October 2015

Helen Albee Prince Correspondence

Helen Albee Prince

Mr. Harrie Coe

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

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PRINCE, Helen Albee

North Anson, 1855 (?) -
Portland, Me, Feb 12, 1935

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,

Dear Sir:

I need information and not knowing just where to apply for same, I am taking the liberty of addressing you.

I have ready the ms. of a book of about thirty thousand words (perhaps two or three hundred more) and seven original illustrations, made by a Boston artist, which I am anxious to have published this spring. It is mainly about Maine and is supposedly written by a young girl from Ohio, on her first visit to the Atlantic coast.

The title is, "Grandma's Album Quilt," and presents a succession of stories about Maine people (and Maine localities) of grandma's friends, whose names are written on the white blocks, in the center of each patchwork square. Among the localities mentioned are Portland, (Tuna fishing) Freeport, (Maine Desert) Wiscasset, Kennebec Valley, Pinot noir viney (Salmon) Mining in eastern Maine in the 80's, Cadillac Mt. and a trip I once took up there in 1883 on the old cog-wheel road. Much of the book is biographical, as I am now past 80 and have incorporated many facts of my early days, including parts of a diary kept by me during the Civil War, when young.
School girls were picking lint and helping to pack barrels of supplies to send to the soldiers. This was during my early days in my home town, North Anson.

Having as much Maine publicity incorporated into its pages, I thought I might dispose of it to a "Publicity Department," "Chamber of Commerce," or some similar organization, but do not know how to proceed to contact them. If desired I will bring my ma to Augusta for their inspection, or perhaps I could see them in this city as well. If you would care to look it over before advising me what to do, I will be glad to send the ma to you on request. Sincerely yours.

(Mrs) Helen A. Prince,
492 Cumberland Ave.,
Portland,
Maine.
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
AUGUSTA
February 13, 1935

Mrs. Helen A. Prince
492 Cumberland Ave.
Portland, Maine

My dear Mrs. Prince:

I have your letter of February 12 in relation to your book "Grandma's Album Quilt."

I should be very glad to look over the manuscript, and also I shall be very glad to do anything I can to help you find a publisher.

I suggest that you talk with Mr. Harrie Coe of the Maine Publicity Bureau, Longfellow Square, Portland, Maine. After you have talked with Mr. Coe, write me in regard to his opinion.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
State Librarian

[Handwritten note]
Refer it to

[Handwritten signatures]

Marie Development Commission
Mr. Brann, Chairman
John C. Sales, Vice Chairman
Portland, Me. Feb. 15, 1935.

My dear Mr. Durmack:

I thank you for your kindness in replying so promptly to my urgent request for advice. Today I obtained a ten minute interview with Mr. Coe, and while he did not have time to look the manuscript over, he wrote a suggestion on the bottom of your letter here enclosed.

I also enclose a letter and sample contract, sent me by a Boston publisher last fall. Not having $400.00 to finance the first edition, I requested them to return the MS. by express, and am sending same to you in that way, and asking you to return it by express, as I want to have a copy typed, which will be free from errors.

As I told Mr. Coe today, I would like to arrange with the Development Commission for a loan of $450.00 giving the MS. as security. As you notice from the Publisher's terms, this will all be paid back to the author from the first sales of the book. I will undertake to introduce the book extensively throughout New England and elsewhere, and as a return for the use of the money will agree to repay it within one year to the
COMMISSIONS FUnded: I will give 10 cents on all copies sold during the first year after publication.

Expect to introduce it at many of the beaches and other resorts, as well as putting it on sale in book-stores as soon as off the press.

Pardon me for taking up so much of your time, and accept my thanks for all your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

Helen A. Prince.

492 Cumb. Ave., Portland, Maine.
Portland, Me., March 27,

Mr. Henry E. Dunnaeck,

Dear Sir:

Early in February I wrote you asking if I might submit manuscript of a book I had written, to you for your opinion, and upon receiving a favorable reply, I forwarded the same by express. Not having heard anything further and
being anxious to have a newly typed copy made ready to submit to a publisher by the 10th of April, I am writing to ask if you will please return the ms. to me by express collect, at your earliest convenience and greatly oblige.

You're very truly,

(Mrs.) Helen A. Prince,
492 Cumberland Ave.
Portland, Maine.

2-8-1935
March 30, 1935

Mrs. Helen A. Prince
492 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Prince:

We returned your manuscript "Grandma's Album Quilt," March 28. I was very glad for the opportunity of looking over this manuscript. I am returning your letter from the Meador Publishing Company.

I cannot think of any way we can be of service to you in securing its publication.

Very truly yours

HED.m State Librarian
Mrs. Helen Albee Prince  
The Westlawn  
47 West Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Prince:

May we offer you our sincere congratulations on the publication of your book, GRANDMA'S ALBUM QUILT. We are pleased and proud to be able to add a new name to our list of Maine authors, and we hope we will be privileged to add the book to the Maine Author Collection.

Some years ago the State Library started a project which is now known as the Maine Author Collection, and which comprises several hundred volumes, written by Maine-born people, and also by those who have lived here, or have written about the State. Seldom do we have an author who was born in Maine, has lived here, and has written about his native State, and therefore it is with added delight that we welcome you to our literary list.

The books in this collection are for exhibit purposes only, and in years to come will form a valuable and interesting background of Maine literature. The volumes are nearly all inscribed, and most of them presented, and the collection increases steadily in size and worth.

We hope that you will wish to inscribe for the Maine Author Collection a copy of GRANDMA'S ALBUM QUILT; we assure you that your kindness would be very deeply appreciated.

Please accept our very cordial invitation to visit the library and the Maine Author Collection when you are again in Augusta.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
47 West St., Portland, Me.
March 4, 1936

Miss Hilda McLeod,
Secy Maine State Library,
Dear Miss McLeod:

Replying to yours of recent date will say that if I will be very glad to contribute a copy of Grandma's Album Quilt to your collection.

As soon as they come from the binders' hands, I will be proud to autograph a copy and forward...
you. Not only am I Maine-born, but my parents, grand-parents, and great-grand-parents were (with the exception of two from N.H.) all born in Maine, then Massachusetts.

When next I visit Augusta, I will be very glad to accept your kind invitation to visit the Library.

Yours sincerely

Helen A. Prince
April 1, 1936

Mrs. Helen A. Prince  
47 West Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Prince:

Your kind letter of March 4, promising us an inscribed copy of GRANDMA'S ALBUM QUILT for the Maine Author Collection, delighted us. We are anticipating its arrival, and trust that no unfortunate delay will occur in the publishing of a book that, according to advance notices, holds such interest, especially for natives of Maine.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
April 8, 1936

Mrs. Helen A. Prince
47 West Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Prince:

GRANDMA'S ALEUM QUILT has arrived, and we are unusually delighted to be privileged to add such a charming, attractive and authentic book to the Maine Author Collection.

The jacket is fascinating, and the entire book should please as many types of persons as are represented in the quilt. It is an altogether uncommonly captivating book, and we sincerely hope that it will enjoy the popularity it richly deserves.

Please accept our hearty congratulations upon so auspicious a literary debut, and our deep gratitude for your interest and kindness.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
Maine Grandmother, 81, Launches Literary Career With Her First Book

Mrs. Helen A. Prince Writes Story Of Album Quilt People

By Leon Harold Tebbetts

To be an 81 year old grandmother and to be launching a literary career at the same time is indeed a record of personal achievement few of us may hope to emulate. In fact, to attain one of such accomplishments is something nearly all of us never bring to pass.

It was, however, a long, long dream with Mrs. Helen Albee Prince of Sanford and Portland to write a book. She dreamed about it when she was a little girl up in North Anson, even filled pages and pages of composition paper with childish stories. Later, when she entered wedded life, she still wanted to write a book, and did jot down ideas, but time did not permit her to write the book she wished to do.
of nine. Then, crowding the work in with her other duties, she began resolutely the long delayed task of writing a book.

Last Summer Mrs. Prince's book, "Grandma's Album Quilt," was published by Falmouth Book House, Portland, successfully bringing to fruition a lifelong dream.

The book Mrs. Prince has written is an authentic and amusing account of old Maine and its people. In former days people used to make album quilts. These quilts were not made by any one person, but were pieced together over a period of years by different people, each one sewing in a group of squares with one white square in the center. Upon this white block was written the name of the person who made the square.

Real Quilt People

Taking such a quilt as the theme for her book, Mrs. Prince has caused her old friends to write in and contribute the story of their quilts. These stories and letters will be included in the volume which is kept in Grandma's attic.

One by one, on rainy days of summer and other times at her leisure, Grandma takes up each square and spins a story about its maker.

Many of the accounts are actual happenings in Maine, and some of the characters described by Grandma are real people who lived long ago, or are living today. The author has, of course, carefully concealed real names and places, but to one familiar with the events and scenes, the accounts should bring back memories.

There is a story of the copper mining boom which took place in Maine some 50 years ago.

One part of the book tells a true adventure had by the author and a girl playmate many years ago. On an exploring trip, the two bold little girls, who looked so much alike they were called twins, set out to follow Arnold's Cadillac, formerly called Green.

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