

IN MEMORIAM

The death of Miss Ida Minerva Tarbell on January 6th at the age of eighty six has been widely noted in the press of the country and tribute paid to the high place she occupied in the field of literature and her influence in world affairs.

The scope of her work was wide. It embraced history, biography, economics, business and the passing events that from day to day were shaping history. Her belief in truth, justice and fair play, her keen insight and accurate knowledge made her a power to be reckoned with, either as writer or as lecturer. It has been said of Miss Tarbell that she never made a public statement that could not be verified.

To her rare intellectual gifts was added another: a sincere friendliness. Her understanding sympathy and unselfish interest in the welfare of others, marked all her relations in life and inspired lasting friendship in all who became associated with her. Thus it is that many in all walks of life have passed to do honor to one whose loyalty never failed.

This Club too has shared in her friendship throughout the forty years of her membership and we wish to acknowledge our great debt for the many happy occasions made possible to our membership by her generous gift of time and talent.

Miss Tarbell's association with Titusville began at the age of twelve when her family became residents of this community. She was graduated from our local school in 1873 with highest honors, then entered Allegheny College. Throughout her college days and a later period of eight years when she was on the staff of the Chautauquan Magazine, Miss Tarbell always held Titusville in deep affection and called it home until the death of her mother in 1917. Although study, research and her life as writer took her far afield as the years passed and brought her many honors, her beautiful personality remained unspoiled, her loyalties unshaken.

Miss Tarbell first came to the Womens' Club in the Nineties. Her delightful talk covered the highlights of her three years of life in Paris, where she went to study and was one of the first of our foreign correspondents. She made her audience feel that in spite of hard work these years had brought her a sense of high adventure and keen enjoyment.

Her last appearance before a club audience was in February, 1926. Her subject was on conditions in Italy, where she had been for four months as observer and correspondent - an assignment that had brought her into personal touch with Mussolini. The report of her observations makes most interesting reading in view of later history.

In 1939 Miss Tarbell came to Titusville to be guest of honor at a dinner given under the auspices of the Titusville Historical Society at Colestock High School. More than three hundred people paid tribute to her at this delightful affair. The day preceding the dinner, a reception also in her honor was given by the Womans' Club. By a coincidence this affair took place just five years ago today.

The Womans' Club feels singularly privileged to have been associated with one whose life was so rich in service and wishes to express its deep sense of loss.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this tribute to the memory of our beloved and honored member, Ida M. Tarbell, be inscribed on our minutes, a copy be sent with our deep sympathy to her sister, Sara A. Tarbell, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. William Tarbell, both of whom were former members of this Club.

Annelle F. Grumbine
Leland C. Fletcher
Fris Barr

Committee.

January 24, 1944.