



Bryn Mawr College was founded by Joseph Wright Taylor, a Quaker physician from Burlington, New Jersey. He chose the site, a hill on the Main Line eleven miles west of Philadelphia, and under his supervision two buildings were begun. Designed by Addison Hutton, one was for classes and administrative offices and one a residence hall. Taylor died in 1880, endowing the College in his will: "I have been impressed with the need of such a place for the advanced education of our young female Friends, and to have all the advantages of a College education which are so freely offered to young men."



James E. Rhoads, first president of Bryn Mawr and a member of the Society of Friends with wide-ranging concerns, was one of the trustees responsible for the original planning for the College.

Philips Photographers



The College opened September 23, 1885. After the opening ceremonies, students and some of their professors were photographed on the side steps of Taylor Hall by George Vaux, distinguished Quaker lawyer, mineralogist, photographer, and friend of the College.

George Vaux

Jessie Redmon Fauset (BMC 1901 >) — Cornell '04



Enid Cook (The first Black student to graduate from Bryn

Mawr) — '31

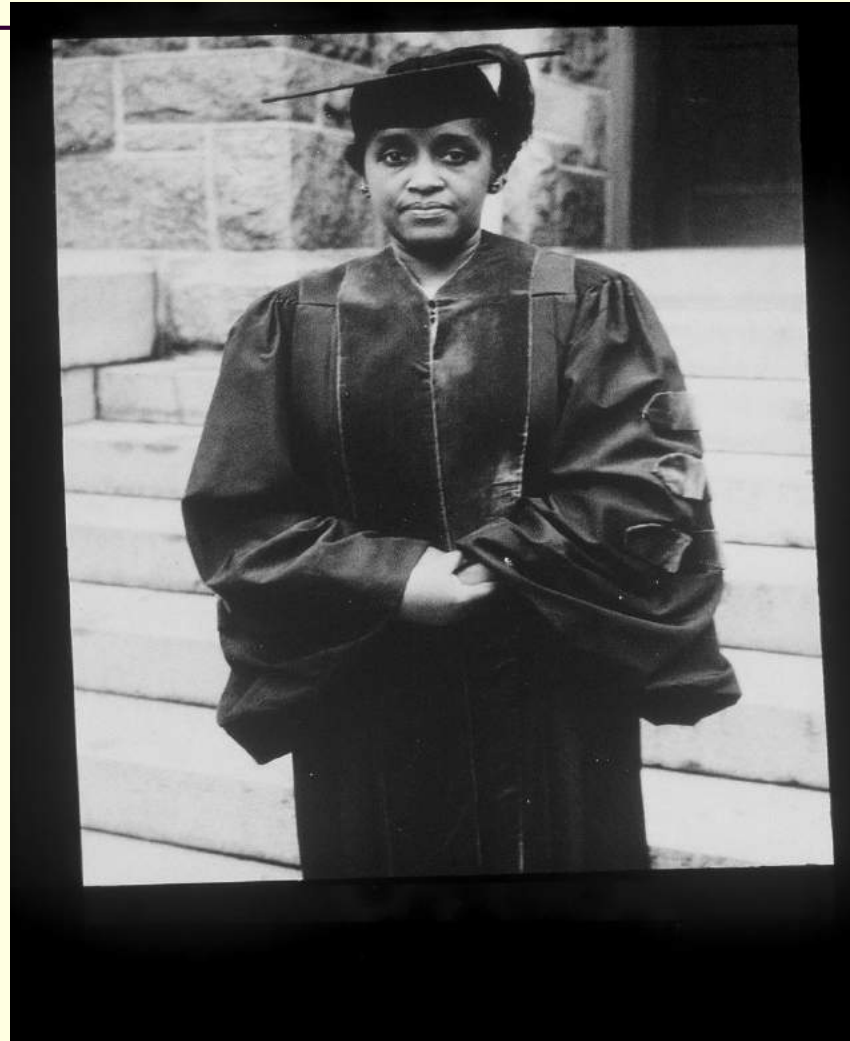


Sister Alfred Marie Russell '34

with Pres. Harris Wofford at the 1975 Black Alum. Reunion.



Mary Huff Diggs (The first Black Ph.D. to graduate from Bryn Mawr) – Ph.D. Social Work - '45



Gloria Millicent White (The first residential Black undergraduate)— '48



Evelyn Jones Rich '54



Perry House – circa 1972

Undergraduate Residence and Black Cultural Center



Mzimeli Moikemisetsi Morris - 2008

“The goal of this institution is to challenge women intellectually and socially. It is Bryn Mawr’s responsibility to provide access to an education that is progressive; that not only gets us in the room together . . . But also helps us interact and learn from one another. Bryn Mawr is definitely a work in progress and I feel that with more involvement among students, faculty, staff, and administrators, Bryn Mawr can meet its potential as a truly diverse institution.”

“ A Work in Progress ”

“Because we are committed to diversity in its fullest sense, we are responsible as individuals and as a community to identify and confront the aspects of our character, our culture, and the ways in which we function, which may reflect unconscious remnants of prejudice. Discussing these complex issues is challenging work because they involve each of us at a personal, human level. They demand more than our intellectual, political or ideological engagement. Conversations of this kind require all of us to be especially responsible in how we speak, and to keep ourselves open to learning from one another. But they also require us to take risks, to share what we are thinking even when we worry we may be judged for it, and to plow through anger and confusion in search of understanding. The chance to make a difference here and now on these questions is a goal worthy of women who will become the change agents of tomorrow and of the staff and faculty who support their education.”

Nancy Vickers