

PAGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

849 PARK AVENUE

For the scientific study of schools
and education and the providing of
aids to self-help for deserving students

BALTIMORE Mar. 10, 1916.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

Your letter of March 7th is at hand, and in reply I would ^{first} state that I am not interested in the claims of one college more than another. If you write to President C. R. Jenkins of Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia, mentioning my name, he will send you historical material relative to this institution. It is claimed that the standards were as high as those given to men at that time. Certainly, the first degrees were conferred in 1840.

The Oxford College in Ohio cannot claim anything beside this, especially if its standards are low, since Oxford College was established in 1849.

Certainly, Georgia seems to have been the first State to consider the higher education of women ("new soil" - "new ideas"). LaGrange College, Georgia, was founded as a seminary as early as 1833, and began giving degrees some time later, although I do not believe the standard is a particularly high one in this instance.

As I pointed out to some special commissioners on education, Southern institution are often misunderstood as to standards. I consider that it is much easier to get an A. B. from Princeton, Harvard, and Yale than it is to get one from University of Virginia or Washington and Lee. In a Southern institution of the better class, it is easy to get in and hard to get out - with a degree. In the North, it is hard to get in, but easy to get out with the same degree. I am not sure but that the ^{Southern} plan is really better, even though it "flunks" a far larger proportion of those who enter. My passing mark at Washington and Lee for an M. A. degree was 85 per cent; and students deliberately refuse to work on that basis, preferring to go to Princeton and elsewhere in order to secure their degrees more easily and in less time.

Yours sincerely,

Marshall P. Ozark

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
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