

September 2015

Virginia Chase Correspondence

Virginia Chase 1902-1987

Virginia Chase Perkins

Mr. Campbell

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Olive Chase O'Brien

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CHASE, Virginia

(Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins)

Blue Hill, 1902-

Virginia Chase was born in Maine, near the start of the century, and at the age of eighteen she became principal of the high school in Steuben, Maine. After later attending several universities, she married and for a number of years she taught in the public school system of Detroit, where she resides with her husband and daughter. In 1940 she won a Major Avery Hopwell award for fiction at the University of Michigan. She has lectured in Michigan and surrounding states on current literature, and published reviews and articles in various magazines. In 1942 she did a short stint as a newspaperwoman, book-reviewing for the Boston Transcript. This is her first novel. Of it she says, "I tried to write the book as fact and failed. Now it is almost pure fancy."

Virginia Chase Perkinso attended the University of Maine 1919-1920 and in addition to being principal of the high school in Steuben, Maine, was head of the English department at Livermore Falls, Maine.

Supplied by Mr. Campbell

February 16, 1944

Mrs. Virginia Chase Perkins
c/o Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc.
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Mrs. Perkins:

It is always a pleasure to notice a new Maine novel and to welcome a new name to Maine's literary roster; but especially so in the case of a Maine-born author, as we have read that you are. The notices of **AMERICAN HOUSE** have been very encouraging, and we hope many readers will have the delight of discovering this adventuresome story and family.

It is possible that you know of the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of inscribed presentation books written by people born in Maine, resident here or writing about the state. The inscriptions are amusing, inspiring, artistic, poetical -- but always original. Some are tributes to the state, some are autobiographical; some tell of how the book came to be written. They all add value, of course, and distinction. We also collect all available information about our authors, and preserve their correspondence. It is the only place where all the works of all Maine authors will be available to future students and researchers.

We hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of **AMERICAN HOUSE** to the exhibit. Please accept our good wishes for its continuing success; and a cordial invitation to visit the library and see the collection when you are again in Maine.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--1

Secretary

22 Devonshire Road
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan
February 21, 1944

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am happy to know that there is a place for THE AMERICAN HOUSE in the Maine State Library, and I shall send a copy within a day or two. Since you say you collect biographical data, you may be interested to know that I am a native of Blue Hill, and a member of a large and loyal Maine family.

Sincerely yours,

Wing Chase Perkins
Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins

Mrs. Hilda Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

March 6, 1944

Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins
22 Devonshire Road
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Perkins:

The inscribed copy of THE AMERICAN HOUSE came today, and we hasten to send you our thanks and appreciation for your generous interest in the Maine Author Collection. This is a delightful story, and, even though not autobiographical, full of authentic color and characters.

It is included in our traveling libraries, and will thereby reach many people throughout Maine. What enjoyment awaits these readers when they make the acquaintance of THE AMERICAN HOUSE and its occupants!

You have our best wishes for its increasing popularity; and also for the next book, which we hope is already in progress.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--6¢ postal refund

Secretary

May 18, 1948

Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins
22 Devonshire Road
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

Dear Virginia Chase:

Congratulations upon the publication of DISCOVERY, and the pleasant things reviewers are saying about it. We made a note of it for the Maine section of the May Bulletin, and we hope that many readers will find enjoyment and truth in your excellent novel.

The Maine Author Collection was so fortunate as to be able to include an inscribed copy of your first book. We hope it may continue to merit your generous interest, and that DISCOVERY may join THE AMERICAN HOME.

Our best wishes go to you for the success of the new book, and for the continuance of a writing career so happily begun and sustained by these two works.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj



The Perkins Place

W. Echel B. Fowler

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am delighted to send a copy of DISCOVERY to the Maine Author Collection. I thought of it upon publication, but decided the book would have no interest for Maine people, its problem being one limited almost exclusively, I would have believed, to large, industrial cities. However, I have had quite a number of letters from Maine ~~people~~^{writers}, which pleased me, since I always consider myself one of them in spite of my years in Michigan.

This card shows our farm in Edgecomb, where we spend our summers.

Very sincerely,

Virginia Chase Perkins

June 2, 1948

Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins
22 Devonshire Road
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

Dear Virginia Chase:

The inscribed copy of DISCOVERY arrived for the Maine Author Collection, and we express our warm appreciation of your interest and generosity.

DISCOVERY, it seems to me, presents a situation that is commonly found, and presents it with skill and sympathy. You are to be congratulated upon the achievement. We hope this is only the first of your novels. With your insight and perception, as well as your writing talent, you would be able to give readers the kind of book which is enjoyable for its story, and yet carries a consideration of more important things than many modern novels.

The sketch of your summer home is charming. How quiet and lovely it must be! We hope that you have a very pleasant vacation there this year.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Virginia Chase Lives in Michigan But Turned Her Eyes Toward Maine When She Wrote Her First Novel

BY MARION COOPER

Although she now lives in Michigan, Virginia Chase is a Maine woman, member of one of Maine's best known seacoast families and turned her eyes homeward when she wrote her first novel the past year, "The American House."

With this first novel an immediate success, recommended by one book club and planned as the initial choice of new book club soon to be publicized, she is at work on another one, this time with a mid-west setting.

Miss Chase is a member of the Blue Hill family whose sons and daughters have been prominent in public affairs in Maine and many other parts of the country. Mary Ellen Chase, professor at Smith College, is well known to Maine readers and audiences, as are Edward Everett Chase, Portland businessman and University of Maine trustee, and Mrs. Frank O'Brien (Olive Chase) clubwoman and former teacher. Another sister, Mrs. Wallace Hinkley (Mildred) has been a teacher at Blue Hill-George Stevens Academy for many years and has kept open the family home where the brothers and sisters return each year to spend Thanksgiving with their mother.

Virginia Chase attended the University of Maine for one year and then served a year as principal of Steuben Academy before she completed her undergraduate study at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1924. Later she received her master's degree at Wayne University.

She was eighteen years old when she had her first teaching experience at Steuben. She returned to Maine to be head of the English department at Livermore Falls high school and entered the school system at Detroit, Mich., in 1925. She married Wallace W. Perkins, a schoolmate and native of Blue Hill who was a graduate of the University of Maine and who is a research engineer with General Motors. They have one daughter, Mary Ellen, who is 16 years old and attends West-town Friends' School near Philadelphia.

In addition to her novel, Miss



VIRGINIA CHASE, native of Bluehill and author of "The American House."

Chase is author of a text book, "The Writing of Modern Prose," has written short stories for a number of women's magazines and has contributed articles to The Atlantic Monthly, New England Quarterly, the Christian Science Monitor and many other well known periodicals.

With a diversity of interests outside the writing field, Miss Chase is something of an authority on old graveyards. She lectures widely on current literature and at present is teaching in the V-12 program in Western State College at Kalamazoo, Mich.



TWO CHASE SISTERS on the porch of the old Pendleton House, scene of "The American House." Virginia is the smaller girl and the other is her sister, Olive, now Mrs. Frank O'Brien.

Lewiston Evening Journal
November 11, 1944

9dgedub. Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I am interested in looking over
any material you may have about the Sheepscot,
with the idea of possibly doing a book about
the region. I am coming to Augusta on
Thursday or Friday & I'd wish you would
come first to see me, hoping you may
be able to put me in touch with
the librarian most familiar with the
region and the work that has been

done in its history.

Very sincerely yours,

Virginia Chase
(Mrs. W. W. Perkins)

July 21, 1953

Mrs. W. W. Perkins
Edgecomb
Maine

Dear Virginia Chase:

No, it isn't lack of manners -- it was vacation. Upon my return, I find your letter, but I am glad to learn that you were here, and probably found helpful material.

It is good to know that there is a possibility of another book, and we shall be delighted to help in any possible way. Please let us know whenever we can be of service.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj



The Perkins Place

Wm. B. Fowler

Dear Mrs. Jacob.

Many thanks for your kind note.
Yes, I did find helpful material, though it
will be another year, at least, before I
can start in in earnest. I have just
finished a book - a copy of which I
will send you - and am exhausted
from it.

I was today to visit you. I being
accompanied Mrs. Shubb's son briefly, but she
was busy, and the day was too hot,
I decided, for any day to bother
with callers.

Best sincerely.

Vigors C. Perkins

November 24, 1953

Mrs. W. W. Perkins
18 Thomson Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Virginia Chase:

It must be always a satisfactory and relieved sensation when the months of toil and typing at last resolve into the finished book; and your satisfaction must certainly be a happy one, to know that you have written such a good book -- so true, so quietly observant. We hope you are enjoying the reward of a respite from writing, and are pleased with the reviews of *THE END OF THE WEEK*. Thank you very much for inscribing and presenting a copy to the Maine Author Collection.

And now, the Sheepscot?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

nmj



The Perkins Place

Wm. C. B. Fowler

This house was built by Samuel Fresh, once a cabin boy
for Capt. Will. No lines (by actual record) to be 117.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your kind
words about the Use of the Week
It's going very well, especially among
teachers.

Yes. I am now turning to
Maine and trying to gather material
about early Edgewood for a book
to be called "The Silent Shore" - from
Wadsworth's "Silent shore of memory."
The house there ^{- in a cove -} was once the heart
of village with mills, steep yards, wharfs etc.
Now only two houses remain. I want to
try to merge the past and present
with the house as a focus. Within

4 weeks or so on Librarian here and with
this (Bill, who, I understand, has charge
of inter-library loans, and ask the favor
of asking a few of you to do so that
I may start before summer.

I hope to meet you there.

Very sincerely,

Capitling Chan Pelissier

MRS. WALLACE W. PERKINS
18 THOMSON ROAD WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

June 13-

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Three years ago I wrote you that I was attempting to write a book about the area of the Negroes, and you offered you keep stories I used it.

I used it now.

For my work, I have had to make a study of many records, especially of those of Edgecomb, and several times, co-operating with the West Hartford Library, your library has sent me a book of micrographed ^{sheet} ~~pages~~ called Edgecomb Records. Recently Miss Hatfield's work again, which are extensive

June 20, 1956

Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins
18 Thomson Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Perkins:

Your librarian has been notified that we would extend the time on the Edgecomb Vital Records. All our town and family histories and vital records are lent for a limited period, but we are happy to cooperate with you, and ask only that you return it as soon as you have finished with it.

We hope the book nears completion and doesn't present you with an abundance of final snags.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 17, 1959

Mrs. Wallace W. Perkins
18 Thomson Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Virginia Chase:

THE KNIGHT OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE arrived this morning, and we are delighted beyond words to welcome such a wonderful sweeping, but authentic, story. Who says history isn't exciting?

This book will be purchased for our traveling libraries and our bookmobiles, and we are grateful for its availability. It will be noted, too, in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, so that other libraries may know of its publication.

Thank you very much indeed for your continuing generosity to the Maine Author Collection. This first copy of your new book is going into that collection with pride.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection