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John Underwood Stephens Correspondence

John Underwood Stephens 1901-
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STEPHENS, JOHN UNDERWOOD (REV.)

Born at Brooklyn, New York
John Underwood Stephens is a former minister of the Mount Washington Presbyterian Church, and a former assistant minister of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, both in New York.

Born in Brooklyn, he grew up in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and attended Lawrenceville School, in New Jersey. Mr. Stephens received his academic degree at Princeton University, later attending Princeton Theological Seminary. He took his B.D. degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York after serving as a teacher at Princeton-in-Peking, China, and minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Sand Lake, New York.

Mr. Stephens is the author of PRAYERS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, several of which have been include in anthologies of prayer. He has had three Christmas poems set to music and published as hymns, and his "LIFT UP YOUR EYES" was published by the Hymn Society of America in connection with the Evanston meeting of the World Council of Churches in 1954.

Mr. Stephens is now a resident of Ogunquit.
March 8, 1957

Rev. John Underwood Stephens
Ogunquit
Maine

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Seeing a notice about your book A SIMPLE GUIDE TO PRAYER, we are reminded that your work is not represented in the Maine Author Collection. Are you a Maine native, or can we claim you instead as an "adopted" author?

The collection, as you may know, was started some years ago, and includes books written by those born in Maine, or resident here, and books about Maine. Most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions adding their own value and distinction to an outstanding collection. The books are a permanent exhibit, always available to visitors and students. We also gather biographical information and literary reviews and criticism, and try to have complete files on our Maine writers.

We note Maine books and the work of Maine people in the Maine in Print list which appears in the quarterly Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and the books are purchased by us for use in the various departments of the library. The collection has, however, been enabled to increase through the generous interest of our authors. We hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of your SIMPLE GUIDE TO PRAYER for inclusion in this Maine exhibit, and one day we hope also that PRAYERS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE may also be numbered about these Maine books.

Our good wishes go to you for the success of your new book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
John Underwood Stephens  
Juniper Rock, Frazier Pasture Road  
Ogunquit, Maine  

Maine 9, 1957

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I hasten to reply to your kind letter and inquiry re inscribed copies of my Prayers of the Christian Life and A Simple Guide to Prayer.

These books have just been inscribed on the fly leaf and packed to mail to you on Monday. In A Simple Guide to Prayer, I have taken the liberty of correcting a typographical error on page 71 and again on page 107.

You inquire as to whether I was born in Brooklyn, New York, a native of Maine. Unfortunately I am not. But I am still living in New York City. In 1939, I bought a summer place in Ogunquit and had there. In 1948, I gave up the active practice for reasons of health, so closed our Ogunquit house for all-year occupancy and moved in. We love it!

With very good wish.

Yours cordially,

John Underwood Stephens

Mrs. F.W. Jacobs  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine
March 12, 1957

Rev. John Underwood Stephens
Ogunquit
Maine

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Your two books, thoughtfully inscribed, have been received; and it is with appreciation of your generosity and of the practical but persuasive books themselves, that we add your writing to the Maine Author Collection.

Accept our thanks and good wishes for a happy continuance of your work.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection