

September 2015

# Abbie Huston Evans Correspondence

Abbie Huston Evans 1881-1983

Marion Cobb Fuller

*Maine State Library*

Hilda McLeod

Maine State Library

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## Recommended Citation

Evans, Abbie Huston 1881-1983; Fuller, Marion Cobb; McLeod, Hilda; and Maine State Library, "Abbie Huston Evans Correspondence" (2015). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 247.

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BIOGRAPHICAL

(Abbie Huston Evans)

Father: Lewis Darenydd Evans, born 1848, near Merthyr Tydvil, Wales. Worked in the iron and coal mines from the age of seven, coming to America in 1868. He became a Congregational minister in Maine, preaching twenty-five years at Camden. In his youth he wrote poetry in Welsh, and was awarded the title of "Bard" in a Welsh Eisteddfod. Died 1922.

Mother: Hester Annette Huston, born 1853, in Damariscotta, Maine, where she lived until her marriage in 1878. A lover of nature. 3 sons; 1 daughter, -

A. H. E. Born in Lee, N.H., Dec. 20, 1881.  
Moved to Boothbay Harbor, Me., 1884  
" " Camden, Me., 1889  
Radcliffe College, A.B. 1913  
" " A.M. 1918  
Teacher of English (Reading, Mass.)  
1913-1915  
In charge of a Hall of Residence,  
Radcliffe College, 1915-1918  
Welfare Worker, A.E.F., France, 1919  
Community Worker, Coal camp, Colo. 1920  
" " Pittsburgh, Pa. 1921  
Staff Worker, The Settlement Music  
School, 416 Queen Street, Phila-  
delphia, Pa., 1923-1930

"OUTCROP" published by Harper and  
Brothers, April, 1928. Reprinted  
1929.

January 14, 1930

Miss Abbie Evans,  
c/o Harper Brothers,  
New York City.

My dear Miss Evans;-

The Maine State Library is assembling autographed copies of the works of authors born in this state, or resident here for a long time. These books are not for loan, but constitute a permanent exhibit known as the Maine Author Collection. Since Maine has the honor of numbering you among her poets, we wish to have you represented. We enclose a clipping from the current number of our Library Bulletin which will tell you about the purpose of the collection.

Will you send us a copy of "Outcrop", with some biographical material about yourself, a photograph, and, if possible, a picture of the house where you were born? To add to the collection's value as a reference source we are collecting biographical and critical material about our authors, and all correspondence with them is preserved. We do not suggest that you give us your book—we are very willing to pay for it—but we do ask that you autograph it, and we hope that you will add, also, an inscription about the writing of it, especially if it happened

Miss Abbie Evens  
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to be written in Maine.

We would like to mention you and your work in the next issue of our Library Bulletin so we hope that it will be convenient for you to let us hear from you very soon.

Please make your bill for the book in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

Very truly yours,

416 Queen Street  
Southwark Station  
Philadelphia  
February 4, 1930

Marion Cobb Fuller  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

My dear Miss Fuller,

I  
am taking pleasure  
in forwarding to you  
under separate cover  
an autographed copy  
of Outcrop for you

Main Author Collection.

Most sincerely yours,

Abbie Huston Evans

416 Queen Street  
Southwark Station  
Philadelphia

Marion Cobb Fuller,  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

My dear Miss Fuller,

I  
gives me pleasure to  
contribute a copy of  
Outcrop to the Maine  
Author Collection, which  
I shall look forward  
to seeing some day. I

am sorry that press of work has kept me from replying sooner.

Unfortunately I have no picture of myself of at all recent vintage, except one taken for passport use last summer. Perhaps I'll reserve the privilege of forwarding a photograph later, when I have one made.

With real interest in your collection and its purpose, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Abbie Huston Evans

February 4th, 1930

February 13, 1930

Miss Abbie Evans,  
416 Queen Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My dear Miss Evans;-

If I had happened upon a copy of "Outcrop" in the heart of Africa, I should have said "Why these poems are about my own state; I wonder who Abbie Evans is? "I am from the coast (Rockland), and your outcrop is bloom of the soil which I know and love best. It seems to me that you have quite wonderfully caught in your poems the spirit and atmosphere of the countryside which impressed itself on my memory as it did on yours. No wonder that Miss Millay likes your poems!

Thank you very much for sending us a copy of your book for the Maine Author Collection; I hope that the photograph will be forthcoming later. Thank you also for the biographical notes and for the inscription which adds so much to the collection copy of your book. It is exactly the sort of inscription that we should like to have all of our authors write for us!

(Signed)MCF

September 13, 1938

Miss Abbie Huston Evans  
Old Homestead Farm  
Damariscotta, Maine

Dear Miss Evans:

It is a source of gratification and delight that THE BRIGHT NORTH, by one "whose roots are in Maine", as you so kindly inscribed in the Maine Author Collection copy of your OUTCROP, is receiving such excellent reviews, and is being met with success everywhere. We congratulate you, and continue to wish you success.

As yet we have not seen a copy of this latest volume of poetry, but we are eager to do so, and expect to order through our regular book dealer sufficient copies for circulation purposes.

We write to you at present, however, to suggest that you may wish to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection. Such a gift would be deeply appreciated, and would add distinction to the exhibit.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

416 QUEEN STREET  
SOUTHWARK STATION  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 27, 1938

Miss Hilda McLeod,  
Secretary, Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McLeod,

Thank you for your kind  
letter of September 13 with its appreciative  
words about "The Bright North".

I take great pleasure in sending  
you under separate cover an inscribed  
copy to be included in the Maine  
Author Collection. I was interested to  
see this collection a year or two ago when  
I was in Augusta, and find how full and  
representative it is. The idea in itself  
seems good to me, and I feel you

had carried it out well. Please  
accept my congratulations on  
having established a collection that  
should become increasingly valuable  
as time goes on.

Very truly yours,

Abbie Huston Evans

September 30, 1938

Miss Abbie Huston Evans  
416 Queen Street  
Southwark Station  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Miss Evans:

Thank you very much for your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection of a delightfully inscribed copy of THE BRIGHT NORTH. This is an addition of distinction and charm, and we are glad to be able to claim you as a Maine author.

Thank you, too, for your extremely kind words about the collection. Such approbation cheers us, for we do sincerely believe that the collection has a potential value not to be lightly estimated, especially when future students are considered.

THE BRIGHT NORTH we are happy to find all that reviewers led us to expect, and we are quite naturally pleased to discover Maine's influence. You have our best wishes for the continued popularity of this book.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY