January 2016

Elinor Stevens Walker Correspondence

Elinor Stevens Walker 1909-

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WALKER, Mrs. Elinor Stevens
b. Cornville, Maine October 24, 1909
See what the Maine Newspapers have to say About Our Great Northern Wilderness One of the finest books written about the Maine Wilderness by Elinor Stevens Walker
**Fascination For Katahdin**

Prompts Teacher To Write

By ELLIE VERNON WALKER

**OUR GREAT NORTHERN WILDERNESS** by Elinor Walker (~3rd Maine Press)

**Illustrated by Bonnie Alexander**

**In college composition classes attended in conjunction with her former teaching duties, Mrs. Walker has been able to express her deep affection for her beloved Katahdin region in this autobiography.**

**Included in the chapter on lumbering history is one of the most comprehensive collections of information in the state on the early lumber camps ever set down on paper.**

Mrs. Walker was graduated from Skowhegan High School in 1920; at Roxbury Village near Madison, Mrs. Walker taught for ten years; at Roxbury Village for two years it was open, getting her good background in nature studies. She taught in Benton schools until 1941, and she has been active in the Benton Library Society for many years,

She has been active in the Maine Register of Deeds, the Maine Register of Bankers, the Maine Register of Auditors, and the Maine Register of Contractors. She has been a member of the Skowhegan Savings Bank and the Skowhegan Savings Bank for many years. She has been a member of the Benton Public Library Society for many years.

She has also been a member of the Benton Library Society, the Benton Public Library, and the Benton Public Library Society. She has been a member of the Benton Library Society, the Benton Public Library, and the Benton Public Library Society. She has been a member of the Benton Library Society, the Benton Public Library, and the Benton Public Library Society.

Mrs. Walker's career is one of many in her own words: "Our Great Northern Wilderness is Story Of Katahdin Region"

By CAROLINE HOBAN

CLINTON — Our Great Northern Wilderness comes off the press May 28, and many people who are "on the inside" on the Katahdin area have already put it in print for a copy. The book is written by Mrs. Vernon Walker, daughter of Lester and Alice G. Walker, of Benton. It is illustrated by Bonnie Alexander and published by Main Press, Portland. The book is dedicated to the memory of her husband, Mrs. Walker was graduated from Skowhegan State College in 1920. She received her B.S. in education in 1920 and her M.A. in 1924. She taught in Benton schools for ten years, at Benton in 1941, and then at the University of Maine, where she earned her Ph.D. in 1944.
Mrs. Elinor Stevens Walker  
68 Main Street  
Clinton, Maine

Dear Mrs. Walker:

A copy of your book, OUR GREAT NORTHERN WILDERNESS, was delivered to this office, although addressed to the Augusta Public Library. We are forwarding it to the public library, but shall, of course, want a copy for the State Library. Enclosed is an order for the book.

We hope that you will want to inscribe and present another copy to the Maine Author Collection, which, as you may know, is a permanent exhibit collection of books written by Maine persons, or about Maine. The newspaper tells us that you are a Maine native, and certainly the book is about Maine, so we are eager to have a copy in the collection.

Sometime, will you let us have your birthdate and birth place information? Is it Cornville? We try to have information complete about our Maine authors.

Our best wishes for the success of the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
68 Main St.
Clinton, Me.
Aug. 1, 1966

Dear Miss Lord,

Your letter, card and the order for two more books have arrived.
I felt sure I had sent a complimentary copy to our State Library as to all others in our nation.

I will be very happy to present to the Maine Author's Collection a copy also, thus that would leave only one copy for you to pay for.
The three communications are a bit confusing but I hope I have it straight, you may use the worded copy for the Maine Author Collection.

Regarding my background, I was born on Hilton Hill in Cornville, Me. on Oct. 24, 1909 the daughter of Lester H. and Olive Mitchell Stevens.

I was educated in the Skowhegan schools graduating from the High School there in 1929. I spent two years at Farmington Normal School graduating in 1931. I taught school in Bilton from 1931 to 1941 and in Hopkury, Me. in 1941-1942. Coming to Clinton in the winter of 1943 I taught here a total of eight years at two different times. I finished my teaching career in Waterville, Me. as 3rd grade teacher in South Grammar.

For five years I've been a book at Waterville Osteopathic Hospital. This is my first venture at writing other
than Club papers and themes etc for my work in College and I studied at Farmington, University of Maine, Colby and Bryant Pond Conservation School.

I also had one summer course 2 weeks at Audubon Camp of Maine.

Sincerely,

Elmér S. Walker
August 11, 1966

Mrs. Elinor Stevens Walker
68 Main Street
Clinton, Maine 04927

Dear Mrs. Walker:

Thank you for sending OUR GREAT NORTHERN WILDERNESS, and for your generous gift to the library, and also to the Maine Author Collection.

This is very kind of you, and we appreciate it, also the biographical information which you sent in response to our request.

The attractive booklet should have appeal to all lovers of outdoor life, and of course especially to Baxter Park enthusiasts. We hope it is warmly welcomed, and that you are encouraged by its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
CLINTON — A fascination for the Katahdin region of Maine has motivated a former school teacher here to write a book about it.

Due off the presses this month, the volume is the work of Mrs. Vernon Walker, who made her first visit to the area just six years ago.

The book — 17 chapters long, with 40 of its 100 pages devoted to photographs — contains a history of lumbering in Wasset-quish Valley, accounts of numerous personal exploits of the author and tales of others who have chosen the area as their home.

THE BOOK evolved from descriptive sketches set down on paper by Mrs. Walker. "I would go into the park (Baxter) see things there and go home and write about them," she relates.

Ironically, the author — whose love for the outdoors dates back to the age of four when her father treated her to her first fishing expedition in the Lily Bay section of Moosehead Lake — was not impressed with her first visit to Baxter State Park.

It was made at the request of a nephew, Irving C. Caverly Jr., then a newly appointed park ranger and bachelor, who wanted his aunt's company until the first campers of the season arrived.

Mrs. Walker stayed for two weeks — in May 1960 — then returned for three more in July. Since then, she and husband Vernon have made 12 trips into Russell Pond, situated eight miles from the Roaring Brook campground in the very center of the park, and branched out on several other excursions, including visits to the Allagash region.

Many of the photographs included in the book were taken by the author while on excursions in the area. Others, particularly those of lumbering operations, were provided Mrs. Walker as a courtesy by the Great Northern Paper Company, which has displayed more than a passing interest in the volume. The paper company also supplied additional information and arranged interviews for the author.

Mrs. Walker credits former Gov. Percival Baxter with the idea of publishing her writings. Baxter, after reading some of the sketches forwarded him by Mrs. Walker, suggested she seek out an interested publisher.

Encouraged by Baxter's complimentary appraisal of her work, Mrs. Walker queried a magazine publisher, who politely rejected the material. "So I decided to publish my own book," she relates.

THE VOLUME, in paperback form about the size of a town report, is illustrated by pen and ink drawings done by Mrs. John Welch of Clinton, a friend of the author.

A native of Cornville, Mrs. Walker was graduated from Skowhegan High School and Farmington Normal School.
68 Main St.
Clinton, Me.
May 16, 1969

Miss State Library
State House
Augusta, Me.

Dear Librarian,

Your order for three of my publications: "On and Around Our Great Northern Wilderness" has been received.

I am mailing them out to you today.

Regarding a library discount, I've given the discount on these only when sold on consignment.

I've financed my own publishing which has been quite expensive, and having lost my husband two years ago and Railroad Accident due me peace.
other smaller means did not come through. I've really had to
plan to make ends meet.

If it should help, you'll
pay the postage. I don't know
what the State would do regarding
State Tax, that is 16 cents a
copy if they'd cut that off for
you it might help you a bit more.

Thank you kindly for the
order.

Respectfully,
Elinor S. Walker