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A.E. Auger Correspondence

Alas Ellis Auger 1876-

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

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AUBER, A E

South Ely, Quebec, April 21, 1876

resident Old Orchard Beach

September 9, 1943

Mr. A. E. Auger
West Surf Street
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Dear Mr. Auger:

A short time ago our attention was directed to your book, THE SAGAMORE OF OLD ORCHARD. This interests us, especially, of course, as having a Maine/historical background; and we write to congratulate you and wish the book success.

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new name to Maine's literary roster. Do you know about the Maine Author Collection? This is an exhibit of books (over a thousand, and increasing steadily) written by people born in Maine, resident here, or writing about the state. The volumes are inscribed and presented for this purpose; and we also collect all available biographical, critical and photographis material about our authors. The result is a most valuable representation of Maine's contribution to literature.

We shall hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of THE SAGAMORE OF OLD ORCHARD for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection. It would be a delightful and interesting addition. Our best wishes go to you for a successful continuation of your work, and also our cordial invitation to visit the library when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl--1

SECRETARY

Old Orchard Beach, Maine
Sept. 20-43.

Dear Miss Jacob:

It is with pleasure I am sending you
a copy of my "Sagamore of Old Orchard", and
hope some day to be able to look over your
collection.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

A. E. Anger

Old Orchard Beach Man Is Author Of Book About The Early Days In This Area

This week there came to the desk of the editor of the Journal from a Boston publishing house a copy of a book entitled "The Sagamore of Old Orchard," written by A. E. Auger of West Surf street, Old Orchard Beach.

This is a historical novel of the time of the French and Indian Wars in Maine. It is purported to have been written by John Bonython, called Sagamore John, in 1724 in the "Province of Mayne." Sagamore John belonged to the white race, but he became "blood-brother" to the tribe of Sakoki Indians and preferred to live much like them. He is described in Whittier's poem, "Mogg Magone."

The region of action is around Old Orchard and the "Sauco" river. Black Point of the story is now Prouts Neck; Pequawket, the village of Fryeburg and Winter Harbor is Biddeford Pool. There are many familiar historical incidents woven into the story.

A Journal representative talked with Mr. Auger today and learned that this is the first book he has had published though much of his spare time is spent in writing.

Mr. Auger, who has lived in Old Orchard Beach for the past 11 years, was formerly a druggist in Boston, later living for about 30 years in Florida, where he carried on a confectionery business. During the first World War he travelled through the south purchasing lumber for the United States shipping board.

In Refreshment Business.

Since coming to Old Orchard Beach because of the health of his son, Mr. Auger has conducted a refreshment business near the railroad station, where he has been assisted by his wife and son.

Let us quote what Mr. Auger had to say about himself and his writings:

"I was brought up in the east in a family of moderate means, and had to do my share in supporting the family; which brought me in contact with many people who lived by the sweat of their brow, and their outlook on life as it was handed down from one generation to another of pioneer origin.

"Their stories so impressed me that I began to make a study of the historical background of our present day civilization in America; especially in New England; which played so important a part in establishing liberty and freedom of thought in the new world by the sacrifices of our pioneer men and women; who worked unceasingly for liberty in the land of their adoption.

Admirer of Whittier.

"Living at Old Orchard and being an admirer of Whittier, I read his description of some of the characters that made history in this part of the east. This is what started me in writing an historical novel with the scenes laid at Old Orchard, which of course was at one time a part of Saco.

"It seems to me the demand for historical literature is on the increase since entering the war, and with the thousands of tourists who visit New England each year, it seems that they should know more about the pioneer days in this section of the country, especially Old Orchard when it was a part of Saco.

"I know that many who read 'The Sagamore of Old Orchard' will be interested in my description of Fontinalia Day, or the Festival of Waters, which was held in the old days in June, and I hope the old custom will be revived as the opening of the season, when people from all parts of the country will come to Old Orchard to be revived by the mystic waters of the ocean."

September 22, 1943

Mr. A. E. Auger
West Surf Street
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Dear Mr. Auger:

Your friendly response and generous gift to the Maine Author Collection of an inscribed copy of your novel, THE SAGAMORE OF OLD ORCHARD, are very much appreciated.

We are always glad of the opportunity to read a new book dealing with the history of our state, and we are delighted to recognize your genuine interest. A remarkable amount of research must have gone into the making of THE SAGAMORE OF OLD ORCHARD. We hope that many people will read and enjoy it.

Possibly at your convenience you would extend your kindness by sending us a few biographical details. We seem to have the newspaper review of your book, but we lack information on such points as the author's birthplace and date.

We, too, hope that it will be possible for you to call at the library some day and see the collection. Meanwhile, best wishes to the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--postal refund

Secretary

Old Orchard Street & Old Orchard Street
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
December 14th. 1944.

Maine State Library
Augusta Me.

Dear Miss Jacob:

In your letter of September 22nd. 1943 you asked for information regarding my birthplace, and am sorry the matter was delayed.

I was born in South Ely in the Province of Quebec, Canada on the twentyfirst of April 1876. My folks came to the United States when I was five years old, and was educated in the public schools of Massachusetts.

Yes The Sagamore of Old Orchard is my first attempt at writing, and have started on my second book.

Thanking you for your kind interest in my book, and your invitation to visit the State Library.

I remain Yours truly
A. E. Auger.

A. E. Auger

January 14, 1944

Mr. A. E. Auger
Old Orchard Street
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Dear Mr. Auger:

Please accept our thanks for your kindness in sending your biographical information. This is exactly what we need. Our good wishes for the new book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary