

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

Section 15, Pages 421 - 450

A series of research correspondence from the Robert Taft collection relating to frontier artists. Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry and author on the subjects of photography and art. The artists included here are Peter and Thomas Moran, Samuel F. B. Morse, R. A. Muller, John Mulvany, Charles Nahl, Henry Alexander Ogden and Walter Yeager, George Martin Ottinger, Charles Parsons, Edgar Samuel Paxson, Frederick Piercy, Theodore B. Pitman, Henry R. Poore, Henry Cheever Pratt, Charles Preuss, Sam Pride, William Tylee Ranney, Edward Rapier, Frank Reaugh, Allen C. Redwood, and Leonard H. Reedy.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 27

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308638

Item Identifier: 308638

www.kansasmemory.org/item/308638

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

#219 Howard Stansbury
Exped to Valley of Great Salt Lake
Phila, 1852
maps by Gunnison & Preuss
Credits views to F.C. Grist
engraved by Ackerman
Have written N.A. to see if register
of Stansbury's company can be found.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

Neivins - Fremont, the West's Greatest
Adventurer v. 2, p 463

States that in Jessie B. Fremont's
ms (in Bancroft library) is reference
to Charles Preuss, who she states,
hanged himself in woods near Washington.
(from context it would appear to be
between 1849 & 1853).

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
DENVER, COLORADO

MALCOLM GLENN WYER
LIBRARIAN

June 8, 1942

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

We have had the offer, from England, of an old picture of some episode relating to Buffalo Bill. It was painted in 1873 by Sam Pride. I have never run across the artist and I wonder if you have.

It sounds interesting and I could get it on approval from this country but I rather wanted to find out something about the artist since it has to come so far. It is a western scene altho I suppose he could be an English artist. If you happen to know anything I shall be glad of the help.

I hope the demands of these present days are not making it necessary for you to stop work on your book. We have been looking forward to it. We liked "Across the Years on Mount Oread" with all its interesting pictures, very much. It is so much more than a college history.

Sincerely,

Ina T. Aulls

Ina T. Aulls
Western History Department

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

June 10, 1942

Miss Dna T. Aulls
Western History Department
Denver Public Library
Denver, Colorado

Dear Miss Aulls:

Sam Pride is a new one on me. I have never seen his name before as it does not appear in my card index of six thousand or so entries. He is not listed in Mallett's Index of Artists (1935) nor in the Mallett Supplement of 1940. According to the Dictionary of American Biography, Cody began his stage career in 1872 so that the Pride painting seems possible but who Pride was I do not know. Do the owners of the painting have any information on the artist? I am sorry that I can't be of more help.

I get a little done on the western artists, but my time is so taken up with the teaching that progress is pretty slow.

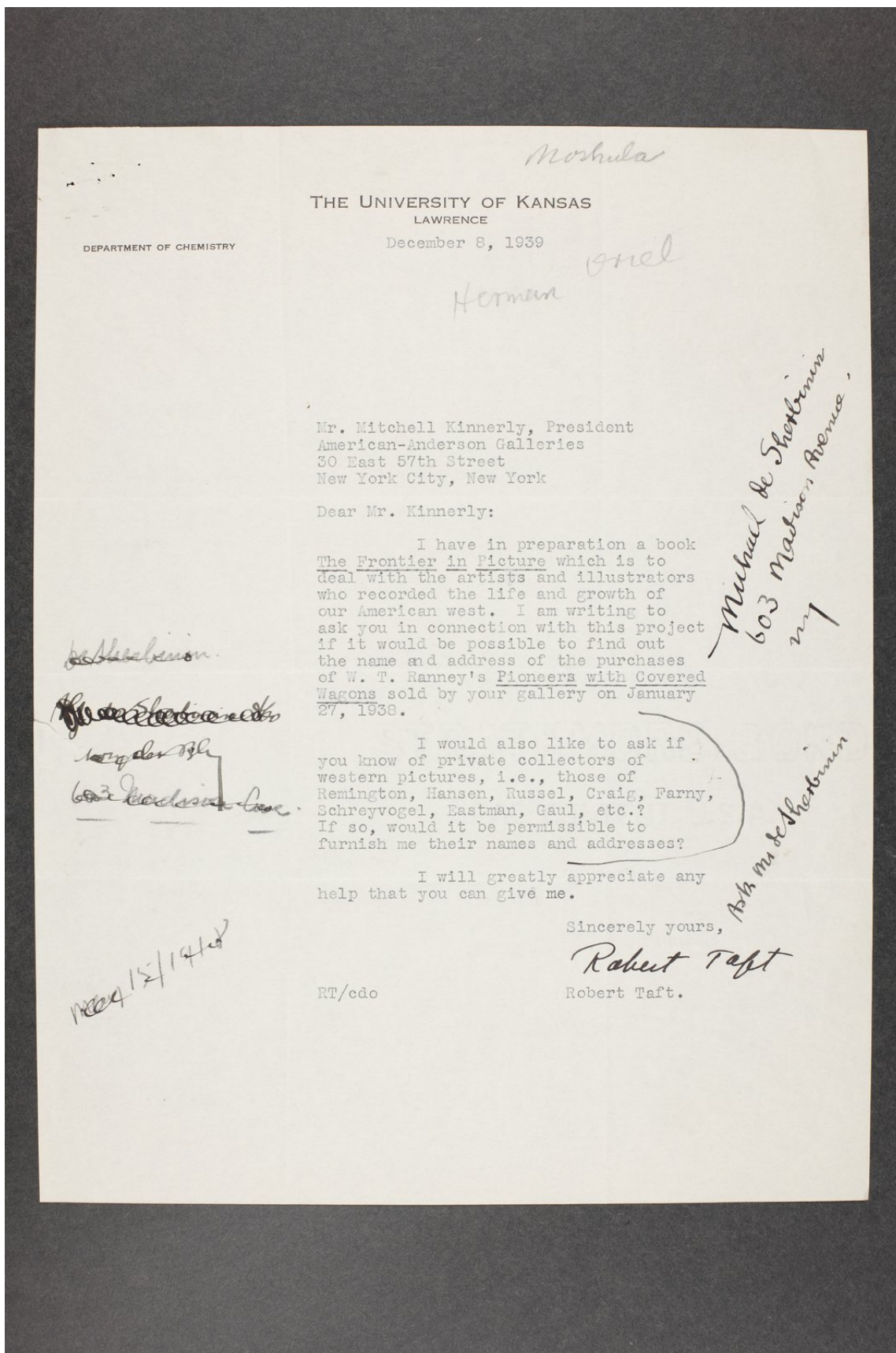
Many thanks for the kind words concerning Across the Years. I am glad that you liked it.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RF/vac

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

Letter of Mr. Robert Taft, dated Dec. 9, 1939
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Ranney, William Tylee -- Born May 9, 1813- Died Nov. 18, 1857

OBITUARY NOTICE - New York Times. Saturday, Nov. 21, 1857. p.5

"Ranney- At West Hoboken, New Jersey on Wednesday, Nov. 18,
of consumption, William Ranney, artist.
His relatives and friends are respectfully invited to
attend his funeral on Saturday 21st at 10 o'clock A.M.
from St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hoboken City.
Connecticut and North Carolina papers please copy."

DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY...New York. Scribner's Sons.
v.15. p.377-378. Bibliography and biography.
Bibliography;

Tuckerman, H.T.
Book of the artists. New York. Putnam and Son. 1867.
Cummings, T.S.
Historic annals of the National Academy of Design.
Phila. G.W. Childs. 1865.
Benjamin, Samuel G.W.
Art in America. New York. 1880.
Weitenkampf, Frank
American graphic art. New York. Holt & Co. 1912.
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Catalogue. 1897.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF HIS WORK

"Scouting party"
(Art Digest. Jan. 15, 1934. p.15)
(Metropolitan Museum of Art Life in America; a
special loan exhibition...1939. p.101. Lent by
Claude J. Ranney)
"On the wing"
(American Art Union. Bulletin. 1850)
"Daniel Boone's first view of Kentucky"
(American Art Union. Bulletin. 1851)
"The sleigh ride"
(Young, Wm. Lights and shadows of New York picture
galleries. 1864)
"Marion crossing the Pedee"
(Engravings and lithographs of miscellaneous painters
works)
"Mounted scout in march"
(Same as above)

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

Ranney, William Tylee (cont.)

ILLUSTRATIONS... (Cont.)

"Recruiting during the American Revolution"
(Stokes - Collection Paintings... April 9-11, 1929.
Anderson Galleries. Priced catalogues.)

M.B.
Art Division
Dec. 12, 1939

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

December 22, 1939

Miss Nina Hatfield
Free Public Library
Hoboken, New Jersey

Dear Miss Hatfield:

Thank you most kindly for your time and trouble in securing the name and address of Mrs. Feldmann. I will write her at once.

Since writing you previously I have found out that another one of the artists on my list was also a resident of Hoboken a good many years ago, Wm. T. Ranney, who dies in West Hoboken on November 18, 1857. Does your library have a collection of newspaper references on Ranney or know of any descendants of his? I have a reference to a Calude J. Ranney, who presumably is a descendant, but I do not have his address. Is C.J. Ranney's name, by chance, in your present city directory?

I appreciate your help greatly.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

December 22, 1939

Librarian
The Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Can your fine arts division furnish me any information concerning the present location of the paintings listed below of three early American painters, or cite me to the location of reproductions of these work in any medium?

Charles Deas (1818-1867) "The Turkey-Shoot"
"Long Jake"
"Wounded Pawnee"
"Hunting on the Prairie"
"The Last Shot"
"Groups of Sioux"

William T. Ranney (1813-1857)
"The Trapper's Last Shot"
"Wild Horses"
"The Muleteer"

William J. Hays "Herd on the Move"
"The Wounded Buffalo"
"The Stampede"
"Prairie-Dog Village"

Thank you for any information that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
HOBOKEN, N. J.
NINA HATFIELD, LIBRARIAN

December 30, 1939.

Dr. Robert Taft,
Department of Chemistry,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Taft:

Attached is all we could find. You will notice there is a slight difference in the spelling of the name, but everything else seems to be correct.

Hoping that this will be of some assistance,

Yours very sincerely,

Nina Hatfield
Librarian.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

HUDSON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

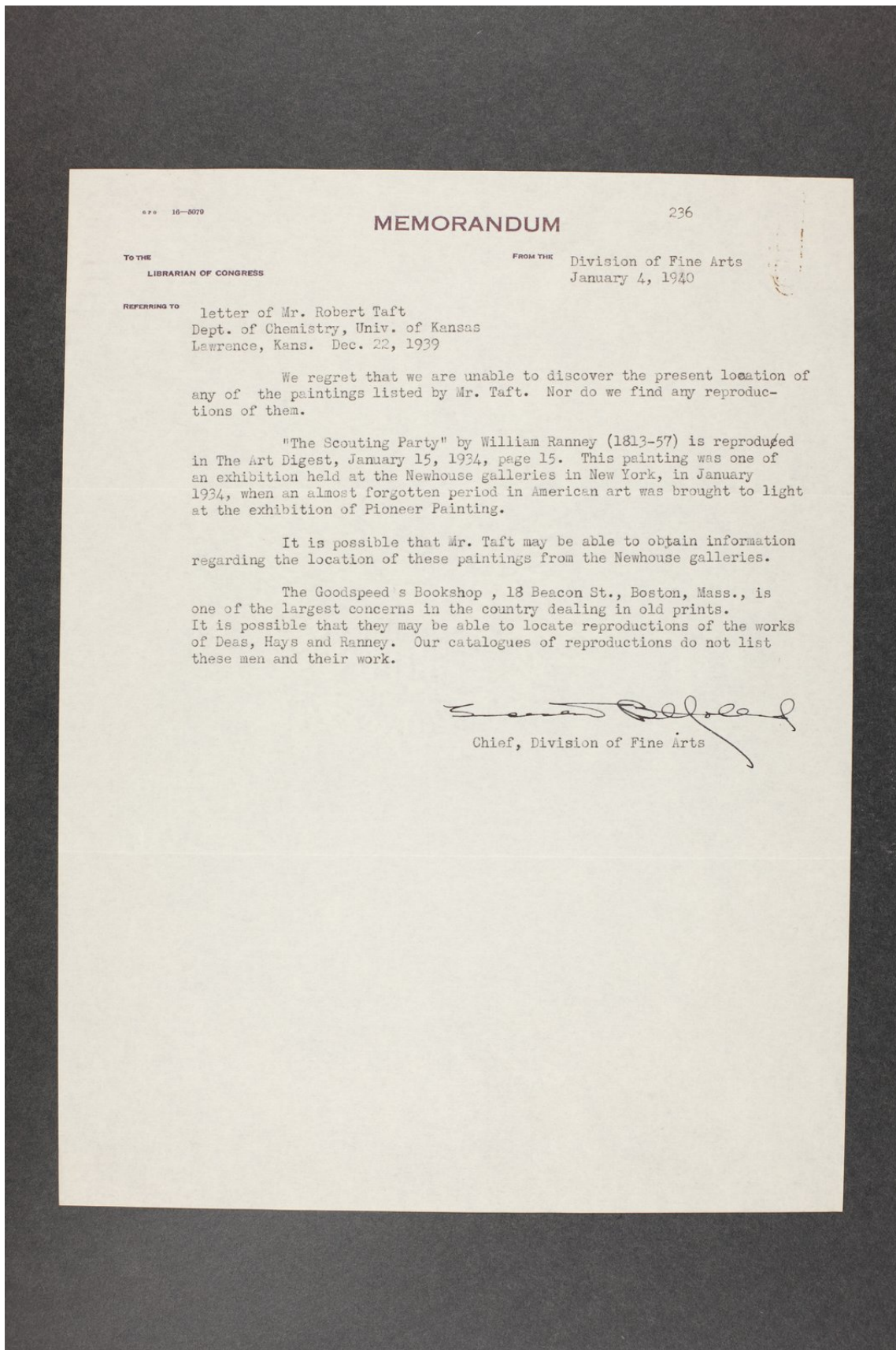
NOVEMBER 28, 1857.

HOBOKEN.

Quote:

" William Ramsey, an American artist of celebrity and merit died at his residence in this city a few days ago, in the forty fifth year of his age. He was a native of Connecticut. Left an orphan in early child-hood, he was adopted by an uncle in North Carolina, and there served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith. Subsequently he removed to New York, tried an artist life, and then became an architect, and afterwards served as a volunteer in the Texan war. At the conclusion of the contest he returned to New York, married and went hard to work as an artist. His pictures of American scenery and life are quite numerous."

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy



16-0079

MEMORANDUM

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TO THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

FROM THE
Division of Fine Arts
January 4, 1940

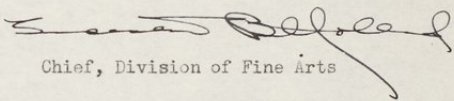
REFERRING TO
letter of Mr. Robert Taft
Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Kansas
Lawrence, Kans. Dec. 22, 1939

We regret that we are unable to discover the present location of any of the paintings listed by Mr. Taft. Nor do we find any reproductions of them.

"The Scouting Party" by William Ranney (1813-57) is reproduced in The Art Digest, January 15, 1934, page 15. This painting was one of an exhibition held at the Newhouse galleries in New York, in January 1934, when an almost forgotten period in American art was brought to light at the exhibition of Pioneer Painting.

It is possible that Mr. Taft may be able to obtain information regarding the location of these paintings from the Newhouse galleries.

The Goodspeed's Bookshop, 13 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., is one of the largest concerns in the country dealing in old prints. It is possible that they may be able to locate reproductions of the works of Deas, Hays and Ranney. Our catalogues of reproductions do not list these men and their work.


Chief, Division of Fine Arts

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

New Jersey Historical Society

Founded in 1845

230 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey

ELMER T. HUTCHINSON
Corresponding Secretary
120 Morristown Road
Elizabeth, New Jersey

January 23, 1940.

Dr. Robert Taft,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Taft:-

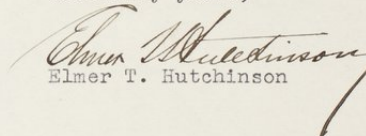
A careful search for the data requested in your letter of January 9th is the occasion for my delay in replying.

My search for the date of Joshua Shaw's has again proved fruitless - I covered the years 1860 and 1861.

With regard to Ranney, I learned that an article on this artist had been written by Alexander S. Graham of New Brunswick and only today did I succeed in locating the publication in which it appeared. The article is enclosed herewith.

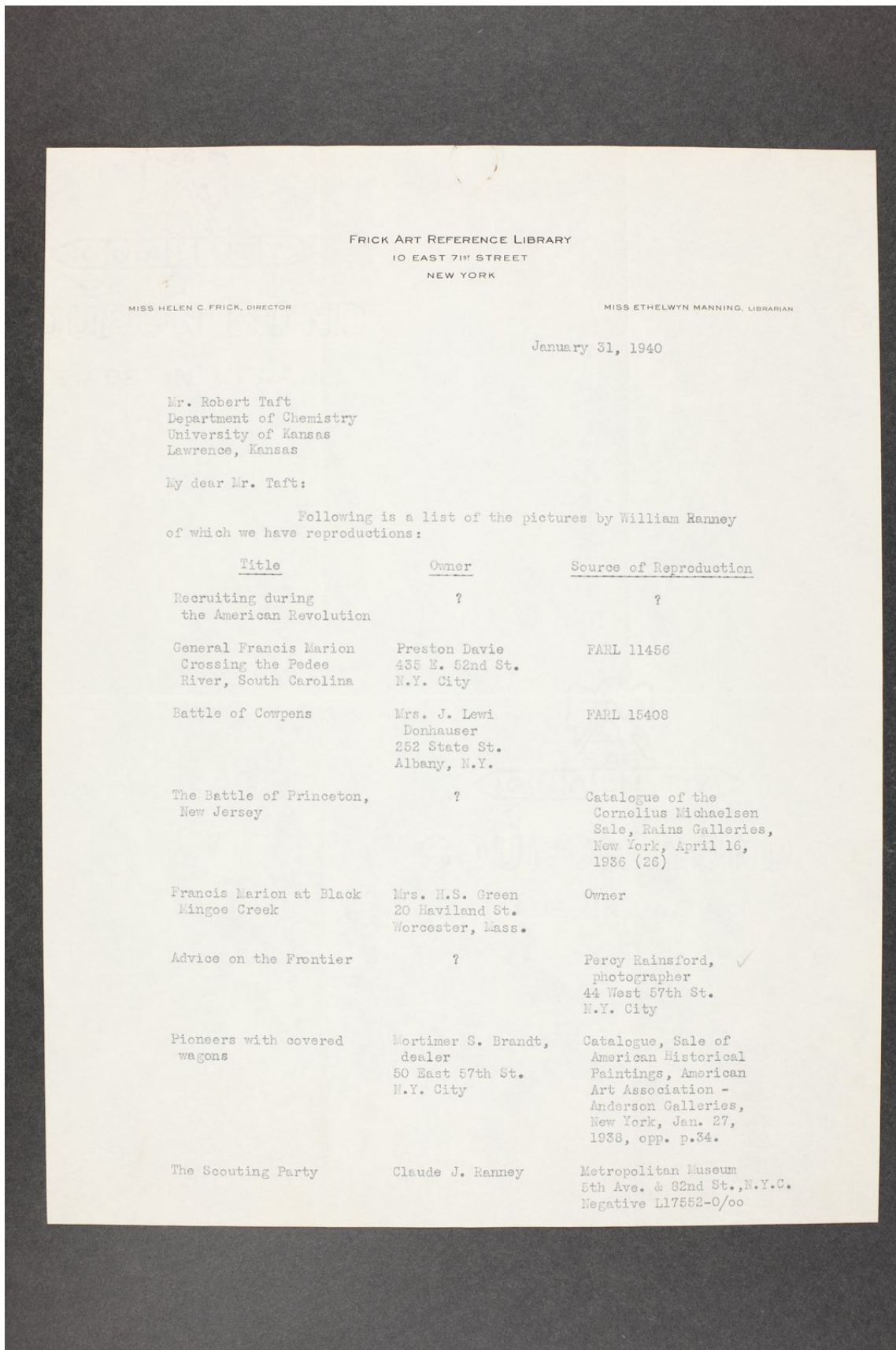
You can doubtless procure an original or photostat copy of the Wm. Cary article by writing direct to the Newark Sunday Call, Newark, N.J. I suggest that your letter be to the attention of Miss Elizabeth Logan - you may mention my name as having referred you to her.

Cordially yours,


Elmer T. Hutchinson

HSS.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

January 31, 1940

-2-

We can make you photographs at 75 cents apiece of those marked FARL. We can make you photostats of the others at 50 cents each plus cost of mailing, but suggest you obtain photographs where a museum, photographer or owner has been given under "Source of Reproduction". We must ask you to have the owners send us written permission which we can keep in our files before we can make the reproductions. No permissions are required for the two pictures which are in sales catalogues.

We have very little material on illustrators and cannot find mention of Paul Frenzeny. Possibly the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York City, can help you.

Yours very sincerely,

Elizabeth Manning

Research: A. Farley
EM:KOB

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF PAINTINGS

February 14, 1940

Mr. Robert Taft,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Taft,

Mr. Clifford has given us your letter for reply. Claude
J. Ranney is a grandson of the artist William T. Ranney. His address
is: 101 N. Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Very truly yours,

Josephine L. Allen

Mrs. H. D. Allen
Assistant Curator

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

February 17, 1940

Mr. Claude J. Ranney
101 North Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Ranney:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in my list of artists is your grandfather, William T. Ranney. I have a good deal of scattered information concerning him, including the account in the Dictionary of American Biography, the Rutgers Alumni Monthly (March, 1925), and a number of art books published from 1867 to 1900. I would, if possible, like to secure more definite information concerning his experiences in the west. Are there still available letters, diaries, notes, contemporary newspaper accounts dealing with this phase of his career? Is there a portrait available? I would also like to ask if you know anything about the present location of his two paintings "Wild Horses" and "Pioneers with Covered Wagons".

If you do not have this information, can you suggest others to whom I might write for it?

Thank you greatly for your help. It will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MAR. 0538

C. J. RANNEY
101 N. FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

February 21, 1940.

Dr. Robert Taft,
Department of Chemistry,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Dr. Taft:

It was with much pleasure and interest that I received your letter of the 17th instant requesting information regarding my grandfather, William T. Ranney. I probably have available material which you might find helpful in the preparation of your book, "The Frontier in Pictures".

I regret, however, that I have no contemporary newspaper accounts dealing with his career, but you are no doubt familiar with the fact that some libraries have available copies of old magazines dealing with art which have recorded his activities.

Personally I have in my possession three or four paintings, some photographs of others, and a like number of old steel engravings. The titles of the paintings and engravings are as follows:

"The Pioneers"- Painting
"The Sleigh Ride"- Painting
"Indian Scout and Guide"- Painting
"Trapper's Last Shot"- Engraving
"Marion Crossing the Pedee"- Engraving

I also have photographs of two pictures, titled "Duck Hunting", one of which hangs in the Corcoran Galleries in Washington and one of which is owned by Mr. George Bernard Wagstaff, 60 Broadway, New York.

I have been told that his picture, "Boone's First View of Kentucky", is in the State House at Lexington. As to "Wild Horses" and "Pioneers with Covered Wagons", the location of these is a mystery to me.



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MAR. 0538

C. J. RANNEY
101 N. FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

- 2 -

Dr. Robert Taft, (Cont.)

Briefly, he spent three or four years in the West and Southwest, sketching pioneers and Indian life. He volunteered in the Texas fight for independence, fought through these wars and, I understand, painted Santa Ana and some of the frontiersmen of that period. I have no periodicals or papers to establish these facts. However, I have been told since childhood these things regarding his career.

There are still some avenues of information that I know of that might be investigated for the material which you will require. It will be my pleasure to assist you in securing same. I will be very happy, upon your request, to mail you photographs of paintings which I have and also a photograph of a portrait of grandfather.

I can conceive of nothing more interesting than the work you are attempting in producing the "Frontier in Pictures." It certainly represents, in my opinion, the very top in historic and sentimental interest and I wish you every success.

Very sincerely yours,

Claude J. Ranney
Claude J. Ranney

CJR:PM



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MAR. 0538

C. J. RANNEY
101 N. FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 7, 1940.

Received -
Arrived -

Dr. Robert Taft,
Dept. of Chemistry,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Taft:

Please excuse the delay in acknowledging your recent letter. I have been out of town and on my return had to hustle around to get whatever information was available.

Under separate cover I am mailing the only available picture of my grandfather. It is a photograph of a portrait, as you will note.

I am also enclosing some additional information which you may require regarding his ancestry. At a later date I expect to get a photograph of him at his last easel, and will send you a copy.

Sincerely yours,

C. J. Ranney
C. J. Ranney

CJR:PM

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MAR. 0538

C. J. RANNEY
101 N. FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

WILLIAM TYLEE RANNEY

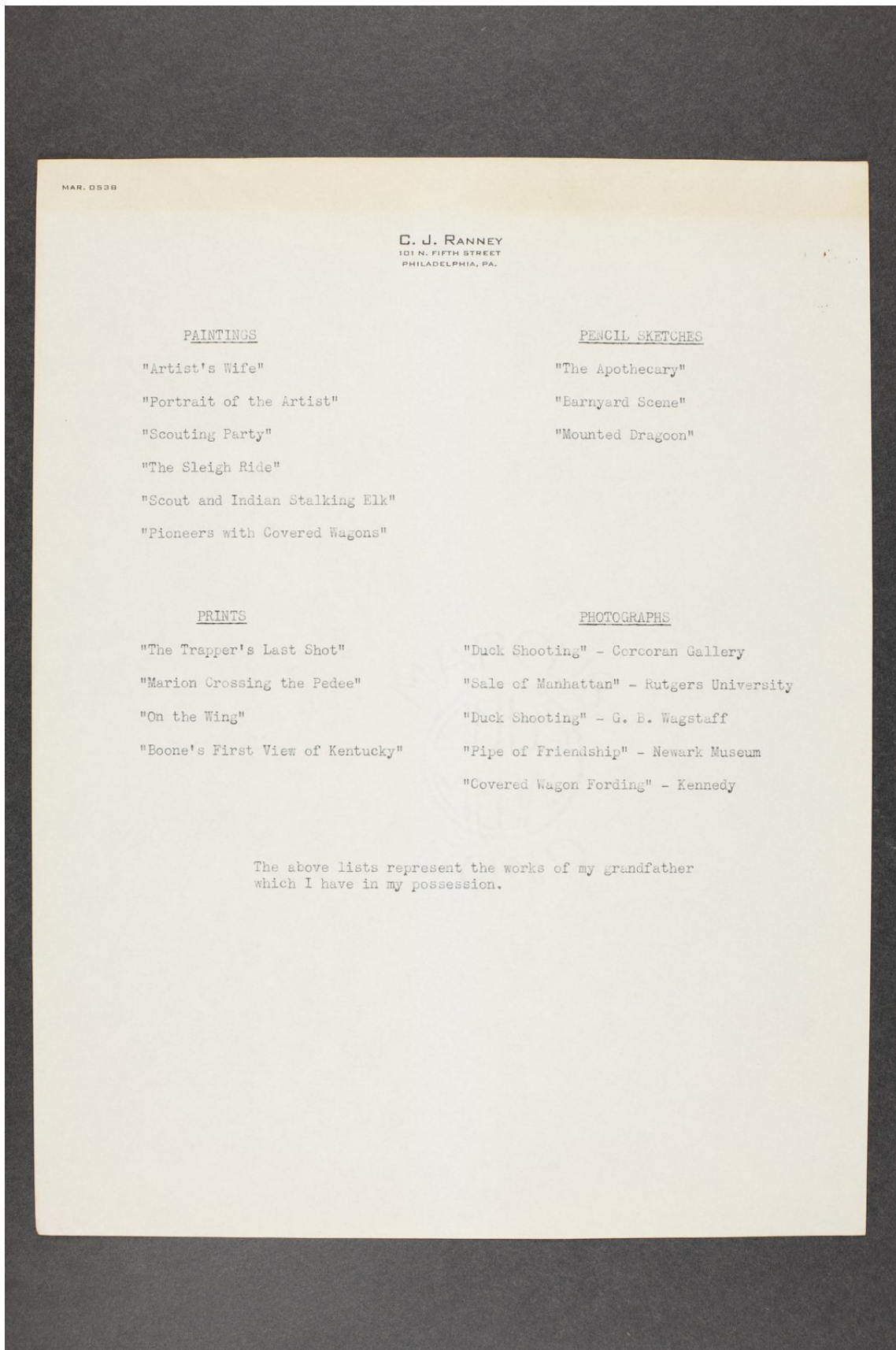
Born Middletown, Conn., on May 9th, 1813

Baptismal name - William Tylee

Died November 18th, 1857

Descended from Thomas Ranney who settled in Middletown, Conn., in 1658. His mother, Clarissa Gaylord Ranney, was a daughter of Samuel Gaylord, a Revolutionary Patriot. Gaylord came to this country on the "Mary and John", landed at Dorchester, Mass., on May 30th, 1630.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MAR. 0538

C. J. RANNEY
101 N. FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

PASSING OF AN OLD LANDMARK RECALLS EARLY WEST HOBOKEN

from

"Hudson Observer" - October, 1927.

-oOo-

The quaint house formerly located at the southwest corner of Thirteenth Street and Palisade Avenue, Union City, N.J., which was demolished some weeks ago, and is being replaced by an apartment, was at one time the residence of William Tylee Ranney, famous artist. The late artist's pictures adorn many galleries in America and Europe, and are found in the private collections of art lovers in both countries.

Mr. Ranney's ancestors came to America in 1640. He was born in Middletown, Conn., and was one of its founders. Early in his youth, in search of adventure, he went to Texas, the present city of Austin then being an unpopulated waste. In company with some other pioneers the artist built up a frontier community.

The outbreak of the war with Mexico in 1848 found Mr. Ranney a volunteer.

He built the homestead in West Hoboken when there were no other houses in the vicinity. The entire western exposure was given over to his studio, where he produced some of his best known works, including "The Sleigh Ride", the "Spy of War", "Marion and His Men" and many others. Mr. Ranney's pictures were hung in the Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D.C., and he numbered the Stevens family of Hoboken among his patrons.

-oOo-

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MRS. CLYDE PORTER
821 WEST 56TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO.

Feb 1 - 1950

Dear Mr. Taft; I have recently returned from giving a lecture on Alfred Miller in Baltimore, at the Maryland Historical Society as an "added attraction" to a Miller show at the Peale Museum. The 40 Millers (copies made in 1867 for a Scotchman) that we went to Ottawa Canada's Archives to see in October, came down with the Archivist at Ottawa's State House, and together with the portraits and some sketches locally owned it made a very creditable showing. I'm sending the catalog to you since I've so enjoyed your

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

publications, and as I look at our
just now for the first time
realize that we forgot ~~see~~ to
mention "Across the Wide Missouri."
After my lecture a Mr. Claude
J. Ranney of Malvern R. D. 2
Pennsylvania came up to talk and
said he had some correspondence with
you over his (grandfather I think)
sketches of the West. The man had
come from Philadelphia for the talk
and seems to want to do something
about the western sketches he owns.
He also mentions Mr. Ranney twice in "Across
W. Mo." - and ~~his~~ 1850 and "Trappers last
Shot." I'm not sure but I think
the man might be a likely person to
collaborate with you on a pamphlet.
I don't happen to know how many
sketches he has. This may all be old
to you since you've corresponded. He seemed
"desiring" to do something about his sketches
at any rate. While I was in N. Y. I saw in
N. Y. Times that a "Buffalo Hunt" by Stanley
(1868) brought \$500 at a Park Bennett gallery
Sale & the purchaser was another dealer, Adler.
We are terribly thrilled to be

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

MRS. CLYDE PORTER
821 WEST 56TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO.

possibly soon beginning on Father Nicolas
Point's 4 Journals (1841-on), that we
want to see in Montreal. For each
page of hand written French, there
are two oval sketches in color.
The old fellow was certainly not a
finished artist but his subject
matter is amazing.

Yours,
Mrs. Clyde Porter

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

GEORGE C. GROCE
5514 HAMPDEN LANE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

26 March

Dear Professor Taft:-

I am delighted with your centennial paper. Thanks for remembering me. I have been thinking of exploring the 1850 and 1860 censuses for artists. The manuscripts are here in the archives. Your own paper still further directs my interest to these records.

Also I have a much appreciated letter from you. Our cleaning woman has apparently cleaned away the first page of it. At any rate, I can do no more with Ramsey than write say a 500 word entry on him. I can not do an article. I was merely curious to know what "Texan War" he was in, 1836, 1846? You are most generous in suggesting that you might make your data available to me. When or if I get in the neighborhood of the "R"s, I may drop you a line.

I inclose the second page of your letter to show you that I checked my records for you with negative results.

What I would be glad to do for your work is, when you are in a tight spot about a soldier and have to have an answer in a hurry, I think that as an Army Historian and through my friends here, I can get quick and good results. This would be for emergencies only since a written letter from the Adjutant General or the Archiver is much better ~~for~~ your records than what I might get fast by telephone. I am disappointed that I have been so little help to an undertaking which I follow with great interest.

Cordially yours,
George C. Groce

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

From Bolton
 Ranney, William (Tyler), (1813-1857).
 Born Middletown, Conn. May 9. Died
 West Hoboken, N.J. Nov. 18. Son of Wm. and
 Clarissa. Did not use his middle name.
 Painter in oils. His pictures "not wanting
 in dramatic truthfulness and
 immediacy of his impressions but his
 pictures worth". His studio was a host
 of cutlasses, guns, & pistols. Nov. 1846
 Margaret O. Sullivan.
 Ent. 0 fails in Tickerman who calls him, wrongly, Wm. S. J.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

WILLIAM S. RANNEY

" A few years ago, there was an artist's studio at West Hoboken, which formed a startling contrast to most of the peaceful haunts of the same name, in the adjacent metropolis; it was so constructed as to receive animals; game, pistols, and cutlasses hung on the walls; and these, with curious saddles and primitive riding gear, might lead a visitor to imagine he had entered a pioneer's cabin or border chieftain's hut: such an idea would, however, have been at once dispelled by a glance at the many sketches and studies which proclaimed that an artist, and not a bushranger, had here found a home. Yet the objects around were characteristic of the occupant's experience and taste. He had caught the spirit of border adventure, and was en- armored at the picturesque in scenery and character outside of the range of civilization; and to represent and give them historical interest was his artistic ambition. After a brief attempt to reconcile himself to a mercantile career, William S. Ranney connected himself with the army, and during the Texan war, witnessed many remarkable scenes of nature; he had grown familiar with the wilderness, studied the aspects of hunter and ab- original life, realized the thrill and thoe of the ex- plorer's achievements, and came back to the heart of civilization, prepared with subjects and material to make that condition of humanity strongly contrast with primitive life and adventure. His pictures, albeit not remarkable for finish in detail or maturity of execution, had the freshness and force derived from a congenial sub- ject, treated by a sympathetic, though not highly disci- plined hand: accordingly they were not wanting in drama- tic truth, natural and local interest, or picturesque effect; and were therefore popular. A more characteristic introduction to genre painting in America can hardly be imagined. The "Burial of DeSoto," "The Trapper's Last Shot," "Boone and his Companions Discovering Kentucky," are among the works of Ranney which won the common eye and heart, and have a genuine American scope and tone. An earlier favorite was "The Sale of Manhattan to the Indians," Doubtless Ranney's range was sometimes too ambitious for his artistic power; he wanted culture, not inspiration; he had struck out a native and promising path, and with time and opportunities, would have achieved a memorable success in a fresh sphere: in costume and minor details was remarkably accurate, and his subjects were often chosen with dramatic skill."

(from -- Book of the Artists - by Henry T. Tuckerman - 1867)



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Moran - Reedy

From
Historic Annals of the National Academy of Design
by
Thomas S. Cummings, N. A.
page 265-6

November 9, 1857 was announced the death of William H. Ranney, Associate Member of the National Academy of Design. Resolutions of condolence with the family were passed, and crape worn by the members, in token of their respect for his memory.

A number of the friends of the late William Ranney, desirous of expressing their sense of his abilities as an artist, and his character as a man, decided upon offering a testimonial to his memory, which, at the same time, might be of some permanent value to his bereaved family. The artist generally contributed works of their pencils, which, being added to the sketches left by Mr. Ranney, formed a collection sufficiently various for a public exposition, with the ultimate view of sale at auction, at the close of the Exhibition--the proceeds to be disposed of for the benefit of the widow and children of the deceased artist.

The thought, and the credit of carrying the enterprise to successful completion, belong to Nason B. Collins, A. F. Tait and William Hart--the latter two artists--the former a young merchant of the city, who voluntarily gave much of his money and time to the object. By their exertions the works of the deceased were collected, finished, and otherwise made acceptable for exposition and sale; works generously supplied by the artist contributors were, with those before mentioned, framed and an Exhibition was held, consisting of over two hundred productions, in the Galleries of the Academy, given rent free for that purpose; Mr. Leeds, the art auctioneer, selling them without charge.

The result was highly successful. The works by Mr. Ranney sold for sufficient to discharge a mortgage due on a little homestead which he had erected, though not entirely paid for, in West Hoboken. The amount obtained from the sale of the sketches contributed by others was some five thousand dollars, which, by the unanimous determination of the contributors, was placed in the hands of Messrs. Cummings, Durand, and Edmonds, as Trustees for investment for the benefit of the widow and children, who derive the interest therefrom.

Attendant on that effort and at the earnest request of many artists, the writer drafted a plan, which, embodied "THE ACTION" in the Ranney case into a society or association form, for a permanency; and likewise a code of by-laws calculated therefor, which was deemed acceptable, and a society was immediately organized under the title of "The Artists' Fund Society of New York".

T. S. Cummings was elected President; C. L. Elliott, Vice-President; Nason B. Collins, Treasurer.