Anna C. Murray notes 1994

Dear Cliff I am about to ask a favor of you, so prepare yourself. I own a silver tankard made by Philip Syng which has been shut up in Safe Deposit vault for 18 years and we have concluded it would be of more service to us in greenbacks! These may be members of our family who would buy it but before approaching anyone we would like to know its value —

In the December number of Antiques Magazine there is an advertisement of a Nicholas Roosevelt tankard (almost identical in appearance) offered by Tiffany at $2475.00 — We have not been talking about the possible sale but yesterday I was called up on the telephone by a dealer, who had heard over the grapevine, who asked to be allowed to offer it for sale at an Exhibition to be held Jan 24th to 29th at the 7th Regiment Armory N.Y. — Said he would ask $2500.00 but from that would be deducted 10% Federal Tax and 10% Commission —

We told him we did not want to exhibit or offer for sale until we had contacted some relatives — Now is it asking too much of your good nature to go to that Exhibition and ask about the value of a Philip Syng tankard — It would of course be to our advantage to make a private sale and save commission —

We have reason to think the tankard may have belonged to Jas Wilson, a signer of the Declaration, a framer of the Constitution and one of the first Justices of the Supreme Court, but have not been able to find documentary proof — It was given to Mother by a cousin who was the only descendant of Jas Wilson — I am sorry to say she had it, however I understand marked with Mother's initials and date, which can be taken off — Adelaide says "ask him if he knows any collector of old silver who might be interested if your relatives are not, I know he has a great many contacts with the rich!" When are you coming down for that week end?

Adelaide just at present has a cold, the first indisposition either of us has had so far — Owen has been in Veterans Hospital for two weeks for a check up — He has had cold after cold and sleepless nights as well as suffering with his elbow wounded by Shrapnel in World War II — Forbes' death also was of course a great shock to him — The hope he may come home this week — George was notified of being drafted but I am thankful to say has been deferred another year as essential farm laborer — He and Owen's father have been caring for the stock etc in Owen's absence — So hope your Mother is feeling quite well again and that your immediate family is quite well — With much love to each one of you and the hope that I am not presuming too much upon your kindness of heart in all of which Adelaide joins I am always

Aunt Nanny —