

August 26, 1938

Dear Helen Burr:

In the letter I wrote you yesterday I made a bad blunder in referring to Lewis Payne as a possible relative of the Oil City Paynes. I once knew, but had quite forgotten, that his real name was Powell and not Payne. The probability is that there was no connection between the two families as the Powells were Florida people.

Any mention that you can find in the documents in the Franklin records of a Dramatic Oil Company is important and should be copied. (My expense of course.) One thing that I have tried before to find, but have not succeeded, is when and where the Dramatic Oil Company, which is as I understand it Booth organized - at least Mackey said so - was organized. A good many oil companies of this period were organized in Cleveland, and as both Means and Ellser were of Cleveland it is probable that that was where it originated. Do the Franklin records mention this?

I am a little alarmed at what you have let yourself in for and I cannot let you go on unless it is on some sort of a fifty fifty basis. I shall be interested in how you take my suggestion - collaboration.

As for the copying of the deeds. I have an idea that it would be just as well to let that go until I go out to Franklin and look them over.

Very sincerely yours

Mrs. James R. Burr  
1421 Elk Street  
Franklin, Pa.

*Ida M. Tarbell*  
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