

Berlin, Somerset Co., Pa.

March 15, 1940

P.O. Box 24

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell,

"Divinely tall and most
divinely fair" is a quotation from remarks heard on
campus.

There were twenty members
in the class graduated from Allegheny College in
1882. Ten of these were still living on the 50 th
anniversary:

Rev. Joseph Marlatt and
Clementine Calvin have both passed on since then.
Emma Powell, married three times, latest
address was Pueblo, Col.
Charles M. Blair, Chicago real estate
Percy Cullum, Meadville
Marshall J. Hovis, near Youngstown, O.
Glenroie McQueen, preacher
Elmer Minnigh, preacher
William N. Ridge, N.Y. real estate
H.K. Stoner, Berlin, Pa., farming

I was graduated from Jefferson
Medical College in 1885, practiced medicine in Cleveland
for some years, returned to Berlin where I engaged in
a commercial line, and finally gravitated to
Oak Grove Farm.

Wm. Penn, an admiral in the English
navy, for services rendered, was granted a tract of
land covering 28,650,000 acres, called Penn's Woods -
Pennsylvania. This land was covered with what was said
to be the finest stand of timber in existence. He never
saw the property.

When William Penn's son arrived to
claim the tract and occupy it, he found other claimants-
the native Indians. With these he made treaties. Previous
to 1768 a treaty had been made to the top of
Allegheny mountain just east of Berlin. In 1768 a treaty
was made at Fort Stanwix in New York for the territory
from the top of this mountain to the Ohio line (but
not for the northwestern part of the state).

In that year, 1768, Philip Wiegley occupied this farm, built a cabin, brought his family from Haegerstown, secured a patent for 478 acres, which he divided equally among his three sons and himself. John took the west and Fred the east portion. The father Philip and the son Philip retained the middle, 238 acres. My mother's name was Kimmel and in 1822 her Aunt Elizabeth Kimmel married the son Philip Wiegley. After the latter's death, my Grandfather Edward Kimmel occupied the farm for 40 years. My father occupied it 20 years and I have occupied it since 1911.

The house was built of logs in 1784 and we find it very comfortable today. The farm adjoins Berlin on the south, and it is about a mile to the Berlin postoffice. Our elevation is about 2500 feet and we are in sight of the highest point in Pennsylvania - 3220 feet. There were deep drifts of snow in the road and walking was the only way to get to town this winter. If you had spent the winter at "Bethol", you could not have been more completely isolated.

My son John O. Stoner with wife and three children have taken charge of the farm now. Fat lamps, tallow dips, and kerosene lamps have lighted the old mansion until March 7 th when electricity illuminated the place.

In 1768 when I was about 9 years old, my father took me to Philadelphia. We stopped in Washington and went to the Ford Theater building. As we went in facing the stage, we turned to the left and went up on the gallery and into the compartment where Lincoln was shot. There was a stick of wood there which Booth used to block the door into the President's compartment so that no one could follow.

I was too young to know much about the Civil war, but was greatly interested in seeing the parades of Company C 142 nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers of this place. They had been captured in the first day's fighting in the streets of Gettysburgh, and escaped the slaughter. Some of them went to Libby. William A. Bender, the last Civil War veteran in Somerset County, is celebrating his 95 th birthday today - March 15 th.

Reading the Alleghenian has inspired this letter. The article about Lincoln and the Rothschilds which I am inclosing is very amazing. Stamps inclosed for the return of the articles.

Kindly let me know the name of the firm from whom I can secure your books and the price - "All in the Day's Work" and "Booth".

Some one told me that you have forgotten all the Greek you ever knew. I met Anna Carter Davis several years ago and she could rattle it off better than I. When I went to Meadville, Clementine and I always had a class reunion and would recite some of the Greek we remembered. I would be very glad to have a line about Will and Sadie.

I wish you might see Oak Grove Farm in the summer time when things are blooming. We had enough snow during last night so that my son's car stuck when he went for the mail this morning.

Very truly yours,

H. K. Stoner

H. K. Stoner

Walter J. Guthrie, age 76 class '84 d. Florida Mar.2,1940

Bishop Chas.EdwardLocke 82 " '80 d. Santa Monica, Cal.
Mar.4,1940

I was in LosAngeles about 3 years ago and talked with Ned Locke over the phone. He wanted very much to come in to see me - he said it was 17 miles from Santa Monica to the hotel where I was staying - but something prevented him from coming in.

I called on Bishop Charles Mitchell and his wife and on Wellington Bowser.