question] Graduated in 1926. Degree in Latin and Greek. KS says it was an easy degree. University of South Carolina to get an MA. KS liked USC because there were boys. "I entered social life with much gusto." KS did not get her MA. Prohibition. Bootleggers. Taught school after USC. Edisto Island. Interbred

society. Plantation.

- 00:13:30 [no question] UNC-Chapel Hill for graduated work. “I guess the boys at Chapel Hill were even cuter than the boys at South Carolina. KS started a thesis but never finished it. Didn't get an MA degree. KS explains how she met her husband.
- 00:18:18 [no question] Taught in a small town close to Charlotte. Taught math – went by the book. Taught here before she met her husband Ben. Ben wanted to marry right away. KS got her trousseau prepared. KS's father insisted on buying an expensive nightgown for KS. Nightgown story.
- 00:23:00 [no question] KS describes her mother and father. Parents were both teachers who met at Winthrop. Parents' honeymoon to Europe. KS's father died when he was 87. KS's mother wanted to travel when her husband died. KS's mother went to Puerto Rico, South Africa, and Hawaii. KS's mother came home because she had cataracts. KS traveled with her mother – Italy. Shares stories of time in Italy.
- 00:30:49 [no question] Went to Greece with mother. KS's mother traveled alone to the canary islands.
- 00:31:40 [no question] KS's father raised Winthrop's academics, but he was not a politician. South Carolina Legislature. Financially, KS says her father didn't do much for Winthrop. In the last ten years of DB Johnson's life, the college was run by Mai Rutledge Smith and DB's secretary. They didn't want President Kinard. Kinard made \$10,000 a year in his first year. When the Depression started, his salary cut in half.
- 00:34:50 [no question] First place with husband Ben. Ben wanted to live with KS's parents. KS pregnant. KS's husband not handy around the house. Ben was a musician. President Kinard's resignation.
- 00:38:45 [no question] KS and Ben built a house on Ebenezer Ave. Winthrop's attitude toward sex education. Training School story. Girl got pregnant. “Four letter words were totally unknown to me.” “Our mothers didn't talk to us. I think they were afraid.” “There was a fear of sex.”
- 00:42:30 [no question] KS went back to teaching when her kids went to school.
- 00:42:55 [no question] KS and Ben married during the Great Depression. Ben made \$40/week. FDR. Plant workers. Bleachery workers. Theater industry improved with FDR.
- 00:45:00 [no question] Sent battalion to Edgemore. Entertaining troops. Rock Hill girls

married some of the soldiers. Law at the time that theaters couldn't be open on Sundays.

00:47:44 [no question] School teaching. KS says teaching was “fascinating.” Summer school in North Carolina. Observing children. Worked with students with intellectual disabilities.

00:54:00 [no question] Went back to Graduate school for social work. Studied at the University of Chicago.

00:56:15 [no question] KS's mother. Woman's movement. KS's mother's death.

00:58: 23 *End of Interview.*