

November 2015

Arthur J. Russell Correspondence

Arthur Joseph Russell 1861-1945

Emma M. Russell

Maine State Library

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RUSSELL, A. P. J,

Born at Hallowell, March 14, 1861.

July 3, 1929

Arthur Joseph Russell,
1717 Irving Avenue, S.,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Russell:

For several years, the Maine State Library has been assembling a Maine Author Collection with the idea of creating here a permanent exhibition collection of books written by persons born in this state, or intimately associated with it. We are sending you a Maine Library Bulletin which contains an article about the Collection, written by Mr. John Clair Minot, at the time it was started, in 1922. We have met with a cordial response from every author to whom we have written, and the collection of the works of contemporary writers is steadily increasing.

At the recent session of the Maine Legislature a resolve was passed providing for a new State Library building. A feature of the building will be a room devoted to the Maine Author Collection, adequately accommodating the books and with facilities for research work by persons interested in Maine's literary development.

Since Maine has the honor of claiming you as one of her native authors, we wish the privilege of adding your books to the Collection. We do not ask you to give us the books- we are very willing to pay for them - but we do ask you to autograph each book, and any explanatory notes relative to the writing of the book which you care to add will greatly enhance its present interest and future value. In connection with the collection we are assembling first hand biographical information about our authors, so will you please send us data about yourself, a photograph, and, if possible, a photograph of your birthplace. We realize that we are asking a great deal, but we hope that your interest in your native state is great enough to induce you to take the trouble of assembling and autographing for us a complete collection of your works.

Will you please send us, when it is convenient for you to do so, the books on the enclosed list, with any others which may have escaped our attention. Please make your bill in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

We shall be very appreciative of your co-operation in making the Maine Author Collection complete.

Very truly yours,

The Minneapolis Journal

THE NORTHWEST'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

G. B. BICKELHAUPT, Business Manager

July 9, 1929

Mr. H. E. Dunnack

Dear Sir-----

Your letter regarding the "Maine Author collection" you are making was received today. Most of the little books I have written have been essentially "local books" and so were not offered to a publisher but privately printed. The editions ran from 300 to 500 copies each and are now out of print and very difficult to procure. I have been delighted to see that they have gone to a good premium here when ^{now} one comes up for sale in a secondhand book store. This fact has been my "case of wine".

I find I have on my shelf an extra copy of "The Eternity Club", "One of Our First Families" and "The Russell Line", this latter not being on the list you sent me. It alone has an interest for Maine readers and genealogists, for the family has long lived in Maine and all of us who are away, I think, hope to go back there some day. These I gladly donate to the Maine State Library where I spent so many happy hours in my boyhood when it was located in the upper story on the south side of the capitol building, overlooking the beautiful Kennebec valley.

If I am ever able to secure any of the other books you mention, I am afraid I should be obliged to pay too large a sum to make them worth while to you. But I believe that my sister, Emma M. Russell, still

The Minneapolis Journal

THE NORTHWEST'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

G. B. BICKELHAUPT, Business Manager

living in the old home at 15 Lincoln street, Hallowell, Maine, has copies of the most of them. Whether she would be willing to give them up or not, I do not know. She has been deaf from birth but was educated at Northampton and can answer any letter you might send.

I am sending you today by separate post the package of books I have mentioned and with them a picture of the house at Hallowell, not a good one, but it may do. I have no photograph of myself at present, but will hold the matter in mind. I will send you later, what biographical material you may care for.

The Bowdoin College Library is making a collection of Bowdoin authors, most of whom are Maine men, I assume, and they have, I believe, many of my opuscula.

Sincerely Yours

Arthur J. Russell

August 20, 1929

Mr. Arthur J. Russell,
The Minneapolis Journal,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Russell:

We have received the three books you sent us recently. We are especially grateful for the picture of the house at Hallowell. I presume this was the house in which you were born.

I hope you will keep in mind the biographical sketch and photographs. These are very necessary in completing our collection. If any other of your opuscula appear on the market, please let me know the price. I like very much your use of the word, opuscula. I am just sixty years old, and I am coming to realize that very often the so-called little things are the big things, and this word makes what you are pleased to call little things look important and, therefore, in my way of thinking very appropriate.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the Maine Book and the Fort Book. These are of no importance except as reference books in connection with your old home state.

Very truly yours,

HD/f

Sept. 11, 1929

Miss Emma M. Russell,
15 Lincoln Street,
Hallowell, Maine.

Dear Miss Russell:

I have received from your brother a copy of "The Eternity Club", "One of Our First Families", and "The Russell Line". He has sent us these books to help us complete our Maine Author Collection. It may interest you to know something about this Maine Author Collection.

For several years, the Maine State Library has been assembling a Maine Author Collection with the idea of creating here a permanent exhibition collection of books written by persons born in this state, or intimately associated with it. We are sending you a Maine Library Bulletin which contains an article about the Collection written by Mr. John Clair Minot, at the time it was started, in 1922. We have met with a cordial response from every author to whom we have written, and the Collection of the works of contemporary writers is steadily increasing.

At the recent session of the Maine Legislature a resolve was passed providing for a new State Library Building. A feature of the building will be a room devoted to the Maine Author Collection, adequately accommodating the books, and with facilities for research work by persons interested in Maine's literary development.

Your brother suggested that possibly you had copies of his other books, and that you might be willing to send them to the State Library to complete your brother's works. We are very anxious to have every book written by a man or woman born in Maine. Anything you can send us will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

HD/S.

15 Lincoln St.,
Hallowell, Maine.

Mr. A. E. Dunneak,
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dunneak:

I would prefer
that the books written by my brother
be kept in this house where he was
born - at least so long as I live.
Besides, he writes me today that he
is now on the track of books that the
State library desires, and hope to obtain
them at not too ^{great} expense.

Thank you for your interest and
letter

Sincerely yours
Emma M. Russell.

Sept 19, 1929.

The Minneapolis Journal

THE NORTHWEST'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

G. B. BICKELHAUPT, Business Manager October 28, '29

Henry E. Dunnack

State Librarian---

Dear Mr. Dunnack---

I am sending you today, in separate package, the two books I have been anxious to add to the collection I sent previously without charge. For these I was obliged to pay a friend \$5 for the two. He said he would sell them to me for this purpose only and would not sell them to anyone else for any money. I hope to find other copies for him sometime.

So if the State of Maine wishes to reimburse me for this expense, \$5 for the two, I shall be glad to see the money.

In answer to your letter of August 20, I would say that the house in Hallowell was the one in which I was born. And that the biographical sketch and the picture you request will be sent you in about ten days.

I should rather like to know how much of a biographical sketch you would care for, beyond what appears in Who's Who into which I slipped by some misadventure on the part of somebody.

Cordially Yours

Arthur J. Russell

I noticed a well-worn copy of "Fourth Street" in a second hand shop the other day priced \$4, and backed away from it as being a bit too much. But when I went back for it, it was, of course gone.

October 31, 1929

Mr. Arthur J. Russell,
1717 Irving Street,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Russell:

I am very glad to know you have been able to secure two additional books for us. We will send your bill to the auditor next week, and you will receive a check in about two weeks.

I wish you to know how greatly I appreciate your interest in securing these books to complete our Maine Author Collection.

In regard to the biographical sketch, we want just a brief sketch. Who's Who gives us just ordinary facts. What we want is something about your early life, when you left Maine, why you went into newspaper work, especially emphasizing all Maine connections. I am absolutely sure you know better what we want than we do ourselves in a matter of this sort.

Your experience with "Fourth Street" reminds me of a similar experience I had in securing Robinson's "The Torrent and the Night Before." I had been looking for several years for a copy. One day I received a letter from a near relative saying that she had a copy that she would gladly present to the State Library (at this time the book was worth about \$200.00). I should have gotten a taxi and started at once for her home and that book; but I delayed until the next morning, when she called me up and with many regrets told me that she had received a letter from the author that morning asking for her copy. Of course, she was properly fine about it and told me that she considered it was my copy if I insisted. But, of course, I had to withdraw my claim. I was fortunate enough to secure a copy a few years later.

Very truly yours,

Unfinished

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL
H. V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Nov 7, '29

Mr. Henry E. Dunnack,

Dear Mr. Dunnack----

I am sending you today, under separate cover, registered, the Biography you asked for and two pictures, one taken this month and the Bowdoin College picture, taken in 1883.

I think this is about all I can furnish for the earlier books are so far out of print, and in such small editions that I never see a copy.

Your story regarding "The Torrent and the Night Before" interested me greatly. The hunt for old books has been one of the pleasures of my life. I supplied the Hallowell Public Library with quite a number of early Hallowell imprints at no expense to them and I have always been on the lookout for them. But now, the Hallowell Library is so run down and so out of public favor, that I do not know what will happen to these treasures. It might be well for you in your Library to have a list of what they have locked up in their cases. And to keep a sort of eye on them, for the next generation seems to have no appreciation of what the Library might be to them or to those coming after.

This, Minneapolis, has in some respects been a happy hunting ground for books. Many of the early settlers brought their books with them and, as they have died, these books have found their way into the secondhand stores. I have three or four shelves of first editions and early Americana kept on the high shelves to gloat over. I have

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

H.V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

such books as Bryant's poems in which appeared "Thanatopsis" first in book form, 1821 as I remember, first edition of "Scarlet Letter" (for which I paid a dollar) and most glorious of all, Whitman's "Leaves of Grass", 1855 and ~~which~~ I was not at all disturbed the other day when I noticed that a copy at auction in New York brought something over \$3,000. I have nearly a complete line of Whitman on the shelf and it is a beautiful sight. The second, or Emerson, edition, "Drum Taps" 'nev'rything. But you should see them!

There are a lot of fool collectors around here now, but if you cared to send me a list of eight or ten books that your library desires, giving limit on price and setting it low, I will look around and see if any of them are concealed anywhere. (No expense to you). the pleasure of the chase is enough.)

Cordially yours

Arthur J. Russell

And please address me at

Office of the Journal

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 19, 1929

Mr. Arthur J. Russell,
1717 Irving Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Russell;-

Thank you for the photographs, the biographical sketch and the equally interesting letter. We are glad to have all these items for our Maine author files and we are very grateful to you for your interest in our collection.

Very truly yours,

signed - M.C.F.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By MCF

June 14, 1932

Mr. Arthur Joseph Russell,
Minneapolis Journal,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Russell;-

I am preparing for the Library Bulletin supplements to several Who's Whos of Maine writers which have appeared at one time and another in the Bulletin and I am adding you to the Who's Who of Maine Journalists. In reading the list of your books which is in the Maine Author Collection files I note a collection of verse, New Thought Hymns, so perhaps you belong also in the list of Maine Poets Who Have Published Collections of Verse Since 1900. When was it published?

If you come to Maine this summer I hope that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the Library. I should like to hear some more about your books. Since you are a collector, you may be interested in an article about Mr. Frank Deering's library, which I wrote last fall. I am sending you the Bulletin which contains this article.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By MCF

Minneapolis, June 18, '32

Marion C. Fuller---

Dear Miss Fuller----

I once did that thing you mention---get out a little collection of "New Thought Hymns" but they have all long since disappeared.

And I once did print 100 copies of a few poems merely for friends---not for sale---and had given away about 25 of them when the janitor of this office must have seen the remainders on the top of my desk, and glanced into one of the volumes and accurately estimated their value, for he threw the other 75 into the furnace. I was not much disturbed over the matter for I have come to believe that the universe is well designed and that nothing happens without a reason, though our imperfect and finite minds may not always grasp this reason.

But I should feel sadly inadequate in any classification among Maine poets and I fear the library would have difficulty in proving anything on me. So I trust that you will not put me there.

I was deeply interested in your article on Frank Deering's library. I wonder what its ultimate fate may be.

Sincerely Yours

Arthur J. Russell

The Minneapolis Journal

MAINE LIBRARY BULLETIN
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
Augusta, Maine

Entered as second-class matter May 10, 1926
at the post office at Augusta, Maine, under
the Act of August 24, 1912.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. ARTHUR J. RUSSELL
(RECEIVED NOVEMBER 1929)



Arthur J. Russell
Bowdoin '83

Picture taken at Brunswick,
Maine in June 1883



Arthur J. Russell
Minneapolis Minn.
November 5, 1929

RUSSELL, A. P.

One of the first families (Minnesota Essays)
received July 9, 1929.

The Abel Russell Line received July 9, 1929.

The Eternity Club received July 9, 1929.
(Written to commemorate the Sixtieth Birthday
of Arthur J. Russell).



The old Russell Home at 15 Lincoln St., Hallowell, Maine.

November 1 1929

Loring Park Aspects Minneapolis, 1919

Fourth Street Minneapolis, 1917

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

H. V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

A Short Autobiography of A. J. Russell

Arthur Joseph Russell was born at 15 Lincoln street, Hallowell, Maine, on March 14, 1861.

Dr. Hubbard, formerly Governor of Maine, came down Winthrop Hill from his home and assisted in my advent on this planet, an event I would not have missed for anything. With the fine courtesy of the old school he remarked to my mother, "You have a fine boy, Mrs. Russell", my father gave him a glass of wine and walked back up the hill with him.

My first exact memory is of the assassination of President Lincoln, though before this time I achieved a sort of family fame through a Bright Remark. I had been in Augusta with my father who was connected with a dry goods store in that city and I must have listened to the gossip of the place. When we returned home at night, my mother asked me what the news of the war was, and my reply made me famous. "I hear that General Report is dead, but I guess it is only a rumor."

I made my way regularly through the public schools and the Hallowell Classical & Scientific Academy ~~and~~, entered Bowdoin College in 1879, and was graduated therefrom in 1883. I had secured a position on the staff of the Portland Advertiser at a princely salary of \$4 a week and went directly from the college to Portland. Mr. Richardson was then editor and owner of the paper. He had been a professor of Greek in Colby University and was said to

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

H. V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

2

have read all the ancient Greek extant. I could easily believe it.

Finding that the older employes on the Advertiser started work at \$4 and after several years reached the pinnacle of newspaper success at \$15 a week and at once settled down and began the propagation of the species, I began negotiations with western papers and finally secured work as proofreader on the Minneapolis Journal in 1885 at \$15 per week. With this newspaper, with one or two unimportant interruptions, I have been ever since (present date, 1929) in about every editorial position ~~there~~ except that of owner and manager.

Early in the game, I was assigned one day to write a special "column" for the paper and this column, now called "With the Long Bow", has been running for over a quarter of a century. During this period a number of books of local interest have been written and gone out of print and it is one of the greatest delights of an elderly age to find that they have now gone to substantial premiums and bring extraordinary prices in the second-hand book stores when they appear for sale.

I was married in 1891 to Leonora Gove of Rochester, Minn., again in 1897 to Kate H. Baldwin of Minneapolis and a third time in 1907 to Mary Warner Frederick of Rockford, Minn. Of the latter marriage, one daughter, Alice Russell, now in the University of Minnesota, was born.

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

H. V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

3

I notice that "Who's Who" puts me down as a member of the collegiate fraternity of Alpha Delta Phi and as a Democrat. The first statement is true, but in my democracy I sit rather lightly, having gladly voted for Hoover. I might be described, perhaps, as a "Cleveland-Wilson Democrat", voting that ticket only when outstanding Democrats of the old school are nominated.

Residence (1929) 1717 Irving avenue south, Minneapolis.

Bibliography

"Pulling of Eddie Brooks"

"New Thought Hymns"

"Stony Lonesome", 1903.

"Illumination of Walt Whitman", 1901.

"Fourth Street", 1917.

"Loring Park Aspects", 1919.

"Ancestors and Descendants of Abel Russell, Revolutionary Soldier".

"The Eternity Club; Its Discovery of the Fairylands of the Aged", 1921.

"One of Our First Families", 1925.

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

H.V. JONES, EDITOR
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Ancestry

William and Mary Russell, with their son, Joseph, left Ipswich, in England, about the year 1640 and settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The family and its descendants remained in Massachusetts until after the Revolutionary War when the Abel Russell branch moved into the District of Maine, settling in Starling Plantation, now a part of Fayette, Maine. Afterwards they moved to New Sharon, Maine, and in that place and in Farmington, most of the descendants still live. The Tenth Generation in America has recently been born in the vicinity of New Sharon and Farmington.