April 2016

Henrietta Danforth Wood Correspondence

Maine State Library

Henrietta Danforth Wood 1849-

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WOOD, Henrietta Danforth

Norridgewock, April 11, 1849 - October 26, 1934
Henrietta Danforth Wood
Norridgewock, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wood:

We have received the autographed copy of "Early Days of Norridgewock." The whole state is under an obligation to you for this interesting and valuable work dealing with early days in Norridgewock. It is a real addition to our historical collection.

I am sending an order to the Treasurer for two dollars. I understand the price of the book is one dollar, therefore, I would appreciate receiving a second copy. A check for the above amount will reach you sometime in August.

Very truly yours

HED/t

State Librarian
March 26, 1935

Mrs. Henrietta Danforth Wood  
Norridgewock  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Wood:

On looking through some correspondence, I discovered a letter to you, acknowledging the arrival of "Early Days of Norridgewock." This autographed copy we have placed in our Maine Author Collection.

However, upon investigation, no biographical material from our reference files enlightens me! Would you be kind enough to remedy this? We would greatly appreciate some data on your life, for we always endeavor to keep biographical material in our files.

The picture which we have of you is in our files, and we thank you for this. We hope that soon we may express our thanks for the material on your life.

Also, will you please tell us what other books bear your name. We want to include everything, of course, in our Maine Author Collection. And have you anything in preparation at present?

We hope you will be so kind as to forgive all our questions and send us this information. May we extend to you a very cordial invitation to visit us and our Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
April 10, 1935

Maine Old Library
Augusta, Maine

You are the 26th addressee to Mrs. Henrietta Danforth
and her address is and I regret to tell you that Mrs.
Mrs. died Oct. 26, 1934. She was born in Skowhegan, April
1849, the daughter of Franklin and Eliza (Stagg) Danforth, was educated
at the Eaton School in said Skowhegan, graduating therefrom and afterwards
taught in the towns of Skowhegan and Madison in this State and then
in the Eaton School for a number of years, after which she went to
No. Dakota, returning home in about 1886. Before the death of her
mother, she married David Wood about 1875 who died 1908 Oct. 23.
Mrs. Wood wrote many short articles for publications and some in
the form of papers to be read before the clubs to which she belonged. One
of the last long articles "Colonel Homes" she always kept handy and was
intruded in the events of the day. A very
good short story was written by Miss Blanche
Folsom of Hordywood and I think it
was published in the Portland Press Watch.
She published me other books - "Early Days
of Hordywood" appeared but shortly before her
death and the edition was sold out.

Any quietly and there have been many
calls for it since.

Hoping this in a measure may answer
your questions. I am,

Very Respectfully

E.H. Burnside.
April 17, 1935

E. F. Danforth, Esq.
Skowhegan
Maine

Dear Mr. Danforth:

Your letter in regard to Mrs. Wood has been received, and we thank you for answering it so helpfully. You have supplied us with the biographical material which we lacked.

We are trying to locate a copy of the Portland Press Herald containing the obituary which you mentioned.

We appreciate your courtesy in regard to this matter.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary
Henrietta Danforth Wood  
(Communicated)  
On Friday, Oct. 26, Mrs. Henrietta Danforth Wood passed away at the Cony Russell home in Norridgewock. Born on April 14, 1849, Mrs. Wood was one of five children born to Franklin Danforth and Eliza Rogers Danforth, of whom only one, Judge Edward F. Danforth of Skowhegan, now remains. She and three of her family were born in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Quimby and family on the Wilder Hill Road in Norridgewock. The family then moved on to the home on the north side of the Kennebec called the Charles Fuller farm, and here Mrs. Wood passed her girlhood.

For generations the Danforth family were leading citizens of Norridgewock and Somerset county, their history being intimately woven with that of town and county.

Upon the death of her father and mother, Mrs. Wood and her sister, the late Elizabeth Danforth Russell, moved to the old Danforth Tavern on the north side of the river to live with an aunt and uncle. Here Mrs. Wood lived until a few years ago.

This remarkable old tavern was in Mrs. Wood's possession at the time of her death. Built in 1814 and is now one of the distinguished landmarks of the town.

The Danforth family epitomizes the best traditions of America, and Mrs. Wood was a worthy daughter of such a family. A remarkable scholar, she attended what were then called family schools, and finally graduated from the Eaton School, a private school started and conducted by Hamlin F. Eaton. It was one of great fame in its day. Mrs. Wood received the first diploma issued to any graduate of this school.

After her graduation, Henrietta Danforth began her career as a teacher in the rural and village schools. She taught at Madison Bridge and in her native town. She also conducted the family school so common in those days, in the kitchens or best room of homes. Such schools she taught in Fairfield and on Burrill Hill in Norridgewock. She continually added to her education by taking private lessons until finally she became a teacher of algebra, French and English in the famed Eaton School, where she taught until the school was closed. Then she taught in its successor, the Norridgewock High School. In 1898 she taught her last term.

But she still took private lessons at times, keeping up this practice until the last years of her life. She was proficient in French, and read books in that language until the end. In 1901 she married David G. Wood, a retired gentleman, and with her husband traveled extensively in this country. In 1908 her very happy married life had a tragic end when her husband was killed in an automobile accident.

Mrs. Wood was a club woman. She was an active member of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, being at one time its treasurer. She was a charter member of the Norridgewock Village Improvement Society, being its president for 11 years. It was during her presidency that the money was earned for the monument commemorating the Civil War veterans which occupies a prominent place in the town. She was also a member of the Eunice Farnsworth Chapter of the D. A. R.

She spent many Winters in Portland, where she became a member of the Women's Literary Union. She was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge and the Order of Eastern Star.

Although Mrs. Wood passed her entire life in her native town, she was an extensive traveler. She had crossed the continent several times, had spent weeks in Florida, the Carolinas, the Dakotas, and Colorado. She had visited at different times, Cuba, Bermuda, and Panama and had crossed the Atlantic twice.

She occupied much of her time in writing historical papers which always interested her listeners. When she was 84 she had printed a pamphlet of 125 pages entitled "Early Days in Norridgewock" of which many copies were sold. It is a valuable addition to the historical data of the town. It was written after she was eighty. Her memory was remarkable. She was conversant with every phase of the history of her native town and was an authority on its history.