

April 15, 1938

Mrs. George B. Grinnell,
238 East 15th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Grinnell:

The telegraphic dispatch of the death of your husband, even though long expected, gave us here in the West a shock. We cannot realize that he is gone and especially we cannot reconcile ourselves that we shall not have another visit from him here in the West where so much of his life work was done.

I am writing to you to convey our deepest and sincere sympathy. George Grinnell has a place in the history of the West which can never be taken from him. He is one of the last of our noted explorers, scientists and writers and we shall wish to do honor to his memory here in Nebraska where so much of his service was given.

Only a few days ago I received from Miss Emily Warren, of Newport, R. I., a large portrait of her father, Major General George K. Warren, whose explorations in western Nebraska give ^{him} an outstanding place in our portrait gallery and our annals of the West. When you have adequate time for thought upon the subject, I shall hope that we may have your cooperation in making a worthy memorial of your husband here in this most beautiful capitol building on the continent. Already we have such memorial for Major Frank North and Captain Luther North, fellow frontiersmen with Dr. Grinnel. We shall be glad to hear from you when there is time and opportunity. Meanwhile, we place a star opposite your husband's name on our membership and continue our publications to your address.

Sincerely yours,

AES:RSW

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP STAFF

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 15, 1938

Mr. Robert Bruce,
Box 76,
Wall Street P. O.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Bruce:

Your post card of April 13 is received. I enclose carbon copy of a letter to Mrs. Grinnell. Any service you may be able to render us in the matter of a memorial to Dr. Grinnell will be appreciated and rewarded.

I am renewing the advertisement of your book on the cover page of the last History Magazine which is mailed to you today.

Very sincerely,

AES:RSW

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent

Box 76, Wall St. BO, N.Y., Apr. 13/38

Memo:

Probably you have seen a newspaper dispatch about the death of Dr. Grinnell, on the 11th. You will recall my mentioning several things that the Nebr. State His. Soc. ought to have, a matter on my mind when we were trying to see him during your last visit in NY. I used to see him quite often, but during recent years was unable to do so. Of course I know nothing of the plans of Mrs. G., a much younger woman; but think it at least well worth your while to keep in some touch with them. The Secretary, Mr. S-- (when I was last there) is a good man, but I presume has little knowledge of, or perhaps interest in historical matters.

John B. Green



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Sheldon,
Nebraska State Historical Soc.
State Capitol Lincoln, Neb.

April 15, 1938

Mrs. George B. Grinnell,
238 East 15th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Grinnell:

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Sincerely yours,

AES:RSW

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent

ROBERT BRUCE

BOX 76 WALL ST. P. O.
NEW YORK CITY

April 25, 1938

Nebraska State Historical Society
Lincoln

Dear Dr. Sheldon:

Ordinarily I read either the Times or Herald-Tribune with considerable ~~care~~ care weekdays, but rarely on Sundays, because I try to give my eyes a partial rest one day in the week; also because I am frequently with my friends who live on a farm 2 1/2 miles from Summit, N.J. On Sunday, the 17th I was not in the city, and therefore missed both a short article and notice of probate of Dr. Grinnell's will, which appeared in the Times of that date. However, thinking that something of the kind must have been printed, I called at their main office this morning, and with the help of the librarian, found the date and secured a copy to clip, for the purpose of sending both to you herewith.

You will see that Grinnell left a considerable estate, as his bequests alone (in cash) must approach \$100,000. Also he left the fine residence and the residue to Mrs. Grinnell, and I should say that the house alone would be worth more than his cash bequests; also that the up-keep would be very large. I do not know as you were inside the house, as I have been several times, the last time a year or so after issuing the Norths publication, after they would not allow Dr. G. to see callers. At that time the Secretary, or I should say more likely the business manager, told me that he had spent 3 or four months entirely on financial matters. Mrs. G. is much younger than he was--I should say not much over middle life.

His having willed his principal collections to the Museum of Natural History, and to the Peabody Museum at Yale, is what I would have guessed, anyhow. As you may possibly know, the Peabody Institution has had a biography of Prof. O. C. Marsh in preparation for a long time, and I have loaned two or three things, including a photograph of Frank North and my map of Fort Robinson to them. The book will probably be out somewhere near the end of this year. Marsh and Grinnell were close friends long ago, which may account for some of the things going there.

However, it seems to me that at least Dunbar's Pawnee Grammar, with which Frank North helped Dunbar, ought to go to Lincoln. The Secretary or Business Manager, Mr. S----- (I forget the exact name now), showed it to me, also the mark on it showing that Grinnell bought it for \$5 at auction! I would be glad to call there if it would seem worth while, but pass along the tentative suggestion that you might consider it worth while to come on by rail and look into the matter for yourself, in all its phases.

Another thing: about the first of the year, Dr. Ryder and I went over some of his collections, and I mentioned that the bust of Sister Catherine, made by Kelly in cooperation with Rev. Francis Craft, might be appreciated at Lincoln. He was willing that the Society make a bronze cast of it, without the royalty which the general arrangement figures ~~ought~~ to go to him. I thereupon took it to Gorham's for an estimate of the cost, which was more than I thought; so dropped the matter until, perhaps, you might be here and would care to talk with the Gorham people about it. The plaster is at the Gorham NY office now, and has been for more than three months; but bronze is expensive, and I didn't feel like carrying the matter farther after re-

2) receiving their quotation--though the figures are within arm's reach now--in case it might be taken up later. However, the Gorham people wrote me about a month ago regarding it, and the plaster ought soon to be taken back to Dr. Ryder's house.

Another reason why I did not pursue the matter farther is that I did not want to run any risk of its taking such a course as that last framing of the North original documents--frankly, still an unhappy memory to me! Aside from making several calls on Fulton St., figuring and passing on the layout, arranging for packing, shipping, etc., there was a close call from having the framed pictures sent back to me because the price seemed too high.

Had I been in better circumstances I should, on receipt of your letter, have immediately taken them back. The thought has since been in my mind that perhaps some one (not yourself!) in Lincoln may think I had some inside advantage in the framing; and when you do come, I hope you will accompany me to their store, meet the manager or partner who cooperated with me in securing the result I wanted; and quite likely he would mention that the bill to the Society was strictly net, and my work entirely complimentary, as in all such cases in the past, with you and others. But, I had to stop my other work, and enter into considerable correspondence to straighten it out. Dr. Ryder would have simply referred the bill back to me for examination and OK, and my OK on it would have been the complete voucher! *no pictures bought*

In case you do think it worth while to come ^{down}, perhaps you could meet Dr. Ryder, who was on vacation when you were here before, most of his patients being out of the city in August. We ought also to call on Mr. Garretson, of the Zoo in the Bronx, which you were unable to do last time.

Well, I must close this, and get back on Dr. Ryder's work--of which perhaps more later.

Sincerely yours,

John Jones

*no pictures bought
up
He is
just
that
way
always gets
100%
plus!*

GEO. BIRD GRINNELL
238 EAST 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

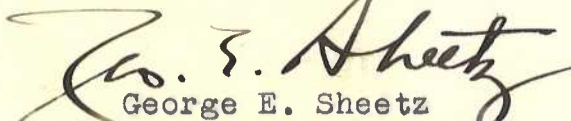
17 May, 1938

Mr. A. E. Sheldon
Lincoln, Nebraska

My dear Sir:

I believe you will want to have this fine editorial from the New York Herald Tribune and, in case you have not seen them, I send you also for your files the obituary articles on Dr. Grinnell from the Herald and the New York Times.

Yours very truly,


George E. Sheetz
Secretary to Dr. Grinnell

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 20, 1938

George E. Sheets, Sec'y
238 East 15th St,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Sheets:

This is to express my deepest obligation to you for the newspaper notices transmitted to me in your letter of May 17. A resolution was prepared by our executive committee at its April meeting. I think I mailed a copy to your office, but am mailing another copy with this letter.

We desire to do honor to the Nebraska services of Dr. Grinnell at our annual meeting October 1 next. I wish very much to have some one closely connected with Dr. Grinnell, Mrs. Grinnell, if possible, present at this meeting.

We hope to have the material for a memorial corner for Dr. Grinnell in our Historical Museum. Here we already have some of the most notable material connected with the life of Frank North and Lucy North, including their pictures.

I wrote Mrs. Grinnell immediately upon the news of her husband's passing and a brief reply from her stated that she was leaving for a time but would write me upon her return.

We have a very strong feeling that a part of the memorabilia of Dr. Grinnell's long years in Nebraska and this frontier may find a home here in the most beautiful capitol of all in the American Republic.

Sincerely,

Addison E. Sheldon
Superintendent

July 21, 1938

Mr. George E. Sheetz, Secretary,
Estate of George Bird Grinnell,
238 East 15th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sheetz:

Yours of July 19 is read. I regret very much we cannot feel certain of Mrs. Grinnell's presence with us October 1. We still hope that she may come or some adequate representative of her husband. We especially desire to secure a portrait of Dr. Grinnell for unveiling at this meeting October 1. We wish to make a companion ceremony by unveiling it at the same time with one (which we now have) of General Warren. This we received recently from General Warren's daughter at Newport, R. I.

These two noted explorers of the Nebraska region have a very definite place on our program as now being planned by me. Please advise me whether we may not secure the portrait of Dr. Grinnell to take place in our explorers' gallery at the same time. We think this is the altogether fitting recognition of both.

I note what you say regarding letters from Luther North and other documents from the North brothers. We will very gladly receive these. We wish that some collection of Dr. Grinnell's other material relating to this region may also find a place in our beautiful Nebraska State Capitol.

Very sincerely,

AES:RSW

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent

GEO. BIRD GRINNELL

238 EAST 15TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

19 July, 1938

Mr. Addison E. Sheldon
Nebraska State Historical Society
Lincoln, Nebraska

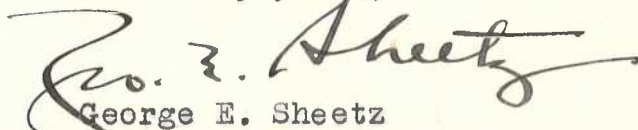
My dear Mr. Sheldon:

I am sorry that absence and business connected with Mr. Grinnell's estate have prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your letter of May 20. Thank you for sending me a copy of the resolution adopted by your executive committee. I had not seen it before.

Mrs. Grinnell has not been well and she is now in the country for a rest. I doubt if it will be possible for her to be present at your annual meeting on October 1, but I shall be glad to give her your suggestion when she returns to New York.

I am just now able to start work on Mr. Grinnell's books and papers. I know there are a number of letters from Luther North and some old Nebraska papers containing a serial account of the life of Frank North, and both of those I shall be glad to send you if you wish them; but how much else will be available to you I cannot say at this time.

Sincerely yours,



George E. Sheetz
Secretary, Estate of George Bird Grinnell

March 17, 1939

Mr. George E. Sheets
Secretary
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Sheets:

Your letter of March 15 received and the package of letters and other material, sent by you, is now being arranged in form for use. I am grateful to you for the preservation of these documents and especially the letters Captain North and others who were friends of George B. Grinnell. I had hoped we might receive some of the other material secured by Dr. Grinnell in Nebraska, but I think I have made my representations on that subject as strongly as I had warrant to do and so accept with thanks the documents you have sent us. I will renew my request for an adequate portrait of Geo. B. Grinnell, to find a place of honor along with portraits of Major North and Captain North in our portrait gallery of noted frontiersmen and explorers in the Nebraska region.

We have a definite place of honor for such a portrait. We would like to have one that Mrs. Grinnell and yourself might feel was the best one and that it might not be a burden for the estate to supply one.

This portrait gallery ~~of ours~~ in our beautiful state capitol, the most outstanding in architecture and beauty of any American state capitol, would be an attraction and an interpretation of Dr. Grinnell's life in the Nebraska region.

This is to renew my invitation to you and Mrs. Grinnell to visit us here at Lincoln and with best wishes for your future and a high appreciation of the service of George B. Grinnell to the literature of the exploration of the West.

I am sincerely yours,

A.E. Sheldon

Estate of
GEO. BIRD GRINNELL
238 EAST 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

15 March, 1939

Nebraska State Historical Society
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with my letter of September 19, last,
I shipped you by express on March 1 the letters of Luther North
and other material relating to early Western history. Most of
Dr. Grinnell's collection on Indians and the early west he left
by will to Dr. Frederick W. Hodge, of the Southwest Museum, Los
Angeles, Cal.

Yours very truly,


George E. Sheetz
Secretary

March 17, 1939

Mrs. Lute North
Columbus, Nebraska.

My dear Mrs. North:

Within the last few days I have received from those who are handling the estate of George B. Grinnell, in New York City, a box containing a large number of letters from Captain North and other western friends of George B. Grinnell. In addition, the box contains many newspaper clippings, pamphlets and other material relating to George B. Grinnell and to the North brothers.

Some of your husband's letters date back to 1877, at the Dismal ranch in the sandhills. They contain very interesting additional material on the life of Captain North and others. We are arranging them in systematic order for use and I shall give a story to the press upon them, when this work is completed.

This letter is written with the accompanying information which I know will greatly interest you. I hope that you will believe this is the proper time to assemble and place with this Grinnell collection, the letters which your husband received from George B. Grinnell and others with whom he was associated on the frontier for so many years.

Bringing together the correspondence from both sides, here in the historical societies manuscript files, will make the most complete story of Major North and Captain North--for the use of all future generations.

Mrs. Sheldon and myself send you our very sincere affection and good wishes,

Most sincerely,

A.E. Sheldon

See George E. Sheetz correspondence

AES, DN

Estate of
GEO. BIRD GRINNELL
238 EAST 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Grinnell

24 March, 1939

Mr. A. E. Sheldon
Nebraska State Historical Society
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Sheldon:

I have your letter of March 17. I am sorry I could not send you more of the western history material, but in his will, dated June 3, 1927, Dr. Grinnell directed that "all the manuscript notes on Indians and early western history" should go to Dr. F. W. Hodge. Dr. Hodge, an old friend of Dr. Grinnell, was formerly director of the Bureau of American Ethnology and is now director of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles. An exception was made regarding the North material as Dr. Grinnell had approved the suggestion that this should be sent to you.

I well understand your desire to secure a portrait of Dr. Grinnell and wish I might suggest a means by which you could obtain such a portrait. Unfortunately, the executors of his estate have closed their accounts and there is, apparently, nothing they can do about it. Mrs. Grinnell is now in Florida and I am doubtful whether she will feel able to supply a portrait. I can only leave your letter for her attention upon her return -- after April 1.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. E. Sheetz
George E. Sheetz

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ROBERT BRUCE
BOX 76 WALL ST. P. O.
NEW YORK CITY

March 28, 1939

Dear Dr. Sheldon:

I attach clipping showing the final estimate of the Grinnell estate, which needs no special comment from me.

Also herewith copy of my letter of this date to Judge Paine, covering points of interest to yourself as well as to him--and a short-cut for me, in my limited time!

A week from today, Mr. Jackson will be 96; and in all probability I shall very soon receive word as to what celebration, if any, ~~will~~ will take place for him. The last I attended was two years ago, as last year his birthday was spent with his daughter in Washington. prob-

Sincerely yours,



NEW YORK

Herald Tribune



Tuesday, March 21, 1939

Grinnell Estate \$634,051

Dr. George Bird Grinnell, author, naturalist and explorer, left a gross estate of \$690,434 and a net estate of \$634,051, according to a transfer tax appraisal filed yesterday in Surrogate's Court. Dr. Grinnell, one of the nation's foremost advocates of game and forest conservation, died April 11, 1938. Autograph letters and manuscripts of Audubon were valued at \$1,435, which Dr. Grinnell bequeathed to the National Association of Audubon Societies.