file
Van R.
address book

31 West 12th Street
~~27 WEST ELEVENTH STREET~~
NEW YORK CITY

Jan 21. 1934

Dear Ida Tarbell —

Ere you receive this you will have seen the New York papers and know that our dear friend, our great lady is no longer with us. I tried to get you on the telephone

al Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

but concluded that you were out 2 hours.

She died last night. From dawn on Saturday morning she had been fading, less and less conscious of her surroundings, as the day drew on. At twilight she passed into the shadow from which

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

at 10^15 she left us. There was no
pain, no strangeness to her in the
long journey she was just beginning
It was just a gradual and final
withdrawing. This morning in her cool
room, clear of all small articles of
illness, as she lay on her pillows
she looked like the head that
Saint Gaudens modelled of her,
noble and high minded
Last night I was # over come by her
loss — this morning there is strength
in the quietude that surrounds her.
The services will be Monday at 2^30
P M at the church of the Ascension.
I wanted Jim to know that her end was

Indeed Lord Jim

with a piece of her life. Faithfully yours Helen Moore

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer Dies; Was Member of Pioneer N. Y. Family

Author of Many Books Was an Honorary Member of Institute of Architects

(Reprinted from yesterday's late editions)

Mrs. Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer, author, member of a distinguished New York family, died Saturday night at her home, 9 West Tenth Street. Mrs. Van Rensselaer, who would have been eighty-three years old in February, was the widow of Schuyler Van Rensselaer, a descendant of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, who received a huge grant of land from the Dutch West India Company in 1630. The original patron never came to the New Netherlands, but his sons sailed from Holland and settled in Rensselaerwyck. The Van Rensselaers and their descendants married into the families of the Van Courtlandts, the Livingstons and the Schuylers.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer also came of a family with a long history. She was descended from Matthew Griswold, who came from Kenilworth, England, to Windsor, Conn., in 1635. Mrs. Van Rensselaer was born in New York City, the daughter of George and Lydia Alley Griswold. Her father was among the wealthy merchants of New York. She was educated at home by private tutors, taking special interest in archeology, art and architecture.

When she was twenty-three she was married to Mr. Van Rensselaer, a mechanical engineer. They had their home in New Brunswick, N. J., but after the death of Mr. Van Rensselaer in the '80's Mrs. Van Rensselaer returned to New York. She was for some years president of the Public Education Association of New York and was appointed by the mayor as an inspector of the public schools.

Art and architecture provided the subjects for most of her articles for magazines and her books. She was the author of "Book of American Figure Painters," 1886; "American Etchers," 1886; "Henry Hobson Richardson and His Works," 1888; "Six Portraits; Della Robbia, Corregio," 1889; "English Cathedrals," 1892; "Art Out of Doors," 1893; "One Man Who Was Content," a novel, 1896; "History of the City of New York in the 17th Century," 1909; "Niagara, a Description," 1910; "Poems," 1910, and "Many Children," 1921.

Mrs. Van Rensselaear received the honorary degree of Litt. D. from Columbia University in 1910 and in 1923 she was awarded the gold medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters for distinction in literature. She was an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. In the World War Mrs. Van Rensselaer was president of the American Fund for French Wounded.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer's son, George, died in 1892 while a student at Harvard. Surviving are a brother, Frank J. Griswold, and a sister, Mrs. Harold De Raasloff.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.