

April 2016

# Arthur Gray Staples Correspondence

Maine State Library

Arthur Gray Staples 1861-1940

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STAPLES, Arthur G.

Born at Bowdoinham, Maine, July 4, 1861.

Died April 2, 1940.

LEWISTON EVENING JOURNAL  
ARTHUR G. STAPLES, EDITOR

Mrs Marion Cobb Fuller  
State of Maine Library  
Augusta, Me.

*July 16 / 1929*

My dear Mrs Fuller:-

My mind runneth not to dates or to periods, chiefly to exclamation points!

I recall the visit of the Baron St ~~astine~~ <sup>astine</sup> and a dinner given him by Bishop Walsh, Father Kealey and other clerics at St Joseph's Rectory. It may have been six or seven or more years ago. He was a somewhat elderly man and may have passed on by this time. But he was a gallant gentleman, not averse to our laying it on thickly. *It was in Summer! I think*

I believe that Rev <sup>Canon</sup> Father Kealey of St Joseph's church Lewiston would know all about him; have kept in touch with him. Father Kealey's mind is quite sedulously devoted to history and especially to Catholic history. If you write to him, I am sure that he may give you all sorts of information exactly suited to you.

Our files at that time had "lengthy" notices of the Baron and his entourage, which was not so gorgeous. They were enthusiastically written by L.C. Bateman, some years dead. I recall him as a somewhat suppressed example of the nobility, coming as it seems to me, at this moment from Australia. It also seems as tho he had a daughter, colorless, and not as impressive as some of our Maine girls. I think that we "baronetted" him more than had <sup>le</sup>

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experience, hitherto-- an impression that I gained from the girl IF there were a girl. Maybe I have mixed her up with some other girl.

I recall a dinner that was excellect; some very adulatory speeches about the ancient Baron de St Mastine, about Catholic influence on our colonial shores; about the significance of the coming of this descendant from the antipodes and that altogether it was a happy affair.

All this was at least seven years ago--for a guess.

Of course it was before Bishop Walsh died. I was a family friend of the Bishop, thru his brother who always went fishing with me, every spring.

I am sorry not to be more definite; but I hope that Father Dealey, a lovely man, may supply what I so sadly lack--System, definiteness in memory, for in my work I forget immediately, if possible. Some things and persons I NEVER forget.

Sincerely Yours: \*--

*Arthur G. Staples*  
\_\_\_\_\_

C O P Y

April 12 1930

Mr. Arthur G. Staples,  
Lewiston Evening Journal,  
Lewiston, Maine.

My dear Mr. Staples;-

I read with special interest your "Just Talks" on the Family Pioneer and Juvenile Key. For some time the library has been working on a list of the location of copies of the old newspapers of the state. As you know, there are several hundred listed in Griffin's Press of Maine and so far we have found a record of the existence of only about a hundred. We have especially tried to locate the newspapers in the libraries of the state, but we are interested, also, in learning of copies in the possession of individuals. We wish to make a note of the volume of the Family Pioneer and Juvenile Key (Such a name, as you say!). Do you own the volume which you so interestingly describe? If you do not, will you please tell us the name of the owner; also the date of the volume? I should like to see the list of "juvenile books" ! Perhaps if the volume belongs to you, you will allow me to see it sometime.

MCF

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April 16 / 1930

Dear Mrs Fuller:-

<sup>1834</sup> The bound copy of the Family Pioneer and Juvenile Key is in this office at the present time. It was loaned to me by J.W. Stimpson of 47 Pleasant St Auburn Me who had it from his father.

Maybe you know that I have concluded a series of ten talks on --- well I do not know exactly what to call it--but on a general subject of printing of books and newspapers and the struggle for right of expression both in speech and in the printed word.

Many old publications naturally came into it; and incidentally the listeners brought such things as this to me, to show me or to loan me. <sup>This was one of them.</sup> I have several copies of other papers printed in Brunswick. A woman in this town has a copy of something, that may be only a reprint of the first copy of America's first newspaper. It is the Boston News Letter, of course. 1704. It is framed in double-glass and is in appearance genuine. The library should have it--even as it may be. Charles H. Thomas of Lewiston a sort of rambling antiquarian brought it to me. Every old newspaper should be picked up, if possible. A call for them would get a lot of trash and a lot of excellent material. I do not know how many old newspapers I have. But many of them are interesting as showing the variations of newspaper sizes and transitions. As you may know--newspapers changed form about 1830--date of this Juvenile Key. They had been enormous in size--blanket sheets often a yard wide and six feet pr so long. Joseph Griffin,

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of Brunswick was a prolific newspaper-maker. He had a strong animadversion for big sheets--probably he had a small-press. The N.Y Journal of Commerce seems to be his pet, -hate. It WAS an enormous blanket. In 1830 the penny-paper was born. They had been sold at \$15 a year and often at 8 to 15 cents each

The New York Sun was the first successful penny paper. There are five known copies of its first issue in existence and a great many copies of a reprint, issued on some anniversary.

Really, I know of no more interesting collection than that of old-newspapers of periods-- Colonial, evolutionary, Pioneer, Transition, Civil War, and this new age, starting in 1883--which happens to be the year when I went to work on a paper. Since 1883, we have had perfecting presses, linotypes, typewriters, electricity for dynamos lights etc., stereotyping, A P. service, pictures,--all new.

Town libraries could assist in putting into the State Library all copies obtainable, of old newspapers. I gave to the Auburn Library a copy of the New England Courant, Ben Franklin's paper, Boston; edited when James Franklin was in jail, under censorship.

All this from George Wing's "Witenagemot", incidentally.

Sincerely Yours, with regards to H.D.

STAPLES, Arthur G.

Editor; born in Bowdoinham, Maine, July 4, 1861; son of Anthony and Mary Gray (Blake) Staples; A. B., Bowdoin College 1882, (Hon. A.M., Bowdoin College, 1919; LL.D. Bates College, 1921); married Jane Lambert Dingley, of Auburn, Maine, October 21, 1895. City Editor of the Bath Daily Times, 1882; city editor, 1883-93, mng. 1893-1919, editor-in-chief, 1919-- , Lewiston Journal; director and treasurer, Lewiston Journal Co. Delegate to Republican National Convention, 1904; alternate, 1908, delegate, 1912; delegate League of Rep. Clubs, Cincinnati, 1908. York and Scottish Rite Mason (320). Member Alumni Council Bowdoin College, 1917-18. Author: Familiar Essays; Just Talks on Common Themes, 1919; Jack in the Pulpit; Kayahdin and the Allegash; Editor, Fairfield Letters, 1921. Home; Auburn, Maine; Address; Lewiston, Maine.

Staples, Arthur G.

Just Talks on Common Themes. (Limited Edition, #2.)

Inscription: To the Maine State Library

With the appreciation of the opportunity of embalming this collection of the daily observations of a Maine newspaper editor among the mortal remains of "authors". The writer of this book hopes only for a long and peaceful rest in the oblivion of your shelves.

Arthur G. Staples.

Jack in the Pulpit. (Limited Edition #638).

Inscription: To the gentle reader as a warning--

This volume is but another name for a continuation of "Just Talks" or an earlier collection of the daily writings of a newspaper editor. The only claim for these trivial things is their spontaneity. They write themselves--"after hours," chiefly. In their day and generation many good folk seemed to like some of them and many did not.

Arthur G. Staples.

December, 1921.

September 14, 1935

Arthur G. Staples  
Lewiston Journal  
Lewiston, Maine

Dear Mr. Staples:

On glancing through THE INNER MAN, which we are proud to have in our Maine Author Collection, we notice that it is not inscribed, as are your other books. Neither has the smaller book, written in so clever and complimentary a manner by your many friends, this distinctive and personal touch.

Possibly you would be willing, on some occasion when you happen to be in the State House, to inscribe these books, as we feel sure that you are aware how this adds to the present interest and future value of the books. We assure you that we would greatly appreciate your kindness.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary