

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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Term Paper
for
Mrs. Hitchcock

Family Background

My father was born in Latvia and my mother in New Jersey. They met while teaching at the University of Wyoming. Mother was in her middle twenties and daddy in his middle thirties when they married. Coming from different parts of the world their interests were somewhat different, but this never bothered either of them, for they always compromised on various subjects.

There are four children in the family, of which I am the youngest. We live in a beautiful large home, in a lovely town. Our town is noted for its' good schools, big trees and famous iris. My father is a research and consulting chemist. His salary has always made for a comfortable living for his family. Our family friends are numerous. I never realized this until Christmas cards and wedding invitations were to be sent out and then we never knew where to draw the line. My father with his gift for speaking on so many subjects has always attracted both young and old friends.

Our family members have always participated in family activities. Picnics, trips, card games, and spending evenings at home watching television. We have always found much enjoyment in making plans and having fun together.

The main tradition in our family has been Thanksgiving and Christmas day dinners at our home with all our relatives. In the last few years, this has not been done, due to the fact that sisters are married and live far and some of my relatives have passed on. We have carried out traditions among the four girls. Our presents have followed in a tradition. Our high school and college graduations presents, our Christmas and wedding presents,

our twenty-first and twenty-third birthday presents, have always been the same. Being like this, they are not real surprises, but give each one of us something to look forward to. The presents we have received on these different occasions make us realize what lucky girls we are and know that we have the best mother and father anyone could ever want.

My parents attitudes toward marriage have always been very reasonable. They have made me realize that marriage is a step taken which lasts the rest of my life. They have wanted me to be sure that the boy of my choice has everything which will make me happy throughout the rest of my life..

I was born in the general hospital in Passaic, New Jersey. I was the forth girl in our family and even though they wanted a boy, I was welcomed. Mom had wanted six children and seeing I was just the forth, the only thing they could be sorry for was that there were not two more.

During my childhood years I was never pampered because I was the youngest. My older sisters only regret toward me, was having to care for me when mother went out. There was never much competition between us, or any favoritism shown. I cannot recall any harsh punishments. About the only thing I remember is having to remain at the table to finish my cold spinach or one of my other pet peeves.

Because of my older sisters I believe that I learned about sex and babies younger than most girls do. I did not have much reaction toward this subject for I really did not understand all this information. I had never thought about babies and where they came from, for I had not been curious.

During adolescence I was full of daydreams. My sisters being older and "gallavanting" around town with one group and another made me want to take part in these affairs. I wanted so much to be grown-up so that I could "run around" in the same manner. I grew up rather fast and became very interested in boys. I had my first party date when I was in the fifth grade. I became very fond of boys until my sister told me I was "chasing" them.

My oldest sister was married when I was eleven. It was then I became interested and acquired most of my information about marriage. It was in the same year that I began to menstruate. I was prepared for this change, but it came as somewhat of a surprise. I knew it was a part of every woman's life and excepted it in this way.

The first day ever spent in school, I cried for my mother. As the time wore on I figured I had to accept school, for I had many years ahead of me. I attended five schools in Montclair and in every one I got the same reaction. "Your the forth Steik, how many more are there?" My parents had planned on four years of college for all of us. I was upset with this, for when I finished high school I thought that I had had enough education. My parents would then say, "your sisters did it, why can't you?" After I started college I became aware of the fact that what they had been telling me was true and how sorry I would of been not going on with my education.

I have always met people very easily, consequently I have made many friends. I have at all times appreciated both young and old people alike. My parents and my sisters have been my confidants.

I have constantly respected and appreciated their opinions on all of my problems. They have given much help which has been of great value to me. My family have been my confidants rather than my close friends, for they have had more experience and can understand me more easily.

We have had a very close relationship among the members of our family. Our feelings, thoughts, problems and understandings have been very similar. We understand the others attitudes, beliefs and ideas, which has made a happy and warm family life.

My first love affair started my first year in high school. I thought that this was the boy of my dreams. We went around together for four years. It got so that "Richard" thought he "owned" me and I should not do anything without his permission or see anyone but him. I did not like this set up, so broke off our relationship. (He is now married and has twins /)

The next romance was one that lasted through my sophomore and junior years at college..He was a midshipman at the Naval Academy. This was nice while it lasted, but after his graduation he sailed away and never did return. After this, I was through with boys. I had been hurt once and did not want to be hurt again. I guess when the real love comes along you can tell within your heart, that this is what you've always been waiting for.

My religious education started when I was five years old. I went to Sunday school for thirteen years. After I graduated from Sunday school I was a member of the church and attended regularly with the family. I have been brought up in the Christian faith, but with an open mind toward other faiths. I never believed in

mixed marriages until my sister married into another faith. From this marriage blossomed a strong relationship and new understanding which has been working out beautifully. I can see from this, that if two people are as compatible as my sister and brother-in-law, that there is no harm in mixed marriages.

"Without health, what is life?" This saying appeared on the wall of a doctors office. I think that this is very true and I have always tried to live by this. During my childhood I had many diseases, including diphtheria. Because of this the doctors say I will probably be immune to the rest of the diseases which I have not had.

The war has left our family very sorrowful. One of my brothers-in-law was killed at the age of twenty-five, while testing an "X" model of a super jet. This hit me very deeply, and because of this I will not fly in any kind of an airplane. This sister remarried and her second husband was taken back into the navy air corp. We can only hope and pray that that he may get a base where she and the children can be with him. This war has taken enough from her already. The last outbreak of war took into service the boys of my age. This did not effect me in any way, but it was hard to believe that they were old enough to be offering their life for their country, when they were not even old enough to vote.

"All work and no play makes Jane a dull girl." Everyone needs recreation to break the monotony of daily schedule. I myself am very interested in all in all different sports. I not only like to watch them, but like to participate in them. My favorite hobbies are knitting and sewing. I started on both at a very early age and now have become quite skillful.

One of the letters I received recently from my father expresses my height of maturity. He said, "There is a redeeming feature about your present maturity. From the tone of your letters since you went to Wyoming I noticed very distinctly that you are a changed girl, and I have come to the conclusion that our baby Bubbles has grown up. That is the reason why now I think much more about your judgement." (This was in regard to my becoming engaged.)

Mother having majored in Home Economics taught me many skills. This was not only in domestic work, but also in sewing. This was what influenced me in choosing my major field. My goal is to become in charge of a clothing department or to be a buyer. I hope that in my next four years of working working with merchandise I will be able to accieve this goal.

My plans for the future have been made for me within the last month. I plan on being married in June and spending most of the summer in Wyoming. In the fall when Noel starts med-school, I shall begin to work. I will keep house and work throughout his four years while he is in school. In this way I will be able to apply the knowledge that I gained while in college. Upon his graduation I plan to stop work. After he has set up his practice (I'll be happy no matter where it is) I will be ready to set up a home and start raising a family. I know that with my future plans, nothing but a happy and full life can be found, for we will have love, comfort and security.

*a very good
paper*