EMILY TALBOT

(Proposer, or originator, or founder of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, October, 1881)

Emily Fairbanks was born in Winthrop, Maine, February 22, 1834. Among her ancestors were four men who came to America on the Mayflower. Her parents, Columbus and Lydia Tinkham Fairbanks, were farming folk in very moderate circumstances and were not able to give her formal education beyond that provided by the rather elementary local schools. Her early training was, however, greatly enriched through the influence of her mother, a woman of strong character and unusual native intelligence, who made her home a center of social and intellectual activities of a high order. Emily’s first experience away from home was in teaching an unruly school in Augusta, Maine, where, although only sixteen years of age, she succeeded in establishing order after a series of teachers had given up in discouragement or been forcibly ousted by the pupils. Her first month’s pay, a gold piece of twenty dollars, she used to buy a long desired bedstead for her mother. While teaching in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854, she met Dr. I. Tiddale Talbot, who was paying a parting visit to his sister before continuing his medical studies in Europe. It was a case of love at first sight and on his return they were married, October 29, 1856, and for forty-three years led a life of close and congenial devotion to their growing family and to the public interests which they shared. The year following their marriage they went to Europe for a prolonged tour, during which their daughter, Marion, was born, and on their return they took up their residence in Boston.

Mrs. Talbot’s first public work was in connection with the fair held in 1859 for the Boston Homeopathic Medical Dispensary. In spite of cares incident to a large family and of limited health, she actively cooperated during the succeeding years with her husband in his labors as editor of the New
England Medical Gazette and general secretary of the American Institute of Homeopathy. Later the organization of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital led to her participation in various successful efforts to secure funds for its support. She was appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Westborough Insane Hospital and helped to devise more humane methods for the care of the insane than were at the time practiced elsewhere. She continued to hold office until the end of her life. The value of her services, as well as those of her husband, was recognized by the Trustees in the naming of a new building. Honorary associate membership in the American Institute of Homeopathy was conferred upon her in 1867. She was organizer and first president of The Mission, connected with the Institute and of The Maternity, an adjunct of the Homeopathic Hospital.

Her initiative and organizing power were shown also in her leadership in 1877 in the establishment of the Boston Latin School for Girls, where for the first time were offered in Boston the facilities for college preparation which had been open to boys since 1636. Together with Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, she organized the Round Table of Boston, a social and literary club of great distinction of which she remained secretary until her death. She was for several years an active director of the Massachusetts Infant Asylum. As secretary of the Education Department of the American Social Science Association, she personally consulted with Charles Darwin, and together with Dr. William T. Harris gave the first real impetus to child study in the United States. Through her daughters, who were students in the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University, Mrs. Talbot became deeply interested in the efforts made by young women to secure a college education in spite of the handicaps of poverty. In order to help find ways and means to relieve these struggles, she gave active aid in organizing the Massachusetts Society for the University Education of Women and served on its Board of Directors for several years.
Her husband found her an able coadjutor in his duties as dean of Boston University, School of Medicine, the first university medical school opened to men and women on equal terms.

Mrs. Talbot's outstanding contribution was her plan for the cooperation of the college women of the country in widening the educational opportunities for women and in enabling the graduates to make the best use of their training through mutual deliberation and counsel. It was from this suggestion made in October, 1881, that the Association of Collegiate Alumnae arose and enabled a fruitful and significant chapter in American educational history to be written.

Mrs. Talbot died at her summer home in Holderness, New Hampshire, on October 29, 1900, the anniversary of her wedding day and of the birthday of her husband, who had died the preceding year, July 2, 1899.

The actual significance of this record lies in its interpretation. It serves as a partial measure of her power of initiative, whose richest fruits were seen in her influence on young people in opening new paths to them and in giving them courage and hope in forming and realizing high ideals of character and achievement.
MARTHA FOOTE CROW

President, 1893-1895

Martha Foote's eager and sympathetic nature responded like a flash when word reached her that a group of college women had organized to carry on educational work. Born in 1854, her early ambitions led her to Syracuse University from which she received the degree of Ph.B in 1876 and of Ph.M in 1879. After brief periods of teaching at Ives Seminary and Waynesburg College, she accepted a position in the High School, Newton, Mass. This led to connection with Wellesley College where she held the position of lecturer in history for two years. The youthful president, Alice E. Freeman, had just thrown herself with enthusiasm into the work of the new organization of college women. When word of the movement reached Martha Foote, her interest in the gathering together of kindred spirits with high ideals which had shown itself in her college days led her to apply for membership in the new Association. Her application was received at the second meeting of the Executive Committee, February 15, 1882, the constitution of the Association having been adopted on January 14, 1882. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 23, 1882, two Colleges were added to the eight institutions which were represented at the meeting for organization. When Miss Foote's application was received, it was already clear that the admission of an institution to membership could not be based on the personal merit of a single graduate. The difficult problem of maintaining high collegiate standards was faced in a practical form. Action on Miss Foote's request was postponed therefore and it was not until December 15, 1882 that Syracuse University was admitted and Miss Foote was enrolled as a member. Her gifts and ability were immediately recognized and she was elected a director of the Association in January 1883 and re-elected in 1884, and served the rapidly-growing organization with distinction. On August 7, 1884, she married Professor John M. Crow and became lady principal of Iowa College (later Grinnell College). This necessitated resigning from active service in directing the affairs
of the Association. The following year she received the degree of Ph.D. from Syracuse University. The six years of married life granted to these gifted and congenial spirits were crowned with the rich rewards of appreciation and love on the part of their students. Then came a poignantly tragic episode. The death of the little daughter, Agatha, was followed in a short month by the death of the husband. In spite of these crushing blows she carried on her duties at the College until the end of the year when she was commissioned by the United States Bureau of Education to investigate educational opportunities for women in Europe. After a year's absence she returned to accept a position as assistant professor of English Literature in the new University of Chicago. Before leaving Grinnell, however, she had resumed active work in the Association. In 1899 she was director for the State of Iowa and the same year was elected vice-president and held the position until 1895. In 1899 and 1900 she was a member of the Committee on Endowment of Colleges, from 1899 to 1901 she was chairman of the committee on Educational Progress and in 1899-1900 she was a member of the Committee on Withdrawals from College. These activities in the National Association led at once on her arrival in Chicago to a lively interest in the Chicago Branch and she became its president. The following year, 1895, she was elected president of the National Association for the term of two years. She was a member of the Bureau of Collegiate Information and Educational Progress in 1894-5 and served as Chairman from 1895 to 1899, when the work of the Bureau was discontinued. In 1899-1900 she was a member of the Council to Accredit Women for Advanced Work in Foreign Universities. When the Association was incorporated in 1899 she was named as one of the nine incorporators. This closes the record of her active participation in the affairs and responsibilities of the Association. The long period of seventeen years had produced services of great value. Hardly a meeting passed without a report, a formal address, or a quickening suggestion from her.

From 1900 to 1905 she was dean of Women at Northwestern University and
had an active part in the first conference of deans of women ever held. In
1905 she removed to New York City where for several busy and happy years she
devoted herself to her literary studies, fostered the appreciation of poetry
in many different ways and published several biographical works and collections
of poetry; thus renewing her earlier literary labors which had resulted in an
edition of Elizabethan sonnet cycles.

The life in New York came to an end through her gradual breakdown in health.
In the winter of 1921 she yielded to the urgings of her long-time friend in
Chicago, Mrs. William Vaughan Moody, to come to her for a restful visit. The
visit prolonged itself into a confirmed invalidism lasting nearly three years,
during which optimistic intervals were filled with literary labors and even
a renewed correspondence with aspiring young poets was attempted until the end
came quietly on January 1, 1924.

This outline of her interests and activities may best be closed with the
words of a close friend - "I valued her for her quiet powers which seemed
always to me her best powers".
HELEN HISCOCK BUCKUS
President, 1888 and 1889

When the call for members was issued after the organization of the Association on January 14, 1882, Mrs. Backus soon responded and from that time on her interest was unflagging and her belief in the purposes of the Association a constant encouragement and inspiration to her fellow-workers. The records show only in bare outline the nature of her official contribution to the development of the Association. Her services were undoubtedly greatly enriched because of the successful experience she had had as a member of Vassar College. After her graduation with the Class of 1873, of which she was president, she studied in Germany and returned to the college after two years, where she was instructor in English until 1883. She received the A. M. degree from Vassar College in 1876. She married, in 1883, Professor T. J. Backus, head of the English Department, and they removed to Brooklyn, New York, where Professor Backus became president of Packer Institute. Mrs. Backus threw herself with enthusiasm and devotion into different important activities of the city, but her interest in the College was continued and she served as alumna trustee from 1887 to 1902 and as president of Vassar Students' Aid Society from 1895 to 1897.

Early in the history of the Association she presented two valuable papers, one on "The Need and the Opportunity for College-Trained Women in Philanthropic Work," and the other on "Some Recent Phases in the Development of American Colleges," both subjects which were typical of her interests. She was a member of the Council to Accredit Women for Advanced Work in Foreign Universities, a member of the Committee on Collegiate Administration during the term of her trusteeship of her Alma Mater, Vassar College. She served as president in 1888 and 1889. It was during the latter term that the union with the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae was brought about. Those who were conversant with the details were convinced that this most satisfactory termination of a long and complicated discussion was due in large part to Mrs. Backus' wonderful tact, patience and sagacity.

As vice-president for four terms, from 1889 to 1893, she gave freely from the wealth of her knowledge and wisdom, and even when she no longer held a prominent office, those who succeeded her always sought her counsel. This she gave with
...
particular enthusiasm at the time of the reorganization of the administrative work of the Association. Under her presidency the first European fellowship was established, and she served on the Fellowship Committee from 1891 to 1900. At the meeting following her death on January 6, 1906, the chairman of the Fellowship Committee, Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer, paid tribute to her in the following words:

"For many years, during the storm and stress period, Mrs. Backus was identified with the fellowship work. I cannot estimate the debt of gratitude that those who hold dear the fellowship interests owe to her. Each year she kept the week that the candidates' papers were to go to her free from every other engagement in order that she might give to this work her undivided attention and her best thought. With the deep sympathy so characteristic of her in all her relations in life, she appreciated the trying position of the anxious candidates whose plans for the year must await our decision, and was the soul of punctuality. Intellectually strong and virile, with her clear-cut analytical mind, possessing in a marked degree the judicial temperament, she gave invaluable service in the difficult task of the award."

As a presiding officer, she combined dignity and gentleness. Her presence of mind, her self-command and her control of an assembly were not only evidence of her power of intellect but of a great inward peace. Her loyalty and sympathy were enough to inspirit a small meeting and her presence to lend it significance. Her large life, both private and public, was many-sided. Those friends who knew her most intimately believed that she was best revealed in the tie of simple friendship, even when they remembered with admiration her brilliant gifts and intellectual achievements.
Remarks by Miss Marion Talbot at Memorial
for MARGARET O. GREEN
Services in Mandel Hall, Sunday March 5, 1916.

An episode occurred last Friday noon which I think is
unprecedented in the annals of great Universities. I think it
will interest you to hear about it. The President of the Univer-
sity, the Dean of the Faculties, and three other officers left com-
pelling and important duties to take counsel together. The life
of a young undergraduate woman was ebbing away. In many circles
of the University there was mourning. Should the great social
gathering of faculty and students which had been planned for the
evening take place? From one after another came expressions of
personal sorrow so deep as to make it impossible to join in any
meeting for gay and happy comradeship. Each one who spoke knew
that he voiced the feelings of many not present. The final conclu-
sion was, however, that because of illness in the neighborhood, the
ture reason for abandoning the party might be misunderstood, and
unnecessary alarm might be caused. Consequently personal feelings
must be set aside and the original plans carried out. This was as
Margaret Green would have wished. Little had she dreamed however
of the deep impression her character and personality had made in
every part of this great institution.

I am going to tell you, if you will let me speak quite
informally, why I think Margaret made so deep an impression on
our community. This will mean my telling you of a few person
al experiences, as I have been asked to do.

I knew her for quite a time as many did. Her little figure, her expressive face, all her physical characteristics were sure to attract attention. The first revelation of her character came when she asked my permission to take an extra study. I knew of the whole hearted way in which she was throwing herself into the work of the Young Women's Christian League and I knew also that it was her desire to assume even greater responsibilities in connection with it. I said, "Margaret, you have been growing rapidly. Your strength is not fully established; you must take your choice, both you cannot do." I was not surprised to learn where her choice lay. A little more speed in completing her college course could not be weighed against the opportunity to serve the wider interests of the League and of the University. The girl stood revealed.

Three incidents which have happened this quarter will show other high lights of her character.

At the time of the frolic given in the gymnasium by the Women's Athletic Association, Margaret and I both went in comic costumes. She did not recognize me at first, but when she did, with a twinkle in her eye, she played the game and every little while through the evening we exchanged glances and went on with the fun. And I thought as I watched her, the leader of the frolic, "Has the day actually come when the Christian spirit is not a thing apart from life, but is life itself, comedy as well as tragedy."

A fortnight or so ago Margaret reported to me the case of a student who was in severe financial straits and in broken health and had appealed to the League for help. Margaret had been working over the case and finally thought I should know about it. After
hearing the details I said the problem belonged to me. Margaret
must give her time and strength to other duties, which happened to
be at that time unusually heavy. But I soon found that, although
my experience was greater, my store of patience was less, and my
resources more quickly exhausted, and I had actually to turn to
Margaret for help in carrying out the measures of relief I planned.

The last incident is perhaps the most striking. In two
different conversations Margaret told me that the conviction had
grown upon her that the life in Ida Noyes Hall, to which all the
women were looking with eager anticipation, must be entered upon free
from any unnatural or artificial social barriers among the women
students. She believed that the time had come when steps could be
taken by the students to develop a wider spirit of cooperation and
a truer feeling of comradeship than was possible if certain types
of organized friendship continued to prevail. She believed that
the injury done to the general body of women students could not be
compensated for by the personal gratifications enjoyed by a few.
The price was too high a one. I told her briefly my opinion that
action in the direction she indicated would remove the only serious
drawback, as I saw it, in the life of the women of the University of
Chicago. I was however unwilling to use coercion or authority, or
even persuasion. The movement she had in mind must be the expres-
sion of the ideals of the women themselves. I was not surprised a
few days later to have her come to me at my home and tell me that
she had taken the step which was the logical outcome of her convic-
tions. It was an act of dauntless courage. Abuse, misrepresen-
tation, obloquy, the loss of precious friendships were part of the
fruit of her valor. But she was true to the faith within her
and I am sure the thought must have been a source of comfort
to her. Such is the heroism the world needs today vastly more
than the courage born of physical force and every expression
of it in our University is precious beyond words.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever;
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness."

Margaret Green's spirit, which was the spirit of
her Lord and Master, will abide forever and be a quickening
force not only in this community, but in all places where
they dwell who knew her here.
EMILY TALBOT
(Originator of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, October, 1881)

Emily Fairbanks was born in Winthrop, Maine, February 22, 1834. Among her ancestors were four men who came to America on the Mayflower. Her parents, Columbus and Lydia Tinkham Fairbanks, were farming folk in very moderate circumstances and were not able to give her formal education beyond that provided by the rather elementary local schools. Her early training was, however, greatly enriched through the influence of her mother, a woman of strong character and unusual native intelligence, who made her home a center of social and intellectual activities of a high order. Emily's first experience away from home was in teaching an unruly school in Augusta, Maine, where, although only sixteen years of age, she succeeded in establishing order after a series of teachers had given up in discouragement or been forcibly ousted by the pupils. Her first term's pay, a gold piece of twenty dollars, she used to buy a long desired bedstead for her mother. While teaching in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854, she met Dr. I. Tisdale Talbot, who was paying a parting visit to his sister before continuing his medical studies in Europe. It was a case of love at first sight and on his return they were married, October 29, 1856, and for forty-three years led a life of close and congenial devotion to their growing family and to the public interests which they shared. The year following their marriage they went to Europe for a prolonged tour, during which their daughter, Marion, was born, and on their return they took up their residence in Boston.

Mrs. Talbot's first public work was in connection with the fair held in 1859 for the Boston Homeopathic Medical Dispensary. In spite of cares incident to a large household and of limited health, she actively cooperated during the succeeding years with her husband in his labors as editor of the New England Medical Gazette and general secretary of the American Institute of Homoeopathy. Later the organization of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital led to her participation in
various successful efforts to secure funds for its support. She was appointed by
the Governor of Massachusetts a member of the first Board of Trustees of the West-
borough Insane Hospital and helped devise more humane methods for the care of the
insane than were at the time practiced elsewhere. She continued to hold office
until the end of her life. The value of her services, as well as those of her hus-
band, was recognized by the Trustees in the naming of a new building. Honorary
associate membership in the American Institute of Homeopathy was conferred upon
her in 1887. She was organizer and first president of "The Meissen," a society
connected with the Institute and of "The Maternity," an adjunct of the Homeopathic
Hospital.

Her initiative and organizing power were shown also in her leadership in 1877
in the establishment of the Boston Latin School for Girls, which for the first time
offered in Boston the facilities for college preparation which had been open to
boys since 1636. Together with Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, she organized
the Round Table of Boston, a social and literary club of great distinction of which
she remained secretary until her death. She was for several years an active direc-
tor of the Massachusetts Infant Asylum. As secretary of the Education Department of
the American Social Science Association, she personally consulted with Charles Dar-
win, and together with Dr. William T. Harris gave the first real impetus to child
study in the United States. Through her daughters, who were students in the College
of Liberal Arts of Boston University, Mrs. Talbot became deeply interested in the
efforts made by young women to secure a college education in spite of the handicaps
of poverty. In order to help find ways and means to relieve these struggles, she
gave active aid in organizing the Massachusetts Society for the University Education
of Women and served on its Board of Directors for several years.

Her husband found her an able coadjutor in his duties as dean of Boston Univer-
sity, School of Medicine, the first university medical school open to men and women
on equal terms.

Her home was frequented by men and women of distinction — musicians, artists, writers, scientists, educators and philanthropists, as well as by struggling young students who gained inspiration and courage from the hospitality of a charming home and the privilege of meeting there and listening to many noted persons.

Mrs. Talbot's outstanding contribution to future generations was, however, her plan for the cooperation of the college women of the country in widening the educational opportunities for women and in enabling the graduates to make the best use of their training through mutual deliberation and counsel. It was from this suggestion made in October, 1881, that the Association of Collegiate Alumnae arose and enabled a fruitful and significant chapter in American educational history to be written.

Mrs. Talbot died at her summer home in Holderness, New Hampshire, on October 29, 1900, the anniversary of her wedding day and of the birthday of her husband, who had died the preceding year, July 2, 1899.

The actual significance of this record lies in its interpretation. It serves as a partial measure of her power of initiative, whose richest fruits were seen in her influence on young people in opening new paths to them and in giving them courage and hope in forming and realizing high ideals of character and achievement.
May Wright Sewall

May Wright Sewall, president of the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae, 1886-1887 and again 1888-1889, was born at Milwaukee, Wisconsin May 27, 1844. Her father, Philander Wright, a man of unusual intellectual quality, took especial care of his precocious child's education. It is said that she read Milton at the age of seven. Studying in public schools and with her father she began her teaching in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and it was from her teaching profession that she entered Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois graduating with the degree of A.B. in 1866. After a few years of teaching she married Edwin Thompson and together they continued their teaching until Mr. Thompson's death not long after their marriage. In October, 1880, Mrs. Thompson married Theodore L. Sewall, the founder of a classical school for boys in Indianapolis. In their early life together Mr. Sewall left the boys' school and with Mrs. Sewall founded the Girls' Classical School of Indianapolis, one of the leading girls' preparatory schools in the middle west. After Mr. Sewall's death Mrs. Sewall continued to carry on her school in addition to her widespread interest in all kinds of organizations, especially those which concerned the welfare of women. Her extraordinary ability and capacity for leadership speedily led to her association with national and with international organizations. As president of the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae she helped to organize that Association and when it was merged in 1889 with the Association of Collegiate Alumnae she continued her interest in the enlarged organization. Her services to the Association of Collegiate Alumnae find expression, not only in the national Association, but in the Indiana Branch (now the Indianapolis Branch) with which she was long affiliated. Mrs. Sewall died in Indianapolis on July 22, 1920. She was, so says her friend Amelia
Waring Platter, "first, last, and all the time an educator in the literal sense of that much abused word — one who led others out into wider activity and more abundant life......... Her whole life was a struggle for opportunity — wider and wider opportunity, especially for women."
ABBY LEACH
President 1899-1901

Le Baron Russell Briggs, one-time president of Radcliffe College, in an
article entitled "An Experiment in Faith," published in the Atlantic Monthly
for January, 1929, used these words:

"The unconscious stimulus of the Gilmans' dream was a normal, vigorous,
and capable girl who, a year before the Annex was founded, had appeared
in Cambridge and had surprised three Harvard professors into accepting her
as a private pupil. Almost before they knew it Professors Goodwin, Child,
and J. B. Greenough had agreed to teach her in Greek, English, and Latin,
respectively. She surprised them again by her scholarship. She knew
what she wanted, deserved it, got it, and used it well (in later life she
was Professor Abby Leach of Vassar College)."

In 1907, when Miss Leach appeared on the platform at Radcliffe College to
present a paper to the A. O. A., the appropriateness of her appearance was comment-
ed on by the President, Mrs. Moore, who said she was called the "Nucleus" at
Radcliffe.

Miss Leach's classical studies were continued at the University of Leipsig.
She began her work at Vassar College in 1883 as instructor in Greek and Latin. In
1885, the College conferred upon her the degrees A. B., A. M. She gave the College
devoted service until her death, December 29, 1918. As soon as she became eligible
to membership, she joined the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, but held no office
until 1897, when she became a member of the Council to Accredit Women for Advanced
Work in Foreign Universities. She held this position until the work was discontinued
in . She served as president for the term 1899-1901. She was the repre-
sentative of Vassar College on the Standing Committee on Membership from 1903 to
1905, and was director from the New York Branch from 1905 to 1909. In 1909 she was
chosen as chairman of the Committee on Fellowships and held that arduous post with
distinction and devoted enthusiasm until 1914. Throughout her connection with the
Association her high ideals of scholarship and the value of the intellectual life were a constant source of strength and a powerful influence in the efforts the Association was making to promote advanced scholarship. The very titles of her addresses give some clue to the standards she maintained:

The Ideal Curriculum for a Woman's College
Some Present Needs in Education
The True Test of the Worth of Education
Hindrances to the Intellectual Life in College

Professor Leach was a member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens from 1888 until her death. She was president of the American Philological Association 1898-1900, a member of the Classical Association of Great Britain, of the Classical Association of the Middle States and Maryland, the Archeological Institute of America and the Woman's University Club of New York. In 1908, she received a gold cup from the Emperor of Japan inscribed with the imperial flower as a token of the imperial good will and in appreciation of her interest in the development of education in Japan.

Soon after her death a writer in the _Vassar Quarterly_ described some of her qualities in the following words:

"Paramount in Miss Leach's life was belief in the permanent reality of the things of the mind. Therein she held firmly to the precept of the New England ancestry of which she came that conceived education to be one of God's greatest gifts. For sound intellectual work in any field whatsoever, she had earnest respect, displayed again and again in her readiness to help promising students on to advanced study in some chosen line.....The full use of mental powers, the achievement of something real in the way of study, the blotting out of the mark of the dabbling amateur on woman's intellectual record, these were with her considerations of the greatest moment......All learning was, indeed, in her judgment, admirable. But to that branch of the humanities in which her professional life was spent she gave her heart and soul.....Many are the privileged pupils who can tell.....how they were directed to fields of worthy endeavor by the example of her devotion to classical scholarship."

It is not difficult to form from such words an estimate of the value of her influence in the Association.
Laura Drake Gill

President 1907-1911

Laura Drake Gill's life was full of interesting and varied experiences, one following another so simply and naturally that each was taken for granted and little publicity grew to it. She was born in Chesterville, Mass, August 24, 1860. She received the bachelor's degree from Smith College in 1881 and the master's degree in 1885. Her work as a teacher of mathematics began at once on leaving college and except for more than two years spent in study in Europe.
Geneva and the Sorbonne. She taught at the Northampton Classical School for Girls and Miss Caperio's School until 1898. She left Northampton to join in Red Cross work during the Spanish-American war and later was active in educational and relief work for Cuban orphans. In 1901 she was chosen dean of Barnard College and served in that office until 1908. She was chairman of the education committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1909 to 1911. Organized the first vocational bureau for college women under the auspices of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston from 1909 to 1911.
engaged in organization work in the University of the
South, which granted her the
degree D.C.L. in 1907. Served
as agent of the United States
Employment Service of the
Department of Labor in 1918
and spent the last years of
her life at Pine Mountain
Settlement, Kentucky, and
in Berea, Kentucky, where
in spite of failing health
and much suffering she did
some of the most valuable work
of her life. She died at Berea
February 3, 1936.

Her connection with the
Association began shortly
after it was organized but
she occupied no official posi-
tion until 1894 when she became
a member of the Committee for Colleigate Information and Educational Progress, a position she held for five years. On October 25, 1896, she presented a paper on "The New Opportunities for Women in the Universities of Germany," which led to her appointment as chairman of a committee to consider forming a council to advise with women alumnae concerning the achievement of advanced work in European universities and aid in securing some guarantee of their qualifications and earnestness. The Committee proposed a definite plan and Miss Gill became chairman of the External Committee of the Council to accredit women for advanced work in foreign universities. In October 1901 she presented to the
Association an account of the

Western Trip of the Cuban Teachers

In November 1903, while dean of Barnard College, she was elected to the office of General Secretary of the Association. In this important position, she

proposed and in part carried out valuable improvements in the business procedures of the Association. But unfortunately on account of ill health, she was obliged to resign her office in October 1905. In 1907 she again took up active service for the Association, and until

representative of the Association, she became president of the School Normal Department of the National Education Association. The Association of Collegiate Alumnae had been largely instrumental in establishing
Her final service to the Association was as its president, a position she held from 1907 to 1911. During this term the Association gained greatly in national scope as is indicated by the fact that the annual meetings were held successively in Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Denver, and New York.
Bessie Bradwell's parentage foretold her career. Her father, Judge James H. Bradwell, was a man of learning and high character and a warm advocate of the advancement of women. Her mother, Myra Bradwell, was the first woman in the United States to apply for admission to the Bar. Although denied this recognition, the Supreme Court of Illinois granted her a license as attorney and counsellor-at-law. She devoted her knowledge and ability to securing the recognition of the equal rights of women before the law. She founded, edited and managed the Chicago Legal News, the first legal journal in the West and one of the best in the United States. She was pronounced before the Illinois State Bar Association the foremost woman of her time in the department of civil law and jurisprudence.

It was natural that the daughter, Bessie, should follow in the footsteps of her parents. After graduating from Northwestern University in 1880, she received the degree of A. M. in 1882. The same year she completed her course at Union College of Law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar. She became assistant editor of the Chicago Legal News in 1894 and chief editor in 1907, as well as president of the company which owned it. From 1905 to 1923 she was editor of Hurd's Revised Statutes of Illinois and, in addition, she edited nine volumes of the appellate court reports. She thus justified the efforts made by her mother to secure recognition for women in the profession of law. Many other activities appealed to her interest, but she gave of her strength and thought most generously to the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. She was an early member of the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae and after its union with the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, her first official act was the presentation of her report as director for Illinois. Her character and personality made an immediate impression on the Association and she was chosen to be its president for 1890-91. She was also president of the Chicago Branch in 1894-95. Her outstanding contribution to the Association was, however, her work in connection with the fellowships. The Western Association had been supporting an American fellowship and after the union in 1889 the Association of Collegiate Alumnae voted to continue it and also establish a European fellowship. Mrs. Helmer was made a
member of the Committee on American Fellowship. The following year this committee as such was discontinued and all the fellowship work was put in charge of one committee under the chairmanship of Alice Freeman Palmer. Mrs. Helmer was a member and the following year became chairman and held that onerous post until 1905 when a system of rotation in office was adopted. In the Register for 1892-93 appears Mrs. Helmer's report of the Committee on Fellowships, the first of a remarkable series which, when presented to the Association, always called forth both official and informal appreciation and which make a notable contribution to the early history of graduate study by American women. The immense amount of labor and effort involved in raising the needed funds, in spreading interest in advanced scholarships and in the difficult task of selecting from the numerous candidates those best qualified and most promising can be realized in no more effective way than by quoting some phrases from the formal votes passed by the Association on hearing the annual reports; such as, "generous labors," "profound and deepest thanks for the unceasing work and great enthusiasm with which she has carried on this labor," "warm recognition of the untiring efforts of the Committee to secure the necessary funds," "expression of special appreciation of the work involved in getting together the interesting information about our fellows." A modest item appeared in each financial report for fifteen years. It read, "printing, etc. donated by James E. Bradwell."

Long years have passed since the two fellowships of $500.00 and $350.00 each were granted as the result of strenuous and unremitting effort on the part of Mrs. Helmer and her colleagues, but they are not long enough to measure the gap between these meagre stipends and the dream and realization of a million dollar endowment for fellowships for women. That such an undertaking could ever have been conceived was due in no small measure to the pioneer faith and undaunted courage of Bessie Bradwell Helmer.
member of the Committee on American Fellowship. The following year this committee as such was discontinued and all the fellowship work was put in charge of one committee under the chairmanship of Alice Freeman Palmer. Mrs. Helmer was a member and the following year became chairman and held that onerous post until 1906 when a system of rotation in office was adopted. In the Register for 1892-93 appears Mrs. Helmer's report of the Committee on Fellowships, the first of a remarkable series which, when presented to the Association, always called forth both official and informal appreciation and which make a notable contribution to the early history of graduate study by American women. The immense amount of labor and effort involved in raising the needed funds, in spreading interest in advanced scholarships and in the difficult task of selecting from the numerous candidates those best qualified and most promising can be realized in no more effective way than by quoting some phrases from the formal votes passed by the Association on hearing the annual reports; such as, "generous labors," "profound and deepest thanks for the unceasing work and great enthusiasm with which she has carried on this labor," "warm recognition of the untiring efforts of the Committee to secure the necessary funds," "expression of special appreciation of the work involved in getting together the interesting information about our fellows." A modest item appeared in each financial report for fifteen years. It read, "printing, etc., donated by James B. Bradwell."

Long years have passed since the two fellowships of $500.00 and $350.00 each were granted as the result of strenuous and unceasing effort on the part of Mrs. Helmer and her colleagues, but they are not long enough to measure the gap between these meager stipends and the dream and realization of a million dollar endowment for fellowships for women. That such an undertaking could ever have been conceived was due in no small measure to the pioneer faith and undaunted courage of Bessie Bradwell Helmer.
I am pleased to inform you of my recent research findings in the field of quantum mechanics. In my latest study, I have discovered a new phenomenon that challenges the current understanding of particle behavior. This discovery, if validated, could revolutionize our approach to quantum theory.

The phenomenon I have observed is not only of theoretical interest but also has potential practical applications. In particular, I believe it could be used to develop new technologies that are currently beyond our reach. I am currently working on a detailed report of my findings, which I plan to submit for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

I am eager to share more details with you and would be happy to discuss my results in more depth. Please let me know if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]
SOPHONISBA BRECKINRIDGE

Social worker, educator, author, fighter for tolerance and humanity, Miss Breckinridge has become in recent years a unique and unforgettable figure. She was one of the first among us to join in the struggle for human rights. Most of those who fought at her side are gone. Although she has herself completed an almost unbelievable volume of work, in our cherished memories she walks hand in hand with the "greats" of a former day—Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, and all of the other pioneers of the Conference on Human Welfare. Many things have changed since she joined the University of Chicago faculty in 1902, but with unflagging courage and undiminished vision she carries on, leaving in her wake, in the thousands of young people she has trained and led into progressive channels of social thinking and action, an ever-expanding influence.


The following quote from her selected documents on "Public Welfare Administration in the United States" may serve as a key to her social philosophy: "However, of social life, with its resulting intimacy with the increased intricacy of association and growing conscience of the community it is important that there be a widening appreciation of the true bases under which the government operates. There is needed also a sufficiently exact knowledge of the situation and a clear purpose when the governmental structure proves unsuited to the purposes of a modern, humane, civilized community so to alter it as to adapt it to those ends."
Before bestowing this award on Miss Breckinridge I must read to/a portion of a letter I received from Miss Charlotte Whitton of Canada who was the guest speaker at the Annual Luncheon of last year's Conference. She said:

"Rarely in the welfare story of our traditions in the British Isles, in the United States or in Canada, has it been given to any two people, and particularly to any two women, to have had such a direct and formative influence on the social institutions of their time, as has been granted to Miss Abbott and Miss Breckinridge. Their influence has extended from the school, which is so largely their creation, through every state of the Union and onward into this Dominion, and in fact, from our influence into the other Dominions and into our close association with the Welfare Services and structure of the United Kingdom and of the British Commonwealth at large. Their contribution, however wide though it has been in this day, will only enlarge and extend through years that we shall not see, to the enduring betterment of life in in this rapidly developing period of community welfare responsibility and far into a changing future. Miss Abbott and Miss Breckinridge have brought more than intelligence, more than courage, for they have brought character and integrity and a broad warm comprehension of humanity to their social research and the exposition of truth wherever the facts led. I only wish that I could be with you for this occasion. No words could perhaps be more applicable than Kipling's:

'Now praise we famous men,  
Ancients of the college.  
For they taught us common sense,  
God's own truth and common sense,  
Which is more than knowledge.'"

(Mr. Hilliard read the citation to Miss Breckinridge for public service, particularly in the area of social action and education. Refer to frontispiece.)

Miss Breckinridge, it is with a feeling of deep satisfaction that I bestow this citation upon you for outstanding and meritorious work in the field of social welfare.

Miss Breckinridge responded briefly in what was generally considered the outstanding address of the conference.
CITATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

THE

ILLINOIS WELFARE ASSOCIATION

at this, its Fifty-first Annual Conference, assembled at Peoria, Illinois November 15—November 18, 1946

confers this testimonial of its esteem and respect upon

SOPHONISBA P. BRECKINRIDGE

for outstanding achievement and distinguished service in the field of social welfare during the past decade, for constant effort on behalf of the underprivileged, unfortunate, destitute and handicapped residents of Illinois, for unremitting devotion to the cause of social justice, and for unfailing leadership and superb direction, particularly in the area of social action and education.

Presented on recommendation of the Illinois Welfare Association Award Committee.

Raymond M. Hilliard
President

William E. Skadden
Executive Secretary

November 17, 1946
On November 17, 1946, the Illinois Welfare Association held its annual conference and dinner, with Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, George McKibbin, Joel D. Hunter, and Dr. David E. Lindstrom as guests of honor cited for distinguished and meritorious work in the field of social welfare. The president, R. M. Hilliard, presented each one in a few words as follows:

(Mr. Hilliard read the citation to Mr. McKibbin for public service, particularly in the area of law and public administration. The citation was similar to the one presented to Miss Breckinridge and reproduced on the frontispiece of this issue of Public Aid in Illinois.)

(Mr. Hilliard read the citation to Mr. Hunter for public service, particularly in the area of social action and community organization.)

(Mr. Hilliard read the citation to Dr. Lindstrom for public service particularly in the area of religion and rural welfare.)

(Mr. Hilliard read the citation to Miss Breckinridge for public service, particularly in the area of social action and education. Refer to frontispiece.)

He then read the citation.
Presiding officer at Preliminary Meeting, November 28, 1881, and Meeting for Organization, January 14, 1882.

Ellen Swallow was a true pioneer in the field of women's education. She was not only one of the early graduates of Vassar College (A.B. 1870; A.M. 1873), but she was the first woman to receive a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (S.B. 1873) and the only woman to serve on its instructional staff.

Her marriage to Robert H. Richards, professor of mining engineering at the Institute widened still further her interest in science. Her election as the first woman member of the Association of Mining Engineers and her active participation with Dr. Thomas M. Dunham in making a sanitary survey of the waters of Massachusetts aided in giving her a world-wide reputation among scientists. Her keen insight into the physical and social needs of the community, together with her fine technical and scientific training, made her an outstanding figure in the group of those who were seeking human betterment. There could be no question but that she was the woman who must first pass upon the soundness of Mrs. Emily Talbot's suggestion that the college women of the country unite to do educational work. To her, accordingly, Mrs. Talbot's daughter went for conference. There was no hesitation on Mrs. Richards' part. Together they issued the call for the first meeting, held on November 28, 1881, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was attended by seventeen women graduates from Oberlin, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley Colleges and Boston, Cornell, Michigan and Wisconsin Universities. Naturally, Mrs. Richards presided and was the helpful counsellor of those who made arrangements for a succeeding meeting at which the Association of Collegiate Alumnae was organized and a constitution adopted. This meeting took place on January 14, 1882, at Chauncy Hall School, Boston. Again Mrs. Richards presided and guided the discussion with the candor, fairmindedness and sympathy which marked all her relations with her co-workers.

It was characteristic of Mrs. Richards that after the Association was successfully
started she should prefer not to accept conspicuous official positions and should serve rather as a high private wherever opportunity served or duty called. She was, however, a director during the first year and first vice-president in 1886 and again in 1899. She served as chairman or active member of many committees, including Health in Preparatory Schools, Fellowships, Paris Exhibit, Collegiate Administration, Economic Efficiency of Women, Living Wage of College Women, and National University; in fact, there were few committees and officers who did not depend on her for counsel and advice. It would be impossible to enumerate those achievements of the Association whose first impulse came from her or whose successful completion was due in large measure to the clearness of her vision and the steadiness of her purpose. However, varied the forms they took, they may be classified under a few general heads; viz., health, graduate study and home economics.

The records of the Association show that the first subject studied was the health of college students, which had been the chief object of attack by those opposed to the higher education of women. She was in large part responsible for the first circular issued which presented in a vivid form the low standards of the colleges in regard to physical education and made a very strong plea for greater attention to the physical basis of the college students' life. Later she prepared a leaflet on "Health in Preparatory Schools" with blanks to be filled in by teachers and parents. These were widely distributed by the Association and there was much evidence that the suggestions presented proved useful although no statistics were ever compiled from the returns. The following year she led in a discussion on the effects of the amusements and occupations of girls on their school life and, as usual, her criticisms were trenchant.

The second subject taken up by the Association was graduate study and here again for many years Mrs. Richards was a constant source of inspiration. She was the one who proposed and outlined the circular on graduate study and during a period of several years arranged for the distribution among college women of 1,400 circulars of the Society to Encourage Studies at Home, of whose scientific courses she was in
charge. Later she cooperated actively in establishing the European Fellowship and was a member of the Council to Accredit Women for Advanced Work in Foreign Universities. Closely allied with these activities was her chairmanship of the Research Prize Committee of the Association for Maintaining the American Woman's Table at the Zoological Station at Naples and for Promoting Scientific Research by Women, an enterprise in which the Association of Collegiate Alumnae took an active part for several years. She was one of the members who organized the Sanitary Science Club of the Association and from that time on she constantly kept before the Association the importance of the scientific aspects of housekeeping. The first formal paper by her was presented in 1890 on "The Relation of College Women to Domestic Science," and later followed papers on "Household Industries outside the Home," "Shall the College Curriculum be Modified for Women?" "Practical Suggestions for Applied Economics and Sociology in the College Curriculum," and "Desirable Tendencies in Education for Women." The emphasis she placed on the scientific aspects of housekeeping was gradually modified as she realized more fully the social significance of the household. She suggested the term "Euthenics" which she described as "the science of controllable environment" or "the betterment of living conditions through conscious endeavor for the purpose of securing efficient human beings." She urged the Association to promote an interest in the subject and the last office she held was chairman of the Committee on Euthenics, from 1909 until her death on March 30, 1911. It would have been a matter of great pride to have known that in 1929 her Alma Mater, Vassar College, would dedicate the Blodgett Hall of Euthenics and thus honor her pioneer labors. It was fitting that her contributions to the developments and success of the Association should be recognized at the meeting when honorary memberships were conferred for the first time. The wide range of her scientific activities and contributions to human well-being was a great asset to the Association. Its members were of the throng that passed in a steady stream into her office at the Institute of Technology seeking and finding counsel on an amazing variety of problems. Her sister-in-law, Laura E. Richards, fitly said in the tribute to her memory: "A light is quenched; but ere it paled, it lit a hundred torches' flame."
Alice E. Freeman was born in Colesville, New York, February 21, 1855, and died in Paris, December 6, 1902. Her life of forty-seven years was one of large vision and wise and devoted service to the cause of education. Her early training through force of circumstances had not been thorough, but when she presented herself for admission to the University of Michigan, President Angell asked that she be admitted on his personal responsibility and she graduated in 1876 among the first in a class of seventy-six, although for part of the time she was engaged in teaching as well as studying. After two years as principal of the high school at East Saginaw, Michigan, she was called, in 1879, to a professorship in history at Wellesley College. Two years more and, in a crisis at the college, she was suddenly made acting president. A few weeks later, on November 21, 1881, a conference was called in Boston to consider the suggestion that in the young but rapidly growing body of women college graduates of the country lay great power for the promotion of the educational interests of women. To this conference went Alice E. Freeman, then in her twenty-seventh year, turning for the moment from the cares of the presidency of Wellesley College, a post which was shortly to be made permanent. It was characteristic of her sagacity and far-sightedness as an administrative officer and educator that, in spite of the burdens she was carrying, she should feel the importance and wide-reaching possibilities of this untried movement. It was characteristic of her faith, her courage, and her insight, that in the little group of seventeen women from eight different colleges, called for the purpose of forming an association of women college graduates, she should be one of the leaders. She made the original motion which led to the organization of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, on January 14, 1882, and this act well epitomizes her relation to the Association for the twenty years that followed. In all the measures taken which have developed this little group into an organization with over thirty
thousand members and four hundred seventy-five branches, scattered over the length
and breadth of the land, her voice was heard in council; her leadership was
positive, creative, real. She not only held from time to time its chief executive
offices, but she was continuously a leading member of its most important committees.

Her marriage in 1887 to Professor G. H. Palmer of Harvard University took her
from the presidency of Wellesley College, but her later activities as member of the
State Board of Education of Massachusetts, president of the International Institute
for Girls in Spain, advisory dean of women for three years at the newly organized
University of Chicago, trustee of many educational institutions, and social demands
of many kinds—none of these interests lessened her faith in the Association of
Collegiate Alumnae or in its possibilities for larger effectiveness. The story of
her influence can here be told but in brief.

When the constitution of the Association was under consideration, Mrs. Palmer
urged that the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee be always required for the
admitting of an institution to membership. From that day on, officially and un­
officially, her voice was continually heard in behalf of high collegiate standards
as the one requisite for membership. There are many who remember how boldly she
could withstand the demands made by those whose emotional zeal was too undiscriminat­ing
and who said, "Take all the colleges into your league; when you have gathered
them in, you will so encourage them that the preparatory departments will be cut
away, the corps of instruction will be strengthened, the funds of the institutions
will be increased to the degree necessary to maintain the true college—this, that,
and the other end will be achieved." There was no one who could say no, more gently
and yet more firmly than Mrs. Palmer. Soon after the Association was formed she made
an investigation in order to ascertain on what grounds the various states grant
charters giving the right to confer degrees, with the hope that the legislatures
would aid in the work of raising standards by refusing charters to inferior institu­
tions. It was found that no assistance could be gained from that source. Her interest
was awakened in the subject, and in later years it was due largely to her personal
and official influence that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took steps to protect the degree-conferring power by enacting that every petition to the legislature for a charter for an educational institution should thereafter be publicly advertised and reported to the State Board of Education.

She was a leader in the effort of the Association to fix public attention on the need of strengthening existing colleges and of discouraging the establishment of new institutions inadequately endowed. Her addresses and reports with reference to collegiate standards and methods form a brilliant contribution to the study of this subject.

An important matter to which she directed the attention of the Association was the need of better physical education for women in the colleges. The first publication of the Association was on this subject; of the four parts, the section addressed to parents was written by her. It shows conclusively her wide knowledge of existing conditions and her keen insight in recognizing dangers which, if not checked, threatened every interest of educated women. Her practical earnestness was shown in the distribution of literature on this subject among women students and friends of women's colleges, and in later years, her service was continued as the Association considered the subject in various modified forms.

The management and award of scholarship funds, the value of pedagogical training, and the methods of adapting the certificate system to high standards of scholarship were subjects whose importance she continually urged.

She brought to these activities unfailing insight and enthusiasm. The work which most claimed her interest was that of securing fellowships for women. At a time when many still questioned the practicability of collegiate education for women, when regular courses for the higher degrees were in general not accessible to women, and few fellowships were open to them, she acted on a suggestion made by one of the members, that the Association should undertake the establishment of fellowships. From that time, with ardor tempered by discrimination, she labored to open to women new approaches to advanced scholarship. Her successor as chairman of the
Fellowship Committee (Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer) said, "During all the years of the work, in the midst of discouragement and trials, she was fertile in resource, quick to respond, most helpful with suggestions; while in the arousing of public interest and in the securing of funds, she rendered most valuable aid." When in 1896 she finally withdrew from official connection with the Committee on Fellowships, it was to promote the same interest through the Woman's Education Association of Boston, an organization in whose exceptional work for education she for ten years took an active part as its president. She effected in this way a union of forces which brought about large results, and she planned a far-reaching work which both associations have felt it their privilege to support loyally.

It was always on her aid that the Association relied at a difficult juncture. When it became evident that the organization of the Association stood in need of change with a view to unifying its various forces, conserving its effort and extending its influence, the Association turned again to Mrs. Palmer. She accepted the new office of General Secretary or executive officer of the Association with power to direct and supervise its policy. This act was typical. In referring to it, her successor in the presidency of the Association, Mrs. Helen Hiscock Backus, voiced the general opinion of Mrs. Palmer's character when, at the Memorial Meeting held in Boston, December 29, 1902, she said, "In this work, as in all others, when a new call for service came, it was never a question with her, 'Is it worth while for me to do this? Have I time for this?' but, 'Is it possible, in view of this or that undertaking to which I am already pledged, to do this work in the spirit in which it should be done?' Having once accepted a service, she wrought to the end with unflattering courage and the utmost devotion. In this consecrated courage lay one of the great secrets of her power. She could do perpetually, she could do more than any one else, she could do better than almost any one else—because the larger vision was always present with her. She never thought of herself. The smaller and more ignoble aspects of the work which she was called to do always sank into the proper perspective in her mind, because she looked above and through them to the great
ends to be accomplished, to the meaning of our responsibility to this great country."

So with characteristic devotion, she undertook the new duty, carrying fresh enthusiasm to many centres of work among its members, and laying aside its responsibilities only on her departure for Europe.

The record of her work in the Association brings into strong relief a trait which marks her as one of the great of her time. She was preeminently a seer. To persons, her gift was to reveal undreamed-of resources; to every organization which felt her power and influence, she disclosed visions of work to be done and good to be wrought. Nor had these visions anything quixotic about them. Her gracious manner and instant charm were balanced by a judgment which was sound and convincing. Great was her service, greater her inspiration.

Many to list the offices she held gives a hint of the variety of the津贴 year's service, ended only by her untimely death, which she rendered to the Association of Collegiate Alumnae.

Offices held by Alice Freeman Palmer

Member of Executive Committee - 1882-
Member of Committee on Graduate Study - 1882
Vice President - 1884
President - 1885-6
Chairman, Committee on Union with Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae - 1887
Vice President - 1889
President - 1889-90
Committee on Fellowship - 1889-1895
Committee on Endowment of Colleges - 1889
Committee on Admission of Colleges - 1889-93
Committee on Corporate Membership - 1896-1902
Committee on Collegiate Administration - 1891-1902
Representative of A. C. A. on Advisory Council of World's Fair Congress of Representative Women - 1892
Member of Council to Accredit Women for Advanced Work in Foreign Universities - 1899-1900
Incorporator - 1899
Committee on Finance and Publication - 1899-1902
Committee on Paris Exhibit - 1899-1900
Committee on Membership - 1900-02
General Secretary - 1901-02
Alice E. Freeman was born in Colesville, New York, February 31, 1855, and died in Paris, December 6, 1902. Her life of forty-seven years was one of large vision and wise and devoted service to the cause of education. Her early training through force of circumstances had not been thorough but when she presented herself for admission to the University of Michigan, President Angell asked that she be admitted on his personal responsibility and she graduated in 1876 among the first in a class of seventy-six, although for part of the time she was engaged in teaching as well as studying. After two years as principal of the high school at East Saginaw, Michigan, she was called, in 1879, to a professorship in history at Wellesley College. Two years more and, in a crisis at the college, she was suddenly made acting president. A few weeks later, on November 31, 1881, a conference was called in Boston to consider the suggestion that in the young but rapidly growing body of women college graduates of the country lay great power for the promotion of the educational interests of women. To this conference went Alice E. Freeman, then in her twenty-seventh year, turning for the moment from the cares of the presidency of Wellesley College, a post which was shortly to be made permanent. It was characteristic of her sagacity and far-sightedness as an administrative officer and educator that, in spite of the burdens she was carrying, she should feel the importance and wide-reaching possibilities of this untried movement. It was characteristic of her faith, her courage, and her insight, that in the little group of seventeen women from eight different colleges, called for the purpose of forming an association of women college graduates, she should be one of the leaders. She made the original motion which led to the organization of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, on January 14, 1882, and this act well epitomizes her relation to the Association for the twenty years that followed. In all the measures taken which have developed this little group into an organization with over thirty
thousand members and four hundred seventy-five branches, scattered over the length
and breadth of the land, her voice was heard in council; her leadership was
positive, creative, real. She not only held from time to time its chief executive
offices, but she was continuously a leading member of its most important committees.

Her marriage in 1887 to Professor G. H. Palmer of Harvard University took her
from the presidency of Wellesley College, but her later activities as member of the
State Board of Education of Massachusetts, president of the International Institute
for Girls in Spain, advisory dean of women for three years at the newly organized
University of Chicago, trustee of many educational institutions, and social demands
of many kinds—none of these interests lessened her faith in the Association of
Collegiate Alumnae or in its possibilities for larger effectiveness. The story of
her influence can here be told but in brief.

When the constitution of the Association was under consideration, Mrs. Palmer
urged that the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee be always required for the
admitting of an institution to membership. From that day on, officially and unof
officially, her voice was continually heard in behalf of high collegiate standards
as the one requisite for membership. There are many who remember how boldly she
could withstand the demands made by those whose emotional zeal was too undiscriminat
ing and who said, "Take all the colleges into your league; when you have gathered
them in, you will so encourage them that the preparatory departments will be cut
away, the corps of instruction will be strengthened, the funds of the institutions
will be increased to the degree necessary to maintain the true college—this, that,
and the other end will be achieved." There was no one who could say no, more gently
and yet more firmly than Mrs. Palmer. Soon after the Association was formed she made
an investigation in order to ascertain on what grounds the various states grant
charters giving the right to confer degrees, with the hope that the legislatures
would aid in the work of raising standards by refusing charters to inferior institu
tions. It was found that no assistance could be gained from that source. Her interest
was awakened in the subject, and in later years it was due largely to her personal
and official influence that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took steps to protect
the degree-conferring power by enacting that every petition to the legislature for
a charter for an educational institution should thereafter be publicly advertised
and reported to the State Board of Education.

She was a leader in the effort of the Association to fix public attention on
the need of strengthening existing colleges and of discouraging the establishment
of new institutions inadequately endowed. Her addresses and reports with reference
to collegiate standards and methods form a brilliant contribution to the study of
this subject.

An important matter to which she directed the attention of the Association
was the need of better physical education for women in the colleges. The first
publication of the Association was on this subject; of the four parts, the section
addressed to parents was written by her. It shows conclusively her wide knowledge
of existing conditions and her keen insight in recognising dangers which, if not
checked, threatened every interest of educated women. Her practical earnestness
was shown in the distribution of literature on this subject among women students
and friends of women's colleges, and in later years, her service was continued as
the Association considered the subject in various modified forms.

The management and award of scholarship funds, the value of pedagogical train-
ing, and the methods of adapting the certificate system to high standards of scholar-
ship were subjects whose importance she continually urged.

She brought to these activities unfailing insight and enthusiasm. The work
which most claimed her interest was that of securing fellowships for women. At
a time when many still questioned the practicability of collegiate education for
women, when regular courses for the higher degrees were in general not accessible to
a woman, and few fellowships were open to them, she acted on a suggestion made by one
of the members, that the Association should undertake the establishment of fellow-
ships. From that time, with arid temper, by discrimination, she labored to open
to women new approaches to advanced scholarship. Her successor as chairman of the
Fellowship Committee (Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Holmer) said, "During all the years of the work, in the midst of discouragement and trials, she was fertile in resource, quick to respond, most helpful with suggestions; while in the arousing of public interest and in the securing of funds, she rendered most valuable aid." When in 1896 she finally withdrew from official connection with the Committee on Fellowships, it was to promote the same interest through the Woman's Education Association of Boston, an organization in whose exceptional work for education she for ten years took an active part as its president. She effected in this way a union of forces which brought about large results, and she planned a far-reaching work which both associations have felt it their privilege to support loyally.

It was always on her aid that the Association relied at a difficult juncture. When it became evident that the organization of the Association stood in need of change with a view to unifying its various forces, conserving its effort and extending its influence, the Association turned again to Mrs. Palmer. She accepted the new office of General Secretary or executive officer of the Association with power to direct and supervise its policy. This act was typical. In referring to it, her successor in the presidency of the Association, Mrs. Helen Hiscock Backus, voiced the general opinion of Mrs. Palmer's character when, at the Memorial Meeting held in Boston, December 29, 1902, she said, "In this work, as in all others, when a new call for service came, it was never a question with her, 'Is it worth while for me to do this? Have I time for this?' but, 'Is it possible, in view of this or that undertaking to which I am already pledged, to do this work in the spirit in which it should be done?' Having once accepted a service, she wrought to the end with un-faltering courage and the utmost devotion....In this consecrated courage lay one of the great secrets of her power. She could do perpetually, she could do more than any one else, she could do better than almost any one else—because the larger vision was always present with her. She never thought of herself. The smaller and more ignoble aspects of the work which she was called to do always sank into the proper perspective in her mind, because she looked above and through them to the great
ends to be accomplished, to the meaning of our responsibility to this great country."

So with characteristic devotion, she undertook the new duty, carrying fresh enthusiasm to many centres of work among its members, and laying aside its responsibilities only on her departure for Europe.

The record of her work in the Association brings into strong relief a trait which marks her as one of the great of her time. She was preeminently a seer. To persons, her gift was to reveal undreamed-of resources; to every organization which felt her power and influence, she disclosed visions of work to be done and good to be wrought. Nor had these visions anything quixotic about them. Her gracious manner and instant charm were balanced by a judgment which was sound and convincing. Great was her service, greater her inspiration.

**Offices held by Alice Freeman Palmer**

- Member of Executive Committee - 1882-
- Member of Committees on Graduate Study - 1882
- Vice President - 1884
- President - 1885-86
- Chairman, Committee on Union with Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae - 1887
- Vice President - 1889
- President - 1889-90
- Committee on Fellowship - 1889-1895
- Committee on Endowment of Colleges - 1889
- Committee on Admission of Colleges - 1889-93
- Committee on Corporate Membership - 1892-1902
- Committee on Collegiate Administration - 1891-1902
- Representative of A. G. A. on Advisory Council of World’s Fair Congress of Representative Women - 1893
- Member of Council to Accredit Women for Advanced Work in Foreign Universities - 1893-1899
- Incororator - 1899
- Committee on Finance and Publication - 1899-1902
- Committee on Paris Exhibit - 1899-1900
- Committee on Membership - 1900-02
- General Secretary - 1901-02
When a person of distinction passes beyond human ken and the years crowd in and dim the memories of human contacts, the figure gradually becomes more impersonal, more austere, a veil of impassiveness seems to enshroud it and later generations gradually lose all knowledge of the personal traits which were endearing. It is because of this fact that I am glad to respond to the request for some personal reminiscences of my dear friend, Alice Freeman, especially at a time when at her Alma Mater the young scholars are thinking of her as the College President and are associating her in their minds with the memorial gift of a professorship of history.

It was my good fortune to be very closely associated with her when the Association of Collegiate Alumnae was first organized. She was then twenty-six years old and had just become acting president of Wellesley College. For several years we served together, she as president at two different times and at other times as a director and I as secretary. I had, therefore, an unusual opportunity to observe one of her most striking gifts, that of always having plenty of time to give counsel and help, no matter how heavy her own responsibilities might be. I have often thought with amazement of the leisurely and happy hours we spent in her room at Wellesley College, making plans for the Association, for I had occasion to know better than many, of the perplexing problems connected with the College which were constantly confronting her. Even after her marriage to Professor Palmer, who had long been known by my father and mother, and her removal to Cambridge, we had many experiences in common, even though she had substituted a trusteeship for the presidency, had become a member of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, and had assumed countless new interests. Professor Palmer has written of "her perpetual mingling of sobriety and play" and it was ever at its best in the atmosphere of dignity and charm of the Cambridge home.

The time came when she and I journeyed to Chicago, she as the advisory dean of women of the new University of Chicago, to be in residence for
twelve weeks of each year, and I to be dean in residence during the regular
University year. It was during these weeks of intimate companionship that I
learned to admire her sense of fun. Living conditions were extremely hard,
we were busy getting order out of chaos for the unexpectedly large number of
students who had thrown in their lot with the new University, and we were
sharing with scholars drawn not only from many parts of the United States,
but from foreign countries as well, the responsibility of determining the
educational policies of the institution. Each day we had our separate duties
with long hours and baffling problems to solve. Never did her gaiety fail.
Many a difficulty was surmounted because of it.

My most vivid memory of that winter of 1892-3 is of our revels at mid-
night, or even later. She would return from a dinner or social gathering in
the city, which she had attended for the sake of arousing interest in the
new University. No matter at what hour she came in, no matter how tired I
was, I would tumble out of bed and into wrapper and slippers and while she
undressed we would talk each other the tales of the day's happenings and as
one funny incident after another was described by her in her inimitable way,
we would join in peals of laughter until we were almost convulsed. This might
last an hour, or even two, leaving us both refreshed and rested with a saner
view of our task than if we had taken it only in seriousness. She knew how easy
it would be to make matter of slight significance seem a calamity in view of
the nervous strain under which we were both working. A jest, a gay, contagious
laugh would save the day. It is this merry side of her nature that professor-
ships and memorial tablets and even chimes cannot perpetuate, but it is some-
thing which should not be forgotten.
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island  

Feb. 8, 1929

Dear Emeline Marion Talbot, etc.,

5720 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, IL:

My dear Miss Talbot: Deborah has referred your letter to me and we join in thanking you for the inquiry in relation to your old friend Annie Harris Barnes. I enclose a summary of events in her life as fully as I can recall them. Unfortunately I did not take part in her work, except incidentally and can not

[Handwritten text continues on the next lines]
give details with anything like the requisite accuracy, and they are left out for this reason. We tried on our best to induce Mrs. Barnes to write out an account of her life, even providing a secretary, but she did not prevail. This is a great pity inasmuch as she did an enormous amount of work both in Washington and in Providence of which nobody can give an adequately connected account.

It was pleasant to hear from you again personally, after so much water has run by underneath.
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

-3-

Ridge. We are now living with age of the quantum and of relativity and I for one feel like it. If there is anything else I can do pray command me. Again thanking you for your interest and courtesy.

Very truly yours,

Carl Malm
ANNE HOBBS BIBUS
President 1891-3.

The organization of the women college graduates of the country was a fact of great significance. It followed that the first extensive piece of work which they undertook was also of great significance. That it proved to be of great importance was due largely to Annie Howes. She was the outstanding figure in the attempt to meet with actual facts the rather widespread opinion that college training was physically harmful to women. She had graduated from Vassar College in 1874 and returned to her family in Boston. The claims and interests of her comfortable, well-ordered home and of the social group to which she belonged left her comparatively free, and when the call came for her to organize and carry out an extensive inquiry into the physical status of women who had completed a college course, her keen mind and active intelligence seized upon this opportunity to use the training she had received. Her method of approach was so sound and her formulated questions so impartial and comprehensive that the plan received at once the endorsement and support of Colonel Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, who placed the technical resources of the Bureau at the disposal of her committee and included the final results in the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau (1886). The revelation was satisfactory and encouraging and put a stop to vague and prejudiced theories. Moreover, it established the reputation of the Association as a seeker for “truth, broad truth.” The Association showed its regard for the way in which the study had been carried on by passing the following resolution at the meeting held in Brooklyn, New York, on October 31, 1885:

"The members of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae desire to place on record their appreciation of the work done by their associate, Miss Annie G. Howes, in securing data concerning the health of women college graduates. The wise foresight shown in planning the investigation, the time and strength freely and generously devoted to the task, and the patience and fidelity which, undaunted by delays and obstacles, have brought it to a satisfactory completion,
command our sincere admiration and gratitude."

It was in 1886 that the Boston Branch was organized and Miss Howe was chosen a director. On her marriage to Dr. Carl Barus and removal to Washington, D. C. in 1887, she was elected president of the Washington Branch and became thereby vice-president ex-officio of the Association. A change having been made in the constitution of the Association, she was elected first vice-president for 1890-91 and following this was chosen president for 1891-93. In 1895, the office of secretary was placed upon a somewhat different basis and Mrs. Barus was chosen to fill it. Two years later the offices of secretary and treasurer were combined into a single office with a modest salary and Mrs. Barus consented to fill the office temporarily. In the meantime, Dr. and Mrs. Barus had established their home in Providence, Rhode Island. In spite of growing domestic and social cares, Mrs. Barus held positions on various committees of the Association. She was a member of the Committee on Withdrawals from College 1899-91, chairman or member of the Committee on Study of Development of Children from 1891 to 1903, chairman of the Committee on National University 1894-95, and chairman of the very important Committee on Corporate Membership from 1899 to 1903. In 1898, she gave an interesting and suggestive paper on "The College Woman's Opportunity in Cooperative Work," which was published by the Association.

Her life, both in Washington and in Providence, was filled with the most varied activities. She not only participated in many public enterprises which were already established, but initiated new methods for promoting social welfare. Her courage and broad outlook were important factors in any community of which she was a member.

During the latter part of her life until her death in September, 1938, while maintaining her interest in the Association, she took no active part in it. Her service had been unstinted for many years. The indebtedness of the Association to her was even greater.
Annie Gertrude Howes was born July 29, 1854, in South Yarmouth, Cape Cod, of Quaker ancestry on her Mother's (Abigail Crowell) side.

Graduated Vassar, 1874, A.B., Student of History and Economics at the College de France under Renan and Leroy Beaulieu. (about 1876?)

President of Vassar Alumni Association.

President of the American Association of Collegiate Alumnae 1892-94.

Secretary, Treasurer of same 1895-98.

Married Dr. Carl Barus, Jan. 20, 1887 in Boston. Dr. Barus usually referred to her as his most cherished honorary degree, the highest which he had reached and the least deserved.


A.G.H. in her spinster days was a great traveler. She made three trips to Europe visiting England, Germany, Austria, Italy, France Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, at times as a guide to younger students. She even ventured on a long sea voyage on a sailing vessel doubling Cape Horn to Java and Japan, and a similar one to the Azores.

She contributed copiously to newspapers and magazines, articles relating to travel, social progress, child study, sanitation. Her paper on the Health of College Women is a standard.

A.G.H. was loyal to her native South Yarmouth, contributing time and thought to the village Improvement Society, to Women's and to Boy's Clubs, to Library work, etc.
CHIEFTAIN BONE

[Text not legible due to quality of the image]
In her earlier life A.H.B. had been almost equally active in Boston with Dean Marion Talbot, Miss Cushing, and others, and in Washington. In the latter city she took a prominent part with the great statistician, Carrol Wright, in the promotion of an Economic Association. She cooperated with Miss Fletcher in the Anthropological Society and with others in a great variety of national collegiate interests. It was there that Vassar and associated college alumnae often met and Miss Shinn's fine work in child study received encouragement. Shortly after her marriage Mrs. Barus assisted her husband in the physical laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey and with other work; but this soon proved uncongenial and was abandoned, though she had done chemical work before at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Ellen Richards. Dr. Barus and his wife had pronounced literary tastes in common, and both were liberal democratic cosmopolitans.

Her chief interests in Providence may be summarized as follows:

Kindergarten introduction into the schools. Vacation playgrounds for children supervised from 1895. Initiative in child study in Providence. Reciprocally in promoting the Mothers' Congress.

Public Education Association; cooperates as secretary with Alfred Stone, Professors Everett, Dealy, Stephen C. Edwards and other public spirited citizens. Disbands 1923 with a cash residue given to charity.

On the Advisory Committee of the Women's College, Brown University, with Miss Doyle and others. Success in building Pembroke Hall; contribution to Miller Hall, etc.

Elected by City of Providence as a member of the School Board.

Work in the promotion of the Providence division of the Consumer's League.

Prominent in the R. I. Women's Club.
Child Welfare Exhibit, promoted on a large scale (1913).

Engages in Child Labor bill activities. Receives pen from the Governor after signing the bill.

Work to improve the status of newsboys.

Contributes much thought to the inauguration of the Girls' Friendly Lodge.

Active with Mrs. Mead and others in Providence wartime local work in food conservation.

Active promotor in all woman suffrage work, in Providence and elsewhere.

Later, on the United League of Women Voters.

In many of these public enterprises Mrs. Barus took the initiative or even originated them; in all she supplied the dogged perseverance without which any attempt at social service is doomed to failure. And she did this quietly without ostentation wherever she saw that help within her reach was needed. She abandoned it only after increasing deafness and impaired eyesight, together with a premature hardening of the arteries compelled her to desist.