

January 2016

# Gertrude Couch Crossman Correspondence

Gertrude Couch Crossman 1894-

Maine State Library

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CROSSMAN, GERTRUDE COUCH

A summer resident of Maine

CROSSMAN, Gertrude Couch. Educated at high school and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, in kindergarten training. Happily married for twelve years. Loves out of door life-- rides horseback, plays golf, a tennis enthusiast, swims, fond of fishing. Loves music and the theatre.

84-25 Edgerton Boulevard,  
Jamaica Estates, New York,  
September 24th, 1937.

Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine,  
Miss Hilda Mc Leed, Secretary,  
My dear Miss Mc Leed,

Thank you for asking me to contribute a copy of Sharply Remembered to the Maine State Library. I shall be very happy to send on as soon as they are off the press.

No wonder you could not find out anything about me - I have no claim to fame and have only a few magazine articles to my credit, so far. I am afraid there is little to tell which would be of interest. I had the usual schooling - high school and a course at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, in Kindergarten Training. I like working with the little children but hated the school routine - especially having to deal with disciplining the elder children. Their behavior made me skeptical as to the results of any ideals I might instill in a five year old.

I have always wanted to write and from the time I won my first prize from St Nicholas, have kept at it with little or no success but with the conviction that I must put down on paper all that I felt so strongly. I have tried everything from short plays to articles and have been writing poems and verse for my own pleasure for years.

I refuse to tell you my age but will admit I have been happily married for twelve years and that most people guess I am in my middle thirties. I am five feet seven inches tall, have light brown, naturally curly hair which I wear short, have bluish grey eyes and at present, am very brown from the summer sun.

I love the out of doors - ride horseback, play at golf, am a tennis enthusiast, swim, fish, love music and the theatre and enjoy almost everything except cocktail parties and baseball. I am not a tee-totaler but dislike mass orgies and crowds.

My husband and I discovered Squaw Mountain Inn and Moosehead Lake the second year we were married and have gone back every year since. My poems were written during that period and may, I hope, induce others who do not know Maine, to go up and see what they have been missing.

We have managed to hold on to our little home on Long Island in spite of the depression. "Surburbia" is creeping up around us and we dream of some day selling out and going to the country where we can have a few acres of our own.

Miss Hilda Mcleod.....2

I shall always want to spend some part of the year where I can smell the pines of Maine and hear old Moosehead Lake chuckling while I try to land a salmon. We have to go back to see all our friends there - the Sanders and the Crafts and Sheridans - our guide Seely Bowser, Jean, the boatman and Pete, the tame gull up at Kokadjo. Do you wonder that I called my book - " Sharply Remembered " ?

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude Couch Crossman

August 26, 1937

Mrs. Gertrude Couch Crossman  
Homer Lee Avenue  
Jamaica Estates, New York

Dear Mrs. Crossman:

It was with pleasure that we read recently of your new book of poems, SHARPLY REMEMBERED. We were even more delighted to notice that the poems are Maine in nature.

The Maine Author Collection, which was started some years ago, includes books written by Maine persons, or have a Maine background. These books have been inscribed and presented for this exhibit purpose by the authors, who have been very graciously interested in the project. In addition, they have supplied us with biographical information when we have been unsuccessful in locating it elsewhere.

We would very much appreciate your kindness in sending us some biographical material, for we have not been able to find any. We hope that you will want to inscribe and present to the Maine Author Collection a copy of SHARPLY REMEMBERED. We assure you it would be received with gratitude.

Please accept a very cordial invitation to visit the library and Maine Author Collection when you are again in Maine, and also our sincere good wishes for the success of your book.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

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SECRETARY

(reply containing biographical  
information filed on reverse of first page.)  
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October 12, 1937

Mrs. Gertrude Couch Crossman  
84-25 Edgerton Boulevard  
Jamaica Estates, New York

Dear Mrs. Crossman:

Such a very charming response to our request! Your letter contained exactly the sort of information that we wish all our authors would write for us, and now we have your book, SHARPLY REMEMBERED, which you have so graciously inscribed for the Maine Author Collection.

There should be words at our command to express our appreciation properly, but after reading the poems into which you have written trees and lakes, birds and flowers, rocks and moss, with humor and wisdom and sympathy, we feel that our vocabulary is inadequate. How truly you have caught the essence of Maine, and how simply you have told it!

You have written poetry which will appeal to all those who know and love Maine, and to many who do not know her, but will wish to, after reading such verses as MORNING BATH, FOREST MEDLEY, INDIAN PAINTBRUSH, and TO A LOON.

We are delighted and grateful that we are privileged to include your name in Maine's literary roster, and SHARPLY REMEMBERED in the Maine Author Collection. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours

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March 25, 1942

Mrs. Gertrude Couch Crossman  
84 - 25 Edgerton Boulevard  
Jamaica Estates, New York

Dear Mrs. Crossman:

It was some time ago that you presented a copy of your charming SHARPLY REMEMBERED to the Maine Author Collection, and delighted us with your enthusiasm for Maine.

We notice that we do not have a copy of CHANGE AT JAMAICA. It is possible that you may care to add an inscribed copy to the exhibit, and, if you do, we should be very happy to have it here.

We hope that you and your husband are still enjoying summer days at Moosehead Lake, and that present travel difficulties will not prevent your annual holiday.

Very truly yours

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