

September 2015

Carolyn Mitchell McCully Correspondence

Carolyn Mitchell McCully 1912-1956

Lillian E. Fredin

Clarence McCully

Shirley Marcous
Farmington Public Library

Ruth Hazelton
Maine State Library

See next page for additional authors

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Creator(s)

Carolyn Mitchell McCully 1912-1956, Lillian E. Fredin, Clarence McCully, Shirley Marcous, Ruth Hazelton, and Hilda McLeod Jacob

MCCULLY, Carolyn Mitchell.

Born in Farmington, August 17, 1912.

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June 11, 1935

Miss Elizabeth McCully
Farmington
Maine

Dear Miss McCully:

We have read recently of your success in the Maine poetry contest; to merit honorable mention in a field with so many contestants is surely an encouragement to you. We hope that you will continue writing, and that some day your poems may be published, and included in our Maine Author Collection.

This is an exhibit collection of the works of Maine-born authors, numbering several hundred volumes, inscribed and presented to us by the authors. We are indeed proud of this display of Maine talent, and of the biographical file which we maintain in connection with it.

Will you be so kind as to send us biographical information, that we may have it on file for future reference. We appreciate the cooperation of our writers, and are anxious to be of service to them when possible.

Very truly yours,
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

51 Middle Street
Farmington, Maine

June 14, 1935

Miss Hilda McLeod
Secretary, Maine State Library
Augusta Maine

Dear Miss McLeod:

Thank you for your kind letter concerning my poetry. It would indeed be an honor to be one among the many fine authors represented in your collection and I hope it may be my privilege some time.

You asked for biographical data. My name is really Carolyn (Mitchell McCully) instead of Elizabeth, which was a misprint. I was born August 17, 1912 in Farmington, and have lived here all my life. After graduating from Farmington High in 1930 I attended the State Normal School one year. I have always loved poetry and for some time wrote only for my own enjoyment. Through one or two contacts with poets I have been encouraged to make a real study of it which I am doing with Ralph Cheyney and Lucia Trent. Special thanks are due them and the others mentioned in the write-up for any success I have achieved.

These "short and simple annals" are necessarily but the background to the thrills of real life and trying to make poetry a true and beautiful expression of it; but perhaps they give a bit more detail than the write-up. I hope they meet your request.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn McCully

October 7, 1965

Miss Shirley Marcous, Librarian
Curtis Memorial Library
Farmington, Maine 04938

Dear Miss Marcous:

Can you tell us the publisher and price,
or where we might obtain copies, of the book
of poems as a tribute to Carolyn McCully?

Very truly yours

hmj

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

The Farmington Public Library Association

Founded in 1890



OCT 21

Farmington, Maine Oct 12 '65
Miss Ruth A Hazeltou
Librarian, Maine State Library
Augusta, Me.

Dear Miss Hazeltou, Miss Shirley Marcous
your letter to me and asked if I would
answer for her, as I am Carolyn's father.
Miss Lillian O. Fredin had the book print-
ed at her own expense and sent them to Carolyn's
family and friends. Carolyn lived with Miss
Fredin some years and they were great chums.
She is the one mentioned in the book a L. E. F.
Miss Fredin was at our house, yesterday Oct 11,
for a few hours, and I told her Miss Marcous
had rec'd a letter from you.
Write to Miss Fredin at
56 Woodside Ter.
Springfield 8
Mass.

Respectfully
Clarence McCully
Farmington
Maine

October 26, 1965

Miss Lillian E. Fredin
86 Woodside Terrace
Springfield 8, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Fredin:

Is it possible to obtain copies of the book of Carolyn McCully's poems?

We are particularly interested because of the Maine Author Collection, which is a permanent exhibit collection of the work of Maine writers. Most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions as varied as the books themselves. The collection grows gradually through the years, and now numbers over three thousand volumes. We also gather biographical and critical information about Maine authors, and preserve correspondence relating to the books. It is an important and valuable collection, available to students and visitors.

If there is opportunity to purchase Miss McCully's poems, we should like to add it to the general lending section of the library; but we hope that at least a copy may be made available for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection. If you can help us, we shall be most appreciative.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

86 Woodside Terrace
Springfield, Mass.
October 31, 1965

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine Author Collection
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

In reply to your letter of October 26, I shall be glad to send you a copy of Carolyn McCully's poems. I had them privately printed by Pond-Ekberg Co., here in Springfield, as a little private gesture of commemoration, to distribute among her family and friends, and there are no copies for sale at all. The foreword gives a brief outline of her life. I asked Mrs. William Jane of Newcastle (whom, of course you know) to write it, because she too loved Carolyn, and both belonged to the Maine Poetry Fellowship. It is impossible to tell in words what great zest for life, and intense feeling Carolyn possessed, but I think that is found in her poems. Some of the poems are obscure, without knowing the background, and a couple are private jokes, but since I did not anticipate wide-spread distribution, I included everything which she considered finished.

I have given copies to all of the libraries with which Carolyn had a connection, and I am pleased that you want one, too.

Very truly yours,

Lillian E. Fredin
Lillian E. Fredin

October 26, 1965

Mr. Clarence McCully
Farmington
Maine

Dear Mr. McCully:

Thank you for answering our inquiry about
Carolyn McCully's poems.

We will write to Miss Fredin as you suggest.

Very truly yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 30, 1965

Miss Lillian E. Fredin
86 Woodside Terrace
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Fredin:

You are kind to send a copy of the lovely
POEMS by Carolyn McCully, and we are placing
it in the Maine Author Collection.

The abbreviation of a life of promise is
always tragic, and she seems to have been a
person of talent and charm as well as intellect.
Her friends should consider themselves fortunate
that you have put in permanent form these poems
as a memorial. They have skill and grace, and
we are happy to have them in the Maine exhibit.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Book Of Poems Is Tribute To Miss McCully

FARMINGTON — Friends of Carolyn McCully, a Farmington native, have assembled and published a book of her poems as a posthumous tribute to her.

Miss McCully, born here in 1912, worked in the local public library while she was growing up, and later spent most of her adult life as a member of the staff of the public library in Springfield, Mass. Before going to Springfield, she had attended Farmington Normal School for a year, and in her late thirties she enrolled as a freshman at Mount Holyoke College, from which she graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Winner of a scholarship for a year of study at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, she had completed this study and had begun her work in a new position in the library at Naugatuck, Conn. at the time of her death in 1956.

Farmington Public Library and Farmington State Teachers College Library have received presentation copies of this newly-published volume of Miss McCully's poems, which includes both previously unpublished items and poems which have appeared in various magazines.

PPH 7-16-65
The forward stresses the "beautiful rural countryside" around Farmington as an influence on Miss McCully's work, and the local residents will be interested in reference to familiar aspects of Farmington life such as those depicted in the poem, "Heart-Cry".