Blanche Cole Clough Correspondence

Blanche Cole Clough 1880-1957

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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CLOUGH, Blanche Cole

b. Limington, December 15, 1880

d. Portland, December 28, 1957
Mrs. Blanche Cole Clough, of 922 Forest Ave., 77-year-old author, died today in a local hospital after a brief illness. She was the widow of Burton M. Clough.

At the time of her death, she was working on her fourth book. It was about half completed.

In 1956 she wrote "More Downeast Yarns By Grandma" which was a sequel to "Grandma Spins Downeast Yarns," drawing upon childhood and adult anecdotes.

Her first book, "Work and Worship With Juniors," was published in 1934. She had been superintendent of the junior department 18 years at Woodfords Congregational Church. She was a member of the church and its Vose Class.

Mrs. Clough was born at Limington Dec. 15, 1880, daughter of the late James and Ella Norton Cole. She was educated in Limington schools and was a graduate of Cornish High School and Gorham Normal School. She taught in Limington grade schools and at Limington Academy.

In 1902, she married Mr. Clough, a native of Sebago, who was a Limington school principal at the time. They later moved to Rumford, Ayer, Mass., and East Hampton, Mass., where he headed schools, and then to Gorham. They came to Portland in 1912 where he was in the insurance and real estate business. He died in 1944.

Surviving are a son, Albert J. Clough, New Haven, Conn.; a daughter, Mrs. Hilda Lincoln, of Biddeford and Portland; four grandchildren, Robert M. and Janice E. Lincoln, both of Farmington, Conn.; and Mrs. Cecil E. Ames and Mrs. Ronald L. Morton, both of Portland; two great-grandchildren; and a brother, P. Guy Cole, Wenham, Mass.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Meloon Memorial Chapel, Woodfords Congregational Church. Interment will be in Eastern Cemetery, Gorham.
September 15, 1953

Mrs. Blanche Cole Clough
922 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Clough:

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new Maine book, and we congratulate you upon the publication of GRANDMA SPINS DOWN EAST YARNS. We look forward to seeing a copy soon, and meanwhile are writing you about the Maine Author Collection.

It may be that you already know of this permanent exhibit of books by Maine people, or about the state. The volumes are inscribed presentation copies, and are a fine display of Maine's contribution to the world of books. The inscriptions are delightful and original, as varied as the subject matter of the many books, and lend distinction to an outstanding collection, which attracts visitors and students throughout the year.

We also gather all available biographical and critical material about our authors, though sometimes we are obliged to ask the people themselves to send us this information. For instance, we do not yet know whether or not you were born in Maine, though from the newspaper notice, it certainly would seem that we can claim you as a Maine author.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of GRANDMA SPINS DOWN EAST YARNS for inclusion in this exhibit. It would be added with much pleasure.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Meine Author Collection

Encl--1
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your invitation to enroll among the other notables of Maine writers. This I considered of myself merely—a Grandma More brand of artist—and wrote in my natural humorous style. I find that my book has hit the right spot in many lonely hearts, meeting cheer and all their insistence on second books well under way, which is—"More Homicidal Yarns by Grandma."

I had only 500 copies printed at my own expense which was $1160, none sold. So if I sell all them at $2.50 all hardly breaks even. But I wrote the book in memory of my father, the most important...
I am very glad to have you as my representative in Mr. M. H. as books described. I have made all of the country people very happy and sold 85 books on that score. Any recommendations which you can make to visitors to promote sales will be appreciated. Books is in hands of 3 publishers but I could not wait for their answer.

I was born in Limington, Me. Dec. 15 1880, daughter of James S. Bella Cole. Graduated at K, Cornville High School. About 1903 from Gorham Normal. Taught 1 year as Assistant at Limington Academy. Married Prim L.M. Clough of Debogos Me. He taught at Rumford, Ayer & Easthampton Mass. then formed firm of Clough & Maxon Realtors Portland. Both members of Woodfords Cong. Church. I was in that world as S. Telegram stated and wrote two books. Am selling books myself at $2.50 each, plus 5% tax.

In haste, and most sincerely,

(Mrs.) Blanchie Cole Clough.

Mr. Clough died 4 yrs. ago.
September 24, 1953

Mrs. Blanche Cole Clough
922 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Clough:

Your friendly letter and book are delightful, and we are indeed happy that you have presented a copy of GRANDMA SPINS DOWN-EAST YARNS to the Maine Author Collection. You are a real Maine author, aren't you? -- born here, living here, and writing about Maine people. It is good to know, too, that you are at work on the second book. We shall watch for it.

Meantime, we want a copy of this first one for our lending section, also; but we want to buy that, we had included it on an order list, but now we suspect that you are handling the sales, so we are enclosing an order to you for the book. The library always buys Maine non-fiction for circulation (fiction is available in the traveling libraries only), and of course we want GRANDMA SPINS DOWN-EAST YARNS.

Congratulations upon your accomplishment in bringing those days to life again; and good luck to the second book. Our warm thanks go to you for the Maine Author Collection copy.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--1

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
By public insistence, I have been forced to write the sequel to the first book "Grandma Spins Downeast Yarns" which is far more interesting as it continues my life story which was mostly an excuse for getting across old time customs. People did like my slap dash style of the first one and so I took courage to give free rein to my propensity for letting the words just roll off my pen. It is called "More Downeast Yarns by Grandma" and will come off the Portland Press in a month or less. The folder which I got out a year ago (but book was delayed) shows in my description of dried apple pies, the general nature of my satire of many of the things done then to the amusement of present day folk.

I recall that you bought two books, or I find them listed? and hope you will be interested in adding the sequel. I am printing at a loss but having lots of fun. Am sending letter early as you might need matter taken up at a meeting of librarians. Besides, I want to get many of my personal letters out of the way early. The books will be mailed as soon as printed.

Hoping to hear from you eventually,

Sincerely,

Blanche G. Clough
922 Forest Ave.
Portland, Me.
More Downeast Yarns

By Grandma

BLANCHE E. CLOUGH
MORE DOWNEAST YARNS
by GRANDMA

By Blanche E. Clough

As this book will be printed and illustrated at big expense to the author, two hundred copies must be sold before printing begins. Special price to friends will be $2.50, autographed; later store price, $2.75. This book closes the childhood pranks of the author and her brother, Guy Cole of Limington and Cornish, Maine. It follows the checkered career of Blanche through Cornish High School, as a country belle, as a teacher in Limington (with the ever-present Ned to add a romantic touch) and carries her life through to the present status of spry old (?) Grandma. Chapter VIII, “Wedding Bells”, tells how she snared the principal of the Academy, B. M. Clough of Sebago, Maine and married him for revenge, deeming a life sentence with her a fitting one; and of subsequent moves until the advent of two children when they settled in Gorham — if moving three times the first year could be called settled.

Chapter IX is a rib-rocking vacation experience at Peaks Island which Grandma is forced to leave to avoid delirium tremens (chapter so named) from side stepping so many snakes. The rest of the book describes the building and moving sprees of the Clough nomads when Clough and Maxim built half of Rosemont and Woodfords. Church life at Woodfords Congregational Church follows with the Rev. Daniel Gross as beloved pastor and Blanche active State worker, and Junior Superintendent at his
church for thirteen years. A whole chapter is given to old-time dancing (recently hailed as new by modern copy-cats) with a complete session of Jimmy Co'e's dance at Murch's Hall, West Baldwin.

And who should buy this book? All high school scholars for its funny personal incidents, and beautiful poem on “Cornish”; all Limington students from her four schools there, so filled with memories; and the general public who will enjoy its poetry and the wit, humor and logic found on every page. Young folks especially will love the book. “A great book with lots to think about and lots to laugh about,” says the best critic.

Chapter III brings poignant memories to old-timers. “Giddy Doings in the Gay Nineties” tells of the husking and apple-paring bees, kissing games, singing schools and Cornish Fair. The author explains the absence of apple-paring parties thus — “The apple-paring party is unknown now since the Board of Health would promptly throw anyone into jail for perpetrating such a crime against humanity. Good old dark brown, germ-laden dried apple pies! I can still visualize long strings of quartered apples reaching from house to shed, covered with swarms of black flies; or from the barn where rich odors from the barnyard could add richer flavor and more germs. Often the strings were fastened to trees where they could be covered with extra choice bugs and worms and special flavor added by birds perched in overhead branches. Probably germs was the reason food tasted so much better in the good old days and the lack of them why food does not taste as mother
used to make it. If there was a shortage of flies and germs in an off year, lemon juice and spices were added as substitutes."

This extract is a sample of the author’s humorous quips found on every page. “Downeast humor salted with wisdom” as the Press characterized her former book. If you are agin laughing, don’t buy the book! But if you agree that it takes sixty face muscles for a frown and only fourteen for a smile, consider the wasted energy in passing up this wealth of smileable material wildly flung about on every page. So buy a book to make it possible for the enjoyment of others and to offset the wear and tear on your own nervous system in these hectic years.

Please fill out and mail coupon at once to Blanche E. Clough, 922 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine, as the author will be away in January. A limited number of copies of Book I, Grandma Spins Downeast Yarns, are on hand at $2 50 each.

Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight
Make me a child again just for tonight.

Blanche E. Clough
922 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

Please send me ............... cop. of More Downeast Yarns by Grandma by Blanche E. Clough at $2.50 a copy.

Name ...........................................................................................................

Address ......................................................................................................

□ Pay. herewith □ Send C.O.D. □ By Feb. 1
September 14, 1956

Mrs. Blanche E. Clough
922 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Clough:

It is certainly good news that MORE DOWNEAST YARNS BY GRANDMA will be available soon. Congratulations on this second book.

Yes, of course we shall want two copies for the main section of the library, and we enclose our order for those.

We hope, in addition, that you will want to inscribe and present another copy, not for lending, but for the Maine Author Collection. You will probably recall that this is the exhibit collection of books by Maine people, and that it already has your first book, GRANDMA SPINS DOWNEAST YARNS.

We will note the new book in the November issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. Good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
December 11, 1956

Mrs. Blanche E. Clough
922 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Clough:

Your light-hearted sequel, MORE DOWNEAST YARNS BY GRANDMA, has been received; and we are delighted to welcome it.

The Maine Author Collection copy is going into the exhibit, beside your earlier volume; and the two library copies are being cataloged for our general section.

With your unfailing good humor and adventuresome spirit, you should amass experiences for another before long. Good fortune to the new book, and thank you for the Maine Author Collection copy.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

hcm

Maine Author Collection