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January 2016

John Stevens Wallace Correspondence

John Stevens Wallace

Maine State Library

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WALLACE, John

b. Boston, Massachusetts

Stephen Daye Press, Inc.

TEL. BRATTLEBORO 732

BOOK PUBLISHERS

CIDER PRESS BOOKS

BOOKS ABOUT NEW ENGLAND

AMERICAN SKI ANNUAL

Brattleboro

15 E 47



Vermont

N.Y.C.

3.10.43

Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Attn. Hilda M. Jacob

My dear Miss Jacob:

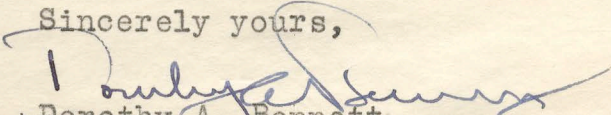
It has been some time since we received your letter inquiring about the authorship of Hoss & Sail Days. In the meantime, Stephen Daye has moved to New York City and a number of changes in staff have taken place. I hope you will pardon our delay in replying, for we are glad to know of your interest in the book.

The title of the book has now been changed to DUCK TRAP, MAINE. The author and illustrator is John Wallace. There will be 101 delightful full page sketches with facing pages of anecdotes and thumbnail sketches. The page size is $8 \frac{3}{16}'' \times 10 \frac{3}{8}''$ - so the bound volume is practically quarto size.

The author comes of old New England rural and seafaring stock; state of Maine on his mother's side, Vermont on his father's. So he is definitely from up Maine way and his book will be one in which your readers will have great interest.

You will hear more from us shortly. We expect the book to be ready the first week in May.

Sincerely yours,


Dorothy A. Bennett
Sales manager.

March 19, 1943

Miss Dorothy A. Bennett
Sales Manager
Stephen Daye Press, Inc.
15 East 47th Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Bennett:

Thank you for letting us know about DUCK TRAP, MAINE. We have had an order placed for the book for some time, and our anticipation to see it is only increased by your friendly letter.

Will you forgive us if we trespass a little further upon your good nature? Although we buy such books for our lending section, in writing to authors about the Maine Author Collection, we like to know if possible whether or not they were born in Maine. Do you know about Mr. Wallace? If you can tell us, we shall appreciate the information; and, if not, we can always ask him directly when we do write.

Possibly, since you mention staff changes, it might be well for us to mention that we are very much interested in books pertaining to Maine, and in Maine people who are writing books on any subject. Mr. Hooper, being a Maine man, was exceedingly kind about this; and some member of the staff notified us about such prospective publications. If this courtesy could be continued, we should be grateful.

You have our best wishes for success in your new location -- though you must miss the Vermont hills!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

Brattleboro



Vermont

Stephen Daye Press, Inc.

BOOK PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK OFFICE 15 EAST FORTY SEVENTH STREET · TELEPHONE PLAZA 8-1952

April 2, 1943.

Mrs. F. D. Jacob,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

I have been doing a little detective work for you with most sorrowful results.

I regret to say that John Wallace, author and illustrator of our forthcoming book *VILLAGE DOWN EAST--DUCK TRAP, MAINE* was born in Boston, not in Maine. If there was anything we could do at this late date to rectify this geographical error in his birth, we should certainly do so, but I fear that he will have to get into the Maine Author Collection through the back door!

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy A. Bennett
Sales Manager.

DAB:MD

June 12, 1943

Mr. John Wallace
c/o Stephen Daye Press, Inc.
15 East 47th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Wallace:

At last we have had an opportunity to see your delightful book VILLAGE DOWN EAST. We ordered copies for inclusion in our traveling libraries and for the individual loan section of the library, and they have now arrived.

The sketches are charming and should appeal to a variety of people, but especially those who are familiar with the days and ways which you so accurately depict. In fact, the accuracy of many details about these sketches so impresses our Research Librarian, Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller, that she is herself writing to you to obtain further information.

At present, however, we write to you of the Maine Author Collection. Unfortunately, we understand that we cannot claim you as a Maine-born author; but the subject of VILLAGE DOWN EAST is of course the state and its people. The Maine Author Collection is an exhibit of books written by those born in, resident in, or writing about, Maine; it includes over a thousand volumes, inscribed and presented by the authors, and forms an important and exceedingly interesting representation of the contribution to literature in this particular field.

Mr. John Wallace
June 12, 1943

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We cannot be insistent, of course, but we can assure you of deep appreciation, should you care to inscribe and present a copy of VILLAGE DOWN EAST for inclusion in this collection.

Our best wishes for the success of your book go to you; and also a cordial invitation to visit the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are again in Maine.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY

16 PLEASANT STREET

- ROCKPORT -

MASSACHUSETTS

June 30th, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your kind letter about my book, Village Down East.

I shall be glad to present an autographed copy of it for your Maine Author Collection even though the larger illustrations in the book are unsatisfactory reproductions of the original drawings.

Would you be interested in exhibiting a loan collection of the drawings at your Library some time?

I think of myself as a Maine man even though I was not born there. My maternal ancestors, the Carvers, have lived there since Pilgrim days and I have spent a great deal of time in the Penobscot Bay region.

Yours very truly,

John Wallace
(c/o W. R. Davis)

July 6, 1943

Mr. John Wallace
16 Pleasant Street
c/o W. R. Davis
Rockport, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Your interest in the Maine Author Collection, and your generosity in presenting an autographed copy of your fascinating book, VILLAGE DOWN EAST, to the exhibit, are deeply appreciated.

Your offer of exhibiting a loan collection of the drawings is at once a delight and a sorrow: a delight, because it would be so pleasant and stimulating to see the original sketches; a sorrow, because we must tell you that we have literally no suitable place for such exhibits. It is also true that summer tourists are less in number by far this year than usual; and, although in ordinary years, we have many people who call in the summer, we do not expect, nor have we had, more than four or five so far this year.

It is indeed regrettable that we cannot have the honor of exhibiting your drawings; but we can make a suggestion. If you are interested in permitting other libraries to borrow them, the librarian (acting) of the Lithgow Library, Augusta's public library, is Miss Constance Randall; she would be the person to whom to address communication about the drawings in regard to an Augusta exhibit

Mr. John Wallace
July 6, 1943

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The Bangor Public Library has regular art exhibits, has excellent arrangements and lighting for such activities, and has a public greatly interested in these matters. Mr. L. Felix Ranlett is the librarian, and we feel certain that he would be enthusiastic about the possibility of exhibiting the original drawings for VILLAGE DOWN EAST. If you would like to have us write to him, to introduce the subject, we should be happy to do so.

Perhaps at your convenience you will be kind enough to send us some biographical information. We are sorry that we cannot claim you as a Maine-born author and artist, but we believe that your background and the subject matter of your excellent and charming book qualify you indisputably for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection.

Please accept our thanks for your friendly response to our inquiries, and for the gift copy of VILLAGE DOWN EAST.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encls.

SECRETARY

September 18, 1943

Mr. John Wallace
16 Pleasant Street
c/o W. R. Davis
Rockport, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Some weeks ago, when you presented a copy of your delightful book VILLAGE DOWN EAST to the Maine Author Collection, we asked if you would be willing to send us some biographical facts for our file. Probably our request has simply been laid aside for fall leisure; but we shall appreciate having such a sketch when you have time to write it. It need not be long -- we like to have on file the more important items, such as birthplace and date, education, vocation and avocations, and so on.

Did you write to Mr. Ranlett about an exhibit of your drawings at the Bangor Public Library? We still regret that our library is not adequately constructed and staffed to care for such a remarkable exhibit as this would have been.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary