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Maine Writers Correspondence

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October 2015

Meredith Reed Correspondence

Meredith Reed

Rae D. Henkle
Rae D. Henkle, Publishers

Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library

Maine State Library

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REED, MEREDITH

April 15, 1931

Miss Meredith Reed,

% R. D. Henckle,

381 Fourth Avenue,

New York City.

My dear Miss Reed;-

I note that the reviews of your new book, "The Glory Trail", speak of you as a Maine girl. I hope that this is true and that we may have the pleasure of adding your name to our list of Maine authors.

We have at the Maine State Library an exhibition collection of autographed copies of the works of persons born in Maine or resident here during their creative years. If you are a native of this state, we hope that you will be interested in sending us a copy of your book, autographed, for this Maine Author Collection.

We make it a point to mention in our Library Bulletin all books written by Maine persons or about Maine. We should like to have a brief note about you and your book, or books, in our July issue. Will you please send us some biographical data about yourself, something of a more personal nature than a Who's Who item. Something about the writing of your book would be of especial interest.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY MCF

138 Warren Street

Needham, Massachusetts

May 9, 1931

Miss Marion Cobb Fuller,

Maine State Library,

Augusta, Maine,

my dear Miss Fuller.

I believe that Mr.

Henshale has sent you an autographed copy of "The Glory Trail", which I am glad to have included in the collection of which you speak.

It is true that I was born in Maine, but I² lived there for only two years, as my father, who was a clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal church, transferred to the New Hampshire conference, and in New Hampshire.

until recently, I have made my home. I
am a graduate of Boston University, and, as
you may know from the reviews, I am
interested in music and I am a singer.

"The Glory Trail" is my first novel, but I
have written poems and short stories.

I don't know ~~that~~ I can tell you

anything about the writing of my book that
would be of special interest. I am
fond of the out-of-doors, especially of the
mountains, so perhaps it is natural that

the White Mountains of New Hampshire
should be the background for my story.

I love music and there had to be
music in the book.

Thank you for writing to me. I
am proud to have "The Glory Trail" in
your library.

Sincerely yours,

Meredith Reed

C O P Y

MAY 11, 1931

Miss Meredith Reed,
138 Warren Street,
Needham, Massachusetts.

Dear Miss Reed;-

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter about your new book. We are very glad to have it to add to our collection and we appreciate your interest in the collection. Come and see it when you are in Maine again!

I hope that your second novel will be about Maine. The "Glory Trail" is very good indeed and is the type of story which we like to use in our travelling libraries.

We shall be interested in keeping in touch with you and your work.

Very truly yours,
Signed MCF
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

Will you please tell us where in Maine you were born so that we can make a note of your birthplace in our reference files?

138 Warren Street

Needham, Massachusetts

May 17, 1931

Miss Marion Cobb Fuller,
Maine State Library.

Augusta, Maine.

My dear Miss Fuller,

I am

sorry that you were put to the trouble
of writing again. My birthplace
is Danforth.

If I go

through Augusta this summer, I
shall be interested to visit the
library and see your collection
of books. Thank you for your

interest in my work. I appreciate
it very much.

Very truly yours,

Meredith Peabody

Office of

RAE D. HENKLE, PUBLISHER

Three Eighty One Fourth Avenue

New York City

Telephone: BO gardus 4-1445

May 22, 1931

Miss Teresa C. Stewart,
State of Maine Library Commission,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Miss Stewart:

The interest of the Maine State Library in Maine authors was indicated by a request which Miss Reed tells us she had from you recently for a copy of her book, THE GLORY TRAIL which we recently published. Apart from the fact that Miss Meredith Reed was born in Maine, the book, THE GLORY TRAIL is unquestionably one of the most charming books of the season and I want to bring it directly to your attention in the hope that you can find your way clear to making it available as far as possible in the public libraries of the state.

Enclosed with this is a facsimile sheet of typical reviews some of which you undoubtedly have seen. It is the sort of book, moreover that libraries seem to be searching for and that search meeting with little success in these days of neurotic literature.

When we publishers and librarians run across a book, which as the head of the English Department in one of the large universities says: "it is realism without ugliness and idealism without sentimentality", we feel that we want to push it all we can.

Very cordially yours,

RAE D. HENKLE, PUBLISHER.


Rae D. Henkle.

C O P Y

June 11, 1931

Mr. Rae D. Henkle,
381 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Henkle;-

Thank you for your interesting letter about Miss Reed's book, and for the press clippings. We are not only interested in all Maine authors and their works but we have special reference files containing information about them and we are glad to have the information which you sent us to add to our notes about Miss Reed. The autographed copy of "The Glory Trail " has been added to the Maine Author Collection, an exhibition collection of autographed copies of books by persons born in Maine or resident here during their creative years. We have ordered five copies of the book for use in the travelling libraries; it is the type of book which we always welcome for these libraries. We wish that there were more of them and we hope that Miss Reed will continue to write stories in this vein.

We shall be grateful to you if you will call our attention to books by Maine authors which come from your publishing house. We make it a point to mention the work of Maine authors in our Library Bulletin. We will send you a copy of the July issue, with a brief note of Miss Reed's book.

Very truly yours

SIGNED

M
C
F

AS CLEAN AND REFRESHING AS THE BREEZES
ACROSS ITS NEW HAMPSHIRE HILLS

The

Glory Trail

By MEREDITH REED

BOSTON HERALD

THE GLORY TRAIL

How the Mountains Make Love
Grow Big and Strong

THE GLORY TRAIL, by Meredith Reed; Rae D. Henkle. 299 pp. \$2.

Here is a first novel with so much of beauty in the material and so much of charm in the telling that we are justified in hailing its advent with unqualified enthusiasm. The story is one of sentiment unashamed, but there is a fine restraint, both in the chronicle of all that happens and in the portrayal and interpretation of the emotional development. It is a story of friendship that proves itself greater than love, and of a New Hampshire mountain environment that of itself helped to be as big and strong as friendship at its wonder-

ful. The principal characters are three—Mary Malvern, a beautiful girl who has been kept at home in a mountain village by ties and duties there, though her musical talent has often filled her with wistful longing to follow the road to the far off city; Daniel Gordon, a surgeon famous, and at the head of his own hospital at 36, but driven by a nervous breakdown to leave the city behind and bury himself among the peaceful, healing hills; and blind Peter Piper, a foundling left in babyhood on the doorstep of a mountain home where there are already so many children that the family has willingly allowed Mary Malvern, its neighbor, to fill the role of mother and teacher. Peter is one of the most appealing children that we have met in many a day. A serious injury to the boy leads Dr. Gordon, who has taken a keen interest in him, to reveal his identity and carries the story toward its climax. To all these three Miss Reed succeeds very happily in giving personality and vitality. Nor are the incidental characters at all perfunctory or conventional. The kindly village folk as well as the restless and selfish Clarice Gordon back in the city possess flesh and blood.

In both her mountain scenes and in her spiritual interpretations Miss Reed writes with vigor and understanding. She makes "The Glory Trail" not merely a competently written piece of fiction, but fills it with an uncommonly appealing human quality.

NASHVILLE BANNER

The Glory Trail

"The Glory Trail," by Meredith Reed, is too lovely a thing for ordinary review. One would prefer to accept it as it is: a clear, sparkling gem, rare in purity; a flower sweet with fragrance; a star of shining excitement. Here is a girl who cherished a dream; with great musical talent, the way had been smoothed for her to study abroad. Her mother died, and she had to remain in her isolated mountain village to care for a censorious father, and a sponging aunt. Then the father died, and the girl started again upon her Glory Trail over the mountains and far away to fame. But the night before she was to start the aunt fell and suffered an injury which confined her to her bed for several years. The girl had to stay and take care of her. She was a sweet, gracious girl, who kept her gaze upon the stars while her feet wearily trod the common ways of service. But she knew the Glory Trail was not for her.

And there was a blind boy with a wonderful gift for music. She gave the boy a flute, and often told him of the Glory Trail, along which she was going to send him some day. He was a waif, left upon the doorstep of some roving gypsies who refused to give him up because of the "Prince" they fancied would some day come for him with a great ransom. And because he was so full of music, and because every day she could hear his flute winging along the mountain forest, where he could roam at will, without sight, the girl named him Pan, the name already given him being Peter. So he was Peter Pan. She put all her dreams, all her music, all her knowledge of music into Peter Pan. She taught him books, botany, birds, trees, places and music. An ideal life she led with Peter, who came every day for his lessons to her little cottage where she lived alone. And then one day the "Prince" came. He was a Prince only in character, however. A surgeon who had one day failed while operating, having suffered from overwork, and a vain, selfish wife. He became interested in the boy, and in the girl. His wife was tired of him and about to divorce him, when she was horribly injured in an automobile accident while having a joy-ride with the man her husband knew she was in love with. She would never walk again.

The author has done some lovely work with this story. Romance, genius, tragedy play their part. But the real charm of the story is in the exquisite naturalness with which it is developed and summed up. There is no sex business here. There is no plaintive longing, no maneuvering to be rid of marital bonds, and no wish for it on the part of the girl. The man who had come to the mountains for rest and had found peace and romance in reach but refused to reach out and take them on any doubtful terms, went straight back to his stricken, nagging wife. The girl went sturdily on with her work among her mountain neighbors, teaching the little school, earning her daily bread, supporting Peter Pan. Then one day

PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER

Blind Peter and the Disgraced Physician Come to 'Glory Trail'

"I have had all the things I craved for you—fame and travel and wealth, but I've come back empty-handed now, too late to attain some things I might have had for the taking. And I have learned too late what I want you always to remember—that happiness, the deep, enduring kind, does not depend on fame or glory, or on any external thing, but springs from within, from the courage to take with a high heart whatever comes."

It is this philosophy of life that Mary Malvern in Meredith Reed's "Glory Trail" (Rae Henkle) makes her own. The incidents that form the network of this poignant novel are woven around some New Hampshire mountain residents who find beauty in their surroundings and life's happiness in reality. Mary Malvern is the seer, literally and figuratively.

She educates Peter Piper, an orphan. He is sightless, but Mary Malvern sees for him. Dr. Daniel Gordon, ousted from his hospital because of a fatal surgical error, seeks mental surcease in the New Hampshire hills. A successful operation on Peter's spine is the means of Dr. Gordon's return to his former fame, but the outcome is clouded by a series of events which, but for Mary Malvern's "high heart", might have resulted disastrously. Even at the close of the novel the solution is not at hand, but the reader has reason to hope.

The story has great emotional if not literary depth, and, contrary to the current custom, the characters are worth their weight in words.

the man returned, and with a beating heart the girl saw Peter Pan start off over the mountain, along the Glory Trail.

The author has made no effort to end his story with a "forever happy after" ending. He has followed a plain natural course, and this without any production. A lovable, dapper, vigorously breezy, human, of vigorously gifted and brave people, is "The Glory Trail." (Rae D. Henkle, Publisher, New York City, N. Y., \$2.00.)

OAKLAND TRIBUNE

"The Glory Trail" Invigorating Story

"The Glory Trail" for many leads over the mountains to fame and happiness.

Mary Malvern, dreaming of the glory trail, looks from unpromising surroundings in New Hampshire at the hills beyond which there may be promise. When she feels there is no longer a chance she transfers her dreams to Peter Piper a foundling, teaching him of beauty and ambition. And then—

Well the "Glory Trail" opens for more than Peter. Its herald is Daniel Gordon, a young surgeon, who comes mysteriously as friend and lover. Three of them, hand in hand, facing the hills beyond which there is a future, brave, likeable persons with the sun in their faces, walk gloriously out of the story. A fine, fresh story of understanding people, a wholesome, invigorating novel is this.

("The Glory Trail," by Meredith Reed; New York, Rae D. Henkle, \$2.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

"The Glory Trail." By Meredith Reed. Henkle.

IF YOU LIKE relaxation from the realistic novels of the day, perhaps this romance of New Hampshire will appeal to you. It is the story of Mary Malvern, of the boy she calls the Piper, and of a man who seemed to make a perfect third for the trio. This man, a stranger in the mountains, is discovered to be an eminent surgeon when an accident to the piper makes an immediate operation necessary. The novel is pitched in the key of romance, with the mountains and nature for a background. Mary has spent fifteen years of her life taking care of elderly invalids and to do so had sacrificed her chance of going to Europe to study music. The ending is a bitter-sweet one. Miss Reed, a musician as well as a writer, has pictured the type of New Hampshire folk with whom she is familiar. Her prose is delicate and her feeling for words and emotions is unusually sensitive.

Office of

RAE D. HENKLE, PUBLISHER

Three Eighty One Fourth Avenue

New York City

MEREDITH REED
67 HIGH STREET
SOUTH HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 23, 1933

Miss Marion Coker Fuller,
Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

Dear Miss Fuller,

I am sending for
your collection of books by authors born
in Maine my second novel, "Sally Lark",
published this Spring. You may remember
"The Glory Trail" which I sent you two
years ago. I am awaiting copy and
will mail it when it arrives.

Very truly yours,
Meredith Reed

May 18, 1933

Miss Meredith Reed,
67 High Street,
South Hanson, Massachusetts.

My dear Miss Reed;-

"Skylark" has just arrived and we are delighted to have it to add to the Maine Author Collection. Thank you for sending it to us and for autographing it for us. It will be placed with your other books and we shall take pleasure in mentioning it in the Maine Books and Authors section of the Library Bulletin. Lack of space will prevent our having more than a few lines about each item, in this issue, but at least there will be enough to inform our patrons what Maine writers are doing.

At the Federation of Women's Clubs Field Day at Lewiston Saturday the library has a book exhibit, including recent books of special Maine interest. I am glad that "Skylark" has arrived in time to be included in the exhibit.

With best wishes for the success of your book, and grateful appreciation of your generous interest in the library, I am

(Signed) MCF