September 2015

Lelia S. Marstaller Correspondence

Lelia Syretha Marstaller 1897-1953

Mrs. Ernest Fred Marstaller

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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MARSTALLER, Lelia S. (Mrs. Ernest Marstaller)
born at Brunswick, Maine, February 22, 1897 -
died Freeport, Maine, August 3, 1953
February 17, 1936

Lelia S. Marstaller
R.F.D. 1
Brunswick, Maine

Dear Miss Marstaller:

We have noticed with pleasure your poems which are included in the recent anthology, MAINE AND VERMONT POETS.

We find that we lack biographical information concerning you, and we hope you will be so kind as to send us a brief sketch, mentioning the more important dates and events in your life. We would like to know, too, what writings have been published. Your kindness and assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Please accept our congratulations on your achievement, and our best wishes for future success.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm Secretary
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine,

Hilda McLeod, Sec.,

Dear Miss McLeod,

In answer to your letter of the 17th, I wish to thank you for your kind words, and will tell you about myself.

I was born Feb. 22, 1897.

My parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Gatwick of Brunswick.

I attended the Brunswick public schools, and also taught there.

On July 3, 1917 I married Ernest Marstaller of Durham. We have three children, two sons and a daughter.

Since early childhood I have found it easy to make words rhyme, but I wrote nothing which I kept until after my marriage. I inherited my poetic gifts from my father.

I have had but one book published. Under separate cover I will send a copy of it for the Maine State Library. My poems appear from time to time in The American Friend, in various local newspapers and occasionally in other periodicals.

Yours truly,
Julia S. Marstaller
(Mrs. Ernest Marstaller)
March 20, 1936

Mrs. Ernest Marstaller  
The Maine Idyll  
Freeport, Maine  

Dear Mrs. Marstaller:  

Thank you for sending the biographical information. We are filing this for reference, and appreciate your assistance.  

EBB AND FLOW has reached us, and we are delighted to add this to the Maine Author Collection, which already numbers several hundred volumes by Maine writers. Since these books are nearly all inscribed, we are taking the liberty of mailing your book to you, and enclosing a return label. Will you be so kind as to inscribe the volume for us?  

The Collection was started some years ago, and includes not only Maine-born authors, but also those who have lived here, or written about the State. It steadily increases in size and value, and is a most interesting collection.  

EBB AND FLOW is indeed a lovely addition to the Collection. You have a remarkable variety of subjects and treatments. MAINE AND ME is a fine picture of the State, and in many other poems your touch is delicate and sure. We sincerely hope that you will publish more poems.  

Please accept our cordial invitation to visit the library when you are in Augusta, that you may make the acquaintance of the Maine Author Collection, and we may make yours.  

Very truly yours  

Maine State Library  

hm  Secretary
April 8, 1936

Mrs. Ernest Marstaller
The Maine Idyll
Freeport, Maine

Dear Mrs. Marstaller:

We wrote to you on March 20, expressing our desire to have EBB AND FLOW, your very gracious gift to the Maine Author Collection, inscribed for this purpose.

We mailed the volume to you, and trust that it reached you safely. We assure you of our appreciation of your interest and kindness, and hope that we may in the near future have not only EBB AND FLOW, but also other volumes of your verse.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm Secretary
Miss Hilda Me Leod,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine,

Dear Miss Me Leod,

Please pardon my delay in answering. Although you seemed to have mailed the book soon after the first letter it did not reach me until last week for some unknown reason.

I do want to thank you for the nice things you said about my book. I appreciate it very much.

Thank you also for inviting me to visit the Library. I shall be most happy to do so at some time when I am in Augusta.

The inscribed copy of "Ebb and Flow" is be mailed back to you with this letter.

Very truly yours,

Lelia S. Marstaller
(Mrs. Ernest Marstaller)
April 14, 1936

Mrs. Ernest Marstaller
The Maine Idyll
Freeport, Maine

Dear Mrs. Marstaller:

EBB AND FLOW which you kindly autographed for the Maine Author Collection has arrived. Thank you so much for adding this touch which brings the value and interest that we strive for in this project.

We are sorry that the book did not reach you until so late. We did mail it at once, but evidently the mails are not back to their usual standard of reliability yet.

Thank you again for your kindness and interest, and please do come in to see us when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm Secretary
March 7, 1944

Mrs. Ernest Marstaller
The Maine Idyll
Freeport, Maine

Dear Mrs. Marstaller:

It is a pleasure to notice that you have a new booklet of poems published. We saw the notice of A THOUGHT OF YOU FROM MAINE AND ME in the Lewiston Journal; and at once remembered your kindness several years ago when you presented to the Maine Author Collection an inscribed copy of EBB AND FLOW.

We hope the new booklet will have a favorable reception from readers; and we hope that you may again want to present an inscribed copy of your work for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection.

Please accept our good wishes and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the exhibit when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmj Secretary
Maine State Library.
Augusta, Maine

Dear Friends:

This is such a tiny volume I was not sure you wanted a copy for the Library or you should have had it before. It was published in this pocket size with the many away from home especially in mind.

It was also published as a "service of love". If any of you know of ones who need this sort of thing right now, or later, please feel free to let me know and I will send you copies for them as far as my supply permits. (This includes you personally).

I do not get to Augusta these travel-less days, but hope to again some time. The Maine Author Collection must have grown in the last two years, and I shall be interested in seeing it.

Very sincerely,

Lelia S. Marstaller

(Mrs. Ernest Marstaller)
March 16, 1944

Mrs. Ernest Marstaller
The Maine Idyll
Freeport, Maine

Dear Mrs. Marstaller:

Your kindness in autographing and sending
for the Maine Author Collection a copy of your
gentle and friendly booklet of poems, A THOUGHT
OF YOU, is certainly appreciated; and we are
glad to add it to the exhibit. Yes, it grows—
not, perhaps, so rapidly in war-time—and we
shall hope that one day you will find it possible
to call. Please accept our thanks for your gift.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Secretary