

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Manuscript Collection Finding Aid
October 15, 2002

Jennie F. McLaughlin Collection
1868 – 1947
Manuscript Collection, MC-26

5 Box (21 linear inches)

Biographical sketch: Jennie McLaughlin is remembered for being employed as the Town's first official Librarian for 38 years, from 1898 until 1936. Residents, who visited the Library as a child, remember Jennie as kind, but stern. Jennie married young, though little is known regarding her marriage or husband. What is remembered is that Jennie, with her sister Mary, raised an "adopted" southern girl, Eliza.

Jennie was a tall woman, with rosy cheeks and steel rimmed glasses and she was often seen walking to and from the Library. She was the first superintendent of the First Parish Church Sunday School and among her duties was the responsibility of selecting books as rewards for students with perfect attendance. Jennie enjoyed traveling, visiting both Alaska and Europe and it is possible that she was also a member of the woman's alliance. Jennie's passion for the Library can be seen in a report written in 1913 that discussed the hidden treasures within the Library. A sample of the reports is as follows:

The library started with a fine selection, well balanced, with nearly every department in the world of books, represented. I honestly think it has not dropped in its standard. It has been my aim to keep it balanced even. My method of making out the list which is sent in to the committee for approval is to divide the list into thirds, - one third to be fiction, 1/3 juvenile, and 1/3 non-fiction – whatever may seem to be most needed or most readable. The list is made with much thought and consideration.... It seems to me there may be a happy medium which it were wise to strive for. A public library is supposed to meet the needs of all sorts and conditions of men and a good public library should have something for everyone...I wish more of the citizens of the town could be induced to reach below the surface and realize the treasures which may be found there.

Scope and Content Note: The Collection consists of annual town reports, copies of the magazine *Our Young Folks; An Illustrated Magazine for Boys and Girls*, pamphlets regarding regional celebrations, and copies of the *Boston and Farmers Almanacs*.

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Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	Kingston Town Annual Reports: 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883
	2	Kingston Town Annual Reports: 1886, 1887, 1890, 1891, 1925, and 1927.
	3	Pamphlets: 200 th Anniversary pamphlet of the First Church of Pembroke <i>The Quill</i> , 1927
	4	The Dickens Club playbill <i>Little Em 'ly</i> Cookbook: personal cookbook, mainly recipes of cakes and cookies, some newspaper clippings on household hints.
2	n/a	<i>Our Young Folks; An Illustrated Magazine for Boys and Girls</i> V.1, 1865: January, July, August, September, October, November, December, (month/issue unknown). V. 2, 1866: February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. V. 6, 1870: January.
3	1	<i>Boston Almanacs</i> , 1841, 1843, 1845
	2	<i>Boston Almanacs</i> , 1846 - 1848
	3	<i>Boston Almanacs</i> , 1849 - 1851
	4	<i>Boston Almanacs</i> , 1852 - 1854
	5	<i>Boston Almanacs</i> , 1856 (2 copies)
	6	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1855 - 1856
	7	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1944 - 1946
4	1	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1792 – 1801 (page from 1764 almanac, in envelope)
	2	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1802 – 1805
	3	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1806 – 1810
	4	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1811 – 1812
	5	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1813 – 1818
	6	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1819 – 1820
	7	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1821 – 1822
	8	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1823
	9	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1824
	10	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1827 – 1828
	11	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1829 – 1830
5	1	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1831
	2	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1832 – 1833
	3	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1834 – 1835
	4	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1836 – 1837 (2 copies)
	5	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1838 – 1839
	6	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1840 (2 copies)

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(Box and folder list continued...)

7	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1841 (2 copies)
8	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1842 (2 copies)
9	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1843 – 1844
10	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1845 – 1846
11	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1847 – 1848 (2 copies of 1847)
12	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1849 – 1850
13	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1851 – 1852
14	<i>Farmers Almanacs</i> , 1853 - 1854

Acquisition: Donated by Liliias Cingolani, October 2002.

Access: Unrestricted

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Processor: Archivist Carrie Elliott processed and created the finding aid for this Collection.