

Guide to the Belle Marshall Locke Papers, 1879-1952

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Belle Marshall Locke Papers, 1879-1952

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1990.048

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing and updated by Abby Dollries

Creator:

Locke, Belle Marshall, 1853-1933

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box, 131 items ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

Belle Marshal Locke, a prominent figure in the New Hampshire theatre community, was born in 1853 in Lancaster, NH. These papers consist of materials related to Locke's theater career, including monologues, sketches, plays, reviews, and playbills. Additionally, it contains copies of her column, "Woman About Town," published in the *Concord Monitor*. Materials in this collection date from 1879 to 1952.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Belle Marshall Locke Papers were donated by Nancy Webb in October 1990.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unidentified person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unidentified person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in December 2020 and updated by Abby Dollries in June 2025. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Belle Marshall Locke Papers, 1990.048. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Belle Marshall Locke was born in Lancaster, NH, in 1853 to Anderson J. and Frances Perkins Marshall. She attended school in Lancaster and demonstrated a talent for recitation and literature. After her marriage to George Scott Locke of Concord, NH, on September 23, 1873, she continued her professional training with Edna Chaffee-Noble, founder of the Chaffee-Noble School of Expression. She went on to study at the New England Conservatory College of Oratory in Boston, MA, and graduated in 1884.

Locke taught drama and elocution while directing and acting in more than forty plays, conducted public recitals, and coached the Dartmouth College Drama Club. She helped found the Concord Art Club, primarily based in Eagle Hall. In the early 1920s, she wrote a column titled "Woman About Town" for the Concord Monitor. Belle died in Concord on April 20, 1933.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Belle Marshall Locke Papers, 1879-1952, consist mainly of manuscripts with edits, including sketches and monologues written by Locke during her career. A prominent figure in the New Hampshire theatre community, this collection also includes plays, reviews, and playbills. Many of these materials are undated. Other materials include her newspaper column titled "Woman About Town" and theater reviews from newspapers.

Arrangement:

Materials in this collection are organized alphabetically.

Contents List**Box 1**

Folder 1	Autograph book, 1879-1885
Folder 2	Manuscript monologue: "Mrs. Melindy Rines Determines to Be an Actress," undated
Folder 3	Manuscript sketch: "Bill Collins, Burglar," undated
Folder 4	Manuscript monologue: "Carter's Wife," undated
Folder 5	Manuscript: "Connubial Controversy," untitled fragment, stage directions, undated
Folder 6	Manuscript: "Japonica Ann" or "Tidly Jane," undated
Folder 7	Manuscript monologue: "Making a Mason," undated
Folder 8	Manuscript sketch: "Mrs. Appleton's Lie," undated
Folder 9	Manuscript monologue: "Mrs. Pike's Sewing Class," undated
Folder 10	Manuscript sketch: "Mrs. Shermington," undated
Folder 11	Manuscript: "The Genuine Article," undated
Folder 12	Manuscript monologue: "The Trials of a Knight," undated
Folder 13	Manuscript play: "The Un Ranch," undated
Folder 14	Manuscript monologue: "Tomorrow at Ten," undated
Folder 15	Manuscripts by other authors, undated
Folder 16	Miscellany, 1927, 1932, 1952
Folder 17	Playbills, 1890-1915
Folder 18	Professional recommendations and references, 1885 and undated
Folder 19	Published biographies of Belle Marshall Locke and G. Scott Locke, 1893, 1895, undated
Folder 20	Published plays and sketches, 1894-1908 and undated
Folder 21	Reviews, copied from newspapers, undated
Folder 22	Sketches; arranged by Belle Marshall Locke, undated
Folder 23	Unattributed manuscripts, undated
Folder 24	"Woman About Town" newspaper column by Belle Marshall Locke, copies, undated

Published Material:

Baker's A. B. C. Leaflets, "One of Job's Comforters" by Belle Marshall Locke, undated
Belle Marshall Locke's Original Monologues and Sketches, 1903 [two editions]

Breezy Point: A Comedy in Three Acts for Female Characts Only by Belle Marshall Locke, from "Baker's Edition of Plays," 1898
The Great Catastrophe: A Comedy in Two Acts by Belle Marshall Locke, 1904
Humorous Monologues and Dramatic Scenes by Belle Marshall Locke and others, 1907
Marie's Secret: A Duologue in One Scene by Belle Marshall Locke, from "Baker's Edition of Plays," 1894
Miss Fearless and Co.: A Comedy in Three Acts for Female Characters Only by Belle Marshall Locke, from "Baker's Edition of Plays," 1905
Mr. Easyman's Niece: A Comedy in Four Acts by Belle Marshall Locke, from "Baker's Edition of Plays," 1908
New Hampshire Magazine, 1905 February

This list is not exhaustive.

Separated Materials:

The following item was moved to the library:

Life, Trial, and Confession of Frank C. Almy, call number: 920 A452

Subject Terms

People:

Hanscom, Beatrice

Locke, Belle Marshall, 1853-1933

Organizations:

New England Conservatory of Music

Concord Monitor

Subjects:

Autograph albums

Correspondence

Drama

Employment references

Newspapers

Playbills

Poetry

Programs

Theater

Women

Locations:

Concord, NH

Hanover, NH

Occupations:

Actors

Authors

Teachers