Katharine Lee Bates Manuscript Collection

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ca. 1853-2002

Poet, educator, author of children’s books, and stories and articles published in leading periodicals. A long-time professor of literature at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., she received national recognition as the author of “America, the Beautiful”.

This collection consists of biographical materials, her writings which includes letters, poems and articles, printed and in manuscript, and materials relating to the various formats of America the Beautiful, in verse and music. Other holdings in the Bates Collection at the Society include plans for various memorials to Katharine, including scrapbooks, articles, and clippings.

Titles authored or edited by Katharine Lee Bates as well as holdings from her personal Library are part of the holdings of the Falmouth Historical Society Archives Library.
Biographical Data

_Autobiography in Brief of Katharine Lee Bates._ Privately printed, c1930, Reprinted with additions, 1958. 8 pgs.
Homestead pictures and background material.
_Bates Genealogy_ by Harriet Quimby with additions from Richard Krebs, 2002
School Reports: Falmouth Primary School, 1867-68
Needham High School, 1872; Newton High School, 1875
School Papers of K.L. Bates and friends

Correspondence:

Letters from K.L. Bates to:
Postcard, 1908, Dec. 28 to Harriet L. Gifford, Falmouth, Mass. re: thank you, new years well wishes.
Letter, 1917, Sept 17, to Arthur (Bates) (copy) typescript. Re: Cemetery lot, Middlebury and Bates Family Lot, includes inscriptions for Abby Bates, d. 1849 and Maria S (Latimer) Bates, d. 1855.
Letter, 1920, Aug. 10 to “my dear old playmate” re: book “Mary-Marie by Mrs. Eleanor Porter, plans to tour Buzzards Bay with Miss Hazard, staying at Tabitha Inn in Fairhaven.
Postcard, 1921, May 4, to Harriet L. Gifford re: Abigail and Rebecca classmates.
Letter 1926, Dec. 21, Wellesley, Mass to Henry Herbert Smythe (Falmouth, Mass.) 1 leaf, 18 cm. Typescript signed. Re: response to his request for copy of America the Beautiful.
Letter, 1928, April 11, Wellesley, Mass. to “Katie Jones” (Falmouth, Mass) 1 p. 17X26 cm. fold to 17X13 cm. Typescript signed. Re: relates to death of mutual friend Molly.
Letter (fragment) no. d., hand script, re: Hamlet (dog) of advanced age, interrupting afternoon graduate classes at Wellesley College.
Other Letters:
Letter from Dorothy Wayman, 1930 to Arthur Lee Bates.
Letter from Harriet Gifford to Kate Watson re: K.L. Bates's note to Abraham Lincoln.

Writings by K.L. Bates:
*America the Beautiful*
*America The Beautiful*: an account of the writing and public reception of the poem. not dated..
*America the Beautiful* music adapted from Oneida Indian melody, not dated.
*America the Beautiful* music by Fearis, Hamilton, McFarland & Sleeper, 1913.
*America the Beautiful* Sheet music, words by Katharine Lee Bates, music by Will C. MacFarlane, 1913.
*America the Beautiful* Sheet music, words by Katharine Lee Bates, music by Parkes W. Hewins, 1917.
*America the Beautiful* choral setting by William Arms Fisher, 1913, 1917
*America the Beautiful* music by Wm. L. Glover, 1918, Emma Willard School, Troy, N.Y.
*America the Beautiful* National Federation of Music Clubs Contest (clipping), 1926.
America the Beautiful music by Luther E. Sibley, 1925
America the Beautiful music by Robert Lowe Fletcher 1927
America the Beautiful music by A.R. Taylor, not dated
America the Beautiful music composed by Samuel Augustus Ward (plus his biography)

100th Anniversary of America the Beautiful, (clippings)
America the Beautiful Centennial Programs
Colorado Centennial Programs
America the Beautiful: Wellesley’s Centennial Celebration
Proposals to make America the Beautiful the National Anthem.

Poems:
America the Beautiful printed with signature.
Blind Boy of Bethlehem 3 p. reprint
Class Day Poem “Vulcan and Venus” 8p
Dawn at Lexington
Day Lincoln Died
Falmouth by the Sea
Falmouth Bell
Kings of the East Are Riding words by K.L. Bates, music by Clarence Hamilton.
Rainy Days reprint 2p.

Other Writings:
Critical notes by Katharine Lee Bates commenting on “Anthology of modern verse” submitted by Wellesley student Gwen B.Hensen, not dated

Articles, Criticism, Appreciations on Katharine Lee Bates:
Centenary of Katharine Lee Bates, Falmouth Enterprise supplement, 1959
Dudley Hallett, President Falmouth Historical Society, talk at Unitarian Fellowship.
Arizona Highways (Dec. 1984) with articles devoted to “America the Beautiful”
“Falmouth’s Gift To America” by Marion Vuilleumier, Cape Cod Life, Summer 1986
“Hawthorne Critic and Scholar” by M.M. Ponder, 1990 printed.
“Katharine Lee Bates” by Vida D. Scudder.
Article by Nardi Reeder Campion from N.Y. Times, not dated.
Newspaper Clipping Collection 1955-1975
Obituaries, 1929.
Birthplace of K.L. Bates: acquisition and costs.

Ephemera:
Wellesley College, 1889 Commencement Week
Commencement Exercises, June 25, 1889 Admit: Miss Gifford
Wellesley Calendar, 1911
In Memoriam, Wellesley, 1929