June 24, 1939

My dear Mr. Smith:

You may think that my delay in answering your letter of May fifth means that I was indifferent to it. It is not so. It gave me a great deal of pleasure. The truth is that it reached me when I was absorbed in a piece of rather exhausting work for me at Allegheny College - a month of lecturing to a class on the writing of biography. I was obliged to give up all correspondence. When I came back I felt the need of a little rest and I am only just getting at my accumulated mail.

Of course I remember you and where you lived. And one of my pleasantest recollections of the Smith family is your mother and my mother going out pleasant evenings and walking around the block together. How mother did miss Mrs. Smith when she left Titusville.

I had forgotten about the annual picnics in the cemetery. It is a pleasure to recall them. I have rarely known two elderly women to get so much pleasure out of each others society as they did.

Of course the woods are full of recollections if we could, as you suggest, sit on the porch in Titusville and recall the old days.

I took a couple of days off when I finished my work in Allegheny to drive around the country - Oil City - Titusville - Erie. The good roads have done an enormous amount to reveal the beauties of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Then you could not go over thirty miles a day comfortably with a horse, now you go three hundred if you want and over the hills so easily with a continuous stream of beautiful

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landscapes. I had not realized before that the country was so picturesque.

As to Titusville itself it seems to me to constantly improve. People complain that business is not good but there is something more important, important as that is. There is a constant improvement in the social and cultural values it seems to me.

Thank you again for your letter. It gave me real pleasure and I am sorry I have been so slow in thanking you.

Very sincerely yours

P.S. You ask about the girls. Sara lives in Connecticut near me, a studio of her own though she has not been well enough for some years to do any painting. Mr. & Mrs. Will Tarbell live with me near by. Will for the last twenty years has been a semi-invalid and the country seemed best for him. Esther is married to a schoolmaster and athelic director. She has two fine boys, one of them just graduating from Roxbury High and probably entering Harvard in the Fall. Clara is in Los Angeles where her daughter is in College. She has a boy twelve years old. Her husband, Tristam Tupper

Mr. Edward Smith
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is a fiction writer and has also done considerable work in the movies. I suppose you remember Scott. He is on a small ranch in New Mexico. The oil business in Kansas where he was producing has petered out. He has three fine children living and one equally fine boy who died while in his second year in the University of Chicago. So there you have the roster of the Tarbells.

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