

October 27, 1943

Prof. A. E. Parr, Director,
The American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Professor Parr:

I have been instrumental this past summer in building a small library, which will house five thousand volumes, for the Town of North Branford, Connecticut, where my father and two of his brothers were born.

One of these brothers, who died in 1911, left a small fund of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of building a library for the people of North Branford. I have been fortunate in increasing this fund to forty thousand dollars and have built this library and presented it to the Town of North Branford this summer.

We have had given us from people who formerly lived in North Branford quite a few books and others who live there now and are so pleased to have this library that they have given quite a number of books, among them Mr. Alexander McKernan who gave five hundred dollars toward juvenile books; Mrs. Elbert Rose who gave generously of children's books in memory of her husband; Mrs. Hunt gave a splendid collection which had belonged to her husband, the late Capt. Hunt, and several smaller gifts from individuals.

We have no special fund with which to buy books, but I send the library all the American Museum publications which I receive as a member. I wonder if it would be possible for the American Museum of Natural History to continue to send these publications to the Atwater Memorial Library at North Branford after my death. I am now eighty-six and have been shut in my room ever since last Christmas. I would be glad to have you give me a suggestion along this line in order that the publications may continue to the library after my death. I quote from a recent letter written to me by the librarian: "Did I ever write you that the Director of the American Museum of Natural History, Prof. A. E. Parr, lived in North Branford before his appointment there, as he was then connected with the Peabody Museum at Yale? You can imagine how happy we are to read his article in the magazine each month." My address here is Hotel Kimball, Springfield, Massachusetts.

I recall with much pleasure a visit I made to the museum several years ago when I met Martin Johnson. He took me down where he was at that time engaged in mounting an elephant, showing me a number of very interesting things I would not have seen had I not met him. I never met Mrs. Johnson but have read much about her.

The people of North Branford are more than pleased with this library which I have been instrumental in placing in their town as a memorial to my grandfather who was for many years a pastor of the Congregational Church there. When we dedicated the library in May of this year we were very fortunate in

Professor A. E. Parr

-2-

October 27, 1943

having His Excellency, Governor Baldwin of Connecticut visit North Branford and deliver a fine address at the dedication ceremony. I have been informed that this was the first time a Governor of Connecticut had ever visited the Town of North Branford and he was much pleased with the library building.

Thanking you in advance for anything you can do for this little library, I remain

Cordially yours,

CBA:W