April 2016

Clara Horton Williams Correspondence

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Clara Horton Williams d.1940

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Recommended Citation

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WILLIAMS, Clara Horton
November 14, 1934

Miss Clara Horton Williams
Freeport High School
Freeport, Maine

Dear Miss Williams:

We have noticed that the Main Essential Bureau has established its headquarters in West Bowdoin. We are interested in receiving booklets as they are issued.

As you perhaps know, there is an exhibit collection of Maine authors' works in the Library, to which we are constantly adding new and valuable material.

Should you care to autograph these booklets, we will consider it a great favor, as we wish very much to include them in our Maine Author Collection.

Will you kindly send us biographical data, also, as we naturally wish to have on file such material about our Maine writers. Anything you may care to do in cooperation with this project will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By Secretary
"The Main Essential Bureau" has established its headquarters in rooms over the Alonzo Purinton store at Purinton’s Corner, West Bowdoin. It is publishing a series of high school drills in history, science, languages, etc., arranged by a method of teaching upon which she has been working for years by Miss Clara Horton Williams, who has been busy with proof-reading and visits to the printers all Summer.

Miss Williams was born in West Bowdoin, a daughter of Melvin H. and Fannie E. (Coombs) Williams, in the old Coombs homestead which was established by her grandfather, Capt. David Coombs. When 14, she went to Massachusetts to continue her education and was graduated from Fall River high school. She is a Bates college graduate, class of ’90, and has attended summer schools at Harvard, Amherst, Bates, Gorham and Farmington Normal schools. She is now on her tenth year as a member of the faculty of Freeport high school and before that taught in Skowhegan and in Beverly, Dedham and West Bridgewater, Mass., high schools. Besides her connections with teachers and school organizations, her church and Sunday-school work, Miss Williams is active in the D. A. R., the W. C. T. U., and the Maine Writers’ Research club. Twelve years ago she published “A Primer of Hebrew History” and a number of articles on science she has contributed to newspapers.

A strange thing about her booklets is that high school boys and girls are as enthusiastic about them as are many of the educators who have seen them. But perhaps not so strange, after all, as the drills are so arranged that it is really fun to get "letter perfect" on the "main essentials" of the various high school subjects, and to the incentive for study a contest, with award of letters for a certain degree of perfection, is of such interest that the young students carry the booklets around in pockets or tucked under sweaters. The drill on Maine Motor Laws is getting an especially cordial reception.

In Freeport high school the Main Essentials drills will be used in history, Latin, biology, chemistry, algebra, motor laws and general science, and other schools are getting material in readiness to use these drills.

Miss Williams has letters of commendation for her books from the state commissioner of education and from superintendents and teachers who have investigated her unique method which has taken many years to bring to its present state of perfection. On Wednesday she was a visitor in the state house and at the conference of state superintendents at Castine, where much interest was shown in her drill books.
February 5, 1955

Miss Clara Horton Williams
Freeport High School
Freeport, Maine

Dear Miss Williams:

Some time ago we wrote to you regarding the Main Essential Bureau, which had established its headquarters in West Bowdoin.

I think we explained that we would like, if possible, to have copies of the drills described for our Maine Author Collection. From the good words, which we hear, these drills are splendid.

We realize, of course, the busy life which you must lead; but we enclose a stamped, addressed envelope, in hopes that you may find a moment to tell us something of your life for our biographical files, and also to tell us if we may expect the Main Essential booklets. We would indeed be delighted, were we able to include these on our Maine Author shelves.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Im

Secretary

N.B. Miss Williams has called twice, presented us with material, autographed, and will forward biographical data, also a copy of her book which is to be published in Sept., 1935.
November 1, 1937

Miss Clara Williams
West Bowdoin
Maine

Dear Miss Williams:

Your most interesting book, EDUCATION WITH CHARACTER, has reached us, and after a brief glance through its pages, which arouses an eagerness to read it more thoroughly, we are convinced that it is an extremely valuable contribution to educational literature. We believe many teachers will discover helpful suggestions, and those parents who read the book should gain a new understanding and cooperation of school purposes and methods.

We sincerely appreciate your remembering the Maine Author Collection, and it is with great pleasure that we include EDUCATION WITH CHARACTER. We wish the book a gratifying success, and extend to you our congratulations on both your teaching methods and your simplicity and skill with which you have told others about them.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
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