

December 2015

## Marion Jaques Smith Correspondence

Marion Jaques Smith 1899-

Marion Cobb Fuller  
*Maine State Library*

Hilda McLeod Jacob  
*Maine State Library*

Margaret A. Whalen  
*Maine State Library*

Shirley Thayer 1919-2001  
*Maine State Library*

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SMITH, Marion Jaques.

b. Haverhill, Mass., Nov. 16, 1899.

Marion Jaques Smith (Mrs.H.Kenneth)

I was born Marion Lee Jaques in Haverhill, Mass. Nov. 16, 1899. My mother's people were from the Kennebec Valley settlers in Maine. She is Edna Lee Parks (Mrs. Frank W. Jaques). My father's people were settlers in the Merrimac Valley. I have one sister Almena A. Jaques.

Our family came to Maine in 1912. My primary school background was in Monrovia, California where my father went for his health in 1902. I went to school in West Bath and from there to Morse High School in Bath where I graduated in 1919. After working in a store, I took a State Exam and became a country School teacher in Phippsburg, and Georgetown. I decided to become a better teacher and went to Gorham Normal School and graduated in 1923. Taught in Turner Center, West Bath and Bath. Went to University of Maine and graduated in 1932 with a B.S. in Education.

I have always liked history and was Social studies teacher in Central Grammar School from 1926 to 30 and '32 to '36.

My book was the result of study I needed to teach history to my classes plus added knowledge gained later after I gave up teaching to keep house. I substituted during this time became a member of the Board of Education and wrote the book to help the teachers who were trying to teach Maine history with no interesting text.

My little bear books were a result of the need of teachers of local history to find interesting and instructive stories to teach the lower grades about their home towns.

893 High St  
Bath, Maine

Oct 29, 1944

Librarian  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Madam:

Could I have a list of materials you have available on Maine Fishing, both Commercial and for Sport. I am writing a chapter on this subject and would like to know (1) laws, agreements and regulations regarding the taking of fish off our coast. (2) Varieties of fish taken off the Maine Coast and their value. (3) Any predictions that have been made regarding the future of fishing off the coast. (4) Conditions of fishing in our lakes, ponds and streams. (5) Descriptions of our fresh water fish and their habits.

Yours truly,

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High St  
Bath, Me.

OCT 29

9-November-1944

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine

I think that an adequate chapter on the oldest as well as one of the most important of our industries will be a great addition to the value of your book. I hope that before completing your chapter, you can come to the library and look at some of the many scattered references on Maine fish and fisheries, commercial and sport. It is difficult to make a list of such references since they are varied and scattered and titles mean little unless one is familiar with the titles listed. I can send you material on almost any point which you may wish to emphasize, but after rather extensive reference work on the subject, I feel that making a list such as you request would involve more time than can be spent in answering an individual request where much clerical as well as reference work is required.

If you had requested material, instead of a list, I should at once have sent you NEW ENGLAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY by E. A. Ackerman (1941) which is excellent for the historical and economic background if you wish something of a general nature. The book's extensive bibliography should also be useful. Probably I should have sent with it, as texts describing fresh and salt-water fish, FIELD BOOK OF FRESH WATER FISHES OF NORTH AMERICA, by Schrenkein (1938) and the comprehensive volume of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries (Document 965), FISHES OF THE GULF OF MAINE, Bigelow (1925). The Bulletins, Documents and Reports of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, which are on file here, contain many references to Maine fisheries. Perhaps GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF FISHES, by David Starr Jordan is in your local library. Kendall's studies on the salmon and the trout are probably more detailed than you need. In fact, it is probable that the description of fish in the reports of the Maine Fish and Game Department, and the Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries, and in some of the bulletins of the Maine Development Commission will be adequate for your purpose. These, together with laws relating to fisheries should be on file at your local library.

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith-----II-----9-Nov.-1944

they are not, let us know and we will send you as many as you wish to borrow. For current information, and predictions as to the future, you should write to the departments I have mentioned. The Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries Commission is located at Boothbay Harbor; the other two are at the State House, Augusta.

If you plan to devote much space to the history of sport angling in Maine--a wide and extensive subject in itself -- you might be interested in beginning with a general book on angling such as Goodspeed's ANGLING IN AMERICA. If you wish to do extensive research on the subject we can supply you with an abundance of material.

I hope that your book is progressing well and that it will not be long now before we shall have the pleasure of having it here.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

By

Research Librarian

MCF

November 18, 1944

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mrs. Smith:

That you are nearing completion of a book which concerns Maine is most pleasant news; for we are particularly interested in Maine books and authors. We purchase the non-fiction volumes for the individual loan section of the library; and fiction is circulated by means of our traveling libraries; so we are always alert to any new books of this nature.

At present, we write about the Maine Author Collection, of which possibly you know. It is a permanent exhibit of inscribed presentation books (about fifteen hundred now) written by Maine people, or having a Maine background. The inscriptions are fascinating: some amusing, some autobiographical, some artistic -- but always original. Visitors and students are increasingly aware of the value of such a permanent collection, for it is the only place where all the books of all Maine authors are gathered.

We hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of your new book when it is published for inclusion in this collection. Please accept our good wishes for a satisfactory completion of the work, and a warm welcome to it from the reading public.

Sincerely yours

hmj  
Encls.

Secretary

893 High St

Bath, Me.

Dec. 6, 1944

Main State Library  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Fuller:

I wish to thank you and Mrs. Jacob for your interest and help with my History of Maine.

My progress has been very slow. Miss Elizabeth Ring, who was going to collaborate with me and write certain chapters, decided that she could not write simply enough for the type of book I wished to produce. I was so discouraged that I gave it up for two years, only studying a little on certain sections that I could not give up. Last year Mrs. Grace

Dodge of Boothbay encouraged me to start again, and I have been working on Industrial Maine. She hopes to produce a work book to go with it. We would make this Vol II (small volume)

Now I have to go back and study political Maine and the effect of the wars on Maine to fill in the parts Miss Ring had proposed doing.

I hope to make a trip to Augusta sometime soon to study some of your references on fishing. I have just checked with our library here and find very few books on the subject and no government reports. I read "Goin' Fishin'" by Pierce<sup>(1934)</sup> and Allen



<sup>Stanford  
(1934)</sup>  
Fish and Boats but feel I should read the  
books you suggested, New England's Fishing  
Industry E.A. Ackerman (1941), Field Book of Fresh  
Water Fishes of North America by Schrenkein (1938),  
and Document # 965 Fishes of the Gulf of Maine (Bigelow)  
1925

Where can I obtain the latest information on  
the tariff and international agreements in regard to  
fishing? I have been saving clippings from the  
Press Herald and Telegram whenever I found any  
reference to them, but do not dare depend on sources  
such as these. Send me any material you would  
think helpful on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Marion L. Smith

(Mrs H. Kenneth Smith)

893 High St.

Bath, Maine

Jan. 9, 1953.

OVER

Research Department  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine.

Reserve 917.41  
+A92  
COP 2  
Augusta - Hallowell on the Kennebec

Dear Madame:

Under ~~separate~~ <sup>same</sup> cover I am sending you a copy of Little Black Bear and The Path that Grew Up. It is an attempt to make local history interesting to children in the upper third grade and fourth grade levels. The children in Bath liked the story and I decided to write it and publish it myself with the idea that it would sell in the gift shops. I am planning to write several of these little books on local history for the children of Maine and our summer visitors. Right now I am working on the next story, Little Black Bear Goes North. This story will take Little Black Bear up through Brunswick, Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond, Gardiner and Augusta. I am confined to the years 1770, 1771 and 1772 so must find some local history stories or Indian stories that I can use from this period. I also am interested in any books you may have with illustrations of very early saw mill and grist mill, ~~and~~ pictures or sketches. I am attempting to do my own illustrations and have to copy them and adapt them to my story as you will see in the sample copy I am giving to you. You have helped me so much in the past, that I am asking help again. Can you find any local histories to send me that you think would give me facts and pictures. I own a History of Brunswick, by Wheeler and one of Bowdoinham by Adams.

Would the History of Dresden help in regard to Fort Richmond settlement.? I would like local stories of Gardiner and Augusta. I also use the old maps in the histories that I have, as you will notice in the sample. These maps came from Owen's History of Bath and the stories came from Reed's History of Bath.

After looking over my sample copy, will you please send me some books that you think would help me.

Sincerely yours,

Marion Jaques Smith  
(Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith)  
893 High St  
Bath, Me.

NB We are sending Augusta + Hallowell histories as well as  
Allen's History of Dresden. The latter has a good account of old  
Fort Richmond + also many interesting illustrations. There are good  
histories + clippings on the other places which we can send later, cf.  
Brunswick Centennial. Augusta - Hallowell on the Kennebec, which we have  
reserved for you has good stories + illustrations of older days. If  
you want illustrations of particular buildings etc we may be able to  
locate them in histories, biographies, clippings, etc.

1/19/53 mw

January 20, 1953

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Your reference question has been answered, and now may we express to you our warm appreciation of your thought of the library, in sending a copy of *LITTLE BLACK BEAR AND THE PATH THAT GREW UP*. This is a delightful idea, and we hope that you will be encouraged in the series by finding a wide demand for the books.

We are going to put this copy in the Maine Author Collection. You may already know of the collection. It is a permanent exhibit of works written by Maine authors, and most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies. (We must have your inscription in *LITTLE BLACK BEAR* some day at your convenience.) We also gather available biographical and critical information on our authors, and compile a quarterly list, *Maine in Print*, which annotates such books briefly for the *Bulletin of the Maine Library Association*. When you have time, would you be willing to send us a little biographical sketch of yourself?

Meantime, congratulations on *LITTLE BLACK BEAR* and his first adventure. We look forward to others.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

March 20, 1953

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you very much indeed for your thoughtfulness in providing us with the biographical material which we requested. This is just the sort of thing we want, and we appreciate your kindness in the matter.

Thank you, too, for another LITTLE BLACK BEAR. He will be used, with pleasure and gratitude. We hope you will continue his stories and education.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

December 30, 1953

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you very much for the new Little Black Bear book. We are delighted to welcome another of these unusual and appealing adventures, and shall of course make a note of it for the Maine in Print column in the next Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. We hope you are finding a comfortable demand for Little Black Bear, and that you are thereby encouraged to continue his adventures.

Thank you, too, for your kind words for our service. We hope we shall always be able to help you when you call upon us.

Again, our appreciation, and the season's greetings.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

hmj

April 1, 1968

Mrs. Marion Jacques Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine 04530

Dear Mrs. Smith:

A copy of your delightful ON THE WAY NORTH has come to us from the publisher, and we want to put it in the Maine Author Collection, with your other books.

We should, however, like to have the special touch of your inscription in it. Shall we send it to you for this purpose, or are you likely to be calling in Augusta soon?

These are most interesting combinations of charming sketches and painless history, and we hope that young readers are enjoying them.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection



893 High St.  
Bath, Maine  
April 5, 1968

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob;

I will be very happy to autograph my On the Way North for you. I'm so glad you liked the book. Many hours went into it but I feel rewarded when people say they enjoyed it. Please send it as I am unable to come to Augusta very soon.

Sincerely

Marion Jaques Smith

April 10, 1968

Mrs. H. Kenneth Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine 04530

Dear Mrs. Smith:

The Maine Author Collection copy of ON THE  
WAY NORTH is being sent to you for the  
inscription, as you suggested.

The enclosed label and postage will make it  
more convenient for you to re-mail the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj  
Encls.

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

August 22, 1973

Mrs. Marian Jaques Smith  
893 High Street  
Bath, Maine 04530

Dear Mrs. Smith:

We are grateful to you for sending us a copy of your beautifully printed and illustrated book, Pokey and Timothy of Stonehouse Farm. We are placing this in our permanent Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours,

Shirley M. Thayer  
Head of Reference Services

ST/ow