

Maine State Library Maine State Documents

Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

October 2015

Josephine Violette Reed Correspondence

Josephine Violette Reed 1886-

Mrs. Josephine Violette Reed 1886-

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938

Maine State Library

Marion Cobb Fuller

Maine State Library

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REED , JOSEPHINE VIOLETTE

Calais

1886--

C O P Y

January 7, 1932

Mrs. Josephine Violette Reed
Wilton, Maine

Dear Mrs. Reed:

I saw a note somewhere that you had published a volume of poems.

We have in the State Library a Maine Author Collection of books where we are trying to assemble every book written by anyone born in Maine. We are asking the authors to autograph these books so that it will be an autographed collection. We should be very glad to receive your book.

Very truly yours

HED/mlh

State Librarian

C O P Y

March 26, 1932

Mrs. Josephine Violette Reed,
Ridge Road,

R. D. #1

Lisbon, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Reed;-

I have read with interest your pleasing collection of dialect verse, De Leetie Jesus of St. Basil, and I should like to mention it in our Library Bulletin. We like to keep in touch with all Maine writers. Will you please send us a few biographical notes about yourself for our reference files--something rather more personal than a Who's Who item, please.

Very truly yours,
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

~~Leicester Me.~~
April 7th 1932

Mrs Marion Fuller,
Maine State Library
Augusta Me.

Dear Madam

Your note at hand
and I was pleased you
had read my book, but
am wondering where
you obtained it:

I have typed off a
couple of sheets this
a. m. pardon my delay

please, as I am fright-
fully busy.

I hope I have written
what you wanted, I
wrote briefly but there
is a long story between
I sometimes wonder if
Charles Dickens had
a sadder child hood than
I. If there is any thing
else I can do, I will be
pleased to do it.

I do wish I could sell
my books. I have sold a
few, but not many -
I often read them at the
clubs around home.

If any time you would
call on me to read at some
club you belong to, I would
gladly go.

Very Truly Yours

Mrs Josephine Reed

Leicester Me

R.F.D #2

Alais
I was born in Milltown Maine, June 3 1886, lived there until I was 5 years old when my father died, and I was placed in the convent at St. Basil N.B. I was the youngest child there, and much petted by both the Sisters, and the larger girls though it seemed I would die of homesickness, and as all the girls were french and few of them spoke english, I had little in common with any of them.

At the age of 8 years, I was taken from there and went to board with a family at VanBuren where the town of Keegan stands today. It was a peaceful place in the old days, there along the St. John river, a place to dream and my dreams were many for even then I could not speak french very well. In three years I was only sent to school one term. I was very lonely, and lived wholly within my self.

My Mother married again when I was eleven to a bachelor who made an ideal father and I was home again for one year in which I attended no school on account of the distance of three miles to the school-house We were then living near st. Andrews N.B. another gorgeous place in which to dream. My father lost quite a sum of money through a younger brother of his, so he sold our home, and I was again placed in a convent at Portland Me. and I was such a big girl and still only in the third grade, that I had no courage to try. They did not seem to have the patience to explain things to me, and my head was too muddled to grasp any thing which had to do with books.

Often times after school, I went with other children of the convent to tease the children of the protestant orphanage at the corner of Danforth, and State Streets. Little did I dream then that later in life I would go to that same orphanage, and take away with me two little girls, to bring up as my own. But I did just that thing. In 1911 Feb 23 I took one child, and in 1913 took her sister. They are grown women now

and there children call me Nanny as do many other children. I love little ones and have often comforted them when there Mothers failed to understand them. I know little of books, but I have been lonely, and suffered enough to understand the human heart. I got through the ~~fourth~~^{fourth} grade at sixteen I could not do a long divison to save me, nor wright a letter with out adictionary at hand, but I read all I have time to which is not much.

Since I wrote my little book of dialect verse, I have written quite a few english. They come to me through the night, or while i am ⁱⁿ at work, but if i dont write a few lines of them right away, they go and the same idea never comes again. When I was a little girl, and I would be out picking berries, I would sing virse after virse of song which would come to me but I could never remember them.

I live on a farm now, and to earn my daily bread, I bake it and sell it in Lewiston have been baking home made bread for two years.

C O P Y

April 9, 1932

Mrs. Josephine Reed,
R. F. D. #2
Lewiston, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Reed;-

Thank you for your letter and the very interesting biographical notes. You are very kind to take the trouble to write us at such length. We make it a point to assemble biographical data about Maine authors and we are glad to have this information about you for our permanent files.

I shall mention your collection of verse in the next, the July, issue of our Library Bulletin and if I know of a club which is looking for a reader I shall be glad to mention you and your work.

Since you are a native of Maine we should like to have a copy of your book in the Maine Author Collection which is an exhibition collection of books by Maine writers. These books are autographed and many of them have very interesting inscriptions. If you will send us an autographed copy of your book we shall be glad to add it to the collection. Please make your bill in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

The copy of De Leetle Jesus of St. Basil which

Mrs. Josephine Reed

#2

is in the general library was, I think, obtained from the publishers. I believe that Mr. Dunnack saw a notice of it somewhere and he wrote you in January, addressing the letter to Wilton. It was returned and then I found you in the Lewiston Directory.

Since receiving your letter I have reread your book with added interest.

Signed M.C.F.

Lewiston Me

August 16, 32

Dear Mrs Fuller:-

Your enclosed clipping
of the Saturday Review of Literature
reached me the 12th.

I was of course pleased to
read it. You were most-kind
to take such pains with me.

I've been wanting to write
a little note of thanks to you
for the books you picked out
for me I enjoyed them very much
and I intend to buy ^{copies of} them for

They are books I should like to
look over often.

Would I be asking too much
Mrs Fuller, if I ask for a July
Bulletin? If you can spare one
send it to one Sewiston Me,
R. F. D. #2 instead of Weston or
Sewiston is my mail address.

From one who always
wishes you the best in all
things.

Mrs Josephine L Red

C O P Y

August 18, 1932

Mrs. Josephine V. Reed

R.F.D. #2

Lewiston, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Reed:-

I sent you yesterday
a copy of the July issue of the Library Bulletin.

I am glad that the books you borrowed from the
Library interested you. I am sure that we have others
along the same lines which you will enjoy and I shall
be very glad indeed to make a selection for you at any
time that you wish something to read. Perhaps I
forgot to give you one of our advertising leaflets
telling how to send for books so I am enclosing one
in this letter.

I shall be interested in continuing to hear about
your work. I hope that your collection of verse will
have recognition and success. Thank you for your good
wishes.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF