

Paul: help him, or go to the Charity Organization Society, which was organizing all the existing welfare groups. They were all independent you see. Church groups and civic groups and any group that was organized to help people in distress were all federated in this Charity Organization Society. So you would be sent to somebody who was needing medical attention and then you would try to call up the hospitals and so on that she might be eligible for and get her in and get it for her. Just all day long. So you got to know the city of New York in places which were sort of the underground places--not underground, but the under layer of people who were up against it. So all that summer I stayed there.

To the University of Pennsylvania, Fall of 1906

Paul: Then I decided that I didn't know very much. I was thoroughly convinced of that [laughter]. I had learned enough to know that I didn't know anything about this field, the political and economic field which, if I had known it existed in the beginning, I think I would have majored in always because that just was what I really was interested in. So I went to the University of Pennsylvania and enrolled as a graduate student.

Fry: That must have been the fall of 1906. Is that right?

Paul: Yes, because I graduated the School of Social Work in 1906 in the spring. And I'd had a certificate from it and all the things you get, you know. So I could have become a social worker, but I am certainly glad I never did that.

Then at the school of economics I took as my major, sociology and as my minor, political science and economics. And I kept on with those minors and majors until I finally took my doctorate degree, but I didn't start to take any degree excepting a master's degree, which I got the following spring, which was 1907.

Fry: Did you have to write a thesis?

Paul: Yes.

Fry: What did you write it on?

Paul: It was called "Toward Equality" and it was on the subject

Paul: of equality for women in Pennsylvania.

Fry: Was that the first time you had picked up this subject?

Paul: [pause] I was wondering. I'm not quite sure whether I took my master's degree. I could look it up in one of the old Who's Who. It has to be an old one because I suddenly began to get questionnaires from Who's Who and I filled them out for quite a number of years and then I decided that I didn't think much of this idea of Who's Who so I stopped sending any replies.

Fry: That's why I can't find you in any recent Who's Who.

Paul: Well, I didn't send anymore. I just didn't see why it was anybody's business, all these questions they ask you; there wasn't any conceivable reason for it. So I just didn't fill them out anymore. But I do have some old ones probably, and then I would remember what year I took my master's degree.

Fry: Well, I can check that out. Let me just make a note here to myself to see an old Who's Who.*

[Tape 1, Side B]

Paul: You asked me if I had written a thesis. I don't think I wrote a thesis that first year, is what made me suddenly pause. But of course I wouldn't remember very well about my thesis. Anyway, whether I took a degree or not, I took the courses anyway and passed all the examinations and everything, and felt just great joy in it. Especially this Professor Patton I felt was a great, great, great teacher. Simon Patton made a profound impression upon me.

Fry: Was he in economics?

Paul: Economics, yes.

Anyway at the end of the year I was given a scholarship--I suppose you call them, I really don't know what they call these things, or a fellowship--to someplace called Woodbrook in England. Now this College

*The 1922-23 Edition of Who's Who shows that the M.A. was awarded from the University of Pennsylvania, 1907.

Paul: Settlement one that [had] come to me, I hadn't known about it even and I hadn't asked for it; I was just awarded it. And it was more or less the same I think to Woodbrook. Because I don't know that I ever knew there was a place called Woodbrook in England. Woodbrook was a central training school for young Quakers in the field of public service and theology, and young Quakers, a very few of them, were selected in different countries to go there, and they gave you this quite liberal fellowship there. They paid all your expenses while you were living over there in the school. It was a one-year fellowship or scholarship, whatever the thing was called. So I received this just toward the end of my first year at the University of Pennsylvania.

I was very happy to go. [I left] the day, I think, of commencement or right immediately afterwards. Now at that time there were almost no women students at the University of Pennsylvania except in graduate school, and there were very few graduate students.

Fry: So you were kind of a rarity there?

Paul: Well, I was in the graduate school, and you weren't conscious of it there because the few girls that were there were in those classes and we got to know each other very well. It was a splendid, splendid group of young women whom I have kept in touch with nearly all my life.

More About Friends and Activities at Swarthmore

Fry: That is one of the things that I wanted to ask you: Who were the friendships that you formed at Swarthmore and at the University of Pennsylvania who meant the most to you, that you kept up with later in your life? I know Mabel Vernon was at Swarthmore. Were there any others who later on were active in the women's equality work with you?

Paul: Amelia Walker was. Her name was Amelia Himes when I knew her, a Swarthmore girl. She married a Robert Walker. She was a Quaker of course. She was a senior when I was a freshman and the loveliest person. I remember being in a Shakespearean play--by that time we were having these things at Swarthmore--and she was Ophelia, and I still can remember her being so beautiful