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George Alden Gilpatric Correspondence

George Alden Gilpatric 1849-1944

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

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GILPATRIC, George Alden

January 31, 1935

Mr. George A. Gilpatric
Kennebunk
Maine

Dear Mr. Gilpatric:

We have recently noticed the announcement of the publication of THE VILLAGE OF KENNEBUNK, MAINE; and of course we are anxious to include it in our Maine Author Collection.

Some years ago this exhibit collection of the works of contemporary Maine-born authors was started. Our authors have very kindly contributed books, all autographed, and biographical data for our reference files. This collection now numbers several hundred books, all interestingly inscribed by the author.

Naturally, we are very proud when we can add another name to our author list, and another book to this collection. Especially are we interested in anything pertaining to Maine and her history.

We hope you will want to inscribe a copy of THE VILLAGE OF KENNEBUNK, MAINE, and send to us for inclusion in our Maine Author Collection.

Also, we would greatly appreciate biographical material. Would you be kind enough to write for us a sketch of your life, that we may add it to our files. We are always grateful for the cooperation which our authors extend.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

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Secretary

382 & Nicholas St.
Lynchburg Va

Feb. 18. 1935

Mr. H. F. Dunnack

Dear Sir

A Letter has been forwarded to me here from my Son in New Brunswick asking for an Autographed Copy of the Village of New Brunswick Maine I am sending one under another cover You also ask for a Biographical sketch, My Son in Law is preparing one which will be sent soon

I hardly think you ^{will} think this but an addition to your list as it only contains a few items imperfectly expressed Truly yours

Geo. A. Gilpatrick



A. F. & A. M.
P. J. G. Warden Gr. Lodge of Maine.
P. D. D. G. M. 19th District.
P. M. York Lodge No. 22.
P. P. Madonna Chapter, No. 144, O. E. S.
G. Rep. Gr. Lodge Victoria near G. L. Me.

George A. Gilpatrick,

I. O. O. F.

P. G. R. Sovereign Grand Lodge.
P. G. M. Grand Lodge of Maine.
P. G. Mousam Lodge, No. 26.
P. C. P. Pine Tree Encampment, No. 29.
P. N. G. Olive Rebekah Lodge, No. 21.

Kennebunk,

Maine.

February 21, 1935

Mr. George A. Gilpatrick
3828 Nicholas Street
Lynchburg, Virginia

Dear Sir:

Your kindly autographed copy of THE VILLAGE OF KENNEBUNK, MAINE has been received, and we wish to express our sincere thanks for your courtesy. It is indeed an addition of which we may justly be proud, and we are very pleased to add your name to our list of Maine authors.

We will appreciate receiving the biographical sketch. Our thanks are due your son-in-law also for preparing it.

Please accept our congratulations upon the assembling of this valuable historical data, and the publication of your book.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

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Secretary

PAPERS OF GREAT HISTORICAL VALUE

"The Village of Kennebunk, Maine"

a ninety-two page book by George A. Gilpatric, historian, has been printed by the Star Press, Inc. It contains interesting facts from old documents and maps, and observations by the author; also cuts of three old buildings and a map of Kennebunk village in 1872. In the foreword, Mr. Gilpatric, characteristically modest, says, "I don't think that these papers are of much value but they may help some future historian."

Chapter one tells about the Centennial Celebration July 4, 1876 and the address of Andrew Walker on "Kennebunk As It Was in 1790."

Chapter Two—Kennebunk in 1860. Mercantile Directory.

Chapter Three — Kennebunk in 1930. Some of the changes since 1860.

Chapter Four—Road from Wells. Bridges over the Mousam river. Mill Privileges. Freshets.

Chapter Five—Manufacturing and Mills, 1870-1888. First dam and saw mill. Early Mills. Kennebunk Manufacturing Co. Mousam Mfg. Co. Warp Mill. Hewitt Mill. Colvin Mill. Union Lace Co. Grist Mill. Kennebunk Mill Co. Union Mill Co.

Chapter Six — Leatheroid, Leatherboard, Rogers Fibre Co.

Chapter Seven — Churches and Schools.

Chapter Eight — Old Buildings.

Chapter Nine—Old Houses.

Chapter Ten — Destructive Fires. Accidents. Tragedies and Sudden Deaths. Items of Interest.

Mr. Gilpatric wrote the history of York Lodge of Masons, published in 1913, the Centennial year of the lodge; also a biographical history of Mousam Lodge of Odd Fellows, and several papers of local interest which have been published in the Star.

His "Village of Kennebunk" will be read with much interest. The papers are a valuable contribution to town history which probably would have been lost to generations to come had he not been impelled by love of his native town to have them recorded for future information and reference.

George Alden Gilpatric, the author of the recently published history of Kennebunk entitled "The Village of Kennebunk, Maine," was born on a small farm about a mile from the village of Kennebunk on December 24, 1849. He is the son of Ivory and Louisiana (Littlefield) Gilpatric, who were both descendants of early settlers in Wekks. The Gilpatric family is of Scotch-Irish descent, the first American ancestor being Thomas Killpatrick (then the spelling of the name), who came from Donathkeedy, Ireland, in 1720. Thomas' grandson, John, Jr., served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary army. The Gilpatrics, like most of the early settlers of Wells, were sturdy farmers. George Gilpatric's mother was descended from Edmund Littlefield, one of the first settlers of Wells.

His early life was the usual one of the farm boys of that day, and he received his education in the public schools of Kennebunk. In 1867 he went to Newton, Mass. to learn the carpenter's trade, and remained there until 1873, when he returned to Kennebunk to continue work in this trade. In 1880 he entered the employ of the Leatheroid Manufacturing Company of Kennebunk and continued his work with this company for about forty years in the various positions of carpenter, foreman, and superintendent of paper mill department.

As a citizen in his native town he was known as a man of sterling character and worth, quiet and unassuming in manner. His only town office was that of moderator which he held for fifteen years.

Mr. Gilpatric became an Odd Fellow in 1871 by initiation into Mousam Lodge, No. 26. He was elected Noble Grand of his lodge in 1874 and again in 1881. In 1894 he became treasurer of the lodge. In 1880, 1886-87, and 1890-91 he was district

deputy grand master of his district. He became a member of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1877. In 1892 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, and in the following year he was elected Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge for a term of two years.

He was initiated as a Mason in 1873. He was made Worshipful Master in 1880. For thirty-one years he served as secretary of the lodge. In 1913 he became Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maine. He wrote the biographical part of York Lodge History, which was published in connection with the centennial of the lodge in 1913 and contained data concerning the 511 members.

Mr. Gilpatric was married in 1876 to Hannah K. Goodwin, daughter of B. F. Goodwin of Kennebunk. The two children of this marriage are William S. Gilpatric of Kennebunk and Frances Gilpatric, who after the death of her first husband, Francis Dunnington of Charlottesville, Virginia, was married several years later to Dr. Robert C. Beale, now Professor of English in Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia. In religious affiliation Mr. Gilpatric is a Unitarian, and in politics a Republican.

Mr. Gilpatric gives the following statement with regard to the circumstances under which he was led to write the history of Kennebunk:

"One evening in the fall of 1933 a few of the older residents of Kennebunk met by the invitation of Dr. George W. Bourne at the home of his brother, Mr. Herbert E. Bourne to talk over old memories of Kennebunk and to revive accounts of its appearance in former days. I had for some years been

collecting and recording items of town history. When I mentioned these accounts, the group expressed an interest in hearing these records. At a later gathering of the same group I read some of the accounts that I had written. Dr. Bourne was of the opinion that the accounts should be printed, and said that he would confer with Mr. Henry Parsons in the early part of the summer of 1934. He authorized the Kennebunk Star to put it into print. Had I realized many years ago that there might be public interest in the preserving of these records, there was much other material that I might have gathered at the time. #

November 23, 1939

Mr. George A. Gilpatric
7 Dane Street
Kennebunk, Maine

Dear Mr. Gilpatric:

The complimentary copy of KENNEBUNK HISTORY, the sequel to THE VILLAGE OF KENNEBUNK, MAINE, has been received.

We are delighted to be able to place this with your earlier book in the Maine Author Collection, and trust that when you are in Augusta, you will be kind enough to inscribe it, as you did the first volume.

We are ordering a copy of each for the general lending section of the library, as we discovered, greatly to our surprise, that we did not have them. Of course the library is always anxious to extend its Maine town history files.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Very truly yours

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BY

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SECRETARY

George A. Gilpatric
Hampden-Sydney
Virginia

2-25-40

Main State Library

My son sent you from Kennebunk a
copy of the Book Kennebunk History
you write him that you would like
an Autographed Copy - The letter was
forwarded to me but has been misplaced
I think you asked me to call at
the Library when in Augusta

As it is uncertain when if ever I am
in Augusta. I have Autographed a copy
and will send to you and you can exchange
the one that he sent for it

Yours truly

Geo. A. Gilpatric

FEB 28

March 5, 1940

Mr. George A. Gilpatric
Hampden-Sydney
Virginia

Dear Mr. Gilpatric:

You are most kind to send us an inscribed copy of KENNEBUNK HISTORY for the Maine Author Collection, and we are returning the other copy to you at once.

Thank you very much for taking the trouble to inscribe the book for this exhibit.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

