

October 2015

## Walter B. Rideout Correspondence

Walter B. Rideout 1917-

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Maine State Library

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2756 Reese Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois  
March 26, 1957

Mrs. F. W. Jacob  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your interesting letter about the Maine Author Collection. I wish that I had an extra copy of my book that I might be able to send you as a presentation copy, but at present I do not. If I am able to get one in the future, I shall send it on to you.

Meanwhile I am glad to give you some biographical information. I was born in Lee, Maine, on October 21, 1917, the second child and son of Walter John and Ruth Brickett Rideout, likewise of Maine. I had my public schooling in Guilford, Dover-Foxcroft, and Hartland, in all of which towns my father was superintendent of schools. Since we lived in Dover-Foxcroft from 1923 to 1932, I think of that as my home town. After graduating from Hartland Academy in 1934, I attended Colby College from 1934 to 1938, where I majored in English and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa. From 1938 to 1942 and again from 1946 to 1949, I attended the Harvard University Graduate School of English, where I received my M.A. in 1939 and my Ph.D. in 1950. From 1942 to 1946 I was with the Navy Department, first as a civil servant in Naval Communications and then as ensign and lieutenant (jg) in Naval Communications. From September, 1944, until January, 1956, I was stationed at Pearl Harbor, the rest of the time at Washington, D.C.

In 1947 I married Jeanette Lee Drisko of Belfast, who was at Colby College from 1935 to 1939. We now have two children, a girl, Linda, aged five, and a boy, Richard, aged three. Since September, 1949, I have been teaching at Northwestern University here in Evanston, where I am now an Assistant Professor of English. In 1953, Howard Mumford Jones and I published LETTERS OF SHERWOOD ANDERSON through Little, Brown and Company. I am at present working on a critical biography of Anderson.

If you need further information, I should be glad to supply it. Thank you for your interest and for letting me know about the Collection.

Sincerely yours,

*Walter B. Rideout*  
Walter B. Rideout