

[A black-and-white drawing of 9 young women, playing basketball. They are in a line, in various positions as though they were in the middle of a game. The girl on the left end is holding the ball in the area. The image is captioned: Basketball in the Smith College Gymnasium.]

LIFE AT A GIRLS' COLLEGE

The Smith girls a work and at play- Their college buildings, their studies and amusements, their secret societies, their customs and traditions.

[There is a black-and-white drawing to the left of the document of an older woman dressed what looks like graduation robes. She is wearing a black hat and has her hands clasped in front of her stomach.]

The claim is justly made for the old town of Northampton, Massachusetts, that it makes provision for a wide variety of earthly needs. It contains a lunatic asylum, an institute for the deaf and dumb, a water cure establishment- and a girls' college. In addition to these beneficent human agencies, the town is liberally endowed by nature with the gifts at her disposal. Not only is it most picturesquely placed on elevated ground near the bank of the Connecticut River, but it affords a wide view of the Connecticut valley, so that for charms within and without it is a spot to be remembered.

The town, which Smith College has made notable, consists of one principal street stretching out interminably. The college is situated at one end of the village, on an eminence commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. The buildings are well constructed, though unpretentious in comparison to some of the larger American universities. But the whole place is wonderfully attractive and homelike. It has more the appearance of a group of well kept private dwellings than that of a seat of learning, a place for work and study. And they do study, the daughters of "Fair Smith." In a manner that would put the average college man to shame. Yet if any one supposes that these young women are a set of "grinds," that they all wear glasses and masculine collars, and go about continually talking women's rights and political economy, he is vastly mistaken.

[A black-and-white drawing of boat scene with trees and plants on the edge of the river. In the boat, which appears to be a canoe, two women are sitting, one rowing and one reclining. They are both wearing a school uniform, which is a wide-brimmed straw hat, a white blouse and a long black skirt with a belt. The image is captioned " 'Paradise' in Summer. "]

[A black-and-white drawing of a snow-covered field. There are three buildings on a hill in the distance. There are clusters of trees, as well as a forest to the left. In front of the forest, in the field, there are several groups of people who appear to be playing games and talking. Towards the front of the drawing, there are two people standing together. One is a well-dressed woman, in a hat, heavy shawl, a white dress, and carrying a purse. The other is what appears to be a young man, who is facing away from the viewer, and is wearing a newsy cap and a suit. The image is captioned "'Paradise' in Winter."]

They are students, of course- otherwise they would not beat Smith- but they appreciate the maxim that "all work and no play makes Jill a dull girl," and they act upon it with good will.

No one ever accused the Smith girl of being dull. She blends work and fun in such happy proportions that to her life is always interesting. She is neither a bookworm nor an idler, but keen intellectual competition and wholesome physical activity combine to bring out all that is best in her. On any bright day the campus is an extremely interesting sight. From dawn til dark it is always full of life. They girls are continually flitting from one building to another, or meeting in groups on the smooth, well kept lawn.

Here's a group of just eleven,

Talking o'er a hard exam;

Here's a group of six or seven,

Eating ginger snaps and jam!

[A black-and-white drawing of an ivy-covered building. There are a few trees in the front of the building. The building itself is of an older style, with several windows and an arch-shaped doorway. The image is captioned "The Music Building."]

In the pleasant weather the "Smithians" rarely wear any headgear; or if they do, it is nothing but a "Tam-o'-Shanter." When the weather is cold, they slip over their shoulders a warm golf cape, which may be as easily slipped off again on entering a recitation room. The very sensible fashion prevails of wearing skirts that escape the group by two or three inches, while many of the girls fairly live in their bicycle costumes.

Found in 1871 by Sophia Smith, of Hatfield, Massachusetts, the college has long since outgrown the capacity of its own dormitories, but all about the grounds houses and cottages have sprung up, which during the college year, are devoted wholly to the use of the Smith girls. The campus houses are naturally more in demand than those who are anxious to obtain rooms in them.

The outside houses are beyond the jurisdiction of the college authorities, and the girls living in them have greater freedom than those living in the college buildings, for here such rules as "lights out at ten," "no breakfast if late," are more or less rigidly enforced.

A decided innovation in the dormitory life of Smith is handsome building which has recently been erected outside the campus. It is a massive pile of masonry that conveys the impression of having wandered from its foundation in some large city. It has all the modern conveniences, from steam heat and electric lights to an elevator with a boy in buttons. These “improvements” are all very well in their way; but when a girl surrounds herself with all the paraphernalia of hotel existence, she is apt to find that she is not quite in touch with that democratic spirit which is one of the greatest charms of the life at Smith. The cost of living in such a dormitory is, of course, greater than in the other houses, and so, naturally, occupants are regarded more or less as a class by themselves- as girls of means. Such a distinction is, of course, made unconsciously, but it exists nevertheless, and results in the formation of “cliques”—always an unfortunate feature of undergraduate life.

[Black-and-white drawing of an older building with a wrought iron gate in front of it. There are several shrubs in front of the building, as well as a tall tree. Leading up to the building, there is a path way that goes right to the front door. The building itself has many windows, most of which are shaped like arches. There is also a tower on the left side of the building. The image is captioned “The College Hall.”]

[A black-and-white drawing of a dorm room a two students. There are several posted, pictures, and a “’99” flag. One young woman with light hair is sitting at her desk, with her back facing the viewer. Another young woman with dark hair is sitting in a chair reading. They are both wearing dresses with puffy sleeves. There is a bookcase next to the woman with light hair, and a side table, as well as a bed covered with pillows. Next to the bed, there is a desk and a bookcase and a des with framed photos and a clock sitting atop them. The image is captioned “A Smith Girl’s Room.”]

[A black-and-white drawing of the inside of a chapel. It has high-vaulted ceilings with wooden beams and a chandelier. It has several rows of chairs lined up facing the organ in the back of the room. A woman is standing in the front of the drawing, in white church robes, with her hair tied into a low bun. She is facing to the left side of the viewer. The image is captioned “The Chapel.”]

In the campus houses such cliques can have no existence. The daughter of the man who owns two or three railroads has no better surroundings and no more comforts than the ambitious girl who is working her way through college. Or the later there are quite a number, and they exhibit much ingenuity in devising ways and means of self support. One girl is a noted for the stylish shirt waists she makes, and her needle is kept bus in this direction. This same girl plays the piano for any dance that may be given. Another almost entirely supports herself with her camera, while a third is correspondent for several newspapers.

The curriculum at Smith is practically the same as that at any first class university, but the pastimes are vastly different. Basketball is the most popular game, and keen is the rivalry between the classes. The contests are held in the seclusion of the college gymnasium. Basketball is not unlike a mild form of football, and, while it avoids the danger of the latter, it is well calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of rival classes to the highest pitch. Boating and tennis are

also favorite amusements in their season, and in winter there is skating, in which the Amherst students often join.

[It is a black-and-white drawing of an outdoor walking path, lined with tall trees. In the distance there are several trees in the distance, mostly covering the few buildings the viewer can see. On the path, there are several young women walking together, or sitting along the path. Towards the front of the image is a solitary woman wearing a wide brimmed hat, a bowtie, and formal dress. She is also holding a purse. The image is captioned "On the Campus."]

One of the first places shown to the visitor is "Paradise." This delightful spot- the name is applied, in a general way, to a pretty sheet of water and the charming, shady walks near by- is the favorite retreat of the Smith girls. On pleasant half holidays one may see many of them wending their way in its direction, laden with sofa pillows and "fudge"- a kind of home made candy, locally in great demand.

[It is a black-and-white drawing of the campus, and the lawn of a house. There is a bench next to tree outside of the house. Several people are sitting on the lawn of the house, including a young woman in a white dress seated on the ground, and a woman in a white shirt and a long black skirt next to her. There are also two other people standing together in front of the porch. The house itself is large, with two stories and an open porch that covers half of the front of the house. The image is captioned "The President's House."]

[It is a black-and-white drawing of young women in a single file line walking from a group of buildings on an outdoor pathway. It is surrounded by trees and shrubbery. They are all dressed in formal white dresses with puffy sleeves. All of their hair has been bound in a low bun or plaits. Some of the women are holding bunches of flowers or ivy. The image is captioned "The Ivy Procession."]

The principal secret societies at Smith are the Alpha and Phi Kappa Psi, to either one of which a girl may be elected after her freshman year. In order to be eligible an undergraduate must possess decided talent for literature, or else be a general favorite.

Graduation time is marked by many time honored observances. The seniors wear white dresses for the last three days of the college year. One of these is known as "Ivy Day," and on it the departing class plants an ivy vine near College Hall. It is a pretty sight to see the "sweet girl graduates," all in white, marching two by two across the green campus.

Douglas Z. Doty

[It is a black-and-white drawing of a large building, which has a great deal of landscaping, with shrubbery and a few trees. It has steps leading up to the doorway, and is a three-story building with several windows and a few chimney stacks. The image is captioned "The Lilly Hall of Science."]