Almira Alice Boley was born on July 21, 1885 in West Monroe, Louisiana to parents of Mr. Marion Francis Boley and Susan Goldsby. She attended the Baton Rouge College, Southern University, Columbia University Teacher’s College, New York, and University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She began her teaching career in North Louisiana at the turn of the century and taught in the public schools of Ouachita and Calcasieu parishes and, later came to Baton Rouge where she taught at the Baton Rouge College, a church institution, which included students from the first through 12th grades.

She taught Dr. Felton G. Clark, president of Southern University; as a boy he entered the first grade at the Baton Rouge College. Felton Clark’s father Dr. Joseph S. Clark was at that time president of the college and later became the first president of Southern University.

She came to Southern University as part of the faculty in January, 1916-1942, two years after the school was opened on Scott’s Bluff in North Baton Rouge as a ‘dining hall matron. She was also a teacher in the upper Elementary and English departments. In 1942 she was appointed principal of the Southern University Laboratory School, a position she held until her retirement in September, 1958. Having served as the first principal of the Southern University Practice School, known as the Southern University Demonstration School, her professional training included a bachelor’s degree from Southern University in 1931 and a master’s degree from the Columbia University Teacher’s College in 1939. She also attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, the University of Chicago and Hampton and Fisk Institutes.

Miss Boley was a very close adherent to the policies, principles and traditions of Southern University. Along with her work on the immediate campus, she was a consistent worker in the community of Scotlandville in religious and civic movements, some of which she could rightly take to her credit as being the originator.

A very interesting and functional program was in operation at the Demonstration School under her able direction. Among the far-reaching phases of its program may be listed the Health Program carried on through the Physical Education Department and extended into the community of Scotlandville; the Guidance Program, which has been largely participated in by the Parent–Teacher Association – where they conducted a Good Conduct Campaign covering Scotlandville and Baton Rouge, Student Participation in governing the affairs of the school, activities of the Clark Chapter of the National Honor Society – where this was the only organization of its kind in operation in Negro high schools in the deep south.

Miss Boley is especially remembered around Founders’ Day as she led the Pilgrimage to the grave of the Founder – [Dr. Joseph S. Clark] for a number of years.

Alice Boley was active in many civic and social groups. She was a member of the Association of College Women, Louisiana Teachers Association, Southern University Alumni Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.
She established the Clark Chapter of the National Honor Society at the Southern University Laboratory School, Y-Teens’ “Mother of the Year” Award, even though no children of her own; the Southern University Award for Service, 1957, and in February, 1964, one of four individuals honored by Magnolia Triangle Women’s Group as early pioneers who made significant contributions to the development of Southern University. She was a member of Trenton Baptist Church in West Monroe, LA.

Miss Boley died at her home in West Monroe, LA after a lengthy illness on July 28, 1968 and her body is interred at Hasley Cemetery.

The dormitory “Boley Hall” on Southern’s campus is named in her honor.

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\[1\] *Dining Hall Matron* - a woman who supervises women or children (as in a school or police station). Housekeepers. Most women were unmarried or widowed, but some were married during their term.

Boley, Almira Alice. **Personal Papers.** Archives and Manuscripts Department, John B. Cade Library, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.


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