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Interview with Gina Price White

Gina Price White

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

**Interview #172
WHITE, Gina Price**

WHITE, Gina Price

Director of the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

At Winthrop: 1979-1983 (student), 1981-Present (employee)

Interviewed: March 2, 2015

Interviewer: Amber E. Kelley

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 00:12:42

Abstract: In her March 2, 2015 interview with Amber Kelley, Gina Price White shares her opinions on Winthrop's move from Columbia to Rock Hill. White explains how Winthrop ended up in Rock Hill and clears up misconceptions of Benjamin Tillman's role in Winthrop's move. Included is information on what records would be most useful for research on this topic. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Columbia, Rock Hill, Benjamin Tillman, D.B. Johnson, Little Chapel, Move to Rock Hill

Interview Session (March 2, 2015): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:25 *Question:* What do you know about Winthrop moving to Rock Hill? *Answer:* GW has looked at most documents. Have correspondence and reports on the move.

00:01:08 *Question:* Have you done research in the archives? *Answer:* GW has written articles on the topic.

00:01:50 *Question:* Was the bidding fair? *Answer:* GW speculates it was fair. Refers to ads written in newspapers. Columbia and other cities had a chance. Every city had the same information.

00:02:45 *Question:* Do you think Rock Hill should have gotten Winthrop? *Answer:* Rock Hill had the best deal. Chester was a close second. Rock Hill had a bond to help pay for it.

- 00:03:40 *Question:* What pushed Winthrop away from Columbia? *Answer:* Ben Tillman didn't have a lot to do with it. A committee of three considered the bids. Winthrop had outgrown the Little Chapel. The committee made their suggestions, but the legislature made the final decision. Race had nothing to do with it. Winthrop was for white women at the time. Clemson and Winthrop were brother/sister schools.
- 00:06:50 **[no question]** More speculation about Tillman and Columbia. GW speculates that Tillman may have wanted to support rural areas.
- 00:07:50 *Question:* Final opinion on Tillman's influence? *Answer:* Had some say. Ultimately, Rock Hill had the best deal – best economic incentives. Everything was segregated at the time. Committee narrowed search down to five cities.
- 00:11:00 **[no question]** Talking more about misconceptions of Tillman's role in Winthrop's move to Rock Hill. D.B. Johnson and Ben Tillman didn't always get along. GW talks about the differences between D.B. Johnson and Ben Tillman.
- 00:12:42 *End of interview*