7-1-1997

End Matter

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To see Minerva Teichert’s art is to want to know her better. How could Minerva paint hundreds of canvases and still raise five children? Wash all the glass bottles for the family’s dairy, raise chickens and a large garden, can and sew, and still serve her community? A letter in this volume hints at the answer: “Hurry,” she writes. “That’s my second name. I hardly go by any other.”

In other letters in this collection, Minerva shares a wealth of wisdom about combining family responsibilities, personal dreams, and life in a rural community. While she chats about the week’s news with her daughter, we gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the woman who was driven to paint the Mormon story.

What were her opinions about her art? Written primarily from 1942 to 1969, these letters tell us. About her Manti Temple murals, for example, Minerva wrote, “There is just this, I may die if I do it but—as dad says—I’d have died if I hadn’t.” Like her paintings, her letters are bold and powerful, leaving a legacy of historical information and inspiration.