

GAFNEY LIBRARY

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: November 7, 2021

Contact: Berrie Donovan, 603.522.3401/beryl.donovan@gafneylibrary.org

Subject: Local Author book release

Wakefield – Brookfield resident Martha Atwood Pike has recently released a book of letters written between her relative Christine Peters who lived in Burlington, Vermont and her love Frank Peters of Los Angeles, California during the period of 1903-1909. The backstory of these letters comprising the book *If You Talk of Love to Me* makes it a fascinating read for its romantic as well as historical value.

Christine wrote to her newly discovered cousin Frank Peters of Los Angeles, California, after the death of her father, Walter E. Peters of Lacolle, Quebec. She hoped to bring Frank and his parents back into touch with her scattering family. A bookkeeper for the Horatio Hickok Lumber Company, and the youngest of nine siblings, she was now helping to support her ailing mother and younger brothers, who had joined her in Burlington. An early feminist, she sought a career, friendship, and independence, not marriage.

The letters are historic in nature and vividly describe the social and cultural life in Burlington, office banter, and national events. She and Frank, an 1897 graduate of the University of Southern California employed by the Los Angeles County Law Library, compare views on books, plays, flowers, politics, and life in Los Angeles and Burlington. Her letters are humorous, thoughtful, informative, and poignant. A startling love story unfolds, constrained by the manners and customs of New England.

Pike explains, "Growing up my mother always tried to get my sister and me to read these letters that were gathered together in original handwriting and poorly bound, with words wrapped in the binding so they were difficult to read. Over the past few years, I've taken on the challenge of transcribing the letters to present them in *If You Talk of Love to Me*."

The original letters are preserved in the Silver Special Collections Library at UVM under the title *Cumulative Evidence*. Pike's book provides prologue, introduction, epilogue, notes, chronology, genealogy, sources, index, and 180 historic images, including photos and archival post cards in 604 pages.

The book (ISBN 9781737371908) is available in paperback and Kindle on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

It is hoped that a fitting book launch will take place at the Gafney Library in Sanbornville when the new library addition is completed Spring 2022.

####