September 2015

Mary Neal Copeland Correspondence

Mary Neal Copeland 1875-1948

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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Recommended Citation

Copeland, Mary Neal 1875-1948; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Mary Neal Copeland Correspondence" (2015).

Maine Writers Correspondence. 189.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/189

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COPELAND, Mary Neal
Brewer, Maine, April 1, 1875-
Copeland, Mary Neal

Born in Brewer, Maine, April 1, 1875. Parents: Johnson W. Neal and Mary T. Bolton Neal.

Educated in the public schools of Brewer.

Married on September 16, 1895, Ralph L. Copeland.

Except for some traveling, she has lived at her Brewer farm since her marriage and has five children.

Several of her poems besides the ones in MY LADY OF THE POPPY GARDEN have been published, appearing in the BREWER ECHO, THE MAINE FARMER and the NEW ENGLAND HOMESTEAD.
February 18, 1941

Mrs. Ralph L. Copeland
Brewer
Maine

Dear Mrs. Copeland:

A recent newspaper notice brought to our attention the fact that a volume of your poems has been published. Please accept our congratulations and good wishes for a successful continuation of your work.

We have not been so fortunate as to see a copy of this book as yet, but daily we hope to do so. At present, we write regarding the Maine Author Collection, of which you have perhaps heard. Briefly, it is an exhibit of about a thousand volumes, written by Maine people. Most of these books are inscribed presentation copies, and as such represent a fascinating and valuable display of the contribution of Maine authors to the literature of our country.

We are always eager to welcome a new name to Maine's literary roster, and we endeavor to gather as much material -- biographical, critical, photographic -- as possible. At your leisure, possibly you will be so kind as to supply us with a biographical sketch for our files. And we do hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of your new book for inclusion in the collection. We look forward with pleasure to seeing the poems.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By...

hmj
Encl--1

SECRETARY
Feb. 24-41

Rief your communication.

Am glad to have run as small a place as my book, "My Lady of the Happy Garden" will make in Maine's literary roster.

As for geography—

I was born in Brewer, Maine April 1st, 1875.

Parents - Johnson M. Neal
Mary J. Barton

Educated in public schools of Brewer.

Married Ralph L. Copeland of Holden Sept. 16-1895.

Lived the rest of my life thus far on the farm. Travelled some.
Home belonged only to the Congregational Church and
the Grange. Raised a family
of five children.

Home written verses for myself since
schooldays. Some of the first ones were
published in a small local paper called
"The Greene Echo" and more under the pen
name of Olive. This paper was edited by a Mr.
Crandall in the early 90's. There was also
some in the Maine Farmer and New England
Homestead but not in later years.

I have not sent them for publication for they
seemed to me to be personal belongings.

Last summer a publisher read my whole
collection and offered to publish them. But it
was too much for me to finance a half
volume or the selected those from them
for this book, about a third.

I hope to have another and better book.

I don't know as all this is what
you want but you may use what
you wish and if there is anything else required I shall be glad to do so if possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Neal Copeland

(Mrs. Ralph L. Copeland
Brunner Name
RDS Box 56)

I am sending by this mail a copy of the book under separate cover.
February 28, 1941

Mrs. Ralph L. Copeland
R D 5, Box 56
Brewer, Maine

Dear Mrs. Copeland:

Your kindness and generosity delight us, and we congratulate you upon MY LADY OF THE POPPY GARDEN. The addition of this volume of poems will be one of pleasure.

We have been interested to read many of the verses, and trust that the book is finding its way to a number of poetry lovers. Your hope of having another book published is one that we also share; and we trust that we shall not be obliged to wait many months. Your poems have an effective charm that certainly must be appealing to a variety of people, and your quiet, simple philosophy of beauty and goodness is especially heartening.

Please accept our most sincere thanks for the gift of MY LADY OF THE POPPY GARDEN for the Maine Author exhibit; and also for your extreme kindness in sending us the biographical information.

We certainly send you our very best wishes for the success of your first book, and for a happy reception of the second.

Very truly yours

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hmj
SECRETARY

Encl—3¢ (refund of postage on MY LADY OF THE POPPY GARDEN)