Biography (Tarbell) 36-1

When I entered A.C. in the fall of 1880 I made my first contact with the past. I had been reared a pioneer - I knew only the beginnings of things - the making of a home in a wilderness & the making of an industry - from the very first I had seen the landscape of my boyhood - the joy of reclaiming - the attachment to a scene I had not expected - but of things with a past - things that had made themselves permanent & had entered into my life & the life of the people around me - of things & the associations, were reckoned - Oil City College in an old town - Titusville - history - Cornplanter - Red Jacket - Venango - Meadville - Old Fort Duquesne - the Ohio - the Allegheny River - the town lay in the valley of the Allegheny River - [illegible] the Allegheny River - Federick Conti [illegible] had passed [illegible] in 1753 [illegible] the course of the river valley from Fort Duquesne [illegible] Pittsburgh following the route which led to Fort Le Boeuf on Lake Erie - He had commanded [illegible] 20 in his Diary published the year after his visit to the [illegible] French Fort [illegible] had passed -

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Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

after letter of Sudrann - ~~Van Hook~~ Genj. W. me dear[illegible]
agent in the copyright complaint - Certainly we can
win - Hay

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– It took many years to complete it – but when done on the plan it had become made it – was one of the most beautiful buildings then in the country. To day it rarely is made use of for any purpose. Hall or the most perfect Colonial specimen of architecture in the state. Even now Butler Hall was an exception – erected at the first-really respected building of any kind ever erected by white people of the north-west of the Ohio, the cost of the Tower of Babel, the ruins of the temple of Luxor, only with the ruins of the modern Capitol scarcely less remarkable to me was the first Capitol of Indiana was made at the expense of the State-corner stone in Such a Cabin & Wilderness as was Corydon, & destined may number of the Legislature of 1836 could there assemble. Such a change of scene & country

In years had passed & the dead just been one million disappointments – [illegible] – scarcely one man who met them – seemed as if the new attempt must fail. Every body depressed however when the call was sounded for another = entire student-body from the cellar

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A The college plant was the simplest—
[illegible] A [illegible] Building [illegible]
beautiful pride of architecture its interior
could hardly look less like one.

These rooms were heated by stoves—pot bellied
cast iron [illegible] stoves—
with [illegible] and [illegible] chairs—[illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible]
kerosene lamps. In winter and the winters
were long the rooms [illegible] in kept—the fierce [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] in chapel—[illegible]
[illegible] all that—[illegible] practically [illegible]
Unfortunately I [illegible] had a perfect [illegible]
for writing. What concerned me was a dreadful

See 36-4 A Print in the [illegible]

(Virginia Wolfe in a Room of Hers)

Opera 39

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

3 story
3 buildings only - Butler Hall - an
regular Gothic - after Irish school -
type of the private stations but determined
upon a permanent building best for men -
and K

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library, Meadville, PA

Museum Service Talk 360

I was to spend 4 years at Allegheny College
then 4 at private school in Paris & then
Oxford in very first rate & was sure
I needed at the moment - I watched developments
in the city field & with interest - several times
it - in a very real & direct & Connell could
have gone all the way - [illegible] & I wanted
as I was - in the harmony & adequacy -
domain of a part natural leader like an
adult passion for study & research
stirred me & I a wide knowledge, wanted
to feed by constant study & travel - French
Tripoli the head of all things department of
natural Science He was a man of [illegible] his
class the [illegible] - informal - dust [illegible]
[illegible] It was [illegible]
I came to understand the meaning of
civilization - a free [illegible] - [illegible]
know well occupied by the people & their
known - leaders [illegible] - [illegible]
men - Everyone ate went [illegible] their days
with [illegible] determination to do their whole day-
& with an [illegible] & anxiety - uncertainty
which had made me [illegible] - [illegible]
not really [illegible]

36-7

but I what you did -

suppressing unhappy. ti pilifi the Punian-
leading Well - calm first a cricket. It had never
seemed so ti me Crit 2 didn't dare float
on it - as Bendhere it was with a leaden
who did float on their ciri job in all its ramifi-
cations - Warren he ~~was~~ ~~adjutant-general~~ for
general - did his work ti 2ti year ti 2ti me ciri pig.
See 40-A.

He

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

2

What - I got - me to life - I can't
remember ~~the~~ the day ~~when~~ which - I learned to
be in college - Prof Harlow's essay in com-
lempt - went so deep that - I can never
never ~~have~~ to wait time - I was then ~~was~~
was ~~not~~ waiting - ~~was~~ up before I had
finished with ~~that~~ ~~that~~ mental depression
Malaise - a ~~sense~~ certain contempt for
myself ~~and~~ to live with - If I ~~have~~
could ~~have~~ ~~have~~ enabled to put things a
per amount of work they seem made
that work frequently ~~heavy~~ heavy-handed.
~~If I have~~ If I have ~~been~~ been open myself to
criticism ~~the~~ work ~~is~~ ~~really~~ needed.
~~But~~ If I was on certain - I did manage
to have a ~~few~~ opening y. social life ~~with~~ ~~my~~ ~~friends~~
See 4 3. ~~I~~ ~~was~~ ~~invited~~ ~~by~~ invited ~~by~~ my
y my own

Moreover I ~~learned~~ began to realize at college that
year I have ~~not~~ intensified ~~and~~ ~~emp~~ that ~~reality~~
work is ~~the~~ ~~real~~ ~~if~~ ~~human~~ ~~principle~~ - the test y.
personality - ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~element~~ ~~of~~ ~~zest~~ ~~depth~~
for sorrow - failure - despair

There were impudent things but neither ~~the remarks of~~ ~~contempt~~ ~~the manner~~ and manner ~~displeasure showed~~ ~~can be~~ ~~of them so base permanent~~ queer if I.

My gradeil acquaintance ~~with~~ ~~Lady Catherine~~ ~~de Bourgh~~ ~~Rosings~~ ~~Park~~ ~~and her~~ ~~daughter~~ ~~Miss

Autobiography - Number I

I was a lone girl in the Freshman class of forty boys - hostile or indifferent boys on the whole. Nothing of the acceptibility of the girls in the college. One desirable young man in that Freshman class left because the college was no place for girls. There were only five in the whole institution. It was an invasion; it required so many changes - changes in manner and talk - a disturbance of their masculinity. Nobody told me they were taboo. I was conscious enough of the social one.

The trees on the campus below the Hall were inviting. Between classes I made my way to under one only to hear a horrified call from the walk above, "Come here, come here quick." An imperative summons. "You mustn't go there on that side of the walk." It was like Virginia Woolf's experience - upset by what she was for a room of her own.

The question ~~kx what~~ college is worth to a boy or girl takes time - sacrifice - and depends largely on some specific enthusiasm, some interest of the mind, something they can tackle periodically.

There were no buildings at Allegheny except that one lovely old Hall. It in itself was a presence like that of a great personality - a thing so much more full of meaning than any lordly new building could have been, particularly a building

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of the '70's. It had beauty and dignity and from it the strong purpose of those early founders. A thing to live for and thank God for - Bentley Hall. The man for me was there - Jeremiah Kingley head of the department of science - a man who for many years was to be what I take it a Dean should be - a young man then and as crazy over the mieroscope and the laboratory and the physical world in general as ever I had known.

I was guided at that moment with my enthusiasm to be put next to a teacher one who had been Ag

(End of roll

I had already come to feel that I must look outside the book. There was where I had gotten my joy in handling the stones and plants, but I suspected it was the willful way - the true was to know what was in the books. I wanted to be sure that what they said was true. Here in Professor Kingley's classes one of the first things you were ordered to do was to go and see for yourself. He used to tell us a story of his first experience at when a stone was put before him, a round water-washed stone, and he was told to make a report on it. All that he had had up to that time were his books. He looked at the stone and turned it over. It is not the outside it is the inside of things that matter. And in the laboratory that became our watch word - look inside.

My great interest was in the microscope for here there was a magnificent binocular, an instrument from the house of To me that house had come to stand for something

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more than in anything in Europe. Here was one, and I was not only allowed I was invited, to use it. I was given the free run of the laboratory along with a few as crazy as myself. This little group Professor Kingley took for his inner circle unbelieveable conversation.

It was my first look, too, into a kind af a intimate social life, of which I had never had a hint. The Kingley's were housed in a wing of Bentley Hall - big rooms built for class rooms. They had no children and in the years of their study and travel they had gathered about them things of beauty and interest - not much - there was little money in those days for Allegheny College professors, $1,000.00 a year was a big salary. But the atmosphere of cultivation and beauty and interest and meaning that was into those room - something quite new and wonderful to me. And such good talk. We talked long and about all sorts of things and though I was tongue-tied for the most part, as always with my superiors, I paid them perhaps the greatest compliment that a guest can pay that of

Lucky indeed a combination when he enters the unknown world of the college. That was one of two great experiences I had, the other was a revelation of character. The member of the faculty teaching Latin - the most important curriculum in those days was Haskins. Here was a man who was looking at the world with grim mouth

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and pained eyes. A man with all the of a great and thoughtful scholar, one who was conscious of the dumbness of most of us, our utter failure to know what things meant. Physical suffering intensified that clear, strong mental contempt, for stupidity, uninterest.

There came a wholesome sense of a fervour for operations of the mind. In him I felt all the rustling of a soul carrying burdens of conditions never to be realized. He was one of the influences that I encountered at that time. Although I read my Latin and studied with which he combined much history and literature, getting behind the trying to tell you that your life and living were not mere strings of strange words. The truth is I took my four years to my interest and understanding by what was meant by writing. I came out almost as as when I went in. I was still uninterested in men and women unconscious that they had anything to say to me. Mathematics were still a delightful game. There was perhaps some dim responses to the history of philosophy. All this work at this time is a blank place in my memory, but two things I had - a better sense of how to study, study science and use a microscope for in every way that passion was encouraged by Professor Kingley. And I learned to run down

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To look inside ~~xxxxxx~~ - that principle of study - and a deep sense of the thing called character - a possibility ~~xx~~ beyond what I had sensed, something into which emotions, a desire to be good, fidelity, honesty. Character had more in it than I had thought. It had something of the quality of the great rocks, the hills. I began to look at the vastness. And this had come to be by daily reading in a language which meant nothing to me, from a man and a defeated one, as the world reckoned.

College brought me something else and it is one of the most valuable things that it can bring to me - the ability to express and exchange new of youth, to sort and test and choose and weigh.

I had come to college at eighteen without ever having dared to look fully into the face of any boy of my age. My brother and his friends, my father and his friends - these I had had nods with, but those which naturally should have been my companions I feared. I was unable to take my part in what brought the young people of the day together. I did not dance - the Methodist ritual was against it; I had no easy companionable ways; I was no fun. I had my own delight - the hills which I ran - the long drives behind the white pony - the family picnics and most precious of all I think the evening walks, the full length

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of main street with some girl friend - and there we talked. The reading of French with my precious friend, Nettie Grumbine. Through all this there was no boy. I was not long in discovering him, however, when I reached Allegheny. That daily association, those class room contacts and appraisements, the gradual interest and intimacy, the continual procession of college doings which in the nature of things required that you should have an attendent. I was learning, learning fast in some ways, but the learning carried its pains. Ignorant as I was I had to know how to find my way about and there were so many things my lack of experience taught me. I was quilty of one performance which was which was a scandal among the young men of the college.

There were perhaps a half dozen fraternities in the college; most of the boys belonged to one or another. It was one of the ambitions of the fraternities to put their pins on as many of the girls as possible. You were a Delta girl, or a Gamma girl or a Phi Pi girl. The fraternity could and did mean something serious, a thing stronger than college or any possible girl. I had not understood and I resented this effort to tag me. Why should I not have friends in all the fraternities? And I did and I accummulated four pins and then one disastrous morning I went into Chapel with the four pins arrayed on my coat. I got it good and hard. There were a few months if it had not been for that that two or three of my best friends were non-Frats there would have been few attendents to college festivities.

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What I was learning was that although I had a strange and perhaps unnatural of belonging to things and because it was an interference with my freedom that this was not It was far from being a virtue; it was an unnatural trait. And if I was to live among men I must respect all loyalties, try to understand what they held them, what was at the bottom of them. I admit they had their rights to them and that floating them as I had was a bit of vanity ~~xx xxtixxxxxxxxxxx~~ in my supposed independente as well as a rather stupid misunderstanding of other's point of view. You have to live with all kinds of points of view while perserving your own. How far could you

The college is a world of course in itself. It is cut off from the outside and a small college, remote from the centers of activity as Allegheny was, devoted to religious life and the development of the mind that it might serve a religious ideal, knows little of the affairs of the world and yet that crept in on us. In those years between 1870 and 1880 something of the sense of the and the struggle of ideas that were over throughout America had for young people I find today who has just discovered Karl Marx to realize that in 1878 the ~~mock~~ head writers of the International communist body were transferred to New York City. It is hard for them to realize that these ideas should have come to us and yet in the newspaper that I read - the New York Tribune - there was the constant discussion of Marx.

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Somehow it crept in. There was a challenge going out, a challenge shocking to the individualists like my father.

He had a free man's right to refuse - my father would have died for that right, but he had no right to dictate wages, hours. Father's theory of wage was that of Lincoln's, (quote) from his experience not reach to mass labor and what we were beginning to grasp dimly at Allegheny that there was such a thing as mass labor and that if got together - and we had a terrible demonstration of what it could do there in our own state.

Somehow these things were related to this bewildering challenge of a new philosophy, new necessities of men and new conditions. But it was there. The first things had been obtained. I could earn my own living.

After my graduation/the good account the faculty gave of me had resulted in my being invited to become that is, I was ready to put my feet on the first rung of the economic ladder. It was clearer in my mind than ever about my great ambition - it was to be the study of biology. My life long companion was to be a microscope. I could see how it could be done. I could teach and in my off hours I could work with my microscope.

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I would lay up my money and then I would go somewhere and work. It was all perfectly clear.

And in the meantime I was quite willing to work with those who said they had found God. They were the best I saw.

Another thing that happened to me, too - I had modified my ideas about being a spinster. It didn't look as desirable as it had four years before. And I was coming to a great conclusion in life that there are forms of freedom which cost too much. And so in the fall of 1880

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quarrelsome - chose my principally because it was
always with a reaching sense of defeat - as a matter
of fact I was [illegible] quarrelsome I are pleasure in the
platform I hurt to disagree - that sometimes
in principle. It did not seem absolutely
necessary as it had grown to [illegible]
But as fifteen years the platform it
stood - and I was ready to stand - by it -
principle - [illegible] Lincoln's memory I had
accepted a position before Commencement - the
president proposed in a Seminary at
Poland Ohio - I knew nothing more about
it than my title & my salary 5 or 600 a year
& board [illegible].

Somehow it crept in. There was a challenge going out, a challenge shocking to the individualists like my father.

He had a free man's right to refuse - my father would have died for that right, but he had no right to dictate wages, hours. Father's theory of wage was that of Lincoln's, (quote) from his experience d not reach to mass labor and what we were beginning to grasp dimly at Allegheny that there was such a thing as mass labor and that if got together - and we had a terrible demonstration of what it could do there in our own state. Pitiful state - ill- informed and a bewildered mid-west.

Somehow these things were related to this bewildering challenge of a new philosophy, new necessities of men and new conditions. But it was there. The first things had been obtained. I could earn my own living.

After my graduation/the faculty gave of me had resulted in my being invited to become the good account that is, I was ready to put my feet on the first rung of the economic ladder. It was clearer in my mind than ever about my great ambition - it was to be the study of biology. My life long companion was to be a microscope. I could see how it could be done. I could teach and in my off hours I could work with my microscope.

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But

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I will carried all the baggage I had for me
a little all of it - Mother Willie packed -
mine & Harper it - Carried I night - Came
it all except one sheet & came out on
Graduating Week - I wanted to be a spunky
girl - that I had decided in writing
only that I was can afford of it - not to
send out I night - me dog papa & I -
not I was Tuesday evening about a
Wednesday day get the mail
coming for the Commencement

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As for my great ambition of - one clear
start every year and to be a bronchial mis-
carriage - I would save my money &
go abroad for a year & not to study. I
would be a hopeless spinster.

Life must planned course mine
Fair will - willing - reckoning on time
Always upon our sleeping plan the plans -
the Smile of the Lord - the ways of
men. the Walks of you the pathways.
But - Not you dear Lucius and my
you. I had nothing but confidence
Lucius when in the Fall of 1878
I started out on the pilgrimage of my
adventure - Title - the Eagle - Symbol
Title of Preacher of the Word. & Savior.

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Addenda - Chapter I

After the paragraph on my episode with the four fraternity pins I might add - Here was born a sense of the necessity, if one is to live with fellow man, of having a ~~deep respect~~ due regard for the opinions of mankind. Also, I might say, respect for my fellows. I am nut sure but a deep reppect for my superiors was born at the time Miss ~~Pence~~ Dressler gave me her lecture. There are /some comments on that episode in things that I have written or interviews I have given, that might add a touch.

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Leaving College:

2.

I was leaving without a husband. But what was more surprising was ~~that~~ I was leaving without having signed up for missionary work. One of the ~~strange~~ characteristics of the ~~churches~~ of that day, that is as I knew them, was their propensity to settle on the future of the young. There were at least two able gentlemen convinced that I had a call, but to my ~~cheerful~~ tearful arguments that I had never known it and that it seemed to me that if there was such a thing it ought to be revealed to me, there answer ~~seemed to be that~~ was that they were called by God to do ~~this which I couldn't accept~~. But their conviction that it was my duty to go to China or Africa to preach the Gospel ~~xxx~~ to heathens was so evidently sincere; it was expounded with such energy that I had a hard struggle keeping myself from yielding. As a matter of fact it would have been a dishonesty. I was too prone to say yes to any proposition. But here I knew that my views were so different from ~~theirs~~ that I could never have become a ~~teacher~~.

Moreover, I had made some little study of comparative religions and I was full of doubts as to the superiority of the Christian dogma as it was taught to me. I was not at all sure but what the Heathen were nearer right than we were. However, this did not prevent me at any time to take part in all of the social and educational work of the church.

I remember I had grave doubts of my honesty in doing this.

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Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,—
Hold you here, root + all, in my hand
Little flower — but if I could understand
What you are, root + all, + all in all,
I should know what God + man is.

Copied from Harpers Ed. Poetical Works of alfred Tennyson
Poet Laureate (1823). Inscribed as above 1875-6
JSP

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1899-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

A quadrennium after Allegheny had celebrated its semi-centennial, it took the radical step of the admission of women. The matter had been debated some years. A majority and minority report on the issue were submitted in a Trustees' meeting in 1867 and action deferred. President Derickson of the Board favored the opening of the doors to the sex. Dr. Hyde was also a strong champion of the ladies. On June 23, 1870 Dr. Holmes, of the rittsburgh Board of Control, came before the Trustees to advocate the measure and Mr. J. H. Lenhart offered the resolution which made Allegheny a coeducational institution. In the same year the University of Michigan, the leading school in the west, took similar action. At the Allegheny alumni banquet in june, the popular toast was, "To the ladies, the future alumni."

Women entered into the same courses with the men, but not for a year did they have the use of the scholarships. There was no little prejudice against the innovation, but the ability, the fine spirit and the tact of the women soon disarmed criticism. The number who availed themselves of the privilege was very small for several years and they were largely drawn from Meadville and vicinity. In September, 1870, three young ladies enrolled as Freshmen: Miss Mary Darrow, of Kinsman, Ohio; Miss Almira Marsteller, of Meadville, and Miss Adelle Williams, daughter of rrofessor Williams. The next year Miss Ella Nash passed advanced examinations and was admitted to the junior Class and became, in 1873, the first woman graduate.

The Republican of June 27th wrote:

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"As Miss Nash, of Meadville, an accomplished young lady, who possesses an energy of character that few of her sex can equal, came forward upon the platform, she was greeted with hearty applause that said, 'Welcome and honor to the first lady graduate of Allegheny College.' In her oration on 'The Silent,' she made poetry, music, painting and sculpture as agencies of powerful, though silent influence in the world. In the development of her ideas, the audience was treated probably to the best written address given at the commencement exercises."

In the Class of 1875, the women took both first and second honors. In 1873, there were eight Freshmen to enroll and the next year seven, then the number fell off. When Miss Ida M. Tarbell, was the solitary new matriculate in 1876 there were but two Seniors and two Juniors of her sex in Allegheny. The showing was unually better in the preparatory department, yet the feminine students did not crowd into the class room of Bentley. The men thus gradually came to accept coeducation as a matter of course.

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