November 2015

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina Correspondence

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina

Kay Stevens Foote

Maine State Library

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FOOTE, (Mrs.) Kay Stevens

see

RUKAVINA, Kathaleen Stevens
RUKAVINA, Kathaleen Stevens
Salt Lake City
resident of Castine
FOOTE, (Mrs.) Kay Stevens
Salt Lake City,
resident of Castine
Australia Comes to Life
In Book by Kay Foote

AT ABBOTT HOUSE in Castine Kay Stevens Foote wrote "Walkabout Down Under," story of Australia. The house, where Mrs. Foote has lived for the past four years, was built in 1801 and was used as headquarters by British officers in the War of 1812.

Chas. Scribner's Sons

Lewis ton Evening Journal
November 11, 1944
March 16, 1945

Mrs. Kay Stevens Foote  
Castine  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Foote:

Reading of your delightful book on Australia and Tasmania, WALKABOUT DOWN UNDER, we are very much interested to learn that for several years you have been living in Maine, and that, in fact, the book was written in Castine.

For this reason, we write to you about the Maine Author Collection, which is an exhibit of inscribed presentation books written by those born in Maine, resident here, or writing about the state. Because you are an "adopted" author, like Gladys Hasty Carroll, Laura E. Richards, Ben Ames Williams, and so many other fine writers, we thought it possible that you might be interested in this collection.

The books are inscribed by the authors, sometimes artistically, sometimes poetically, occasionally in tribute to Maine, or with an autobiographical anecdote; but always the inscriptions lend distinction. We gather and preserve all available biographical information, book reviews, and correspondence, also; and photographs, when possible. Although the collection is at present a fascinating display, we are admittedly building for the future, when such an exhibit will be invaluable to students.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of WALKABOUT DOWN UNDER for this purpose; we should be delighted to include it. Our good wishes to the book, and to your next work.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl—1
Secretary
Mrs. F.W. Jacob  
Secretary  
Maine State Library  
State House, Augusta  
Maine  

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Your good letter of March 16 finally reached me out here in California, where I am making a brief visit.

How wonderfully kind of the Maine State Library to want a copy of my book WALKABOUT DOWN-UNDER for the Maine Authors' Collection. I can't tell you how deeply honoured I feel, and how touched I am to be 'adopted'. It makes me feel really at home—at last. You see, although born in the United States, I spent my childhood in Australia, and my early youth in Africa. Thus I felt a wee bit of a stranger when I returned to my homeland six years ago. Maine gave me a warm, initial welcome, of course; but now that it has adopted me as one of its own, I am happy indeed!

As soon as I return East I shall be only too glad to send you an inscribed copy of my little book. With many thanks for your kind wishes, and for this singular honour you have chosen to bestow upon me, believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Kay Stevens Foote
April 4, 1945

Mrs. Kay Stevens *'oote
c/o Mrs. D. Stevens
1870 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, California

Dear Mrs. Foote:

It gives us a great deal of pleasure to have your friendly response, and to know that WALKABOUT DOWN UNDER may be included in the Maine Author Collection. We shall look forward to its arrival.

Please accept our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the collection when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary
June 5, 1945

Mrs. Kay Stevens Foote
Castine
Maine

Dear Mrs. Foote:

Your most delightfully inscribed book, WALKABOUT DOWN UNDER, arrived to be placed with great pleasure in the Maine Author Collection.

It is such a beautiful and charming book, with a wealth of information attractively and simply presented; no wonder libraries are finding it useful, and young people and their parents are finding it fascinating!

Please accept our grateful appreciation of your friendly letters and for your friendly book. And do call at the library whenever you may be in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Encl--15¢ postal refund
Jungle Pathfinder

The Strangest Love Story Ever Told

Here is a true and startling statement from out of the depths of Central Africa. A life that will capture the imagination of men and women alike. The account of one of Cecil Rhodes's scouts, who, as vanguard of Rhodes's drive into the African wilderness, underwent a strange metamorphosis:

As young JOHN EDWARD STEPHENSON, he invaded and occupied a large slice of Rhodesia north of the Zambesi for the White man. As CHIRUPULA, Lala god, he founded a kingdom in a lost Rhodesian valley upon behalf of the Black man. Here, cut off in jungle sanctum, CHIRUPULA STEPHENSON has pursued a great goal for nearly fifty years. Years packed with adventure, it is safe to state, unparalleled by any other:

Adventure in planting his Queen's flag. In witchcraft. And in an exacting polygamy.
Adventure on the trail of Elephants. Lions. And a killer.
Adventure at a priest-king's court. At a monster's hideout.
And at a second wife's stillly graveside.
Adventure with Loti, the slave girl, beyond the river-of-the-jolly-god. And with Mwape, the Lala princess, high in the place-of-the-mists.

ADVENTURE!

JUNGLE PATHFINDER, told by the knowing pen of the writer-traveler, KATHALEEN STEVENS RUKAVINA—who has spent more than twelve years beyond the Zambesi herself, is an exciting, authentic document. A medley of the African wilds.

Price $3.00

Order At Your Bookstore Today

EXPOSITION PRESS
251 Fourth Avenue, New York
Madam:

We think that you will be interested in JUNGLE PATHFINDER as it was written by an old Maine-ite, whose book entitled WALKABOUT DOWN*UNDER you already have at the library (written under the nom-de-plume of Kay Stevens Foote).

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina was a resident of Castine, Me., for several years, where she began to write this book -- JUNGLE PATHFINDER, a medley of the African wilds.

Agent.

"This is Central Africa speaking. Those who have been to the Dark Continent, and those who have not, should read this vivid account of the provocative Rhodesias."

—ARTHUR S. VERNAY, trustee of the American Museum of Natural History

Announcing

JUNGLE PATHFINDER

The Biography of Chirupula Stephenson,
Africa's Most Fabulous Adventurer

by KATHALEEN STEVENS RUKAVINA

$3.00

EXPOSITION PRESS New York 16
Madam:

We think that you will be interested in JUNGLE PATHFINDER as it was written by an old Maine-ite, whose book entitled WALKABOUT DOWN*UNDER you already have at the library (written under the nom-de-plume of Kay Stevens Foote).

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina was a resident of Castine, Me., for several years, where she began to write this book -- JUNGLE PATHFINDER, a medley of the African wilds.

Agent.

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JOHN EDWARD STEPHENSON went to the Cape Colony as a telegrapher in the 1890's, just as Cecil Rhodes was forging the last link of his fabulous British South Africa Company.

A weak right arm made him one of the most important white men ever to enter south-central Africa. Stephenson became a buffer between the white man's exploitation and the black man's resistance.

Africa slowly but surely laid her hand upon young Stephenson. Loti, the beautiful young native girl Africa gave him for a wife, made it impossible for him ever to return to white society.

As he moved expeditions through the interior, open hospitality and reverent friendship were extended to him. Years passed before he realized these people considered him the blond god Luchere returning after centuries of wandering at the edge of the world. His second wife, a Lala princess taken with the approval of Loti, confessed the legend on their wedding night.

Then began other legends about the mysterious white chief: stories of nine wives and countless children, his stern rule, his mastery of black magic — white men's tales little different from the natives' belief that he was Luchere.

"... I do not know a single one . . . who is as well qualified to write about the romance of Northern Rhodesia and the epic of its most mysterious and glamorous figure, Chirupula, as Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina . . . . As a man who has devoted most of his life to Africa, I only wish that everybody would read this so sincere and thrilling book."

—COMMANDER ATTILIO GATTI, famous author and explorer

"Jungle Pathfinder is a strange love story, replete with exciting adventures and set in the mystic and dramatic background of the African wilds. Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina . . . writes with conviction and poignant understanding."

—LEWIS COTLOW, noted African and South American explorer.
Madam:

We think that you will be interested in JUNGLE PATHFINDER as it was written by an old Maine-ite, whose book entitled WALKABOUT DOWN*UNDER you already have at the library (written under the nom-de-plume of Kay Stevens Foote).

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina was a resident of Castine, Me., for several years, where she began to write this book -- JUNGLE PATHFINDER, a medley of the African wilds.

Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina (formerly the Baroness Rukavina) became fascinated with the legendary figure soon after she arrived in Rhodesia when she was twelve years old. Their acquaintanceship led to a deep friendship that permitted the reticent recluse to tell her the real story of his incredible life, the story of a man of wisdom, sympathetic humor and an inflexible conscience—and of a man firmly convinced that, when all is said and done, polygamy is a highly impractical aspect in modern civilization.

ORDER BLANK

Exposition Press
386 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

Please send me __________ copies of JUNGLE PATHFINDER by Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina. Price: $3.00 per copy, postage free.

Enclosed find [ ] check [ ] money order

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________

Mrs. Kathaleen Stevens Rukavina
Castine
Maine

Dear Mrs. Rukavina:

When we wrote to you about WALKABOUT DOWN UNDER, we were delighted to be able to "adopt" you as a Maine author. We did not realize how extensive were your travels and experiences, but with the announcement of JUNGLE PATHFINDER, we are beginning to understand and marvel. We look forward to seeing this new volume with great interest.

May the Maine Author Collection, to which you graciously presented a copy of your first book, anticipate the inclusion of an inscribed copy of the second? It would give us pleasure to place it on the exhibit shelves.

Our very good wishes to you and to JUNGLE PATHFINDER. May it have a warm welcome and a long success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 1, 1951

Mr. Jacob:

Thank you for your good letter of February 9th, which was forwarded to me here. Their "Tungha Pathfinder" is finding an advance publication, but elsewhere on the 9th... I should be delighted to send you an autographed copy of the book, and am deeply touched that you should ask me... You will hear from me as soon as I return to New York.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Lyons, Assoc. Prop

Seaglade Hotel

Worth Avenue and Atlantic Ocean
Palm Beach, Florida
July 6, 1951

Mrs. Kathleen Stevens Rukavina
66 Park Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Mrs. Rukavina:

Thank you very much for the Maine Author Collection copy of your exciting book, JUNGLE PATHFINDER. Indeed, "exciting" is insufficient -- "fabulous" is truly the only word to describe the life and adventures of which you write. It is a remarkably absorbing story, one which surely must enjoy more than ordinary success.

We are most appreciative of your continued interest in the collection, and add this new book to the shelves with grateful pleasure.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection