

September 2015

Helen Clergue Correspondence

Helen Clergue 1860-1938

Josephine Pol

Francis Hector Clergue 1856-1939

Gertrude Clergue

Frances Pol

See next page for additional authors

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Creator(s)

Helen Clergue 1860-1938, Josephine Pol, Francis Hector Clergue 1856-1939, Gertrude Clergue, Frances Pol, and Oliver Leigh Hall 1870-1946

CLERGUE, HELEN

Bangor

- 1938

May 18, 1940

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

BANGOR, MAINE

Helen Clergue.

Deep and sincere regret will be experienced here on the part of many old friends by receipt of the news of the decease of Miss Helen Clergue, a native of Bangor and beloved member of a distinguished family. She passed away at her home, Queen Anne's Mansions, London, England on Saturday last.

The deceased had lived abroad for many years and was a successful writer, having engaged in literary pursuits for many years. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Clergue of Bangor and will be vividly remembered here as one of Bangor's most beautiful and charming young ladies, possessed of a brilliant mind and a personality of rare attractiveness. As a girl she took part in many amateur performances and gave promise of histrionic talent.

Miss Clergue attained remarkable success when she engaged seriously in the task of writing after going to England. Her published books received extended praise and many reviews which paid her a high tribute. She became a recognized authority on 18th century France, having taken a deep interest in the history of that country, her father having been born in France. She was also a steady contributor to the great publications of Great Britain, including the Edinburgh Review, the Spectator and others of note, her articles being written in a most attractive style and grace.

Books which were published and which became noted were: "Life and letters of George Selwyn"; "The Salon;" "The eve of the French Revolution;" "The Saint of Toulouse."

Surviving her are a brother and three sisters, Francis H. Clergue of Montreal, Mrs. Bernard Pol, who has a summer home in Castine; Mrs. William Lynde Harrison of Bamford, Connecticut and Miss Gertrude Clergue of Montreal, also two neices Miss Frances Pol and Mrs. Joseph M. Jones, jr., daughter of Mrs. Harrison.

The Clergue family of Bangor was one which was noted for unusual talent, charm and ability in many important lines. F.H. Clergue was internationally known as the promoter of great enterprises in other states and as the partner of the late Hon. Frederick M. Laughton, a beloved citizen, in establishing the electric lighting and street railway system in Bangor, the trolley car being heralded as the first of its kind in operation, the first road having been a sort of experimental promotion. Mr. Clergue was a member of the Bar here and former City solicitor. A probable brilliant career in the law was prevented by his diversions into great business.

Two brothers, the late Ernest Victor Clergue and Bertrand J. Clergue, also had notable careers and were held in high regard.

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

BANGOR, MAINE

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Their interment took place at Mt. Hope cemetery in Bangor with their parents who were held in unusual esteem here, and funeral services for the late Miss Helen Clergue will take place at beautiful Mt. Hope at a later date.

The above from the newspaper obituary which appeared in the Bangor Daily Commercial June 3, 1938.

This week the body of Miss Helen Clergue, born in Bangor, was placed in the family lot, her decease having taken place in London, England. She had brought noteworthy fame to Bangor by her writings, her books, written while residing in England having attracted much favorable comment and reviews. She was held in deep regard here and old friends followed her noted literary career with deep interest.

The above from Bangor Daily Commercial June 20, 1938.

July 15, 1938

Mrs. Bernard Pol
Castine
Maine

Dear Mrs. Pol:

Permit me to be one of the many to extend sympathy to you because of the death of your very talented sister, Miss Helen Clergue, of whose death I learned through the Bangor Commercial.

As you may know, we have a special section at the Maine State Library that is devoted to books by Maine authors or by authors who were connected with Maine. I feel that Miss Clergue should be represented in this collection, and we would very gladly receive copies of her works from the family, and would see that they were properly placed in our Maine Author Collection.

Very sincerely yours

OLH:m

State Librarian

Castine, Maine

July 16, 1938

Oliver S. Hall, Esq.
State Librarian
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you most
sincerely for your

very kind letter of July 15,
and your expression
of sympathy to me
in the loss of my
sister, Helen Clergue,
is greatly appreciated.

I am sending a
copy of your letter
to Mr. Clergue, my
brother, who will be
very appreciative of your
interest in the suggestion
of adding my sister's
books to the collection
at the State Library.

If the earlier books

are not out of print,
I am sure we shall
be happy to supply
copies for his library,
and will advise
you further about
this. You are
most thoughtful
to suggest this.

Yours faithfully,
Josephine T. C.

July 18, 1938

Mrs. Bernhard Pol
Castine
Maine

Dear Mrs. Pol:

Your kindness and generosity is deeply appreciated, and I anticipate the arrival of Miss Clergue's books. It will always be a matter of regret that we did not write to her about the matter, but I will be very glad to have them in the Maine Author Collection.

Thank you for your interest in securing them.

Very sincerely yours

OLEH/hm

State Librarian

FRANCIS H. CLERGUE
360 ST. JAMES STREET
MONTREAL

July 29, 1938.

Oliver L. Hall, Esq.,
State Librarian
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Mr. Hall :

My sister - Mrs. Bernhard Pol - has sent to me your letter of July 15th referring to the books written by my sister, Helen Clergue, and your wish to have a collection placed in the Maine State Library.

Your interest is very much appreciated by all our family, and I will try to obtain copies from London, where they were published - so that they may be placed in your Library.

My friend, James G. Blain, from Augusta, was Secretary of State in Washington when the small beginnings of your Library were first established.

Yours Sincerely,

F. H. Clergue

FHC:B

September 13, 1938

Francis H. Clergue, Esq.
360 St. James Street
Montreal, Canada

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 29, regarding the books of your sister, Miss Helen Clergue, was received, and we look forward to adding the books to the Maine Author Collection.

You are very kind to manifest this interest in the exhibit, and if there is any way in which we can cooperate, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

November 10, 1939

Francis H. Clergue, Esq.
360 St. James Street
Montreal, Canada

Dear Mr. Clergue:

About a year ago, you manifested interest in our suggestion that your sister's books be placed in the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of books written by Maine persons.

We do not wish to seem impatient, and we realize that many other affairs demand attention; but we do want to assure you that when it is possible to secure those volumes which Miss Helen Clergue wrote, we will be very happy to have them.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

GERTRUDE CLERGUE
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
MONTREAL

3522 Mountain Street

November 16, 1939.

The Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Madam :

I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th November to my late brother, Francis H. Clergue, who passed away in January 1939, and who had had some correspondence with the Library about my late sister's books.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the last book written by Helen Clergue, The Saint of Toulouse; this is the only one of her books that I have extra copies of.

Trusting that this book will be of interest to you.

I am

Yours very truly,

Gertrude Clergue

November 20, 1939

Miss Gertrude Clergue
3522 Mountain Street
Montreal, Canada

Dear Miss Clergue:

Your very kind letter of November 16, and also your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection of a copy of your sister's book, THE SAINT OF TOULOUSE, have reached us.

Mr. Clergue wrote to us in July, 1938, "Your interest is very much appreciated by all our family, and I will try to obtain copies from London, where they were published - so that they may be placed in your Library."

We had not learned of his death, and deeply regret its occurrence. Your graciousness in sending us a copy of the present book prompts us to express again our sincere thanks and gratitude in behalf of the Maine Author Collection.

As perhaps you know, this is an exhibit of the books written by Maine persons, and it is a matter of sad concern to us that we did not secure your sister's books while she was living to inscribe them. We are privileged to be able to add this volume, and extend our thanks to you for your kindness and interest.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

November 2, 1940

Librarian
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Sir:

In June, 1938, you wrote to
Mrs. Josephine Cleve Pol. of
Cathie, Maine, requesting
copies of the books of her
sister, Helen Cleve, a native
of Bangor, Maine, who died
in London, May 28, 1938.

Miss Cleve's four books

NOV 5

2/
being out of print, only seems
hand copies are procurable.
These copies have now
been collected from different
members of the family.

I take great pleasure in
mailing the following four
books, for presentation to
the Marine State Library:

- 1- "George Selwyn - His Letters
and His Life". Edited by
E. S. Roscoe and Helen Clugne.
Published 1899.

3/

2 - "The Salon"

Published 1907.

3 - "Phases of France on the
 Eve of the Revolution"

Published 1922.

4 - "The Saatch of Toulouse"

Published 1931.

(The life of a collateral ancestor,
Francis Clergue.)

Yours faithfully,

Frances Pol
(niece of Helen Clergue)

November 5, 1940

Miss Frances Pol
Suite 365
20 West 51st Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Pol:

Your delightful, friendly letter of November 2 preceded the four books by Helen Clergue by only a few hours.

It is indeed very thoughtful and generous of you to gather together these books by your aunt, and to present them to the Maine Author Collection. We felt very keenly the lack of them, and were appreciative of the efforts made by your uncle before his death in our behalf. It is of course gratifying to be able to include these volumes in the exhibit, which we try to make as complete as possible.

Especially do we appreciate the privilege of exhibiting the inscribed copies, and we send you particular thanks for your kindness in securing these.

Enclosed you will find twenty-four cents (24¢) in stamps, refunding postage on the shipment.

Please accept our very sincere thanks for your interest in the Maine Author Collection, for your willingness to give of your time that the state might have the works of Miss Clergue.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

SECRETARY

hmj
Encl--24¢

November 8, 1940
 Maine State Library
 Augusta, Maine

Dear Sirs: Attention:
 Secretary

Thank you for your letter
 of November 5th, acknow-
 ledging receipt of the books
 by Helen Clerque sent you
 for the library.

I appreciate your kind
 refund of the postage.

The members of Miss
 Clerque's family will, I am

sure, be most grateful
for your interest in
accepting these second-
hand copies. It is
to be regretted that new
editions were not avail-
able.

Yours faithfully,
Frances Pol