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Judith St. George Correspondence

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Judith St. George

THE CHINESE PUZZLE OF SHAG ISLAND

Place of birth: Westfield, N.J.
Date of birth: 2/26/1
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Biographical information

Although I have always lived in N.J. except for brief exceptions, all my childhood/childhood summers were spent in Maine, as well as some of my adult summers. My grandparents were from Kennebunk, Maine, where my great-grandfather was a captain of sailing vessels for 35 years. We used to go to Kennebunk and Goose Rocks Beach where many of the Perkins' family lived. My grandfather who died not long ago at the age of 93 told many old Maine tales to us children. He, too, had sailed to China with case oil for Standard Oil in 1899 at the age of 17. He kept a daily diary, as did his father before him, as well as all the letter he sent home to his family. Several years before my grandfather died, I tape recorded all his reminences. Using these tapes as a base for my mystery, I wrote The Chinese Puzzle of Shag Island. The Curiosity Room, the Chinese pirates, The Bridge, all the touches and flavor for the sailing period of Maine's history come from family diaries, letters, and of course, my grandfather's tapes. It was a meaningful book for me to write and I'm only sorry my grandfather didn't live to read it, as well as realize the book was dedicated to him.