

*The Faculty and Trustees
of
Allegheny College
announce with deep sorrow the death of
Ida Minerva Tarbell
on Thursday, January the sixth
Nineteen hundred forty four*

The pressure of duties in connection with the Army program prevents President Schultz from being present this morning, to announce to you undergraduates the death last evening, at the age of eighty-seven, of Miss Ida Minerva Tarbell, of the class of 1880.

Upon so short a notice it is impossible to express adequately and appropriately the college's grievous loss in the death of her most illustrious graduate. No name stands fairer in her history, no alumnus has been more loyal and devoted. In due time a proper memorial service will be held.

There is, however, in Miss Tarbell's own words, a thought for this occasion. In her autobiography, All in the Day's Work, published in 1939, she wrote these words:

p. 47

Miss Tarbell concluded her book with this paragraph

p. 407

Richie: Above is the announcement made this morn in chapel. By coincidence, Rev. Hays spoke on Lincoln.
- Phil

Nov. 6, 1944.

[Philip Mohr Benjamin]

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

THE REIS LIBRARY

IDA MINERVA TARBEIL

NOVEMBER 5, 1857

JANUARY 5, 1944

1880 Bachelor of Arts
1885 Master of Arts
1909 Doctor of Humane Letters
1915 Doctor of Laws

Distinguished alumnus, faithful
trustee, generous benefactor of
Allegheny College.

"I spent four years in Allegheny College. Measured by what I got instead of by what I did not get and was obliged to learn later, I regard them as among the most profitable of my life. I find often that men and women accuse the college of not opening their minds to life as it is in the world. For a mind sufficiently developed to see "life as it is" I cannot conceive a more fruitful field than the classics. If I had been sufficiently mature I could have learned from George Haskins' teachings of Cicero and Tacitus and I live more than I know today about the ways of men in their personal and their national relations, more of the causes of war, of the weaknesses of governments. But I was not ready for it. Life is the great teacher, and she leads us step by step. It is not the fault of the human teacher that his pupil must learn to climb by climbing."

All in the Day's Work, Page 47

Tarbell Committal Services Set At Titusville Grave

5-9-44

Committal services for Miss Ida Minerva Tarbell, 86, dean of American women writers and an alumna and trustee of Allegheny College here for almost 32 years, will be held at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery, Titusville, Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, it has been announced.

Several officials of Allegheny are expected to attend the services.

The funeral party plans to arrive in Titusville via the Pennsylvania Railroad Thursday at 9 a.m. and will include the surviving sister, Miss Sarah Tarbell.

Arrangements are by the Cummins-Musser Funeral Home, in Titusville.

Death of the famous Alleghenian at Bridgeport, Conn., on January 6, was attributed to pneumonia. She had been admitted to the Bridgeport Hospital on December 27, 1943, from her home in nearby Easton, where she lived with her sister.

Miss Tarbell was claimed by Meadville not only because she was an Allegheny graduate, but because she lived here from 1883 to 1891 while serving as assistant editor of the Chautauquan, then published here.

Tarbell Committal Services Set At Titusville Grave

(From The Evening Republican)

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Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

A Great Pioneer

Meadville and Crawford County lay claim to a substantial part in the career of Ida M. Tarbell. But her great personality and her vast achievements belong to the world.

Locally, we merely share in the reflected achievements of one of the world's foremost feminine personalities.

Yet something in her life at Titusville and later in Meadville, at Allegheny College and on the Chautauquan staff, must have prompted the courage and the daring which made her strike out for herself and mold a career in the social, economic and literary world.

Miss Tarbell had the sturdy outlook of a pioneer and the enthusiasm of a reformer. Gracious, generous and kindly in her own relations, she was sensitive to the abuses of "big business" and interested herself in a study of them. Her writings did much to expose such evils and to pave the way for important reforms.

Democratic and simple in her ways, but courageous and determined in her outlook, she resembled to some extent the man about whom she wrote so much and so well—Abraham Lincoln. She was essentially a feminist, interested in the part which women played in world affairs, and her many activities contributed to the emancipation of American women. In late years she devoted much time and effort to the encouragement of young writers, visiting colleges and conducting seminars as she did at Allegheny.

It is difficult to appraise, even now, what part Miss Tarbell played in bringing about the famous dissolution suit against the Standard Oil Company in 1911. But certainly reforms of the Theodore Roosevelt administration, especially the antimonopoly

laws and court prosecutions, resulted from the exposures of the so-called "muckrakers" with whom she was associated in the early days. They focused attention on big business and they helped to bring about the progressive reforms which followed.

Miss Tarbell was truly a pioneer. She attended Allegheny College in the days when co-education was in its infancy. She began her career as a member of the staff of The Chautauquan when most women remained at home. She developed new techniques in the preparation of biographies, searching out acquaintances of Lincoln and uncovering hitherto unpublished letters and documents. She was an eager associate of those who recognized the abuses of monopoly and set out to make them known. And even at the close of her life she was evidencing keen interest in the pioneering work of the Drake Well Memorial Park at Titusville, visualizing the important place it may occupy in the petroleum world.

Despite these many achievements and the prominence which she gained, Miss Tarbell retained a fine sense of modesty and a genuine interest in other people. She liked to return to Crawford County and to Allegheny College. She liked to remember her early days here. She liked to maintain contact with local people.

Perhaps it was her personal charm and thoughtfulness, rather than her important influence upon the women's rights movement, upon history and literature or upon social reform, that endeared Miss Tarbell to this community. Her many friends here were not only proud of her, but she occupied a high place in their affections.

Republican
1-8-44

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelleiter Library.

IDA M. TARBELL

There were noble contradictions in the life of Ida M. Tarbell, who died yesterday. She lived to be 86 years old and naturally had some of the physical infirmities of age, but her mind and personality never took on age—they simply matured in richness and wisdom. She was associated with the muckrakers of a generation and more ago, but she was never one of that emotionally lopsided tribe. Her famous history of the Standard Oil Company pointed out some evils and some misdeeds, because they were in the record, but she gave a carefully judicial hearing to the company's spokesman, Col. H. H. Rogers, as well as to its enemies and critics. Some of her old companions thought she had backslid when she wrote a friendly biography of Judge Gary in 1925. She had done nothing of the kind. She was, as always, telling the truth as she saw it, and telling it after the most painstaking kind of research.

Her writings were not feminine in the old-fashioned sense of that word. Her intellect was cool and calm. She was never sentimental and never cynical. In personality, however, she was supremely feminine, acquiring with the years a lovely motherly and grandmotherly quality. [She took an interest in young writers, and there must be

many who mourn her now and will remember her with lifelong gratitude—including some no longer young.

Her most persistent literary interest was Abraham Lincoln. Latter-day research has added something to the material she was able to gather, but her work in this field will be on any small shelf of Lincoln books for countless years to come. She was as honest, as kindly, as thoroughly American in the loftiest sense as he was. He would have loved and understood her as she did him.]

IDA M. TARBELL DIES OF PNEUMONIA AT 86

1944
BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 6 (U. P.).—Ida M. Tarbell, widely known writer and pioneer woman journalist, died today at Bridgeport Hospital where she had been critically ill with pneumonia since Dec. 28. She was 86.

Author of "The History of the Standard Oil Co.," which was credited with helping to break the company's monopoly, Miss Tarbell won recognition for the literary merit as well as the influence of her writings.

Her "Short Life of Napoleon" written more than 40 years ago when she was studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, marked the beginning of a distinguished career. Other



IDA M. TARBELL

of her books included "He Knew Lincoln," a biography of Owen D. Young, "The Nationalization of Business 1878-1898," published in 1936, and her autobiography, "All in the Day's Work," which appeared in 1939.

She was born at Erie, Pa. For a short time after graduating from Allegheny College in 1880, she taught and was associate editor of The Chautauquan.

With \$150 in her pocket and contracts for syndicated articles at \$6 each, she went to Paris in 1891, returning three years later to join the staff of McClure's Magazine.

In 1906, with Lincoln Steffens and others, she left that magazine to take over the American Magazine where she remained for nine years, as an associate editor.

Miss Tarbell recently had lived with her sister, Sarah Tarbell, at her farm near Danbury where the funeral will be held at 3 P. M. Sunday.

IDA TARBELL RITES HELD IN HER HOME

**Many New Yorkers at Service
for Dean of Women Authors**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

EASTON, Conn., Jan. 9 — A funeral for Miss Ida Minerva Tarbell, dean of American women writers, who died Thursday in Bridgeport Hospital at the age of 86, after a long illness, were held today in her home here. The Rev. Eric Ericson, pastor of the Redding Federated Church, and the Rev. Wendell J. Clark, pastor of the Easton Methodist Church, officiated. The closing prayer was read by the Rev. Maitland Bartlett, clerk of the Presbytery of New York, for many years a close friend of the Tarbell family.

At the conclusion of the services Miss Tarbell's body was taken to a funeral home in Bridgeport and on Monday will be placed in the receiving vault at Mountain Grove Cemetery, whence in the spring it will be taken to her home town of Titusville, Pa., for burial.

Among those present were Miss Anne Morgan and Mrs. John H. Finley of New York; James R. Mills and Miss Edna Yost, who represented Allegheny College, where Miss Tarbell received her A. B. Degree in 1880, and Mr. and Mrs. John Trainer, also of New York. Mr. Trainer for many years was associated with Miss Tarbell on The American Magazine.

A large delegation of members of the Pen and Brush Club, with which Miss Tarbell was long prominently identified, came from New York, headed by Miss Edith Snow, club vice president. Others in the delegation included Mr. and Mrs. Keith Evans, Miss Florence Goding, Miss Margaret Breen, Miss Margaret Henry, Miss Clara Hipprell, Miss Mary Day Winn of This Week Magazine, Miss Helen Ormsby, Mrs. William Bleacher, Miss Catherine Woods, Mrs. Florence Stevens, Miss Isabelle Bryan, Mrs. Margaret Taylor Yates and Miss Clarabelle Woolworth.

Miss Tarbell had been president of the Pen and Brush Club from 1913 until last February, when, owing to her failing health, the club yielded to her request that she be allowed to retire and named her honorary president. Dorothy Canfield Fisher succeeded her as president.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Library.

Tarbell Rites At Titusville

**Committal Services Held for
Noted Allegheny
Alumna.** 5-12-44

(From the Tribune-Republican)

Ida M. Tarbell, Allegheny College alumna and dean of American women writers, whose death occurred January 6, was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Titusville, yesterday afternoon following committal services conducted by Rev. L. M. Barnard of Titusville Methodist Church.

A large number of friends, including representatives of Allegheny College, attended the services. Representing the college were Philip M. Benjamin, Dr. Paul H. Giddens, Miss Laila Skinner, Miss

DEATH CLAIMS IDA TARBELL, FAMOUS ALLEGHENIAN, AT 86

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Reformer Library.

Republican
1-6-44



Miss Tarbell

Miss Ida Minerva Tarbell, aged 86 years, dean of American women writers and an alumna and trustee of Allegheny College for almost 32 years, died early Thursday morning at the Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Her death was attributed to pneumonia. She had been admitted to the hospital on December 27 from her home in nearby Easton where she lived with her sister, Miss Sarah A. Tarbell.

Known most widely for her books on Abraham Lincoln, she was, nevertheless, a biographer of many other famous personages, and an historian of certain economic trends which made history in the nation.

Miss Tarbell was claimed by Meadville not only because she was graduated, after four years of study, from Allegheny College in 1880, with the bachelor of arts degree; but because she lived here from 1883 to 1891, while serving as assistant editor of The Chautauquan, then published here.

She had been closely in touch with the college throughout the years, earning the degree of master of arts in 1883; and being awarded that of doctor of humane letters in 1900, and doctor of laws in 1915.

Miss Tarbell's collection of Lincolniana is considered the finest personal collection in the country, and ranks high among all Lincoln collections. Most of it was presented to Allegheny College and is housed in the Lincoln Room in Reis Library, which Miss Tarbell herself established. The room was dedicated on October 18, 1940, with the address on Lincoln made by Carl Sandburg, himself among the most outstanding biographers of Lincoln. The balance of her Lincoln collection was promised to the college upon presentation of the first of the material.

Miss Tarbell was unable to be present at that time, her health then having grown frail.

Her last visit to Meadville was in the spring of 1939, when from April 17, to May 14, she gave a series of lectures at the college on "The Writing of Biography." She stayed at the Venango Inn, visiting friends in Meadville as her strength permitted.

Born in Erie County

Miss Tarbell was born on a farm in Erie County on November 5, 1857, the daughter of Franklin S. Tarbell and Esther Ann McCullough Tarbell. Land for the farm had been cleared by her grandfather. Discovery of petroleum led her father to move his family to the vicinity of Titusville; but driving back 30 miles to the Erie County homestead behind a white pony to visit the grandfather always

remained one of Miss Tarbell's most vivid recollections.

During her childhood, she witnessed dramatic events of the early oil industry, which served as background material for her series of oil articles which was published in 1904—two volumes entitled "A History of the Standard Oil Company." She had spent five years in research on this series, which depicted John D. Rockefeller and his early associates as ruthless barons of business intent on building up an oil monopoly for personal aggrandisement. In 1911 the old Standard Oil Company was dissolved by the Supreme Court of the United States.

When she matriculated at Allegheny College in 1876, she was one of five girl students of the college, and in her autobiography "All in the Day's Work," published in 1939, tells much of student life of the time, especially of the reluctance with which many people approved co-education.

After the eight years spent by Miss Tarbell on The Chautauquan staff, she went, in 1891, to Paris, France, where she was a student at The Sorbonne and at the College of France, until 1894.

Following that period, she was on the staff of McClure's Magazine as an associate editor; in 1906 she severed her connections with McClure's and, with several other writers, organized The American Magazine, of which she was an associate editor until 1915.

By then she was a famous woman and was becoming known for her study of the life of Abraham Lincoln. She traveled tirelessly, hunting for data and information about him, and instituted the Lincoln pilgrimage—made for a number of years of persons who wanted to visit many of the places closely associated with his life.

Her First Books:

Her first books were biographies of Napoleon Bonaparte and Mme. Roland, published in 1895 and 1896, respectively. In 1900 she published her chief work on the martyred president, Lincoln, a two-volume work; and this was followed by other Lincoln books in 1907 and 1909.

(Continued on page 16.)