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Raymond R. Manson Correspondence

Raymond Russell Manson 1899-1980

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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MANSON, Raymond Russell

b. North Vassalboro, Maine October 6, 1899.
RAYMOND R. MANSON

Raymond Russell Manson, the fifth child of George Thomas and Mary Jewett Manson, was born October 6, 1899 at North Vassalboro, Maine. He attended the elementary schools and Oak Grove Seminary in his native town.

After brief periods in the army during World War One and at Colby College, he entered the employ of the United States Post Office Department, June 1, 1919 at Waterville, Maine, where he worked through the various branches of the service and retired on December 31, 1960 as Assistant Postmaster.

On September 3, 1930 he married Vivian Crafts of Watertown, Massachusetts in that city. They have since made their home in Waterville.

He is a member of Vassalboro Lodge #54, F & A M, the Vassalboro Historical Society and First Church of Christ, Scientist at Waterville, Maine.

In 1965 Mr. Manson and Mrs Elsia Holway Burleigh collaborated in writing of their Alma Mater. This was called the "FIRST SEVENTY YEARS OF OAK GROVE SEMINARY" which covered the period from its founding in 1848 to 1918, the time of Manson's graduation.

Since then he has written several biographical sketches of Vassalboro men as well as short articles on the early schools and churches of Vassalboro. His latest work is a compilation of a list of the early ministers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, manufacturers, shopkeepers and tradesmen of Vassalboro, plus a complete list of all the postmasters of the seven different post-offices in the town.
March 16, 1967

Mr. Raymond R. Manson
25 Burleigh Street
Waterville, Maine 04901

Dear Mr. Manson:

Your FIRST SEVENTY YEARS OF OAK GROVE SEMINARY was a most interesting study, one which is welcomed by not only the alumni body, but also by historians of Maine and her schools.

It occurs to us that a copy would be a fine addition to the Maine Author Collection. This is a permanent exhibit of the work of Maine writers, most of the volumes being inscribed presentation copies. We also gather biographical and critical information on our authors, so that our files may be as complete as possible.

Would you not like to inscribe a copy for this purpose?

At the time of Elsia Holway Burleigh's death, we understand, she was working on a history of Vassalboro. Are you in any way connected with this project, and do you know whether it will be published? We are, of course, intensely interested in any item pertaining to the history of Maine and Maine towns, so we would welcome any information which you may be able to give us.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Hilda McLeod Jacob  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine 04330  

Dear Mrs. McLeod:  

I am very pleased to present a copy of "First Seventy Years of Oak Grove Seminary", to the Maine Author Collection. It will be sent under separate cover.  

I have also written a short biographical sketch, which I am enclosing.  

Your information about Mrs. Elsia Holway Burleigh is somewhat distorted. She lost her sight several years before I knew her and before her death. Before that time she might have worked on a Vassalboro History, but I never heard her mention it. However I do believe it was uppermost in her mind and one of her greatest desires. She told me that she had collected a great deal of material concerning Vassalboro which one day we would use. As far as I know no one has seen this material or knows how much there is, or what it consists of.  

A committee, including myself, from the Vassalboro Historical Society, has talked with Mrs. Burleigh's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Totman, about this material with the assurance that the Society may have access to what there is.  

It is our hope to have a town history printed in connection with the 200th anniversary of the town in 1971. Not much headway has been made.  

Sincerely yours  

Raymond R. Manson  
25 Burleigh Street  
Waterville, Maine 04901
March 22, 1967

Mr. Raymond R. Manson
25 Burleigh Street
Waterville, Maine 04901

Dear Mr. Manson:

Thank you very much for your prompt and generous response to our letter. We are delighted to have the inscribed copy of FIRST SEVENTY YEARS OF OAK GROVE SEMINARY for the Maine Author Collection, and appreciate your sending us the biographical sketch.

Although what you write about the Vassalboro History is not particularly encouraging, we are glad to have the matter straight. If there should be, at any time, such a history, we're sure we will be notified. We should, of course, want to buy copies for the library.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection