

## **Examining Our History: The History of the status of Minority Groups in the Bryn Mawr Student Body**

**1877**

The text of Dr. Joseph Taylor's will in which he dedicated his estate to the establishment of a college for the "Advanced education of females." That was January 19, 1877. He directed that his money be used to erect buildings "for the comfort, advanced education and care of young women, or girls of the higher classes of society." Presence in admission was to go to members of the Society of Friends, but in all cases those were to be preferred who were "of high moral and religious attainments and good examples and influence."

Diversity in the student body was not one of his goals.

### **History of Black Students at Bryn Mawr**

**1903**

Fear of the withdrawal of Southern students from the College apparently led President M. Carey Thomas to encourage Jessie Fauset, the first black graduate of Girls High School in Philadelphia, to attend Cornell rather than Bryn Mawr.

**1906**

A letter from M. Carey Thomas to a teacher in Washington, D.C. suggested that black students would be uncomfortable among Bryn Mawr's largely Middle Atlantic/Southern students.

"As I believe that a great part of the benefit of a college education is derived from intimate association with other students of the same age interested in the same intellectual pursuits, I should be inclined to advise such a student to seek admission to a college situated in one of the New England states where she would not be so apt to be deprived of this intellectual companionship because of the different composition of the student body. At Bryn Mawr College we have a large number of students coming from the Middle and Southern states so that conditions here would be much more unfavourable."