September 2015

Antonia Sawyer Miner Correspondence

Antonia Savage Sawyer Miner 1856-1941

Antonia Sawyer 1856-1941

Ashley Harrison Miner

Hilda McLeod Jacob

*Maine State Library*

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MINER, ANTONIA SAWYER
Fairfield, 1856 -
Mrs. Antonia Sawyer Miner was born on April 26, 1856 on her grandfather Chase’s farm in Fairfield, nine miles from Waterville, but when two weeks old she was brought to her home near Redington Street where her parents, Asher and Adeline Chase Savage had a large old fashioned house. She was named Antonia del Garío Hayward by the Spanish bride of a friend of the family.

Mrs. Miner received her education in the public schools of Waterville and at Coburn Classical Institute, and studied voice in London, Paris, and Germany. When she was only six years old, Mrs. Miner sang in an operetta for the benefit of the Waterville Public Library, then in the city hall. The name of Antonia Sawyer is associated with the Maine Music Festivals, as she and such artists as Madame Lillian Nordica, Madame Lillian Blauvelt, Hans Kronold, and many others, were soloists under the direction of William Rogers Chapman.

She married Henry Hubbard Sawyer, and some years after his death she married Ashley H. Miner. As a concert artist she has appeared in all the principal cities in the country; toured America for one season with Anton Seidl, and as impresario has been manager for some of the most famous artists in the world.

---Adapted from Waterville Sentinel, January 24, 1940.
February 26, 1940

Mrs. Antonia Sawyer Miner
9 Cromwell Place
White Plains, New York

Dear Mrs. Miner:

Recently a review of your book, SONGS AT TWILIGHT, appeared in the Waterville (Maine) Sentinel; and immediately we were interested, because the newspaper article said that you were born in Maine.

In the library we have collected for some years the books of Maine writers; and this exhibit (for the books are not lent) now numbers about a thousand volumes, most of them inscribed presentation copies. We also gather all available data -- biographical, photographic, and critical -- concerning our authors.

The present interest of such a collection cannot be denied; but we are admittedly building for the future; and such a wealth of material on Maine's authors will be of inestimable value to students and researchers.

We are always very grateful for the generosity of our writers, and our policy is to purchase a copy of each non-fiction book for circulation, relying upon the interest of the authors to assist us in the Maine Author Collection.

We hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of SONGS AT TWILIGHT for the collection. The addition of this book would be a great pleasure and distinction.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY

hmj

SECRETARY
March 19, 1940

Mrs. Antonia Sawyer Miner
9 Cromwell Place
White Plains, New York

Dear Mrs. Miner:

When the two copies of *Songs at Twilight* arrived, we abandoned all other activities to examine them. We are charmed and delighted, and also appreciative of the inherent value of your life story.

Your generosity in sending us a picture for the files and presenting a copy of your exceptionally fine book to the Maine Author Collection renders us deeply grateful.

The second copy we presume was sent for lending purposes, and we will gladly approve for payment an invoice. We do not ask that lending copies be given to the library, but we do appreciate your kindness in including the second copy in the shipment.

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your promptness and generosity in this matter, and also our cordial invitation to visit the library when you are in Maine.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

Secretary
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Gentlemen:—

My wife, Antonia Sawyer Miner, has not been well enough to answer your letter of March 19th and has asked me to do so. She has asked me to thank you for your kind letter and as I am attending to the sale of "SONGS AT TWILIGHT" you will find an invoice for $3.00 enclosed, as requested by you.

We are now living at 817 East 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ashley H. Miner.