September 2015

Alice Mariett Correspondence

Alice Mariett

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Mariett, Alice; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, 'Alice Mariett Correspondence' (2015). Maine Writers Correspondence. 345.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/345

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
MARRIETT, Alice

York Harbor.

b. Fall River, Massachusetts, August, 1893.
Autobiographical Sketch of Alice Mariett.

My mother's diary records this which I quote:

"The birthplace of my daughter was in a long, low white cottage on a hill in the outskirts of Fall River. Sweet apple trees, pears and other trees grew behind the white barn. August 1893, the picket fence was draped with brilliant nasturtiums. The front door looked toward a level field. Pastures sloped to the river. Her toys barely reached my little girl's sides. Only the tiger kitten scrabbled in her little garden. She had one year was spent in this charming cottage. Then Alice lived two years more in St. James Rectory of her father's church. She had a vivid imagination of her father's church. She read before the age of five. My husband and I taught her to read besides what she learned in a Sunday school. Alice never learned her alphabet. Her fondness for music began at an early age with a sweet soprano voice. She began to show signs of authorship when dressed in white one Sunday ready to go to church. I left her in the room, but then found her curiosity made her creep into an unused fireplace where her father kept a quart bottle of pitch in. Alice had emptied the contents"
over her white dress, and as always, was smiling when
I approached her.

Until the age of twelve, I had a German governess,
containing my fondness for the language all through my life
by study, reading and conversing. I translated German
poems, stories and one novel.

My education was in Private Schools, College Preparatory
private schools. College Preparatory

Conduite at St. Agnes School in Albany. Circumstances
prevented my attending Radcliffe College, I chose the

in U. S. Conservatory of Music in Berlin. Later I taught piano
 Musical theory and voice in private schools.

After the death of my talented mother and father, I

Heard graduated my positions were varied. I

lived in Connecticut, Vermont and New York states.

was a Church Worker in several Episcopal Churches.

churches.

I was a House Mother in a South Carolina Orphanage.

Secretary and teacher in Mother School for Negro girls.

was also Assistant Worker in two Homes for Orphaned

my six years at Georgia and

coloured people. Wrote stories about them, the Carolinians.

and Juvenile Court Cases.

My first poem was published at the age of nine.
cumbing trip with my father and brother was published in a "Children's Paper."

I have grown into womanhood preferring books after times (dare I say this?) to the company of some people!

My two pet loves are music and the ocean. 

Fla in peace and quiet, the Maine coast is an inspiration to any writer.

I have no recent photo. All this description I just wish from a (unbobbed) hazel-eyed, 5 ft. 4 in. a little on the short side.

Principal people in my life are my parents and brothers. My two brothers are both teachers. My older brother is a composer and conductor. My younger brother is an attorney.
May 29, 1951

Miss Alice Mariett
York Harbor
Maine

Dear Miss Mariett:

It is good news that we may expect another book from your pen soon. We are particularly interested in learning that it has a Maine background, and that you yourself can be considered a Maine author. We know that you were not born in this state, but many of our favorite writers were not -- Henry Beston and Elizabeth Coatsworth, Gladys Hasty Carroll, Ben Ames Williams, Louise Dickinson Rich, Laura Richards, Rachel Field, for instances. We shall enjoy knowing that you are as much a Maine author as they.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? It is a permanent exhibit collection of inscribed presentation copies of the books written by Maine authors, or written about the state. There are about two thousand volumes in this collection now, and it is constantly growing. The originality of the varied inscriptions adds much to the fascination and worth of the collection, and we have numerous visitors and students who come to see it throughout the year. It is the only place where all the works of all Maine authors are gathered together and permanently preserved.

It is our hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of THE FLYING STAIRCASE for inclusion in this exhibit, and that the new book may also grace the shelves upon publication. You have our very good wishes for a satisfactory progress on the new novel, and for its immediate and lasting success.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Encl--1
O. D. Oct 14th
York Harbor, Maine
May 31st, 1951

Dear Mrs. Jacob: Thank you for your very kind letter.

I am pleased to know about the Wauk Autin Collection, and that I am eligible for its exhibition of Wauk autin both.

It gives me much joy to read a copy of The Flying Staircase, whose invention I hope will be satisfactory. I have not had the privilege
of visiting the Maine State Library. I fear I shall go to Augusta before long.

The invitation to place my book in the Maine Author Collection I consider a very quiet honor. The State of Maine is very precious to me. It is difficult to adequately express my deep appreciation.

Thank you for your interest in my second novel, which is about half completed.

My parents and brother are no longer living, so this news received yesterday sứuns much to one like me. My
June 14, 1951

Miss Alice Mariett
Box 146
York Harbor, Maine

Dear Miss Mariett:

Thinking that perhaps we should have the opportunity of meeting you and expressing our thanks personally, we delayed writing; but it would be unmannerly to wait longer. We shall look forward to the promised visit, however.

You are most kind and friendly, and we are delighted to be able to add the charmingly inscribed FLYING STAIRCASE to the Maine Author Collection. We are glad to know, too, that you are agreeable to being "adopted." We shall look upon you as one of our Maine authors.

We have been unsuccessful in finding biographical information about you; that is, a newspaper report gave us brief facts, but we have virtually no details. This request may seem presumptuous, but we do like to have as complete biographical information about our authors as possible, and sometimes the only way to get it is to ask for it! Entirely at your convenience, would you be willing to send us a few paragraphs of this nature? We like to know where authors were born, when, their education, other occupations, and in fact anything of interest which they want to tell us.

We hope that your State Library may sometime have the pleasure of serving you; meanwhile, best wishes for the successful completion of the new book, and our warm thanks for the Maine Author Collection copy of THE FLYING STAIRCASE.

Sincerely yours

hcm

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
York Harbor, Maine.
June 18th, 1951.

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Your pleasant letter is much appreciated. As I am very busy at present in the process of leaving from my charming apartment, it is not feasible to go to Augusta. My ownership of this home plus many tenants with children compel me to live elsewhere. After June 21st my address will be York Beach, Maine.

I have heard a lot in a year where peace and quiet will prevail.
I am glad to send a brief autobiographical sketch, only regret I cannot type it. My machine is being serviced.

I am welcome to see all of this material.

If you are in the vicinity of job Beach it would give me great pleasure to receive a call from you. I do not know the number yet of my new telephone.

Is not Mrs. Gladys Carroll a native of Miami? You mentioned in your first letter that she was not a Welsh author.

I thought she was born at South Berwick.

Thanking you again for your kind letter.

Sincerely, Alice Warratt.
June 21, 1951

Miss Alice Mariett
York Beach
Maine

Dear Miss Mariett:

Thank you very much for the autobiographical sketch. It is delightful -- so much more individual than a Who's Who paragraph! You ask "how" we file such sketches. We have vertical files, in which we keep all available information about writers, and many other subjects, too, of course. About authors we have biographical information, literary reviews, newspaper and magazine articles, pictures when available; and we maintain a special loose-leaf notebook section in which we keep all correspondence pertaining to the Maine Author Collection separately and permanently.

Thank you for your very kind invitation. I do not know that I shall be in York Beach soon, but the future is never completely certain, and I shall remember your graciousness. I hope the new home proves to be all that you want and need, and will be conducive to a satisfying life for your writing.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Maine Author Collection

P.S. Gladys Hasty Carroll is an "adopted" author, inasmuch as she was born in Rochester, New Hampshire; but like many others, she seems thoroughly "Maine" in her writing.