

Collection Summary

ID Number: MSS 098

Title: Kate Douglas Wiggin Collection

Extent: 1 Box

Span Dates: 1890s – 1910s

Language: English

Geographic Location: Maine

Abstract: The Kate Douglas Wiggin Collection consists of correspondences, notes, and other items about the novel *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* in Hollis, ME from 1890 to 1915.

Historical Notes: Kate Douglas Wiggin (nee Smith) was born on September 28, 1856 in Philadelphia, and attended multiple schools in Pennsylvania, Maine, Maryland, and Massachusetts. Wiggin and her family moved to Santa Barbara, CA in 1873, where the 1877 death of her stepfather left the family in dire straits. To help support them, she trained to be a kindergarten teacher, eventually going to San Francisco in 1878 to direct the kindergarten program at Silver Street Kindergarten. She crusaded for providing free kindergarten for poor children and other philanthropic works. In her leisure time, Wiggin wrote children's books like *The Story of Patsy* (1883), *The Birds' Christmas Carol* (1887), and *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1910). She was married to her first husband, Samuel, until his death in 1889; in 1895 she married her second husband, George C. Riggs. Wiggin passed away on August 24, 1923, in Harrow, England.

- **Sources:** Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library: Evansville Historical Newspapers; [Encyclopedia Britannica: Kate Douglas Wiggin](#)

Selected Search Terms

Keywords: Authors; American History

Related Materials: Arts and Entertainment; History; Publications; Related Materials -- 1851-1900; Related Materials -- 1901-1950; Special Collections

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Correspondences and Notes	1890-1915	Box 1, Folder 1	RL 3027