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Charles Ross White Correspondence

Charles Ross White 1862-

Maine State Library

Marion Brainerd

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WHITE, Charles Ross.

Born at Portland, March 25, 1862.
WHITE, Charles Ross.

BIOGRAPHY

If I was to write the genealogy of the White family in Maine, and that branch of the family including Congressmen and Senators of Maine, I would perhaps begin at Taunton, Mass., where the first Maine families migrated from into Maine, the Taunton branch of the family, including Leonard's the Leonards being one of the first pioneer families, a Leonard having built the first iron foundry in the United States, in 1662, and antedating the Valley Forge of Washington's day. This forge, 'Anchor Forge,' can still be seen at Taunton in good state of preservation, and a monument to the ironmaster is to be erected in the public square at Taunton. If there are monuments to the branch to the White family in Maine, in any part of Old Dirigo, I fail to observe them. Personally I have never been guilty of such an act. The nearest I ever come to anything of that sort was the Congressional Medal of Honor by an act of Congress, and this was before the War, and was a peaceful, most conservative medal, a Government Medal for life saving at sea. As to the immediate genealogy I might include the remarks of a near relative, Prof. C. A. White, a Federal Geologist
at Washington, who authenticates as a fact that the author is a descendent of Peregrene White, and a descendent from Governor White of the Lost Colony of Virginia. I understand by hearsay that I myself was born to John Staple's wife and to Martha Ann Sawyer White in the City of Portland, Maine, March 25, 1862. I have no reason to doubt this which seems a self evident proposition on the face of it. I do know that I was educated in the public and private schools of Portland, and that I narrowly escaped fitting for Harvard College by entering the then well known firm of D. White & Son, established in 1832, and which I continued with until the year 1889. In the year 1890, after cruising both the forests and seas of Maine, I settled in the big lake region of Long Lake, Naples, Maine, where after the Spanish American War in which I offered a volunteer company to the State, which by courtesy was accepted by Governor Powers to be held for an emergency call, which of course never came, as the Maine State quota was made up from the State Militia. During the late war I was busy in reconstruction work which continued up to date in the building of summer colonies and summer school camps on the Great Lakes.

Having lived through three wars without fame or demise, I have continued as a citizen of Maine and of Portland and continued my membership in the Clubs of Portland such as
the Cumberland Club, and such clubs of Washington as the American Cross of Honor. After continuing this conservative life as a citizen of these Commonwealths, I awoke one morning to find myself an author of my first book "By the Sea". The only review I can remember of this book was by a major critic who said in substance "that man deserves well of his country who can turn aside from its every day surroundings and view it in the true light of the ideal, which is most truly the real".

Yes, I can recall my first poetical effusion which was uttered at the precocious age of fourteen, and as near as I can remember, was in these lines "Little Mamie was standing in a bush, up came Dan and he made her blush". But really, my first real poem at the more mature age of sixteen was uttered as follows: The title is "When Norwesterns Blow".

By forest cities high wall'd banks the dark sea waters flowed, and by its piers the channel winds, by sylvian isles of Casco Bay. It follows the ship channel route, by the two lights of the Cape, and down the roads and Hussey's Sound, by old Seguin does make. Old Kennebeckers make the run, five masters heeling low, with a bone in the teeth, by Trundy's Reef, when the Norwesterns blow."

My biography in brief confirms the truth, that poets are born, not made.
Mrs. Marion Brainard
State Librarian, Augusta, Me.

It is my pleasure to

read by today's mail

the books I have desired

particularly the latter part

under our title "Maineisms",

will be much pleased the

urban as well as pastoral

community of State of Maine.

If meeting with your

approval I can send complimentary

free copies to such list of State

Libraries you may advise,

Walter Meserve,

Charles W. White.

Kindly let me know if books

will be placed in section

devoted to Maine authors

memory books, and I will then

send other copies for public

library use, ?

CRW

Jan. 5, 1923.
My dear Mr. White:

It is with very great pleasure that I acknowledge, for the Library, your gift of Poems Primal. The book has been placed in our Maine author section and we hope that you may have many others to add as time goes on.

In addition to collection works by Maine authors, we are also getting together material about the authors themselves. We shall therefore, appreciate receiving from you as full a biographical sketch as you may be able to give us.

Your name has been placed on our mailing list to receive future issues of the Maine Library Bulletin, which is our quarterly publication.

It is very generous of you to offer copies of your book to the public libraries in the state. We will send to you a list of such as we think would make good use of your gift.

I appreciate the interest you have shown in our attempt and hope to have the privilege of meeting you personally.

Very truly yours,
My dear Miss Brainerd:—

It was with pleasure to learn that my book of Poems Primal is included in the author's section of the Maine State Library, and as you are pleased to express, I hope I may add other books from time to time. It will be a great pleasure and privilege, I assure you, to go over the subject personally, and I shall look forward to the opportunity as a privilege for the early future as possible.

As you write, you wish to have a biography of the author, I will try to include one as concisely and conservatively in every respect possible.

Very cordially yours,

[Signature]

#1 Codman St. Portland, Me.
Jan. 16, 1923.
MAINE AUTHOR LEAD

C. R. White author of "Y the Sea."
"Poems Primal, and Yankeeisms."
characterizations such as the public are waiting for in future moving pictures. Leading book store agent says: "We have sold more copies than any book ever sold over our counter."
"The greatest character sketches written in verse or prose."
To Old Dirigo State with the heart loyal
love of the author, Charles Ross White,
Written in the Maine Woods "Yankeeisms"
(beginning page 71) the latter half of the
book only possible to one who has lived
the life.
The works of God are fair for naught
Unless our eyes in seeing
See hidden in the thing the thought
That animates its being.