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## Marie Donahue papers

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library  
University of New England  
716 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103  
[cmiller10@une.edu](mailto:cmiller10@une.edu)  
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical/Historical Note .....	3
Collection Scope and Content .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
Biographical Information .....	6
Correspondence .....	7
Genealogy/Preservation .....	11
Research .....	13
Teaching .....	17
Writing .....	18

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Maine Women Writers Collection
<b>Creator:</b>	Donahue, Marie
<b>Title:</b>	Marie Donahue papers
<b>ID:</b>	0101
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1904-2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 linear feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Marie Donahue papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Marie A. Donahue was born in South Berwick, Maine in 1920. She grew up with four siblings, older sisters Bernadette and Martha, older brother Patrick, and younger sister Julia. When she was young, her family could not afford reading material other than The Boston Globe, so Donahue created her first book by cutting out pieces of "The Christmas Carol" from a copy of the Globe and into one of her father's books. Donahue graduated from Berwick Academy as valedictorian in 1937. She attended the University of New Hampshire where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in English and went on to earn her master's degree in English. She began her career at UNH, teaching such courses as New Hampshire Literature as well as Media and Methods, and she also supervised new teachers. Upon leaving UNH, she taught English at Berwick Academy until 1957. Donahue then taught English at Dover High School and became chair of the English Department until she retired in 1980. Upon request to return, she taught part-time at Berwick Academy until her official retirement in 1988. Donahue received recognition for her achievement and service and was named Berwick Academy Alumni of the Year in 1969 and South Berwick Citizen of the Year in 1977. Outside of teaching, Donahue wrote freelance articles for Down East Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Maine Sunday Telegram, New England Guide, and New Hampshire Profiles Magazine. She wrote forwards and introductions for books such as Old Kittery and Her Families, A Country Doctor, Country By-Ways, Deephaven, and The Tory Lover, and for short

stories such as "A White Heron," "The Hiltons' Holiday," and "A Neighbor's Landmark." Donahue wrote a history of Berwick Academy entitled *The Old Academy on the Hill: A Bicentennial History 1791-1991*, published in 1992 by Picton Press. She was a Sarah Orne Jewett scholar, and was a member of the Jewett/Eastman Memorial Committee. She served as secretary for the Old Berwick Historical Society, was an advisory board member for the Maine Historical Society, and served as an executive board member of the Friends of UNH Library. Later in life, Donahue was a member of the New Hampshire Retired Teachers Association and Maine Retired Teachers Association. She died in her childhood home in Berwick on March 6th, 2007.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Scope and Content

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The Marie Donahue papers offer a unique portrait of a literary life anchored in South Berwick, Maine, much of it centering around Sarah Orne Jewett. There is correspondence between Donahue and numerous literary figures including Gladys Hasty Carroll, Dorothy Healy, and Douglas Alvord, as well as Senators Margaret Chase Smith and George Mitchell. The collection also includes letters between Donahue and her editors at various magazines, as well as letters from her former students. There is a significant correspondence between Donahue and Elizabeth Goodwin, longtime hostess of the Sarah Orne Jewett House in South Berwick. The collection includes information on many Maine historical organizations, including the Dunnybrook Historical Society, the Jewett House, and Hamilton House, as well as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Donahue collected newspaper and magazine clippings on a wide variety of subjects from literature to history to travel for her own personal interests, and these are included in the collection. There is significant material from Donahue's teaching career at Dover High School and Berwick Academy, including teaching notes and assignments. The collection also contains drafts and copies of Donahue's numerous writing projects and freelance articles for outlets such as *Down East Magazine* and *The Boston Globe*.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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The papers are arranged in six series: I. Biographical Information; II. Correspondence; III. Genealogy and Preservation; IV. Research; V. Teaching; VI. Writing

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library  
University of New England

716 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103

[cmiller10@une.edu](mailto:cmiller10@une.edu)

URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

### Processing Information

The collection was originally processed by Ann Morrissey as a MWWC volunteer; the collection was refoldered and reorganized by Jefferson Navicky.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- English teachers
- Education -- Study and teaching
- Teachers
- Teaching
- Correspondence
- Maine -- History
- United States -- History
- Genealogy
- Research
- Poetry -- Maine

- Journalism
- Down East
- Historic preservation
- Maine -- History
- Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909
- Jewett House (South Berwick, Me.)
- Thaxter, Celia, 1835-1894
- Carroll, Gladys Hasty, 1904-1999
- Alvord, Douglas
- Smith, Margaret Chase, 1897-1995
- Goodwin, Elizabeth
- Frost, Robert
- Healy, Dorothy, 1914-1990
- Berwick Academy (South Berwick, Me.)
- Boston globe
- Down East Magazine
- Shakespeare, William

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## Collection Inventory

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### Biographical Information, 1937-2007

Title/Description	Instances	
Gold Medal Flour Cookbook, 1910	Box 1	Folder 001
Berwick Academy, 1937-1991	Box 1	Folder 002
University of New Hampshire Directory, 1940-1942	Box 1	Folder 003
UNH Commencement Program, 1955	Box 1	Folder 004
Quamphegan Dedication to Marie Donahue, 1958	Box 1	Folder 005
UNH Summer Institute Certificate, 1962	Box 1	Folder 006
Berwick Academy Alumna of the Year, 1969	Box 1	Folder 007
UNH Cooperative Extension Manual of Town Offices, 1975	Box 1	Folder 008
Resumes, 1976-1988, undated	Box 1	Folder 009
South Berwick Citizenship of the Year, 1977	Box 1	Folder 010
Dover High School "Rising Wave" article, 1980	Box 1	Folder 011
40th College Graduation Alumni letter by MD , 1981	Box 1	Folder 012
UNH Friends of The Library newsletter, 1981-1989	Box 1	Folder 013
Downeast personal calendar, 1982	Box 1	Folder 014
The Cum Laude Society Induction, 1982	Box 1	Folder 015

Marie Donahue papers

Tributes, 1983, 1991	Box 1	Folder 016
UNH Alumni Companion newspaper, 1988-1993	Box 1	Folder 017
UNH 50-year reunion, 1991	Box 1	Folder 018
List of books donated to Acton Elementary School, 1993	Box 1	Folder 019
Rotary tribute, 1996	Box 1	Folder 020
Berwick Academy 206th graduation (photo of MD), 1997	Box 1	Folder 021
Berwick Academy Today, 1998	Box 1	Folder 022
Berwick Academy Circle of Honor, 2000	Box 1	Folder 023
Miss Foley Award, 2004	Box 1	Folder 024
Obituary, 2007	Box 1	Folder 025
Donahue geneology, 2008	Box 1	Folder 026
Berwick Academy Holdings, 2008	Box 1	Folder 027
"My Personal Estate at a Glance" , undated	Box 1	Folder 028
Sister of St. Agnes Donahue obituary (photocopy), undated	Box 1	Folder 029
Whittier Birthday Book, undated	Box 1	Folder 030
Elizabeth Goodwin guestbook, 1959-1981 <u>Physical Location:</u> In OVS Box 11.	Box 1	Folder 031
Elizabeth Goodwin's scrapbook, 1940-1976, undated <u>Physical Location:</u> In OVS Box 11.	Box 1	Folder 032
Common Prayer Hymnal, 1931 <u>Physical Location:</u> In OVS Box 11.	Box 1	Folder 033
Catholic Mass cards, undated <u>Physical Location:</u> In OVS Box 11.	Box 1	Folder 034
Goodwin family memberships in DAR, 1909-1931 <u>Physical Location:</u> In OVS Box 11.	Box 1	Folder 035

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Correspondence, 1931-2005

Title/Description	Instances	
Christmas cards and thank you notes, undated	Box 2	Folder 001
Houghton Mifflin letter and general correspondence, 1938-1969	Box 2	Folder 002
"Yankee Memoirs" and other personal correspondence, 1970-1979	Box 2	Folder 003

Marie Donahue papers

Sarah Orne Jewett Conference and other personal correspondence, 1980-1989	Box 2	Folder 004
Appraiser's letters and thank you notes, 1990-1999	Box 2	Folder 005
Card from Sandra Rutherford, 2004	Box 2	Folder 006
Douglas Alvord, 1988-1992	Box 2	Folder 007
Frances H. Babb, 1933-1988	Box 2	Folder 008
	Box 2	Folder 009
	Box 2	Folder 010
	Box 2	Folder 011
Abby Hemenway article by Frances Babb, 1978	Box 2	Folder 012
MD to Frances H. Babb, 1957-1984, undated	Box 2	Folder 013
John Ballentine, New England History Press, 1972-1994	Box 2	Folder 014
Hilma Barrett, 1981-1982	Box 2	Folder 015
J. Roy W. Barrette, 1968-1988	Box 2	Folder 016
J. Malcolm Barter, Down East Magazine, 1964-1976	Box 2	Folder 017
Kent Bicknell, 1999-2000	Box 2	Folder 018
Clara Bixter, 1971	Box 2	Folder 019
Paula Blanchard, 1991-2002	Box 2	Folder 020
Craig Blouin, 1979	Box 2	Folder 021
Mary Boyd, undated	Box 2	Folder 022
Ellen England Cable (chapbook), 1974	Box 2	Folder 023
Gladys Hasty Carroll Christmas cards, 1944-1989, undated	Box 2	Folder 024
Gladys Hasty Carroll, 1940-1997	Box 2	Folder 025
	Box 2	Folder 026
	Box 2	Folder 027
	Box 2	Folder 028
Gladys Hasty Carroll clippings, 1941-1999	Box 2	Folder 029
Gladys Hasty Carroll photo, 1979	Box 2	Folder 030
Gladys Hasty Carroll to Burton Trafton, 1969-1972	Box 2	Folder 031
Warren Carroll, 1947-2002	Box 2	Folder 032
Jere A. Chase, 1977-1985	Box 2	Folder 033
Senator William Cohen, 1974-1996	Box 2	Folder 034
Mary Spenser Craddock, 1984-1992	Box 2	Folder 035



Marie Donahue papers

Charles Duke, 1976-1977	Box 2	Folder 036
Barbara Eckman, 1985-1986	Box 2	Folder 037
William B. Ewert, 1976-1990	Box 2	Folder 038
Hilda Fife, 1967-1983	Box 2	Folder 039
Lesley Lee Francis, 1999-2005	Box 2	Folder 040
John Eldridge Frost, 1984-1992	Box 2	Folder 041
Dan Galvin, 1984-1989	Box 2	Folder 042
John Thomas Gavin, 1989	Box 2	Folder 043
Elizabeth Goodwin, 1940-1990	Box 2	Folder 044
	Box 3	Folder 045
	Box 2	Folder 046
MD to Elizabeth Goodwin, 1983-1989	Box 3	Folder 047
Norah Johnson to Elizabeth Goodwin, 1961-1971	Box 3	Folder 048
Elizabeth Goodwin files on Sarah Orne Jewett, 1974-1989	Box 3	Folder 049
Elizabeth Goodwin tributes, 1991-1993	Box 3	Folder 050
Goodwin Book of Common Prayer, 1931 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 11	Folder 051
Goodwin scrapbook, 1939-1944 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 11	Folder 052
Daughters of American Revolution membership, 1908-1931 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 3	Folder 053
Goodwin guestbook, 1959-1981 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 3	Folder 054
H. Terry Goodwin, 1981-1985	Box 3	Folder 055
Wallingford Goodwin, 1929	Box 3	Folder 056
Ercell Gordon, 1975-1992	Box 3	Folder 057
Barbara and Bill Grimes, 1980-1985	Box 3	Folder 058
Yasuo Hashiguchi, 1985-1998	Box 3	Folder 059
Dorothy Healy, 1981-1990	Box 3	Folder 060
Marie Donahue to Dorothy Healy, 1982-1990	Box 3	Folder 061
Dorothy Healy tributes, 1986-1992	Box 3	Folder 062
B. June Hutchinson, 1986	Box 3	Folder 063
Elmer Jones (The Boston Globe), 1975-1976	Box 3	Folder 064

Marie Donahue papers

Sister Mary Joseph, 1984-1987	Box 3	Folder 065
Ann LeRoyer (Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities), 1981-1984	Box 3	Folder 066
"Westy" Lovejoy, 1977-1980	Box 3	Folder 067
Norma Mandel, 1996-2002	Box 3	Folder 068
Paul Maureau, 1979-1980	Box 3	Folder 069
Maggie and Trudy May, 1994-1999	Box 3	Folder 070
Ursula McAllister, 1978	Box 3	Folder 071
Sheila McDonald, Department of Conservation, 1983	Box 3	Folder 072
T. H. McGrail, 1943-1945	Box 3	Folder 073
Jean H. Mims, 1981-1987	Box 3	Folder 074
Senator George Mitchell, 1982-1998	Box 3	Folder 075
Jane Morrison, re: The White Heron, 1977-1989	Box 3	Folder 076
Donald Mortland, 1987-1993	Box 3	Folder 077
Priscilla Noddin, 1978	Box 3	Folder 078
Helen O'Connell, 1976-1980	Box 3	Folder 079
Carolyn Ohlemeier, 1978-1984	Box 3	Folder 080
Frannie Peabody, 1979	Box 3	Folder 081
Helen Hasty Perreault, 1989	Box 3	Folder 082
Harold Pinkham, 1958-1976	Box 3	Folder 083
Wendy Pirsig, 1989-1990	Box 3	Folder 084
General political correspondence, 1960-2000	Box 3	Folder 085
Sally Reid, 1979-1985	Box 3	Folder 086
Hap Ridgeway, 1994	Box 3	Folder 087
Bernard F. Ryder, Dover Public Schools, 1975-1979	Box 3	Folder 088
Paul Sadler, Exeter Academy, 1972-1975	Box 3	Folder 089
J. McKenzie Semple, 1976-1978	Box 3	Folder 090
Margaret Shea, Down East Magazine, 1977-1979	Box 3	Folder 091
Sarah Sherman, UNH, 1985	Box 3	Folder 092
Elizabeth Silverthorne, 1989-1994	Box 3	Folder 093
Senator Margaret Chase Smith, 1979-1988	Box 3	Folder 094
Lawrence E. Spellman, 1978	Box 3	Folder 095

Marie Donahue papers

Lynne M. Spencer, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1976-1981	Box 3	Folder 096
Mimi Steadman, Down East Magazine, 1980-1984	Box 3	Folder 097
Texas Discovers Celia Thaxter, 1997	Box 3	Folder 098
Rosamond Thaxter, 1975	Box 3	Folder 099
Davis Thomas, Down East Magazine, 1979-1980	Box 3	Folder 100
Donna Marion Titus, 1996	Box 3	Folder 101
Burton W. Trafton, 1975-1992	Box 3	Folder 102
Norman and Dorothy Weeks, 1985	Box 3	Folder 103
Barbara A. White, UNH Library, 1984	Box 3	Folder 104
Elizabeth Wiggins, 1979-1980	Box 3	Folder 105
James Russell Wiggins, 1981-1998	Box 3	Folder 106
David O. Woodbury, 1975-1993	Box 3	Folder 107
Sarah Orne Jewett stamp, 1974	Box 3	Folder 108
Student letters, 1968-2003	Box 3	Folder 109
Philip Desjardins, student, 1972-1991	Box 3	Folder 110
Tom Dowling, student, 1987-1989	Box 3	Folder 111
John D. Haddon, student, 1957-1981	Box 3	Folder 112
Shawn Harriman, student, 1979-1984	Box 3	Folder 113
Harmon Hudson, student, 1981	Box 3	Folder 114
Norman Alfred Mayo, 1957-1992	Box 3	Folder 115
Cheryl Newhouse, 1979-1985	Box 3	Folder 116
Jeremy Richard, student, 1966-1990	Box 3	Folder 117
Elaine Sanay, 1981-1983	Box 3	Folder 118
Sally J. Sousane, student, 1975	Box 3	Folder 119
to Mrs. Jane Rutherford, re: property line, 1978	Box 3	Folder 120

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Genealogy/Preservation, 1961-2004

Title/Description	Instances	
Chadbourne family, 1984	Box 4	Folder 001
Lord family, undated	Box 4	Folder 002

Marie Donahue papers

Old Berwick Historical Society incorporation papers, 1960-1962	Box 4	Folder 003
Old Berwick Historical Society membership lists, 1982-1989	Box 4	Folder 004
Old Berwick Historical Society newsletters, 1961-1990	Box 4	Folder 005
Old Berwick Historical Society inquires and correspondence, 1972-1992	Box 4	Folder 006
	Box 4	Folder 007
Old Berwick Historical Society general items, 1968-1992	Box 4	Folder 008
Old Berwick Historical Society activities, 1968-1988	Box 4	Folder 009
House tours, 1966-2004	Box 4	Folder 010
Southern York County Historical Society meeting on early schools, 1986	Box 4	Folder 011
Markland School essay by Claire Gillingham, undated	Box 4	Folder 012
The Cushing House, undated	Box 4	Folder 013
The Counting House, 1974-2003	Box 4	Folder 014
Dunnybrook Historical Society, 1986-2006	Box 4	Folder 015
Eastman Jewett houses, 1982-1987	Box 4	Folder 016
Hamilton House, 1966-1993	Box 4	Folder 017
Jewett House, 1939-1989	Box 4	Folder 018
Sayward House, 1978-1982	Box 5	Folder 019
Maine Old Cemetery Association, 1976-2005	Box 5	Folder 020
Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation, 1981-1984	Box 5	Folder 021
Maine Historical Society, 1968-1985	Box 5	Folder 022
Maine State Museum, 1978	Box 5	Folder 023
Old Fields Burying Ground, 1961	Box 5	Folder 024
Piscataqua Gundalow Project, 1970-1983	Box 5	Folder 025
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities correspondence, 1976-2001	Box 5	Folder 026
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities newsletters and guides, 1979-1998	Box 5	Folder 027
Jewett conference, 1984-1989	Box 5	Folder 028
	Box 5	Folder 029
York Historical Society, 1992	Box 5	Folder 030

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Research, 1904-2002**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Berwick, Maine vital records (pre 1892), undated	Box 6	Folder 001
	Box 6	Folder 002
	Box 6	Folder 003
	Box 6	Folder 004
National Geographic membership, 1948	Box 6	Folder 005
South Berwick Town Register, 1904	Box 6	Folder 006
South Berwick, Maine Record Book (compiled by John Eldridge Frost), 1967	Box 6	Folder 007
South Berwick local history, 1953-1989	Box 6	Folder 008
St. Michael's Church, South Berwick, 1978-1986	Box 6	Folder 009
<b>Southern Maine local history, 1936-2002</b>	Box 6	Folder 010
State of Maine history, 1965-1998	Box 6	Folder 011
Penobscot Marine Museum, 1988-1997	Box 6	Folder 012
<b>New Hampshire history, 1969-1996</b>	Box 6	Folder 013
Boston and Massachusetts history, 1950-1989	Box 6	Folder 014
American history, 1959-2000	Box 6	Folder 015
U.S. Bicentennial, 1975-1975	Box 6	Folder 016
Civil War, 1955-1996	Box 6	Folder 017
Abe Lincoln, 1937-1990	Box 6	Folder 018
Kurt Schindler, 1932	Box 6	Folder 019
Nixon Impeachment, 1960-1991	Box 6	Folder 020
England, 1970-1984	Box 6	Folder 021
Sarah Orne Jewett, 1949-1998	Box 6	Folder 022
Jewett bibliography and themes, undated	Box 6	Folder 023
Friends of Sarah Orne Jewett, 1991-1992	Box 6	Folder 024
Jewett general material, 1967-1995	Box 6	Folder 025
Jewett original source material, 1987	Box 6	Folder 026
poems by and for Jewett, undated	Box 6	Folder 027
Jewett presentations and productions, 1966-1990	Box 6	Folder 028
Tidewater (play by Jewett), 1981-1982		

Marie Donahue papers

	Box 6	Folder 029
Celia Thaxter, 1957-1999	Box 6	Folder 030
Isles of Shoals, 1972-2001	Box 6	Folder 031
Louisa May Alcott, 1965-1977	Box 7	Folder 032
William Sumner Appleton, 1940-1948	Box 7	Folder 033
Jane Austen, 1977	Box 7	Folder 034
William Blake, undated	Box 7	Folder 035
Bronte sisters, 1966	Box 7	Folder 036
Truman Capote, undated	Box 7	Folder 037
Gladys Hasty Carroll, 1939-1993	Box 7	Folder 038
Lewis Carroll, 1970, undated	Box 7	Folder 039
Marc Connelly, 1971	Box 7	Folder 040
Joseph Conrad, 1948	Box 7	Folder 041
Charles Dickens, 1936-1981	Box 7	Folder 042
Emily Dickinson, 1964-1990	Box 7	Folder 043
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1980	Box 7	Folder 044
T.S. Eliot, undated	Box 7	Folder 045
Ralph Waldo Emerson + bookmark, 1956-1996	Box 7	Folder 046
William Faulkner, 1956-1977	Box 7	Folder 047
James T. Fields, 1967-1983, undated	Box 7	Folder 048
Benjamin Franklin, undated	Box 7	Folder 049
John Galsworthy, 1967	Box 7	Folder 050
Francine du Plessix Gray, 1977	Box 7	Folder 051
Brothers Grimm, undated	Box 7	Folder 052
Donald Hall, 1979-1993	Box 7	Folder 053
Walter Hard, undated	Box 7	Folder 054
Ernest Hemingway, 1961-1964	Box 7	Folder 055
Winslow Homer, 1977	Box 7	Folder 056
William Dean Howells, 2002	Box 7	Folder 057
Henrik Ibsen, 1971	Box 7	Folder 058
Henry James, 1975	Box 7	Folder 059
Samuel Johnson, 1965	Box 7	Folder 060

Marie Donahue papers

Alfred Kazin, 1962	Box 7	Folder 061
Helen Keller, 1936-1968	Box 7	Folder 062
Rudyard Kipling, 1936	Box 7	Folder 063
C. Day Lewis, 1961	Box 7	Folder 064
David McCullough, undated	Box 7	Folder 065
Joyce Maynard, 1971-1972	Box 7	Folder 066
Herman Melville, 1985	Box 7	Folder 067
Arthur Miller, 1968	Box 7	Folder 068
Samuel Pepys, 1970	Box 7	Folder 069
George Orwell, 1956	Box 7	Folder 070
Edgar Allen Poe, 1989	Box 7	Folder 071
Beatrix Potter, undated	Box 7	Folder 072
Kenneth Roberts, 1957-1986, undated	Box 7	Folder 073
Carl Sandburg, undated	Box 7	Folder 074
Shakespeare, 1940-1974	Box 7	Folder 075
George B. Shaw, 1956	Box 7	Folder 076
Mary Shelley, 1968	Box 7	Folder 077
Margaret Chase Smith, 1959-1995	Box 7	Folder 078
John Steinbeck, 1968	Box 7	Folder 079
Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1968-1998	Box 7	Folder 080
Henry David Thoreau, 1962	Box 7	Folder 081
Leo Tolstoy, 1956-1978	Box 7	Folder 082
Mark Twain, 1966-1997	Box 7	Folder 083
John Updike, 1968-1977	Box 7	Folder 084
Peter Ustinoff, 1961	Box 7	Folder 085
Eudora Welty, 1980-1983	Box 7	Folder 086
E.B. White, 1966-1985	Box 7	Folder 087
John Greenleaf Whittier, 1948-1987	Box 7	Folder 088
Kate Douglas Wiggin, 1936	Box 7	Folder 089
James Russell Wiggins, 1976-1998	Box 7	Folder 090
Thomas Wolfe, 1948-1981	Box 7	Folder 091
David O. Woodbury, 1964-1967	Box 7	Folder 092

Marie Donahue papers

Andrew Wyeth, 1968-1970	Box 7	Folder 093
100 pictures (Boston Globe), 1937	Box 7	Folder 094
Birth of the Constitution (Boston Globe), 1937	Box 7	Folder 095
Human Riddles (Boston Globe), 1939	Box 7	Folder 096
"The Women They Loved" (Boston Globe), 1939	Box 7	Folder 097
Great Books (Boston Globe), undated	Box 7	Folder 098
Classics Revisited, 1968-1969	Box 7	Folder 099
Books/Reading lists, 1998, undated	Box 7	Folder 100
Flowers, Gardening & Birds, 1960-1974	Box 7	Folder 101
Lyrics, 1800-1939	Box 7	Folder 102
<u>Physical Location:</u> Additional material in OVS Box 11		
War Slogans, undated	Box 7	Folder 103
Boston Athenaeum, 1979-1992	Box 7	Folder 104
Boston Globe, 1974-2004	Box 7	Folder 105
Bowdoin College, 1993-1994	Box 7	Folder 106
George Gloss/Brattle Book Shop, 1970-1998	Box 7	Folder 107
Harvard, 1977-1989	Box 7	Folder 108
Maine Women Writers Collection/Westbrook College, 1980-1998	Box 7	Folder 109
Art & Antiques, 1961-1979	Box 7	Folder 110
Baseball, 1986-1994	Box 7	Folder 111
Book Reviews, 1968-1982	Box 7	Folder 112
Catholicism, 1957-1989	Box 7	Folder 113
Culture articles, 1962-1996	Box 7	Folder 114
List of financial brochures, 1959-1982	Box 7	Folder 115
Irish ancestry, 1963-1992	Box 7	Folder 116
Obituaries, 1969-1989, undated	Box 7	Folder 117
List of safety articles and pamphlets, 1958-1975, undated	Box 7	Folder 118
Writing on words, 1959-1992	Box 7	Folder 119
The Golden Book on Writing by David Lambuth, 1963-1964	Box 7	Folder 120
Latin, 1974-1996	Box 7	Folder 121
Teaching and course content, 1968-1970	Box 7	Folder 122
The Wonderful World of Words (pamphlet), 1969-1970	Box 7	Folder 123



The Teaching of Writing, 1960-1977	Box 7	Folder 124
Words, Usage, & Editing, 1948-1978	Box 7	Folder 125
Words, Vocabulary, & Spelling, 1962-1975	Box 7	Folder 126
Musical scores, 1898-1952 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 11	Folder 127
Life Magazine articles (Churchill, Greece, Bethlehem, Christ) , 1947-1963 <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 11	Folder 128

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Teaching, 1939-2008

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Berwick Academy, 1968-2008	Box 8	Folder 001
Berwick Academy photos, 1949-2000, undated	Box 8	Folder 002
Dover High School, 1973-2000	Box 8	Folder 003
Dover High School achievement of students, 1973-1978	Box 8	Folder 004
Dover High School letters of recommendation, 1974-1979	Box 8	Folder 005
Dover High School quality of teaching debate, 1966-1970	Box 8	Folder 006
Helen Gitschier, 1976-1997	Box 8	Folder 007
A. Harvey Knepp, Dover High School, 1970-1980	Box 8	Folder 008
Gordon Quimby, Dover High School, 1973	Box 8	Folder 009
Dover High School Retirement, 1978-1988	Box 8	Folder 010
Thomas Bailey Aldrich poems, undated	Box 8	Folder 011
Stephen Vincent Benet, "The Devil & Daniel Webster", undated	Box 8	Folder 012
The Bible, 1971, undated	Box 8	Folder 013
Hal Borland, 1967-1975	Box 8	Folder 014
Stephen Crane & The Red Badge of Courage, 1988-1998, undated	Box 8	Folder 015
Robert Frost, 1938-2008, undated	Box 8	Folder 016
Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1983-1984, undated	Box 8	Folder 017
Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man & The Sea, undated	Box 8	Folder 018
Homer, undated	Box 8	Folder 019
John Knowles, A Separate Peace, 1969-1970	Box 8	Folder 020

Marie Donahue papers

Edward Arlington Robinson, 1988	Box 8	Folder 021
Shakespeare, 1948-1964, undated <u>Physical Location:</u> in OVS Box 11	Box 11	Folder 022
Richard Wilbur, undated	Box 9	Folder 023
Thorton Wilder, "Our Town", 1957-1988, undated	Box 9	Folder 024
Children's Literature, 1972-1974	Box 9	Folder 025
Humanities, 1966-1968	Box 9	Folder 026
Poetry, 1968-2001	Box 9	Folder 027
Short stories, undated	Box 9	Folder 028
Book collecting and Maine literature, 1938-1990	Box 9	Folder 029
Maine literature, 1949-1991	Box 9	Folder 030
Maine women writers and artists, 1964-1995	Box 9	Folder 031
"Knowing Maine by Heart" + Elizabeth Hardwick, 1966-1997	Box 9	Folder 032
New Hampshire literature + UNH course admit cards, 1956-2001	Box 9	Folder 033
New Hampshire literature course, 1970-1977	Box 9	Folder 034
18th century New Hampshire literature bibliography by Marie Donahue, undated	Box 9	Folder 035
"New Hampshire Writers & The Small Town" -- New Hampshire Council for the Humanities, 1980	Box 9	Folder 036
U.S. Literature, 1970-1997	Box 9	Folder 037
U.S. painters, 1978-1983	Box 9	Folder 038
English exams, (undated)	Box 9	Folder 039
Photos and drawings of authors, undated	Box 9	Folder 040
Willa Cather, 1955-1977	Box 9	Folder 041

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Writing, 1961-2008

Title/Description	Instances	
"Headmasters of Old", undated	Box 10	Folder 001
"The Hayes/Lord Legacy", 1988-2008	Box 10	Folder 002
Joseph Hilliard, undated	Box 10	Folder 003
The Old Academy on the Hill, 1978-2003	Box 10	Folder 004
The Founding of Berwick Academy, 1999	Box 10	Folder 005

Marie Donahue papers

Berwick Academy Presentations by Marie Donahue, 1990-2008	Box 10	Folder 006
Berwick Academy World War II Remembrances, Berwick Academy Today, 1995	Box 10	Folder 007
Berwick Academy World War II Remembrances source material, 1994-1995	Box 10	Folder 008
Bicentennial, 1976	Box 10	Folder 009
Book Review, Beloved Outcast: James Healy, undated	Box 10	Folder 010
Book review of Deliver Us from Evil by Thomas Dooley, undated	Box 10	Folder 011
The Day Christ Died book review, undated	Box 10	Folder 012
Book review of John Paul Jones biography by Samuel Morison, undated	Box 10	Folder 013
Book Review of Mr. Blue by Myles Connolly, undated	Box 10	Folder 014
"A Christmas Book of Globe Clippings" in The Boston Globe, 1973	Box 10	Folder 015
"Colorful lessons on country byways" in The Boston Globe, 1976	Box 10	Folder 016
"Maine's Literary Life" in The Boston Globe, 1988	Box 10	Folder 017
"I work, I wrought" Boston Globe (letter to the Editor), 1979	Box 10	Folder 018
Letter to editor, Boston Globe re: Charles Dickens, 1998	Box 10	Folder 019
Course review for UNH Children's Literature course, undated	Box 10	Folder 020
Essay for Library Science class re: school libraries, 1974	Box 10	Folder 021
Dover, New Hampshire 350th Anniversary essay, 1979-1982	Box 10	Folder 022
"Happy Birthday, Dear Sarah" essay, undated	Box 10	Folder 023
Letter to editor, Down East Magazine re: Sarah Orne Jewett, 1994	Box 10	Folder 024
Overview of articles for Down East, 1965-1981	Box 10	Folder 025
Vaughan Woods Memorial in Down East, 1961-1965	Box 10	Folder 026
Maine's Oldest Private Academy in Down East, 1966-1987	Box 10	Folder 027
"Maine Attics" in Down East, 1969	Box 10	Folder 028
"Profile of a Maine Librarian" in Down East '72, 1965-1990	Box 10	Folder 029
Hamilton House on The Piscataqua in Down East, 1975	Box 10	Folder 030
"Celia Thaxter's Island World" in Down East, 1976	Box 10	Folder 031
"Sarah Orne Jewett's 'Dear Old House and Home'" in Down East, 1977	Box 10	Folder 032
"Maine's 'Incorrigible Fisher of Words'" (E.A. Robinson) in Down East, 1978	Box 10	Folder 033

Marie Donahue papers

"Gladys Hasting Carroll: First Citizen of Dunnybrook" in Down East, 1979	Box 10	Folder 034
"Gardiner's Grand Lady: Laura E. Richards" in Down East, 1979-1980	Box 10	Folder 035
"Lively New Interest in Old Burying Grounds" in Down East, 1980	Box 10	Folder 036
"At Home with a York Harbor Tory" (Sayward mansion) in Down East, 1981	Box 10	Folder 037
Sarah Orne Jewett in The Ellsworth American, 1993	Box 10	Folder 038
Old Kittery & Her Families book description with forward by Marie Donahue, 1981	Box 10	Folder 039
A Country Doctor reissue with forward by Marie Donahue, 1984	Box 10	Folder 040
The Tory Lover by Sarah Orne Jewett with forward by Marie Donahue, 1975-1983	Box 10	Folder 041
Jewett notes and quotes, 1991-2002	Box 10	Folder 042
"In Maine They Still Love Sarah Orne Jewett" essay drafts, undated	Box 10	Folder 043
Sarah Orne Jewett and John Frost essay draft, undated	Box 10	Folder 044
"Sarah Orne Jewett Memorial: Maine Literary Shrine" essay draft, undated	Box 10	Folder 045
"Prophet with Honor: South Berwick, Maine's Sarah Orne Jewett" essay draft, undated	Box 10	Folder 046
Sarah Orne Jewett's Country By-ways reissue and article on Marie Donahue, 1981-2002	Box 10	Folder 047
Sarah Orne Jewett Conference at Westbrook College + Marie Donahue's speech at Jewett House, 1985	Box 10	Folder 048
"Sarah Orne Jewett's Coast of Maine", 1988-1989	Box 10	Folder 049
"An Evening with Sarah Orne Jewett" Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1989	Box 10	Folder 050
Deephaven's 100th Anniversary, introduction by Marie Donahue, 1993	Box 10	Folder 051
"Sarah Orne Jewett and the Ecumenical Spirit" essay, 1998	Box 10	Folder 052
"Of Pennyroyal & Pointed Firs" essay in The Maine Digest, 1970	Box 10	Folder 053
Sarah Orne Jewett essay in The Maine Digest, 1970	Box 10	Folder 054
Sarah Orne Jewett essay in Maine Magazine, 1993	Box 10	Folder 055
"Remembering Hilda" for Maine Old Cemetery Association, 1994	Box 10	Folder 056
Sarah Orne Jewett essays in Maine Sunday Telegram, 1979-1981	Box 10	Folder 057

Marie Donahue papers

Letter to editor re: Sarah Orne Jewett in Maine Sunday Telegram, 1996	Box 10	Folder 058
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Houses New England Guide, draft essay, undated	Box 10	Folder 059
"A Home in History" in New England Guide, 1983	Box 10	Folder 060
Old Kittery & Her Families press clippings, forward by Marie Donahue, 1970-1981	Box 10	Folder 061
"The Worlds New Hampshire Writers Make" Conference invitation, 1982	Box 10	Folder 062
"The Teacher Deals in Futures" in New Hampshire Educator, 1963	Box 10	Folder 063
"The Granite State in Song and Profiles" in New Hampshire Profiles, 1975	Box 10	Folder 064
New York Times letter to editor re: Robert Tristram Coffin, 1983	Box 10	Folder 065
Teaching Notes, 1967-2000, undated	Box 10	Folder 066
Chaucer notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 067
European Literature notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 068
English grammar notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 069
American Literature notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 070
Physical education notes, undated	Box 10	Folder 071
Marie Donahue's grade school work, 1928-1936, undated	Box 10	Folder 072
School essays, 1940, undated	Box 10	Folder 073
School papers and tests, 1962, undated	Box 10	Folder 074
South Berwick essay for Bicentennial, 1976	Box 10	Folder 075
Thomas Bailey Aldrich Lecture Series, 1982-1983	Box 10	Folder 076
"And Gladly Teach" essay, 1979, undated	Box 10	Folder 077
"Early Schools in South Berwick & Eliot" essay for Marshwood High School, 1994	Box 10	Folder 078
"Former Students" essay and Sarah Orne Jewett essay by student, undated	Box 10	Folder 079
Letter to Paul Cody in response to Boston Globe essay, 1982	Box 10	Folder 080
"The Teacher Deals in Futures" in New Hampshire Educator, 1963	Box 10	Folder 081
"Why Johnny Doesn't Read -- And Can't Write" essay, undated	Box 10	Folder 082
Tribute to Fred speech at Dover High School, undated	Box 10	Folder 083
Tribute to Francis Babb essay, 1986, undated	Box 10	Folder 084

Marie Donahue papers

Tribute to Carolyn Blouin, 1994-1997	Box 10	Folder 085
Tribute to Ercell M. Gordon, former headmaster of Berwick Academy, 1995-1998	Box 10	Folder 086
Tribute to Craig Holmes speech, undated	Box 10	Folder 087
Tribute to Burton Trafton, 1979-1991	Box 10	Folder 088
Tribute to Marie Walton, 1996-1998	Box 10	Folder 089
"A Lawless Border" Sarah Orne Jewett essay for Friends of UNH Library Newsletter, 1976	Box 10	Folder 090
"Sandpiper" Thaxter essay for Friends of UNH Library Newsletter, 1977	Box 10	Folder 091
"The Jewett Album" in Friends of UNH Library Newsletter, 1985-1986	Box 10	Folder 092

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)