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James P. Gardner Jr. Correspondence

James Peter Gardner 1873-1950

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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GARDNER, James P.

Stockwell, Surry, England, January 16, 1873-

Summer resident of Bailey Island

Gardner, James P.

Mr. Gardner was born in Stockwell, England of Scotch parents and after the death of his mother when he was five years old, he spent his childhood with his grandmother at Gattonside in Southern Scotland. Later he was sent to a boarding school in Kelso.

At the age of twelve he came to America to live with his father in New York City after the death of his grandmother. Here he entered the public schools. After graduating from grammar school he started work in a banking firm and continued to work in the banking business for nearly fifty years.

From: REMINISCENCES OF A SCOTTISH LADDIE by Gardner.

ABNER FARM HOUSE
BAILEY ISLAND
MAINE

July 27th 1940

Librarian
State Library
Augusta Maine

Dear Sir or Madam:

I invite your attention to the prospectus of my recent book, "Reminiscences of a Scottish Laddi which was published a short time ago. As a summer resident of Maine I have found many interested in the book which now is in several Maine libraries.

In view of conditions abroad I believe the book has a timely interest.

Yours truly,

James P. Gardner

July 30, 1940

Mr. James P. Gardner
Abner Farm House
Bailey Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Thank you for writing to us about your recent book, REMINISCENCES OF A SCOTTISH LADDIE. We have noticed favorable mention of it in book columns, and are adding it to our order list. It will be purchased through the State Bureau of Purchases, and very soon our patrons will have the opportunity of reading what certainly seems to be a most interesting and charming autobiography.

We write at present regarding the Maine Author Collection, of which you may have heard. This exhibit includes about a thousand inscribed, presentation volumes, written by Maine persons. We hope that it will be possible to include a copy of REMINISCENCES OF A SCOTTISH LADDIE on the shelves. A number of authors not born in Maine are closely connected by residence: Rachel Field, Laura E. Richards, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Ben Ames Williams, Booth Tarkington; and we would appreciate the distinction of being able to claim you among these noted names.

Please accept our good wishes for the continued success of the book, and our sincere thanks for writing to us.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

ABNER FARM HOUSE

BAILEY ISLAND

MAINE

July 31st 1940

Dear Mrs Jacob:
Maine State Library
Augusta Maine

Thank you for informing me that the State
Library intends to include my book in it's collection.

I am sending you by this mail a copy for your
Author's Collection which I have inscribed as you
have requested. I am proud to be included among the
celebrities you have named.

I trust that your readers may enjoy the
book and have a warm spot in their hearts for the
land of story. Your name McLeod suggests your affinity
with old Scotland. Long may you prosper.

Sincerely,

James P. Gardner.

August 13, 1940

Mr. James P. Gardner
Abner Farm House
Bailey Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Your prompt and generous gift of REMINISCENCES OF A SCOTTISH LADDIE delights us. We are particularly pleased with your charming inscription, which adds so greatly to the distinction of the volume.

It is an unusual book, and one which we feel will enjoy success and popularity. We wish it a long life, and are very glad that we will be able to include this copy in the exhibit.

Yes, the name McLeod stems from Scotland, although mine did not come so directly as yours, inasmuch as you brought yours with you!

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your gracious presentation of your book to the Maine Author Collection, and our best wishes for a happy summer.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl--3¢

SECRETARY

October 1, 1948

Mr. James P. Gardner
Abner Farm House
Bailey Island, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Congratulations upon the publication of PETER SALT, to which we take this opportunity of wishing immediate and enduring success. We look forward to seeing a copy. Save for the period in which you place your novel, we might think it somewhat autobiographical. Certainly it is a field with which you are familiar.

You may remember that several years ago you were so kindly interested in the Maine Author Collection as to present an inscribed copy of REMINISCENCES OF A SCOTTISH LADDIE. We hope that PETER SALT may also join this exhibit collection. We should be very much pleased to be able to place it beside your earlier book.

We trust that you have had a pleasant summer, and that your winter will be brightened by the warm reception accorded PETER SALT.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

PETER SALT

By *P.*
By JAMES GARDNER

Boston: Bruce Humphries, Inc.
Toronto: The Reyerson Press

Reviewed by
ESTELLE C. TAPPEN

Montclair is fortunate in the number of distinguished persons who have made this their home; among those in the literary field is James Gardner, formerly engaged in banking, and a resident of our town for many years. Mr. Gardner is author of an informative book called, "Moneys of the World," "Reminiscences of a Scottish Laddie"; short stories, and many colorful poems inspired by the environment of his Summer home in Bailey Island, Me. The recent contribution is "Peter Salt" beginning in 1826, and extending to shortly after 1837.

The story opens in the rugged back ground of the Scottish Border, then moves to London, and concludes in New York, where Peter represents the London banking firm. Early pages give a brief history of the Scottish border from the Roman period down to the hero's birth. "Neathside was tenanted by only a worthy remnant of the ancient clan: Grand-mother Jean Salt, Ailsa Salt her widowed daughter-in-law, Ailsa's son Peter, and Auld Sandy, who had been faithfulattach'e of Captain David Salt, Peter's father, in 1815 as Waterloo where the captain was killed. "This account is necessary in order that the reader may know the ceaseless wars and traditions, and become familiar with Peter's sturdy forbears, from whom he inherited those strong qualities which enabled him to meet the difficulties of his later life."

The adventure shifts from the Scottish Border, by means of stage-coach, through the lake District of Cumberland and the Midlands stopping at the ancient ruins along the road where Peter and Sandy listen in the tap rooms to the conversation of the day, finally arriving in London where Peter has accepted a position with the firm of Angus McNair and Co. The book abounds in historical references revealing important events and highlights outstanding personalities of these interesting formative years. Life in the London counting house and the experiences of conducting mercantile banking which formed the ground work of Peter's later life

in New York are revealing. The incongruous situations which Sandy encountered, never having been away from his moors and now moved to the crowded bustling city of London, stirs the imagination, and shows Sandy "with his winsome burr—the Scottish tongue", the wise counselor and loyal friend that he always was. Young Mr. Salt advanced so rapidly in his business career, that he was sent as representative of the London office to the New York branch. Peter and his companion sailed to this country, where Peter was to assume larger responsibilities.

Life on board "The Lydia," gives the reader some idea of the hardships that our ancestors endured. The storm at sea shows the author's skill in vivid descriptions, while Sandy's sermon to the passengers as they gathered for divine worship, is impressive. After Peter is established in New York he writes a long letter to his mother, which gives a clear review of the early period of that city. You see the office on Stone Street, not far distant from the boarding house on Greenwich Road, Rose Cottage back of Trinity Church, the boarding house mistress Mrs. Kipp, and her aged slave servant, Fanny. Here is the work of the counting house, and Peter meeting with the brilliant French count at a banquet with other dignitaries.

Romance enlivens the latter portion of the novel and the love story of Aurelia and Peter lends a pleasing touch.

Mr. Gardner was brought up in the Scottish Border country, which makes the early background realistic, and his own long banking experience made it possible for him to present Peter Salt with authenticity. He himself affirms that the book was inspired because he felt the need of a story that would not only be historically true and romantically interesting, but one that would serve to awaken in the minds of the reading public the love for a novel that would be as refreshing as the winds that blow across the hills and moors of the Scottish Border. He wished to write a narrative free from the repeated vulgarities of cigarette smoking, mixing high balls, and adventurous passions which flow through the pages of so many modern books, leaving their debris, and lauding the practice of loose moral standards.

Peter Salt fulfills the intent of the author and gives a revealing and entertaining story free from the unattractive details which so many writers of today seem to feel necessary.

A Book the Whole Family Can Enjoy!

PETER SALT

by **JAMES P. GARDNER**

AUTHOR OF

Reminiscences of a Scottish Laddie

Excitingly told is this story of young Peter Salt and his life in the Scotland and America of the early nineteenth century. We follow him and his companion, Auld Sandy, the shepherd, on their journey from the rugged Scottish Border by stagecoach to London and then by ship to New York, where Peter enters the branch office of a firm of London merchant bankers. It is in New York that Peter meets Aurelia and the charming love story of these two appealing young people will please everyone. The reader will find, too, a realistic historical background in Peter's interview with President Jackson and in his daring plan to arrest the panic of 1837.

Mr. Gardner's boyhood spent in the Scottish Border country and his many years of banking experience in America enable him to give authentic details to the story of Peter Salt.

"... as refreshing as the winds that blow across the hills and moors of the Scottish Border... gives a revealing and entertaining story free from the unattractive details which so many writers of today seem to feel necessary."—*The Montclair Times*.

"... vivid history, written with a quiet dignity... a vitality in the story, the power of new land—great visions and greater fulfillment..."—*The Brunswick (Me.) Record*.

374 pages

\$3.00

At all bookstores

BRUCE HUMPHRIES, Inc.

Boston

Publishers

14 BRUNSWICK ROAD
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

October 8th 1948

Mrs F.W.Jacob
In Charge of Maine Author Collection
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs Jacob;

With something of the persistence in a good cause that inspired your mighty ancestor, Jacob of old, you have won your point, though may I say, not with the wrestling that accompanied that Patriach of old.

I have sent to you with my compliments a copy of PETER SALT, and hope that your readers will find enjoyment and instruction (is that allowable) within its pages.

May I gently remind Mrs Stibbs, that this would be a brow book for the library, if another copy is called for, or perhaps a kind word(to me) to a sister librarian might account for another sale from the publishers.

I enclose a copy of an advertisement the publishers ran in our local newspaper this week.

Nay, nay, ma bonnie lassie(Auld Sandy would say) its no autobiographical(imagine that Border shepherd employing that long word!?) unless ye were to ken that all they buiks are spun and woven frae the hearts bluid o' the story teller". That's what Sandy would say about your remark about the ap-to-cal.

So I have tried to please you and you may place Peter beside the ROASL, they wunna ficht.

Sincerely yours, *James P. Gardner*

P.S. I am sure that all clan McLeod, would rally to support the sale of young Peter Salt.

October 12, 1948

Mr. James P. Gardner
14 Brunswick Road
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The copy of PETER SALT for the Maine Author Collection arrived this morning. We are delighted to be able to add it to these exhibit shelves, and appreciate your generous presentation, the inscription, and your friendly letter.

The story of Peter is indeed refreshing, and you have certainly included a great deal of information, and at the same time have maintained the pace of the story to hold a reader's interest.

Our Scottish burr is inadequate for the occasion, but we are always happy to speak a good word for a good book. We hope that Peter makes many friends, and that he will enjoy a long and successful career.

Again thank you very much for your continued interest, and for presenting PETER SALT for the exhibit.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--10¢ postal refund.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

