

249 West 103rd St.
New York City,
Sept. 27th, 1918

Dear Mr. Church:-

We have at last arrived in this country and reached this city two days ago. We hope to get down to Falls Church as soon as possible to spend a month, when I may come in and look over George Mankin's papers and take up any thing that may be necessary with you in regard to my interests down there.

I have word from Mr. Davis today saying that the lady in charge of the Lawton Place—which I understand you have had fixed up very attractively—will not be able to take us in until Oct. 15th, so I fear we shall have to delay our departure from this city until a little later than we had anticipated.

There is one matter that I am going to ask you to try to help me on a little, - it is in regard to the Draft Registration. When I landed at San Francisco, I went to the proper office there to register, as is expected of all returning Americans within the new draft age limits. I was told by the authorities there that I am not liable to this draft as I am really a resident of China on a visit to the States with the intention of returning to that country, and there is as yet no registration of American residents in China.

I told them I ought, therefore, to have something to show that I had presented myself and that I am exempt. They then let me fill out a registration blank, giving my residence at Falls Church, Va., and told me to bring it along with me, and present it to the nearest authority there. Now what I would like to do is to get in touch with the Exemption Board or Office that attends to Falls Church registrations. Perhaps, if I am delayed in going down, I ought to attend to this matter by post.

I am not physically anxious to be drafted unless there is the utmost need of it, as I have come to the country at considerable expense to prepare certain work for my educational interest in China and moreover, my wife, who is with me, altho no exactly depending on me to earn a wage for her support, has to depend on me absolutely for the present to manage our family affairs because she is entirely unacquainted with American customs and management and also she is not fluent enough yet with the language to get along for herself.

For these reasons, you see, I should have to ask for exemption-which the San Francisco people say I am entitled to, -or, if not, get into some part of the service where I could keep with my family for at least a year, perhaps. My age will be 37 on the 5th of December of this year.

I am giving you these facts, as you might know the official in charge personally and be able to secure for me the information as to what measures I should take and his advice on the subject. I want to do my part and all I can, of course, but my family and my vocation put some imperative demands on me as well as my country. If I can serve in a way when I may be faithful to all three, I should be very happy.

I should be exceedingly grateful to you for your trouble in helping me get in touch with the proper authorities and getting this matter settled as soon as possible.

Has Guy left for the front yet or is he still in this country? Send him my best wishes wherever he is. Lots of my relatives and friends are somewhere in France or perhaps Italy and now, thank God, perhaps over the line in Germany.

We shall hope to see you and many other friends as soon as the landlady at the Lawton Place can take us in, until then accept my best regards to you and yours.

Percy B. Tripp