

September 2015

Gertrude E. Heath Correspondence

Gertrude E. Heath 1859-1935

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938

Maine State Library

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HEATH, Dr. Gertrude E.

Born at Gardiner, January 2, 1859.- November 23, 1935

November 28, 1928

Dr. Gertrude Heath
140 Main Avenue
Farmingdale, Maine

Dear Madam:

We understand you have written a book "When the birds begin to sing" We are sending you our Maine Library Bulletin for July, 1922 in which you will find a story of our Maine Author Collection.

We are very anxious to have your books in our collection. All the authors have been very generous in helping us with this work, so that the collection is nearing completion as far as the authors born in Maine who are now living is concerned. All of the books have been autographed and in many of them the author has added some special note indicating the origin of the book or any interesting item in connection with its publication.

This collection will constitute a permanent department in the State Library. The books will not be loaned from the collection. We are working for a new State Library building, interest in which is constantly increasing. It is our hope that a special room in this building will be set apart for the Maine Author Collection. This collection will attract students, research workers, former residents and visitors, and all who are interested in the literary and historical material of the state.

In connection with this collection, we are making scrap books in which this letter to you, your reply, and any correspondence that may follow, will be entered. We then try to secure photographs of the place where you were born and any photographs of yourself, etc. All these are placed in the book together with all biographical material we can find. Our purpose is to create a source book of information, which fifty or one hundred years from

now will be invaluable to students.

Will you please send us "When the birds begin to sing." It will be a great favor if you will autograph this book and write in an inscription which will make it of special value to Maine people. This is not a charitable project therefore we are asking you to enclose your bill.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

140 MAIN AV.

Gardiner Me. Nov. 30

My dear Mr. Dunnack:

A copy of my new book has just gone to the Post Office. (When All the Birds Begin to Sing) I think you must have the volume in memory of my brother which was my work (A Son of Maine). Others have been a modest little book of rhymes called "Rhymes and Jingles" and a later one "The Madonna and the Christ-Child". Perhaps you have the latter. These were poorly handled and were not seen little by the Trade but warmly commended by the reviewers. I may find copies of these if you care to have them. Thank you for your interest. In talking with you this morning I forgot to tell you that Pierce carries the new book. So he wrote me last week. You will guess at once that my Corona is still a novelty!


Yours very cordially

Gertrude E. Heath.

P.S. In autographing "The Book" you will note that I left a space blank for your own library stamp.

Compliments of the Author.

Note: The autograph of the writer
would seem to indicate that

 Gertrude E. Heath, M.D.
is still aiming to reach
the top.

Gardiner, Me

Rec-10/33

GERTRUDE E. HEATH, M.D.
140 MAIN AVE.
GARDINER, MAINE

My dear Mr. Dunnack:

I sent the humble little books
to you yesterday. This P.M. I have a letter from
Dr. Spalding in which he says: "Ask Mr. Dunnack to send
you a copy of my book: maine Physicians of 1820" No:
I am wrong. He says "send your library" and get the first
reading. "I would like much to see it; my grandfather
was a physician of that period. MR. Staples of the L.J.
gave my new book a generous review about two weeks
ago. Very truly yours

Gertrude E. Heath.

Saturday.

December 4, 1928

Dr. Gertrude E. Heath
140 Main Avenue
Gardiner, Maine

Dear Doctor Heath:

Many many thanks for "When All the Birds begin to Sing." We will be very glad if you will secure a copy of all the other items you have published and autograph them for the Maine Author Collection. No matter if they are in the general library we want them in this special collection with the autograph.

Please accept our thanks for your courtesy in this matter. Perhaps some day you will be able to come up and look over this collection. It is becoming very interesting.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

December 8, 1928

Dr. Gertrude E. Heath
140 Main Avenue
Gardiner, Maine

Dear Dr. Heath:

We have just received the three books. Your gift is invaluable to our Maine Author Collection. You see, every additional name added to the list of the Maine Collection brings it nearer completion. I am very sure the time will come when every citizen in Maine is going to be proud of this collection. Some day we will have the material catalogued and the catalogue printed and I am in hopes to accompany each one with a little biographical sketch.

By the way, will you please give us the date of your birth and any other biographical material or book notices. We need this material very very much. Don't leave anything out of the biographical sketch -- where you went to school, etc. I have difficulty in overcoming the reticence and modesty of some of the authors, but I hope that you will understand that this is not a publicity stunt, but that this material is filed away and is not given to anyone for use and is not on exhibition but simply that we may have definite and accurate information of all Maine born authors.

Sincerely yours,

HED:ME

GERTRUDE E. HEATH, M.D.
140 MAIN AVE.
GARDINER, MAINE

Mac

Dec. 10, 1928

My dear Mr. Demack:

Yours rec'd this morning.

I am sending you the notes used by
the "Who's Who" in medicine. Does not this
cover what you want. I was born in
Gardiner Me. - January 20, 1859. My
father was A.M.C. Heath, founder of
the Gardiner local newspaper, then
entitled The Fountain and Journal. He was
a volunteer in the Civil War, and lost his
life in his first battle: Fredericksburgh.
He left three sons and a daughter - who
him all made a fair success in life -
but none so gifted as the young father.
The two younger children edited (and hand-printed)
a weekly magazine - read to the assembled
family on Saturday nights, when the hat was
passed and a few pennies collected.
Only Hubert - then at Bowdoin -

failed to add to the family rhymes -
Willis K. the 2nd boy, had a rare
gift for local rhymes and limericks.

A fat manuscript book of these verses
holds some of the nicest verses I have
ever read.

Thanking you for your
interest in my small achievements

I am very cordially yours

Gertrude E. Heath.

Kindly return the Who's Who - notes.
I am saving them for my obituary!

December 21, 1928

Dr. Gertrude E. Heath
140 Main Avenue
Gardiner, Maine

Dear Dr. Heath:

"Maine Physicians of 1820" to which you referred in your recent letter, is a very interesting item. I am sure you will find a great deal to interest and amuse you in the story of these doctors of 1820.

In view of your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection, we are sending you this book as a free gift from the state.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

GERTRUDE E. HEATH, M. D.
140 MAIN AVENUE
GARDINER, MAINE

July 23, 1932.

Marion Cobb Fuller.

My dear Mr. Fuller:
My Flag Song was written for
Plummer St.

a flag-raising at our
School in 1899. The verses were sold to
"Little Folks" shortly after. Kate Vernal
who wrote the music, said that she so
found the words. "Silent as Bunnett pub-
lished song ^{and music in their} "Bracon
Series", where it is No. 146. My copyright
lapsed, and the song is now entirely in
the hands of S. & B. They have also used
it in a song manual, the title of which
I do not recall. There have been many
requests to permit its use in school and
other publications. I remember giving
permission to the S.S.S. of Wisconsin,
but why Vermont should

have any claim to it, I do not understand. 2
I think the best request was to use it in
a manual for ^{training young} citizens in Massachusetts during the war
The Plummer St. School has the original
draft framed in their school room -
and our Public Library has the first
proof. The song is much loved by our
Gardner children. Little people often
tell me how much they love it. "Oh
one small boy phoned me to say: "Oh
Dr. Heath I want to thank you for
writing us that Hay Song. I just loved it."
My Mother so loved the words that I
think I feel a greater tenderness for
this song than for any verse I have
written. Passing country school houses in
the days when I was driving, I have
often stopped to hear little voices
singing my Song. I hope I have not
said too much. Sincerely
Gertrude E. Heath
(over)

I wish I had a copy to send you, but
my only copy is bound into the first
volume of American War Songs which
was published by the Colonial Dames
and includes my requested flag, (but without
the music) The song may still be
obtained from Silver as Barrett.

GERTRUDE E. HEATH. M. D.
140 MAIN AVENUE
GARDINER. MAINE

August 6. 1932.

J. F.
The Me. State Library:
Marion Cobb Fuller.

Dear Madam:

Thank you for your interest in
my Flag song. Miss Vannah lives
with her friend: Miss Franklin, in Boston.
Her address is: 160 Mt. Vernon St. " "
While she is called Kate by the public, and
uses that name as her signature, she is
really, Letitia Kate Vannah, and we who
are her friends and neighbors, still call
her "Tessa". Sincerely Yours
Gertrude E. Heath

P.S.

Long years ago a publishing firm in the middle
West - asked permission to have The Flag,
adopted as the "State Song" for the school-
children. I heard nothing more about it.
Miss Evelyn Gilman had suggested this.

And now my own *Wane Song* was rejected by the
board of Judges, and the very faulty song of
Snows adopted. Several of the Gardner
schools are using my song - with Mr
Crosham's music, whether in loyalty to me
or because they like it better, I am not
sure.

Why would not the Radio take this *Flag Song* up?
It is sometimes sung by a chorus of children at
patriotic meetings here in Gardner.

GERTRUDE E. HEATH, M. D.
140 MAIN AVENUE
GARDINER, MAINE

7.

Warrin Cobb Fuller:

Pardon me that I do not know
how to prefix your name! (Miss- or Madam?)
And thank you for your nice note
received this Sunday morning.

And I feel that I must reply to
your first query: I find so few
understand. An arthritis of
yours has so crippled me that
I never go out, unless some
rarely thoughtful friend assists me
into a car, where I can ride com-
fortably any distance - I have not been
in Augusta since Christmas Day 1931.

I am a complete addict in cane using
even in the house. Could you not call
upon me some day? Sincerely
Gertrude E. Heath

Rex Dormit

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The musical score consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the vocal line, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The last two staves are for the piano accompaniment, with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady accompaniment.

" The King Sleeps "

I

II

Bright is the star
 In the midnight a-gleaming;
 Over the stable
 Its silver light streaming;
 Lo, in a manger
 A Baby lies dreaming;
 Sleep, little Stranger,
 O, sleep!

Sweet are the songs that
 The angels are singing.
 Clear Through the azure
 Their voices are ringing;
 Close to his mother
 The Baby is clinging,
 King and no other,
 Oh, sleep!

III

Angels adore Him,
 Kneeling before Him;
 Awed is the Dreamer,
 The mother who bore Him.
 High in the East
 Is the Star shining o'er Him;
 Little Redeemer,
 Oh, sleep!

Written by Gertrude E. Heath
 Permission to use, by courtesy of
 "The Magnificat"

Gertrude E. Heath

COPY

August 11, 1933

Dr. Gertrude E. Heath,
Gardiner, Maine.

My dear Dr. Heath;-

Thank you for the
copy of "The King Sleeps" which you have so thoughtfully
sent us for the Maine Author Collection. The poem is lovely
and I am sure that it must be extremely pleasing to you
to have your verse sung as well as read.

Why don't you come to the library sometime
when you are in Augusta?

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

The Chickadee.



High up on the branch
of a tree
His quaint top-knot
I see!

And he sings
As he swings:

"Chick-a-day!
Chick-a-dee!

You must all look at me!

I'm the bird,

- Have you heard? -

Beat the Eagle!"

says he;

"They have all chosen me
Maine's emblem to be!

Chick-a-day!

Chick-a-dee!"

Said the gay

Chick-a-dee.

Julius G. Heath.

HEATH, GERtrude E.

Ophthalmologist, Otologist; b. Gardiner, Me., Jan. 20, 1859; s. Alvan M. G. and Sarah H. (Philbrook) Heath; ed. Hahnemann Coll., Chicago, M.D. 1883, (2 prizes, Thesis "Apoplexy" and report "Gynaecology"). On Staff, State Hospital for Insane, 1901-09; medical inspector city schools, 1914-18. Farmingdale Board of Health, 1919-21. First medical inspector Gardiner schools. Director, Local American Red Cross.

Author: "The Madonna and the Christ Child"; "A Son of Maine"; "When all the Birds begin to sing, 1928." Sr. Member Am. Inst. Homoe. Member Maine State Medical Association; Gardiner Health League. Clubs: D. A. R. , S. P. C. A., Current Events, Health League. Republican. Episcopalian. Residence and Office: 140 Main Avenue, Gardiner, Maine.

G. E. Heath.

THE MADONNA AND THE CHRIST-CHILD
RHYMES and JINGLES (For a Good Child.)
HERBERT, MILTON HEATH
WHEN ALL THE BIRDS BEGIN TO SING

Compliments ^{4 books}
of

Gertrude E. Heath, M.D.

Gardner, Me.