

Collection of Katharine Lee Bates Materials
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2017.05

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Collection of Katharine Lee Bates Materials, 1880 – 1994

Date

1880 – 1994

Extent

4.5 linear feet, 9 boxes

Name of Creator

Wellesley Historical Society

Biographical Note

Katharine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts on August 12, 1859, the fourth child of Rev. William Bates and Cornelia Frances Bates. William Bates died shortly after Katharine's birth and the family moved from Falmouth to Grantville (now Wellesley Hills, MA) when Katharine Bates was twelve. Katharine Lee Bates would remain a Wellesley resident until her death on March 28, 1929.

Graduating from Wellesley High School in 1874, Bates spent another two years taking classes at Newton High School before enrolling at Wellesley College. After graduating from Wellesley College in the class of 1880, Bates taught at Natick High School for a year before taking a post to teach at Dana Hall in Wellesley, MA. Bates continued teaching at Dana Hall until 1886 when she was offered a teaching position in the English Department at Wellesley College. She continued to teach at Wellesley College until her retirement in 1925 apart from the year she spent in Oxford, England earning her MA and the four years of sabbatical she enjoyed over the course of her career.

Although she wrote and published both creative and scholarly work throughout her life, Bates is best known for her poem "America the Beautiful" written after a 1893 trip to Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The poem was published in 1895 and later set to music.

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Scope and Content Note

This series contains materials regarding the life and work of Katharine Lee Bates. Materials include correspondence, clippings, manuscripts, and photographs. The bulk of which was produced after Bates death in celebration of the 100th anniversary of her birth. The movement to replace “The Star-Spangled Banner” with Bates’ “America the Beautiful” as the national anthem also features prominently in the collection.

Index Terms

Autobiographies
Bates Family
Clippings
Creative Writing
Genealogy
Massachusetts — Falmouth
Massachusetts — Wellesley
National Songs — United States
Poetry
Wellesley (Mass.)
Wellesley (Mass.) History
Wellesley College — Faculty
Women

System of Arrangement

This collection is organized into seven series arranged by subject:

- I. Biographical; 1905 – 1940, undated
- II. Correspondence; 1929 – 1992, undated
- III. Writing by Katharine Lee Bates; 1890 – 1930, undated
- IV. Writing about Katharine Lee Bates; 1913 – 1990, undated
- V. Memorabilia; undated
- VI. Tramp Problem; 1900, undated
- VII. Images; bulk undated
- VIII. Katharine Lee Bates Centennial Celebration Committee Materials; bulk 1993

Conditions Governing Access

The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

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Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

H.8

R.10

R.12

S.11

1981.36

1972.20

2004.1.6

2018.08

Related Materials

Wellesley Historical Society; Costume & Textile Collection: Robe, Academic [W.17.3]

Wellesley Historical Society; Audio Visual Material Collection

Papers of Katharine Lee Bates, The Wellesley College Archives

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to the collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Description

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch in December 2016.

Bibliography

Bates, Katharine Lee. *An Autobiography in Brief of Katharine Lee Bates*. Falmouth, Mass.: Enterprise Press, 1930.

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Container List

I. Biographical; 1905 – 1940, undated

This series contains materials containing biographical information both about Katharine Lee Bates as well as the Bates family. Also included are materials from Bates memorial service held in 1929.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Bates Family Materials; 1928, 1939, & undated
- Folder 2: Obituary and Memorial Service Materials; 1929
- Folder 3: Wellesley College Alumnae Record; 1905

Archives Oversize Box 3

- Folder 6: Bates Family Crest; undated

II. Correspondence; 1929 – 1992, undated

This series contains correspondence, the bulk of which was written about Katharine Lee Bates after her death in 1929. There is a small amount of correspondence written by Bates between 1884 and 1927.

Box 1

- Folder 4: Correspondence about KLB; May 1929 – August 1958
- Folder 5: Correspondence about KLB; August 1958 – April 1965
- Folder 6: Correspondence about KLB; June 1965 – December 1973
- Folder 7: Correspondence about KLB; January 1974 – December 1975
- Folder 8: Correspondence about KLB; January 1976 – November 1992
- Folder 9: Correspondence about KLB; undated
- Folder 10: Correspondence from KLB, June 1884 – July 1927, undated

III. Writing by Katharine Lee Bates; 1890 – 1930, undated

This series contains both creative and scholarly materials written by Katharine Lee Bates.

Box 1

- Folder 11: “All the Road to Egypt”, by KLB; undated
- Folder 12: “America the Beautiful”, by KLB; bulk undated
- Folder 13: “American Literature: Brief Reference Outlines”, by KLB; 1896
- Folder 14: “An Autobiography in Brief of KLB”, by KLB; 1930
- Folder 15: “Browning Studies”, by KLB; 1896
- Folder 16: “Christmas: Before and After”, by KLB; undated

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- Folder 17: Clippings, by KLB; 1900-1925, & undated
Folder 18: "The Debt", by KLB; 1924
Folder 19: "The High School Index", KLB contributor; 1890, 1891, & 1893

Box 2

- Folder 1: "Holy Night", Translated by KLB; 1904
Folder 2: "Hours in Dreamland with the Modern English Poets", by KLB; 1897
Folder 3: "The Kings of the East", by KLB; 1909
Folder 4: "The Lame Shepherd", by KLB; undated
Folder 5: Manuscripts & Poems, by KLB; bulk undated
Folder 6: "A Marchpane for Christmas", by KLB; 1946
Folder 7: "Santa Claus Riddle", by KLB; undated
Folder 8: Scrapbook #1, writings by KLB; undated
Folder 9: "Yellow Warblers", by KLB, printed in "Leo: A Yellow Cat" by Margaret Sherwood with other poems by Katharine Lee Bates & Josephine Preston Peabody; 1924

Box 3

- Folder 1: Scrapbook, #2, writings by KLB; undated
Folder 2: Scrapbook, #3, writings by KLB; undated

Box 4

- Folder 1: "Shakespeare Selective Bibliography and Biographical Notes" Edited by KLB; 1914

Archives Oversize Box 3

- Folder 5: KLB Writings, Oversize; undated

Archives Oversize Box 9

- Item 1: Original Manuscript of "America the Beautiful", Framed; undated

IV. Writing about Katharine Lee Bates; 1913 – 1990, undated

This series contains materials written about Katharine Lee Bates. Much of the material concerns Bate's poem "America the Beautiful", the desire for "America the Beautiful" to become the national anthem, and memorial activities related to the 100th anniversary of Bate's birth.

Box 4

- Folder 2: "America's Mountain", by Richard Pearl; 1964
Folder 3: "America the Beautiful", Franklin Mint Gallery of American Art; 1973 & 1974

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- Folder 4: Announcement of Library of KLB Bequeathed to Wellesley College; undated
- Folder 5: Clippings, “America the Beautiful”; 1920 – 1980, & undated
- Folder 6: Clippings, General; 1920 – 1970, & undated
- Folder 7: Clippings, Memorial Activities; 1950 – 1980, & undated
- Folder 8: Clippings, National Anthem & National Hymn; bulk undated
- Folder 9: Clippings, Places KLB Lived; 1940 – 1970, & undated
- Folder 10: “Dream and Deed: The Story of Katharine Lee Bates”, by Dorothy Burgess; 1952
- Folder 11: “The Educational Forum” Vol 40, No 1; Nov. 1975
- Folder 12: “A History of the New England Poetry Club, 1915 – 1931”; 1932
- Folder 13: “The Hymn”, Vol. 10 No 2; April 1959

Box 5

- Folder 1: “I am an American: What Every Citizen Should Know”, editors Frances Cavanah & Lloyd Smith; 1940
- Folder 2: “In Memoriam: Katharine Lee Bates”, Wellesley Alumnae Magazine Supplement to Vol. XIII, No. 5; June 1929
- Folder 3: “Katharine Lee Bates: Poet and Professor”, by Dorothea Lawrance Mann; 1931
- Folder 4: KLB Centennial Celebrations on Cape Cod; 1959
- Folder 5: Manuscripts written by others about KLB, 1921 – 1958
- Folder 6: Manuscripts written by others about KLB, 1958 – 1969
- Folder 7: Manuscripts written by others about KLB, 1973 – 1984
- Folder 8: Manuscripts written by others about KLB, undated
- Folder 9: Programs & Announcements of performances of America the Beautiful; 1913, 1943, 1960 – 1980s, & undated
- Folder 10: Report, Katharine Lee Bates Elementary School in CO; undated
- Folder 11: Reports, Speeches, & Newscasts Related to KLB; 1932 – c. 1981
- Folder 12: Selected KLB Bibliography; undated

Archives Oversize Box 3

- Folder 3: Programs & Announcements of Performances of “America the Beautiful”; 1927, 1994, & undated
- Folder 4: Clippings, “America the Beautiful”; 1952, 1984, & undated

V. Memorabilia; undated

This series contains memorabilia celebrating “America the Beautiful” or the 100th Anniversary of Bate’s birth.

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Box 5

- Folder 13: KLB Memorabilia, 1 Dimensional; undated
- Folder 14: KLB Memorabilia, 3 Dimensional; undated

VI. Tramp Problem; 1900, undated

This series contains regarding the “tramp problem” in Wellesley at the turn of the century.

Box 5

- Folder 15: Tramp Problem, Handwritten; undated
- Folder 16: Tramp Problem, Printed; 1900 & undated

VII. Images; bulk undated

This series contains photographs and other images of Katharine Lee Bates, her homes, and events celebrating her and her work.

Box 6

- Folder 1: Engraving Plate, “Alabaster Skies” Mural, Wellesley College
- Folder 2: Engraving Plate, KLB Portrait
- Folder 3: KLB Associated Images
- Folder 4: KLB School in Colorado Springs
- Folder 5: KLB Sites, American the Beautiful
- Folder 6: Non-photographic Images Relating to KLB
- Folder 7: Photo Labels
- Folder 8: Photographs of KLB
- Folder 9: Photographs of KLB Homes [Falmouth, Scarab, Wellesley College]
- Folder 10: Photographs of Events Honoring KLB
- Folder 11: Post Cards of Places Associated with KLB
- Folder 12: Wellesley College Class of 1880

VIII. KLB Centennial Celebration Committee Materials; bulk 1993

This series contains materials related to the Katharine Lee Bates Centennial Celebration Committee of Wellesley Massachusetts. A small portion of the materials relates to centennial celebrations in Falmouth, Massachusetts and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Box 7

- Folder 1: Bibliographic Lists; 1942 & undated
- Folder 2: Centennial Celebration Brochure Drafts; 1993
- Folder 3: Centennial Celebration Ephemera; 1993

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- Folder 4: Centennial Celebration Planning Binder, #1; 1993
- Folder 5: Centennial Celebration Planning Binder, #2; 1993
- Folder 6: Centennial Celebration Planning Binder, #3; 1993
- Folder 7: Centennial Celebration Proclamation from Town of Wellesley; 1993

Box 8

- Folder 1: Centennial Celebration Scrapbook; 1993
- Folder 2: Clippings & Research Materials; 1925, 1929, 1945, 1976, 1986, 1993, & undated
- Folder 3: Correspondence between WHS and Colorado Springs “America the Beautiful” Centennial Celebrations; 1993
- Folder 4: Correspondence regarding KLB Centennial; 1992 & 1993
- Folder 5: Falmouth Centennial Celebration Program; 1993
- Folder 6: Introduction remarks for fundraiser hosted by WHS in support for the commissioning of new piece of music, Tory DeFazio; undated
- Folder 7: Journal about Katherine Lee Bates, Begun by Margaret S. Urann; 1991
- Folder 8: KLB Centennial Celebration Newspapers; 1993
- Folder 9: KLB memories from Henry Bowen Brainerd Oral History, Transcript; 1993
- Folder 10: KLB memories from Henry Bowen Brainerd Oral History, 2 Cassette Tapes; 1993
- Folder 11: Published histories regarding KLB as part of Centennial Celebration, #1; 1993

Box 9

- Folder 1: Published histories regarding KLB as part of Centennial Celebration, #2; 1993
- Folder 2: Wellesley Symphony & Choral Society in Concert at Wellesley Middle School on Cassette Tape, 2 copies; 1994
- Folder 3: Wellesley Symphony Orchestra at Wellesley Middle School on VHS, 2 copies; 1994

Archives Oversize Box 3

- Folder 1: “America: The Vision (Fantasia on ‘America the Beautiful’)”; October 2, 1993
- Folder 2: Centennial Artwork; undated