

MARY MATILDA WINSLOW

1880-1963, Woodstock, New Brunswick



FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO ATTEND UNB

Winslow graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1905, with a bachelor's degree in Classics. She graduated top of her class, winning the Montgomery-Campbell Prize for Classics. As a Black woman, Winslow was unable to find work and soon immigrated to Birmingham, Alabama, where she taught classics and became a fierce supporter of schools promoting Black education. She left the southern United States in 1916 to avoid raising her children in segregation, eventually settling in Detroit, Michigan, where she continued to teach until her retirement. In 1954, she wrote to a UNB classmate, "In looking over these fifty years, I realize I have failed in the shining ideals I had at graduation – 'to follow knowledge, like a shining star, beyond the utmost bounds of human thought.' I am comforted, however, with remembering the hundreds of young people I have contacted during these short years... I like to think that to some of them I have given part of the two most precious gifts UNB gave to me – the ability to think and a clear knowledge of the freedom of thought."