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December 22, 1932.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Bethel, Conn.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

We enjoyed your recent note about the "butter nuts" very much. I think, however, that the nomenclature on which you were brought up in northwestern Pennsylvania is quite different from the nomenclature on which I was brought up in southeastern Pennsylvania. The nuts that were sent you are black walnuts, according to southeastern Pennsylvania. Butter nute are a different shape and a different structure. At Woodbrooke Farm we have a little tree which we started some years ago, and it has just come to bearing. It had a few on this year. I am sending a few under separate cover thinking you might be interested in them. This tree is very young, and the nuts are not as big as they ought to be. They are somewhat like pullets' eggs, but we like them just the same.

The story you had in the New York Evening Post on Monday was a good one, and I am sure it ought to be worth several thousand dollars for the people you describe.

We shall drink health to you and yours on Christmas Day, with Woodbrooke Farm grape juice to which White Rock has been added. Whether it will be the grape juice from the Catawba, the Worden, the Deleware, the Concord, or the Niagara grape, I do not know, for we have juice from all of these.

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I am still an optimist in spite of the belt tightening to which you refer.

With best wishes for the New Year, as always,

Sincerely yours,

Samuel H. Ranck

LNJ

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