

Office Boston Herald
Boston Mass

My dear Miss Tarbell.

In your story "The American Woman" in the November American you say of Abigail Smith Adams that her friends objected to her marrying a lawyer. I think you are in error. Parson Smith of Weymouth, her father, was, of course, like all the Colonial Ministers an autocrat and aristocrat

and Adams was the son of the village shoe maker, and himself had worked on the bench. A lawyer was next to the minister, and was the village "Squire" a name ^{used} ~~retained~~ to this day among the very old people when speaking of one of the profession. It was the "mechanic" ~~not~~ the lawyer. The Smiths' spoke to.

The shoe maker of that day was of the more intelligent class in the community, for the little shops where they worked alone, or in company with one or two others, was often the rendezvous of the village politicians where affairs were discussed the tapping of the hammer on the shoe not being loud enough to disturb the talk. I suppose the Adams family - our aristocrats today - are willing to forget the mechanic but any old Weymouth resident knows the story. Jones - Florence Hunt.

Jan 15 '09