

634 Alameda Road, Colorado Springs

May 15, 1946.

Mr. Frederic L. Thomas,
Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Dear Cousin Fred:-

Your letter of May 9th with the enclosed check came this morning after being forwarded here from Colorado Springs.

I heard of Cousin Mary's death from Kenneth but did not receive his wire in time to send you any word before the funeral as at that time I did not know who was looking after her affairs.

Kenneth's answer to letter of enquiry to him did not reach me for some time as I had departed for an extensive trip to Yucatan, and the lower Rio Grande for work on two books which I hope to complete by the end of this year. I have had every intention of writing to you ever since I had Kenneth's letter but constant travel plus hard work in connection with it seems to make letter writing a difficult proposition. I have also intended all this past year to write to Elsa to tell her that Miss Agnes Pace who has been teaching at the Sandy Spring school is a friend of mine, though I am sure that Sandy Spring will have welcomed as good a teacher as I understand she is. Mildred may have written Elsa that I had such a nice visit with her and her family just a year ago. One sad event after another seemed to pile

on to me last year and it has taken time and a lot of hard work to get myself back into my own work after the strenuous war job in addition to so much loss and grief.

While in New York last year I obtained the contracts for these two books, one to finish a long contemplated one of the Mayan Ruins in Yucatan, the other a big job, a very big job, a pictorial story of the Rio Grande from source to mouth. All the material for the first is now ready for final assembly, that is the negatives are all made, and an outline for the text, and a good part of the river book, though there is yet much of it to be done. Consequently I am established here in Santa Fe until it is finished. I was here for a while last summer and fall and was lucky enough to get one of Cousin Lucy Taylor's houses. I am just back in it after subletting it while I was down in the south regions during the winter. At the moment I am in the throes of converting one of Cousin Lucy's store rooms into an adequate dark room which I did not have last summer, and with the added cost of everything your check comes at a moment to benefit me greatly. Cousin Mary was always interested in my humble efforts and I recall well my last visit to her about ten or eleven years ago. It was a great tragedy that she should have had such a long lingering illness.

So many changes have come to us all these past years and I dare say that I should hardly remember Sandy Spring, or have difficulty in locating places.

My kindest regards to you both,

Most sincerely