

John Budke

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THE HANCOCK BUILDING
FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The Harper's Magazine which you inscribed and sent to me is most appreciated. I was particularly interested in the article about Mr. Rodgers in that in 1923 I spent several months with his grandson, Henry Rodgers, in Bermuda. Henry was not at all like his grandfather, or at least like I suppose his grandfather to have been after reading your article. He was not, however, the most peaceful of persons. When I first knew him, his sister Millicent was having marital difficulties with her husband, Count Von Salm, an Austrian. Henry was quite upset about the matter. One evening we attended a dinner party together. As the party progressed, Henry became quite hostile to me and finally informed me that he had decided that I was an Austrian and that he had never known a good Austrian and that my presence not only made him uncomfortable, but was even more than that, extremely irritating. The next day, of course, Henry was somewhat surprised about the whole matter when he learned about it.

This bit of information is not particularly relevant, and yet I thought that since you knew Mr. Rodgers you might be somewhat interested in his descendants.

It would be difficult to even guess as to when the Dramatic Oil Co. first came together. It was not a corporate entity and it was probably not a partnership. The evidence seems to indicate that those who were interested in the enterprise probably retained some individual as their Agent to conduct drilling operations and to manage their property on their behalf. The name "Dramatic Oil Company" was probably a name adopted to identify the enterprise. The word "Dramatic" suggests that the name probably originated with one of the Booths, probably J. Wilkes Booth since he was the only Booth present in Franklin. There is no evidence that there was a corporate entity known as the "Dramatic Oil Company" and the probability is that the word "Company" is utilized to describe a group of people loosely associated as distinguished from a company meaning a corporate entity existing by authorization of law. I recently had a case against what was known as the "Dog Hollow Oil Company." The Dog Hollow Oil Co. proved to be several men who drilled several wells and dignified their enterprise by naming it "Dog Hollow Oil Company."

I will be most grateful indeed if I may have a copy of the calendar which you mentioned in your letter.

Assuring you that I enjoyed my investigations in this matter, and hoping that I may be of further assistance, I am,

Sincerely,

John F. Budke