

September 2015

Harold B. Clifford Correspondence

Harold Burton Clifford 1893-1988

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Marion B. Stubbs 1888-1967
Maine State Library

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CLIFFORD, Harold B.

Winthrop, Maine, 1893 -

CLIFFORD, Harold Burton. 1893-

Born in Winthrop, May 21, 1893.

Son of Edwin T. and Stella M. Clifford.

Education: Winthrop High School. A.B. Bates,
1916.

Married 1917 to Gladys L. Mower.

Children: Stella D. and George E.

Principal of Alfred H.S. 1916-17; superintendent
of schools Hartland, Palmyra, St. Albans 1917-25; super-
intendent of schools in Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay;
Southport; Monhegan 1925-.

Grange; K. of P.; Mason; Meth. Home, Boothbay
Harbor.

SOURCE: Brief Biographies Maine. 1926-27. Vol.1.
by T.R. Hodgkins ed. and comp.

November 24, 1937

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Superintendent of Schools
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The announcement of your new fourth-grade history book immediately interests us. Certainly you have treated the subject in a novel way, and one which should appeal to young students. We send you our congratulations and best wishes for the success of the book.

Perhaps you are already familiar with the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit collection of books which has been increasing steadily, through the interest and generosity of our writers, for some years, at present including several hundred volumes, most of which are inscribed presentation copies. The interest and value of such an exhibit is apparent, and will continue to progress in future years.

We hope you will want to inscribe a copy of your new history for this purpose. Your generosity and kindness would indeed be sincerely appreciated.

Please accept our cordial invitation to visit the library and the Maine Author Collection, when you are again in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
BOOTHBAY HARBOR—BOOTHBAY—SOUTHPORT—MONHEGAN

H. B. CLIFFORD, Supt.

BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE

November 26, 1937

The State Library
Augusta, Maine

Good Morning,
Miss McCleod:

Thanks for your gracious invitation to present the State Library with an autographed copy of my "book". I should be so proud to do so that I would pay a reasonable sum for the privilege.

I am stealing a little time from my towns this week to streamline part I and hope to do the same for part II at Christmas. I am trying to make the book good enough so that Scribner's will be able to give sample copies away. It is to come out January 1, 1938, chiefly because I cannot drop everything and rub down and polish the manuscript till schools close for next summer.

Someone picked out exactly the right books for me three weeks ago and I am returning them today with much appreciation. It has been hard to find helpful books because I am not writing about politics nor personalities, simply how everyday folks lived in America in 1690, how descendants lived in the same town in 1776, in 1860 and today. I am not a writer and may not be able to put my ideas into good shape but at least there is no close competition in any book which has ever been published.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Clifford

November 30, 1937

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Superintendent of Schools
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Thank you for your very kind promise of an autographed copy of your forth coming book for the Maine Author Collection. We await its publication and arrival with eager interest.

Thank you, too, for your generous words regarding our service. We are happy to be able to assist you in your work, and hope that you will call upon us whenever we can be of further service.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

April 25, 1939

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Superintendent of Schools
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

When the inscribed copy of AMERICA MY HOME came to us today, we were quite enthusiastic in our reception. Such an inviting format, in the first place; and then all those lovely pictures so generously sprinkled through its pages!

We are delighted with it, and can readily recognize the value it should have for young persons, acquainting themselves with the America of past years.

You must be filled with a mingled sense of relief and regret that it is completed; but how extremely satisfying will be the recommendations and praises which such a book merits!

We will use it in our traveling libraries; and the very kindly inscribed presentation copy is being placed proudly in the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our most sincere thanks for your generous gift.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

THERESA C. STUART
STATE LIBRARIAN
ELIZABETH GARDNER
ASSISTANT STATE LIBRARIAN



PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR REPLY TO
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Maine State Library
AUGUSTA

June 17, 1943

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

When is the new book on Canada due? We have been watching for a sign of it; but so far it is a prospective publication, and we have not seen even any definite date.

We look forward to its publication, and of course we plan to include it in our traveling libraries. May we hope for an inscribed copy to add to the Maine Author Collection?

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

Kieron M. Jacob

SECRETARY

hmj
Encls/

(Mr. F. W. Jacob)

They are setting type. Expect to read proof in July.

I shall be honored and delighted if I may present a book to the State Library, which has been so helpful.

Cordially,

H. B. Clifford

December 16, 1943

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

It was certainly a delight to return from lunch and find a bright copy of CANADA MY NEIGHBOR lying on the desk, begging to have its pages turned and its story read.

Congratulations upon finishing the project and getting it published! We have been long awaiting its arrival; and, after savoring bits of the tale here and there, we think it was worth the wait. Of course it will be in our traveling libraries, and it's a fine sort of book to put there, to bring Canada and her people closer to our young readers.

Thank you very much for the gift copy for the Maine Author Collection, and for the exceedingly complimentary inscription. Our very best wishes to CANADA MY NEIGHBOR, and the season's greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--6¢ postal refund

Secretary

The Washerwoman

Monhegan resident: "That big ledge ten rods off the sou'west shore where the surf is so high? We call it The Washerwoman."

Ageless, tireless, stolid she stands,
Waist-deep in the green Atlantic.
Washing her kelp and seaweed clothes
On her barnacled scrubbing board.

JAN 6 - 1945

She rinses them well with each rising wave
And rings them out with its ebb;
Behind her the foaming yellow suds
Drift in to the slate-gray ledge.

She turns no ear to the shouting shores,
No eye to the wheeling gulls;
She reaches no hand to the herring schools
Nor the rock cod at their play.

The tide floods higher beneath her breast,
Billowing in from the sea,
Over her shoulders, about her face,
And into her spray-wet hair.

Yet when the waters have drained away
And the surging surf is still,
Tireless, ageless and stolid she stands,
Waist-deep in the green Atlantic.

Harold B. Clifford, of Boothbay.

Maine's Leading Summer Resort

Saturday Morning, 25th of January, 1958

Mrs. Marion Stubbs

Augusta, Maine

Happy Days to you,

Mrs. Stubbs:

There are many intelligent and attractive young ladies hovering around the left hand desk, and it's my misfortune to know few of them by name. Today's mail takes you a presentation copy of my MAINE book, for the "Author's Shelf". My sending it is due to the fact that one of your girls, who has been with you for some time, hit me up for it. I am proud and happy to comply with her request. But don't tell her that I don't know her name.

Cordially,

Harold Clifford

January 28, 1958

Mr. Harold Clifford
East Boothbay
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

We thank you very much for the copy
of MAINE AND HER PEOPLE. It will be
immediately added to the Maine Author
Collection, of which Mrs. Hilda M. Jacob
is in charge.

Cordially yours,

MBS:G

(Mrs.) Marion B. Stubbs

January 28, 1958

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Thank you so much for the inscribed copy of your wonderful new book, MAINE AND HER PEOPLE. It is being added to your other books in the Maine Author Collection with gratitude and appreciation for writing such a book. It will surely be enthusiastically welcomed in schools as well as libraries -- and how nice to have a bright, eye-catching color for the binding!

(Now please do the same thing for adults.)

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

CLIFFORD, Harold B

Winthrop, 1893-

May 16, 1949

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The inscribed copy of your newest book, YESTERDAY IN AMERICA, is being added to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation of your interest and generosity, and pride in the fine material between its covers. This is really fascinating reading, and young people will surely welcome such a painless way of absorbing a little history! Congratulations.

It came a little too late to be included in the spring issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, but it will be noted in the summer issue.

How are the narcissus this spring?

Again thank you for remembering the collection with YESTERDAY IN AMERICA. We wish it great success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

September 22, 1961

Dr. Harold B. Clifford
East Boothbay
Maine

Dear Dr. Clifford:

If it were possible for us to drop in at a Boothbay town office, we should enjoy it, and could pick up copies of your new book on the region, as the newspaper suggests. We are not likely to be able to indulge ourselves to this extent, so we write instead.

Is the book available only through the town, or is it possible to buy it through the regular bookselling channels?

And is the Maine Author Collection to be enriched by the addition of an inscribed copy? We do hope so.

We look forward to seeing the book, and want to place our order as soon as possible. Good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 9, 1953

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

It is probably not necessary at all for us to write a letter to you, but somehow it seems to tie up the matter neatly to put into print how very glad we are that you continue to have the Maine Author Collection in mind when a new book is published.

We had a note on file about one to be called YESTERDAY IN AMERICA, which was to contain "stories of men and women who have helped to make America's history," and somehow we think that AMERICAN LEADERS is this book.

We will note it in the spring Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. AMERICAN LEADERS seems the kind of book that libraries, as well as schools, would welcome; and we are delighted to have had a small part of helping you to write such a bright and informative and interesting book for youngsters.

Thank you for the Maine Author Collection copy.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
BOOTHBAY HARBOR --- BOOTHBAY --- SOUTHPORT -- EDGECOMB

HAROLD B. CLIFFORD, Supt.

BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE

Tuesday Evening Before the Fireplace

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacobs

Somewhere in the Augusta Area

I consider yours of the 9th,
Mrs. Jacobs,

a poorly disguised admission that you have either lost, wastebasketed, or otherwise disposed of YESTERDAY IN AMERICA. My mental health is such that I'm sure I did not pass up the uplift of placing it in your hands, as I did with AMERICAN LEADERS last week. My first reaction is that you skimmed it, decided it was, as planned, just a third grade social studies text, and either tossed it into the wastebasket, or maybe on second thought sent it to the Traveling Library Department.

YESTERDAY IN AMERICA, my third contribution to world literature, came out three springs ago. I still believe I gave you a copy. If I didn't I can send you one now. If I did, and you disposed of it, I think your budget should be nicked for the bill.. American Book Company.

You probably don't even know that I wrote a first and second book, save for my reference to YESTERDAY as #3. These public office holders, getting by on public relations and personal charm!

I am projecting a fifth volume, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL LIFE OF MAINE, to replace the 30-year old book written by Glen Starkey before the first world war; but I'm now discouraged, seeing how little recognition I get.

Remember that huge wall map of the state, with pins for the places where authors live? I once saw it, just outside the main entrance to your vocational habitat, and noted a pin for my friend, Dick Hallett. I asked how many books I'd have to write to get pinned, and I believe I was told that that the minimum was four. IS MY NAME WRITTEN THERE? Or do I have to buy something, as one must purchase at least one WHO'S WHO to be a WHO?

I shall await your reply with mixed emotions.

At present,
in high dudgeon.

Harold B. Clifford

February 12, 1953

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
Superintendent of Schools
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

First, let me thank you for writing immediately and candidly, even though the reprimand may have been softened by the fireplace. This letter comes in the first person, because, although it is all library business, the previous letter to you was written by an individual responsible for this part of the library, and therefore the apology should come from the same individual.

Your sharp reproof is certainly warranted, though not quite on the basis that you have assumed, naturally enough. I am not sure that the confusion can be explained to your satisfaction -- or even explained. All I can do is to tell you this:

Before placing new books in the Maine Author Collection, we mount the accompanying correspondence in the special notebooks for this purpose, and add the title and date to the card file of these books. Now a second activity, more or less connected, but independent in purpose, is going on at the same time. This is the accumulation of notes about Maine books and writers, from which is compiled a quarterly annotated list for the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association.

For some time, I would say over a year, I have had a card in the latter file for you, which I wish I had not destroyed the other day. It was pretty scratched up and over, but I would have sent it to you today. Anyway, it carried your name, then words such as "new book of stories of men and women who have helped make America's history." It also carried as I recall them, disjointed notes such as: "date? prob. pub. American Bk. Co. price? Yesterday in America?"

From here, it was easy, and admittedly careless, to assume that I had been anticipating YESTERDAY IN AMERICA, and that it had turned out to be AMERICAN LEADERS, so I re-made the card for the Bulletin list, wrote to you, and, it being near the end of the day, left the shelving of the new book and mounting of the correspondence for Tuesday.

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
February 12, 1953
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When I took from the Maine Author Collection drawer your card (this is quite a different card and file, you understand, from that which is a basis for the Bulletin list), there, plainly enough, was entered YESTERDAY IN AMERICA, with its proper date of 1949. The book was on the shelf, with your others. Followed a few moments of utter bewilderment, then of embarrassment, and then, sensibly enough, I tried to think what had caused this appalling situation.

All I can offer is that the words "Yesterday in America?" on the Bulletin card must have been a sort of reminder to check to be sure that that book had previously been annotated in the Bulletin; or possibly it was to inquire of the annotator, when the new one did come out, whether the note about "stories of men and women" applied to YESTERDAY IN AMERICA only, or to the new one also, in which case duplicate wording in the Bulletin should be avoided.

This is a long explanation, but it seemed to me that you should have it. Very likely it will not help your feeling about the matter, and you will still regard the public servants whom your taxes and mine help to support as remarkably inefficient. I cannot blame you. If I wrote books and presented them to an exhibit, and then received a letter which sounded as though people didn't even know I had written them, to say nothing of having made a gift of them, I would not be as restrained as you are.

There is one thing you may be sure of, however: four books by you, all gifts from you, are in the Maine Author Collection: AMERICA MY HOME (1939), CANADA MY NEIGHBOR (1944), YESTERDAY IN AMERICA (1949) and AMERICAN LEADERS (1953). We did not "wastebasket" any of them, and those in the traveling libraries were purchased. The only reason that we haven't bought them for the individual loan section of the library is that, as you know, we go in for adult books in this section.

Is it premature, or will our words be completely discounted, if we tell you that we hail with real gratitude the news that you are going to supersede Starkey? It is something that has needed doing for years. You probably won't make a fortune from it, but you will earn plaudits from those who have anything to do with Maine history, especially schoolteachers and librarians.

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
February 12, 1953

-3-

The map to which you refer must be the large one we made some years ago when Mr. Hall was State Librarian. It was for exhibit purposes at the Boston Book Fair. If someone told you there was a minimum requirement for inclusion thereon, he was either jesting or simply didn't know anything about it. The map was constructed in too limited a time to get on all the names we wanted, and for some time after, we had irate notices that we had omitted so-and-so, who was certainly just as famous as so-and-so. Many of the exceptions were well-taken, and some were indeed very polite, but the whole idea caused so much consternation that we abandoned our hope of bringing the map up-to-date, and it is now stored inaccessibly, and probably will never be resurrected. Nobody, however, paid to have his name on that map, either in cash or by writing a specified number of books. I simply cannot answer your question, "IS MY NAME WRITTEN THERE?", because the map was made in 1940, I think, and has been in storage for a number of years now. I'm sorry, but I just don't remember. I'll promise one thing, though if it is ever brought to light again, and I find that your name is not there, I will add it. In this case should you prefer Winthrop or Boothbay Harbor as your location?

Does this letter help any to lower the dudgeon? If it doesn't, I am profoundly sorry, and readily agree that I deserve your unmitigated wrath; if it does, I am humbly appreciative of your understanding of human frailty, and thank you for forgiving my gross discourtesy.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
BOOTHBAY HARBOR --- BOOTHBAY --- SOUTHPORT -- EDGECOMB

HAROLD B. CLIFFORD, Supt.

BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE

The Same Place

Three Days Later

Mrs. Hilda Jacobs

Obviously not Scotch, in spite of the McLeod!

Your fine letter of the 12th,

Mrs. Jacobs,

proved beyond a doubt your very fine spirit. It is graciousness personified. Alas, it seems to indicate that you are low on humor.

When you breezed into the interview with THE LIBRARIAN, I gained an impression of a person of intelligence and charm. I got the how-does-a-woman-of-30-keep-herself-looking-like-a-girl-of-20 feeling. It inspired me to attempt a humorous reply to your earlier note regarding YESTERDAY IN AMERICA.

Please take my well-meant wit and humor to a close friend and ask him, or her, to point out the places where you are supposed to chuckle, and where the smiles are.

Disillusioned,

Harold B. Clifford

P.S. There are places above which are supposed to provoke a twinkle in your eye, but I purposely kept them at a minimum.

24th of September, 1961
Sunday Morning Before Church

FROM THE DESK
of
Harold B. Clifford
East Boothbay, Maine

Mrs. Hilda Jacobs

Preparing for Divine Worship, I trust

Friendly Greetings,

Mrs. Jacobs:

I have your letter of last Friday and it offers me an opportunity to show in a small measure some appreciation for the gracious ^{ways} and competence which the State Library has always rendered when I've sent for help.

Textbooks today are first conceived in the publisher's office, or first agreed upon there. The next step is to find an author. The Follett Company came to me four years ago with their idea for a fourth grade social studies text on New England, and I was glad to undertake it. Not many writers can get so low down as 9- and 10-year olds. I had a wonderful time doing background reading, deciding on the organization of the book, the concepts which fourth graders could grasp, and the "vehicles" I might use in presenting the material, keeping fourth grader vocabularies in mind. I finished the writing more than two years ago but the company put it on ice for a year to finish another fourth grade state history. This book came out September 8th.

A member of a library staff must read a little, now and then! I certainly don't expect you to read this textbook, but please do this for me: read from page 55 thru 61. I had a fairly strong emotional reaction as I wrote it, each time I went over it in proof, and even now in the book. I wonder if you will feel any. And you'll get an idea of the excellent illustrating which the Folletts did.

The Region History came out August 18th. It's pleasant to have many favorable comments from friends, acquaintances, strangers as we meet here and there. Those who may not care for it seem under no obligation to say so while those who do like it enjoy telling me so. I think you'll agree that the illustrations are excellent. And again, there's no reason for you to read this. Please go over the last page and a half, just to please me. I enjoyed putting the thoughts together and setting them down.

Copies may be purchased from the Bond Wheelwright Company in Freeport.

My asters are still fine. Please accept in spirit a handsome bouquet of the finest.

Harold B. Clifford

October 3, 1961

Dr. Harold B. Clifford
East Boothbay
Maine

Dear Dr. Clifford:

Before the bouquet of asters which you sent is quite faded, we should send our warm thanks. They are a bright and glowing note on a rainy fall day.

Thank you for the books, too.

One can always be emotional about the eruption of the Revolution, and you have handled it in a way which should engage the enthusiasm of youngsters. The intire book is most attractive, and the parts which we scanned seem to sweep one along to the next stage.

The Boothbay Harbor book is a fine one, and so comprehensive that we hope the edition was large enough to satisfy the demand, which we think will increase with the years. It is good to have it indexed, and weren't the publishers generous with pictures! The last page and a half we read first, of course: you are an idealist, and we hope your dream will be justified!

We have ordered copies for the library, and trust they will come along soon. Thank you for your kind words, for the collection copies of the books, and for your generous friendly letter.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Ruth A. Hazelton
Librarian

Virginia Hill
Deputy Librarian



Maine State Library
Augusta

February 14, 1964

Mr. Harold B. Clifford
East Boothbay
Maine

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Isn't it satisfying to know that a new edition of your Maine book was needed! We are delighted, and when the new one arrived, we welcomed it cordially.

Perhaps it is presumptuous to mention the Maine Author Collection, inasmuch as it is not a wholly new work. What do you think? You have always been most generous, and we don't want to wear out the welcome of our request. After all, we expect you to go on writing for years and years.

The best of luck to the new edition, anyway.

Sincerely yours

Keda M. Jacob
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

(Mrs. F. W. Jacob)

Friendly Greetings,
Mrs. Jacobs:

I'm not unwilling to send you a copy of the new edition for the MAINE AUTHORS section. I really doubt if it's worth it, since shelf room is ~~is~~ or eventually becomes a problem.

There are a few paragraph changes, as the one in which the Maine Central drops all passenger traffic.

There are one-word changes, as when Maine Maritime ~~offers~~ a 4-year course instead of a 3- .

Statistics of industrial production are updated.

Did you notice ~~the~~ Aroostook County supplement at the end?

If you decide after further thought that you want a copy, write me and I'll send it.

May 1964 hold for you an abundance of personal and vocational satisfactions.

Harold B. Clifford