September 2015

Le Grand Henderson Correspondence

Le Grand Henderson 1901-1964

Edith Patterson Meyer
Abingdon - Cokesbury Press

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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HENDERSON, LE GRAND  
resident of Camden, Maine  
d. January 24, 1964, Charleston, South Carolina

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD  
January 26, 1964

Noted Camden  
Author Is Dead  
In Charleston

THOMASTON, Ga. (AP) —  
The author of the Augustus children's books, Le grande Henderson, died in a Charleston, S. C., hospital, Friday it was learned here Saturday.

Henderson's first children's book, "Augustus and the River," was an account of a shantyboat trip he made down the Mississippi River. Apart from his Augustus stories, he also wrote some 20 other children's books.

In 1952, his only novel, "Home Is Up River," was published by the Macmillan Company under the nom de plume Brian Harwin.

Henderson lived in Camden, Maine, but spent most of his winters on a sailboat off the southeastern coast. He became ill on his boat about a month ago while on his way to Florida.

A native of Torrington, Ky., Henderson was married to the former Kathryn Dallas of Thomaston, where he lived for several years. He was graduated from the Fine Arts School at Yale University.

Funeral services for the author, who is survived by his widow, are set for 3 p.m. Sunday at Thomaston's First Methodist Church.
Dear LeGrand:

When we read that Cap'n Dow had his exciting adventure off the coast of Maine, we became even more interested than usual in the delectable doughnut. We should have known from the title -- Dow is such a genuinely Maine name!

Our books for circulation are ordered through a regular book dealer, but it occurs to us that Cap'n Dow should be an honored inclusion in the Maine Author Collection. This is an exhibit of about fifteen hundred books, inscribed and presented, permanently cared for, written by Maine people or about the State. It is the only place where all the books by all Maine authors are gathered and permanently preserved, and affords not only a fascinating exhibit for casual visitors, but also a really valuable collection for students and researchers.

We are always delighted to be able to welcome a new book to the collection; and we hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT for the collection. Please accept our good wishes for the book, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you may be in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
November 26, 1946

Abingdon Press
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

The enclosed letter was mailed three weeks ago in Augusta, and has travelled considerably during that time, eventually returning to us.

We do not know how to reach "Legrand" except through your office. Our reason for writing to this author is that CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT places Cap'n Dow off the coast of Maine, and we are interested to learn the author's possible connection with this state.

If you can somehow impel our letter in the right direction, we shall be grateful for the courtesy.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encls.

SECRETARY
Mrs. F. W. Jacobs  
Maine State Library  
State House  
Augusta, Maine  

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

At the time your letter came in Le Grand, whose full name is Le Grand Henderson, was on his way south from Maine and making a detour by way of St. Louis for an autographing party there. I have just forwarded your letter to him at his winter home in Thomaston, Georgia and I am sure you will hear from him about the authenticity of the Maine setting of his story.

Sincerely,

Edith Patterson Meyer

EPM:mr
Thomaston, Georgia
December 3, 1946

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you for your interest in CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT and for the opportunity to boast that I am a resident of Maine. Only a May to November resident, at present, it is true, but you will note that this places me beyond the limits set for Those Summer People— or Summer Complaints as we say in Sandy Point.

Another argument in my favor is that I have been accepted by a very old Friendship sloop— and it is well known that any boat built in Friendship fifty years ago will refuse to sail, or even stay afloat, unless it approves of its crew.

I am sending you an autographed copy of CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT with as you may have gathered, a great deal of pride in being included in the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely,

Le Grand Henderson

P.O. Box 624
Thomaston, Georgia
December 11, 1946

Mr. Le Grand Henderson
P. O. Box 624
Thomaston, Georgia

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Cap'n Dow quite captivated our hearts when we first met him, and it is with great pleasure that we acknowledge his arrival for the Maine Author Collection. The book is already in our traveling libraries, where, we suspect, it makes friends of readers of all ages. The charm of the pictures in no way detracts from the practical explanation of the hole in the doughnut; and no one can doubt, after reading about Cap'n Dow, that this is exactly the way it happened.

Please accept our thanks for your friendly letter, and for the particularly nice inscription in the collection copy of your book. The Friendship sloop beat us to it, evidently, in claiming you; but we heartily agree with its approbation, and hope one day you will be near enough to call on us and see the collection.

Again our thanks for your generous interest, and our good wishes for the success of CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

hmj
Maine Author Collection
December 22, 1949

LeGrand
C/O Bobbs-Merrill Co.
724 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis 7, Indiana

Dear Mr. Henderson:

HERE COME THE PERKINSES we recognized at once as the kind of story we like to put into our traveling libraries, and it has proved popular with young readers. We hope it is enjoying a satisfactory success, and that the charming and lively tale is making new friends constantly.

We hope that you may want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection, inasmuch as the setting of the book is Maine. You may recall that you very kindly presented a copy of the wonderful CAP'N DOW AND THE HOLE IN THE DOUGHNUT for this collection.

You have our good wishes for the continuing success of HERE COME THE PERKINSES, and for a most happy Christmas.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mary Esther, Florida
January 12, 1950

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Many thanks to you and the State of Maine for the friendly comments on Here Come the PerkinseS!

This book was the result of some quietly desperate experiences as a very amateur cook aboard Capt. Swift's cruise schooners.

I am sending you a suitably, I hope, inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection.

I expect to be back in my Sandy Point cottage next summer and, although I seldom get very far from the coast, hope to have the pleasure of meeting such a very amiable critic of my efforts as Hilda McLeod Jacob.

Sincerely,

Le Grand Henderson

Holly Point
Star Route
Mary Esther, Florida
January 27, 1950

Mr. LeGrand Henderson
Holly Point, Star Route
Mary Esther, Florida

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Thank you, thank you! For the book, and for your most gracious words. Especially are we intrigued by the phrase "quietly desperate" — we feel that there must have been more to the experience than went into HERE COME THE PERKINSES! lively though the book is.

We shall certainly look forward to a visit next summer from you, although if you shouldn't want to leave Sandy Point for a city, even a small one, we couldn't blame you!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj