TIBBOTT, F. M.
Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, December 11, 1885.
Summer resident of Maine.
I was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, December 11, 1885; (and according to at least one reviewer, I must have died some years ago). In 1889 we moved to Washington, D.C., where my father was confidential secretary to President Harrison, remaining with him, in Indianapolis again, until his death in 1901. (I think that was the year). In any event, we came to Philadelphia in 1901, where my father was connected with John Wanamaker.

I attended Germantown Academy there and then Princeton, class of 1909, taking civil engineering. I followed engineering in various places and occupations, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Nicaragua, Virginia. In 1912 I went into piano manufacturing in Boston and New York, and remained in it, excepting a brief flurry in the army engineer corps in 1918, until 1922.

In 1914 I married Edith Milliken of Newtonville, Mass. We spent our first summer vacation at Middledam, Maine, and I so loved the country that in 1916 I bought a sizable farm here in Chesterville. We came here to live in 1922, having acquired some timber, a saw mill and other farm land. Since then we have spent summers here and a number of winters also, doing some lumbering, farming and cutting pulp. Just now we are waiting for the second crop of timber.

Every since I was a kid I have broken out at times in a rash or scribbling. Like most rashes, they were only skin deep until 1926, when I got one that stuck in. It's still with me. It took the short story form, with one relapse in 1933 when the idea for this novel first came up for air. I played with the idea for several years, finally getting down to it in earnest about a year and a half ago. Before that, I had tried to sell parts of it as short stories, and the first three chapters did appear in the Saturday Evening Post in May, 1938, practically word for word with the present book.

(As an item of interest: Ralph M. Rich and his wife, Louise Dickinson Rich, of Middledam, Maine, are among our oldest and best friends. They are bringing out a book—by Lippincott and Book of the Month Club—this fall, called We Took to the Woods. Excerpts of it have appeared in the Atlantic Monthly, June, July, August and September issues, which you may have seen. I saw the original draft and it is some book!) I think this about covers the biographical end. If there is anything further you might like to have, please let me know and I'll do my best to oblige.
August 10, 1942

Mr. F. M. Tibbott  
c/o Bobbs-Merrill Company  
724 North Meridan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mr. Tibbott:

When you were in Chesterville, Maine, we knew that you were writing a book; but we did not know it was to be a book like SIMON HASTINGS! May we congratulate you upon this achievement, and hasten to wish the book great success.

Being particularly interested in Maine authors and their work, we write to tell you of the Maine Author Collection, with which you are possibly not familiar. It is for exhibit purposes only, and is comprised of over a thousand volumes inscribed and presented by the authors to the collection. The inscriptions are often artistic, amusing, and very original, and add much to the value and interest of the books. We also gather all available biographical, critical and photographic material on our authors, and preserve correspondence. This is the only place where all the books of all Maine authors are accumulated in one group, and they present a really impressive array.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of SIMON HASTINGS to the Maine Author Collection; and that you will also be kind enough to provide us with some biographical information. Your generosity would be deeply appreciated.

You have our best wishes for a warm welcome from readers to SIMON HASTINGS, and a long life to his story.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By

hmj
Encl--1

SECRETARY
August 24, 1948.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your very nice letter about Simon Hastings. I was not aware of the Maine Authors Collection but shall be very glad to send you a copy of my book. I have sent for one, as I have none on hand, and shall forward it to you as soon as it arrives.

Sincerely yours,

F. M. TIBBOTT

Mrs. F. W. Jacob,
Maine State Library,
Augusta,
Maine.
September 10, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of SIMON HASTINGS for the Maine Author Collection. If the inscription on the fly leaf isn't suitable, please just tear it out.

It's difficult to know just what biographical detail you will be interested in, but the inclosed page may answer your purpose.

Sincerely yours,

F. M. Tibbott

Mrs. F. W. Jacob,
Secretary,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Me.
September 16, 1942

Mr. F. M. Tibbott  
Via Farmington, Route No. 2  
Chesterville, Maine

Dear Mr. Tibbott:

The Maine Author Collection copy of SIMON HASTINGS was welcomed with enthusiasm. The inscription is delightful, and we thank you for the thoughts thus conveyed.

At once we should like to go on record as disagreeing with the reviewers you mention; it is easy to see that the one according to whom you died some years ago is very, very inaccurate; as for the other, who regards your characters as "wooden," -- tolerance demands that we permit him his opinion, but we do not share it!

SIMON HASTINGS is unusual, we think, in its portrayal of the type of men and women which you chose. Their speech, manners, spirit; their humor and strength -- all are faithfully reproduced; and we congratulate you anew on the book.

We, too, are anticipating Mrs. Rich's book, about which we have already written to her. The excerpts are tantalizing, and we are not surprised that the Book-of-the-Month Club selected it.

Please accept our thanks for your kindness and interest in the Maine Author Collection. The biographical sketch is exactly what we want, and the inscription in this exciting novel is fine. Our gratitude goes to you also for writing SIMON HASTINGS -- please don't let it be the last!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

by

hmj

Encl--6¢ postal refund

SECRETARY
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Your note pleased me very much. I hadn't thought that anyone would remember SIMON HASTINGS at this late date, let alone connect the book with me.

IF, and when, this new book gets written, I shall be glad to see that you get an inscribed copy. The IF seems rather large at this time as I've been plagued with none too good health.

Sincerely yours,

F. M. Tibbott

Mrs. F.W. Jacob,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.