

PHI BETA KAPPA

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3 October 1980

Dear Mrs. Ratcliffe:

It was good to receive your letter of September 25, regarding your mother's membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Our records show that your mother, Mrs. H. W. Robinson, graduated from Whitman College in 1909 with a Bachelor of Law degree. Whitman College did not have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter until 1920. Your mother was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in that year as an alumni member. Alumni members ordinarily have been graduated at least ten years and are thought to merit recognition for scholarly accomplishment after graduation. Our records also show that your mother was a missionary in Paoitingfu and Techow, China.

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, but the first women were not elected until 1875. I do not have the 1920 statistics for Whitfield, but in the academic year 1921-22, Whitfield had the following membership:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Alumni members	25	39
Living members	38	55
Total members initiated	39	55

I hope this information will be helpful for your biography. I certainly enjoyed learning a little about Mrs. Robinson. She must have been a fascinating woman.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra R Costich

Sandra R. Costich
Assistant to the Secretary

SRC

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Ratcliffe
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