

January 2016

Mildred Coes Wasson Correspondence

Mildred Coes Wasson 1891-

Maine State Library

Frank D. Rowe

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WASSON, Mildred Coes

Woburn, Mass.

MILDRED WASSON

The biography is as follows: Name, Mildred Coes Wasson; born in Woburn, Mass. Early girlhood spent in Cambridge, Mass. Public school education. Married David A. Wasson, a young newspaper man, also short story writer. We lived in Colorado Springs, where he died five years later. He was the son of George S. Wasson, an artist and writer of distinction, and grandson of David A. Wasson, a Unitarian minister, who succeeded Theodore Parker in the First Church of Boston. He (the grand father) was also an essayist and poet, friend of Emerson, Thoreau, etc. What literary background I have is from my association with my husband's family.

I suppose I began writing from the escape motive, soon after my husband's death. Nancy was my first and favorite book. The others are THE BIG HOUSE, written the year after Nancy, Houghton Mifflin, and Methuen in England; Churchill Street, Coward McCann and Brentano; The Everlasting Harpers, Coward McCann, and Detour, in The Household Magazine.

If I have any interest outside of writing it is driving a car and amateur dramatics. I know this sounds awfully uninteresting, but I am keenly interested in life and quite content to make writing nearly the whole of it.

WARREN, UNION, AND MATINICUS ISLE SCHOOL UNION
FRANK D. ROWE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
WARREN, MAINE

July 8th.

Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

My dear sirs:

I am returning Moby Dick and the three other volumes by this mail.

I find that I have not your letter as to when I received the books and I may owe something, if so I shall be glad to pay if you will, let me know the amount.

There is to be a book published by Houghton Mifflin Company, The Big House, by Mrs. Wasson of Bangor, soon. If the book is available any time during the summer I would appreciate having it.

Very courteously,

F. D. Rowe.

July 10, 1926

Mr. F. D. Rowe

Warren, Maine

My dear Mr. Rowe;-

We have made a note of your request for The Big House by Mrs. Wasson, and if we acquire it when it is published we will let you know.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

By MCF

July 10, 1926

Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I understand you are to publish a book
"The Big House" by Mrs. Wasson of Bangor. Is this
correct? If so, when will the book come from the
Press.

Very truly yours

Henry E. Dunnack
State Librarian

HED/T

FRANK D. ROWE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
WARREN, MAINE

July 18th.

Dr. Henry E. Dunnack,
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Dr. Dunnack:

Your letter at hand in regard to what I may know in regard to Mrs. Wasson. I happened to meet her this summer when home on my vacation with my mother who knows her quite well and I am sending your letter to mother and after hearing from her I will write you again.

I do know that her husband died overseas and that she has been in Alliance work in connection with the Unitarian churches over the state and that she won many friends during her work at Ellsworth, my home. She is very unassuming and natural, and naturally pleasing. I should judge a most unusual leader by having the ability to get people to work together.

I will write you again after hearing from mother, as I said. I shall be interested in the book as she told us that it was the story of just such folks as she met at Ellsworth and other towns in which she worked.

Very courteously,

Frank D. Rowe

75 Ohio Street,
Bangor, Maine.
July 22, 1926.

My dear Mrs. Rowe,

Your letter with the enclosures from Mr. Rowe came yesterday, and of course I am very glad to tell any facts that can be of the slightest interest to the State Librarian I am sending them to you so I may also answer your request to send that paper to your ~~brother-in-law~~. I am flattered that you wish to.

For the information desired, I shall just give you the cold facts.

Name; Mildred Coes Wasson, (Mrs. David A. Wasson)

Born April 2, 1890, Woburn, Mass. Moved at once to Cambridge Mass. Educated in the public schools of Cambridge, Malden, Brookline, and Portsmouth, N.H. Graduated in 1908 from Portsmouth High School.

Married David A. Wasson, son of George S. Wasson, author and artist, June 2, 1910.

Removed to Colorado Springs 1911, where my husband died in 1915.

Have lived in Bangor almost ever since. Member of the Shakespeare Club of Bangor. Interested in the Bangor Sanatorium, and served for two years as Director for Northern Maine for the Unitarian Woman's Alliance.

Began writing shortly after my husband's death, and published a series of girls' stories in the Delineator and Designer. Have had poems in Youth's Companion, St. Nicholas, Life, and Munsey. Articles in The International Book Review and book reviews in the same have been the only things I have done lately.

I cannot imagine a less interesting galaxy of details.

"The Big House" is my first novel and I am at work on a second.

This is a very slim outline for an autobiography, but let us hope I shall never be moved to fill it in.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Wasson

P.S. I live with Mr. and Mrs.
George S. Wasson, 173 Pine St.,
but am visiting at present.

R.W.

WARREN, UNION, AND MATINICUS ISLE SCHOOL UNION
FRANK D. ROWE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
WARREN, MAINE

July 25th.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
RECEIVED
JUL 27 1926
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Dr. Henry Dunnack,
Augusta,
Maine.

My dear Dr. Dunnack:

I am enclosing a letter which
mother received from Mrs. Wasson, as she wrote her
so as to make sure of the facts, and evidently
told her why she was writing.

You need not trouble to return the letter.

Very respectfully,

Frank D. Rowe

March 26, 1935

Mrs. Mildred Wasson
c/o Harper Brothers
49 East 33rd Street
New York City

Dear Mrs. Wasson:

When the State Library started the Maine Author Collection, over twelve years ago, its main endeavor was to secure copies of inscribed books, and biographical information about, Maine-born authors.

Now that our exhibit collection has grown so rapidly, we are able to turn our attention to those writers who have lived in Maine, or who have written about Maine. Naturally, we want to include you in this assembly, for we have a keen interest in your splendid books, as has the reading public.

Would it be possible for you to inscribe for us copies of your books? Your publishers, Harper and Brothers, have very kindly sent us biographical material, for which we are very grateful. We hope that we may have the pleasure of adding your books to our collection in the near future.

We extend a cordial invitation to visit the library and its Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta; and we offer our congratulations upon your literary achievements and our wishes for future success.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary

October 19, 1936

Mrs. Mildred Wasson
c/o Harper Brothers
49 East 33rd Street
New York City

Dear Mrs. Wasson:

Some time ago we believe we expressed regret that we lacked your books in the Maine Author Collection. This deficiency is called to our attention particularly this autumn, since your new volume, NANCY SAILS, has received such a warm welcome.

We wish we might have each of your books, inscribed for this collection. Somehow the group seems incomplete without representations of all our writers, whether they are native sons and daughters, or adopted ones.

The Maine Author Collection is attracting increasing attention as it expands in size and grows in value and interest. We hope you will want to send us copies of your splendid contributions to contemporary literature, inscribed for the Maine Author Collection.

Please accept our congratulations upon the success of your latest volume, and our best wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

75 OHIO STREET
BANGOR, MAINE

November 20th.

Miss Hilda McLeod:
My dear Miss McLeod:

I have your letter of October 19th, and also did receive the former one, forwarded to London. I should be glad to inscribe any copy of my books which you care to send to me for that purpose, but perhaps you do not realize how many requests an author has to contribute books. To comply would reduce royalties to the vanishing point, so long ago I had to make a rule to regret my inability to supply free copies.

In the case of the State Library, I believe I was rather surprised, that being a Maine author, my books had not been included--but being an author, one is never surprised. It would seem, that if the books of a certain Maine author were deemed worthy of inclusion in the Maine Author Collection, they would be worth buying. The Bangor library always places a large order.

75 OHIO STREET
BANGOR, MAINE

The fate of the prophet in the home town, while not operating in the home town, apparently, has functioned in the State. As a matter of fact, my first three novels, those which other state libraries have thought wise to include, as faithful pictures of Maine life, are now out of print, but are still in demand. The three Nancy books may be ordered from Harper and Brothers.

To further elaborate upon the home prophet theory--and I assure you it is with amusement and not bitterness, the public library of Los Angeles, has just had a special display of my books and biographical notes--with large photo. It is amusing--is it not?

Seriously, I hope you will understand how impossible is such a request and remember how small are the usual royalties of the minor writers, among which I am pleased to inscribe myself..

Sincerely yours,

Leildred Wasson

November 25, 1936

Mrs. Mildred Wasson
75 Ohio Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wasson:

It is indeed kind of you to offer to inscribe any of your books for the Maine Author Collection, and of course we understand quite how you feel about complimentary copies of your novels.

We are asking Harper and Brothers to send you the Nancy books, and enclose a return label and postage to cover the mailing of them to us. We appreciate your interest in the collection, and await the arrival of these books with eagerness.

It is strange, certainly, and not very commendable, that these books were not in the collection before, but so many of our authors do give us the books, and our funds are so rigidly limited, that we experience considerable difficulty in securing all the books which we feel necessary.

If we are at all successful in obtaining copies of those books which are now out of print, may we have your permission to send them to you for inscription?

We hope you will forgive our tardiness, and realize that it is not for any other reason than a very decided lack of funds.

We anticipate the Nancy books, and thank you again for your kindness and interest.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

December 10, 1936

Mrs. Mildred Wasson
75 Ohio Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wasson:

The Nancy books, NANCY, MISS NANCY PRENTISS, and NANCY SAILS, have been received, and it is with delight and pride that we include them in the Maine Author Collection.

If we should happen upon any copies of your earlier books, we trust you will continue your kindness and be willing to inscribe them for us.

Thank you for your interest, and for inscribing these three volumes.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY