

Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1994

MCC-00028

Prepared by

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Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Fort Kent, Maine

Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1994 (MCC-00028)

Shelf List Number: UF-0003; SF-0003 (1 master, 1 negative copy located in storage area of the archives); M28; OM28

Collection Overview

Creator

Audibert, Joseph, 1820-1857;
Audibert family

Dates

1842-1994

Extent

1 roll microfilm, 5 folders (.25 cubic feet)

Provenance

Material was acquired from Lawrence Audibert, 1993. Supplementary materials were added by Archives staff.

In 1993, the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes received permission from Lawrence Audibert to borrow the journal and papers to create a microfilm edition, which was produced by Micrographic Systems of Connecticut.

Language

English
French

Conservation Notes

Microfilm has been digitized and available upon request.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: Digitized version of the microfilm is available upon request to Archives staff.

Rights Statement

Copyright has not been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes.

Recommended Citation

Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1994 (MCC-00028). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse was born in September 1820, the son of Joseph Audibert and Marguerite Breton of St-Jean parish on the Ile d' Orleans, Quebec. Of his early life little is known as yet, and it is as yet unclear just when or why he came to the United States.

Audibert enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Sullivan in Eastport, Maine in January 1842. Military records describe him as a dark-complexioned 22-year old standing five feet, five inches, with hazel eyes and black hair, an occupation sailor. The most striking element of his enlistment records is Audibert's claim to be a French national, a charade he would maintain officially for at least the next eight years.¹

According to his journal, Audibert was stationed at Fort Kent, Maine from 6 April 1843 to 12 September 1845. He served as an artificer in various eastern army sites including Tampa Bay and Fort Pickens (Pensacola, Florida) where he completed his military service in January 1847. He traveled northward, purchasing along the way with new clothes, a set of carpenter's tools, and a number of articles of women's finery. Audibert arrived in the Fort Kent region on 20 November 1847; four days later, in the parish of Ste-Luce (Frenchville, Maine), he married Marguerite Martin, daughter of Chrysostome Martin and Marie Luce Cyr.

The couple acquired land in St-Luce parish (T18R6). The 1850 federal census lists Joseph and his wife as residents of Hancock Plantation (are of present town of Fort Kent and plantations of New Canada, St. Francis, St. John and Wallagrass), parents of a two year-old son, and lists his occupation as carpenter. Family correspondence suggests that the couple spent several months in the Portland, Maine area in 1852 for unknown reasons, but seem to have returned to Ste-Luce shortly thereafter.

Joseph and Marguerite Audibert had eight children in their nine years of marriage. Family correspondence suggests that the couple maintained warm relations with MarieLuce's family as well as with Joseph's three sisters in Quebec City. Joseph Audibert died at the age of 37 on 26 October 1857. His widow remarried nine years later to Joseph Vital Marquis.

Scope and Content

This collection primarily consists of a microfilm edition of a small journal, dating from 1842, into which have been inserted several letters and other papers created or collected by Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse (1820-1857) and his heirs.

This collection also includes five folders of related manuscript materials compiled by Archives staff, comprising Audibert family property transfer records, Joseph Audibert's U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy edition of the Audibert journal and papers, and a "photo-flow" copy of the microfilm of the same.

¹The biographical note prepared by Archives staff which appears as a target on the microfilm lists Audibert's birthplace as France. At the time, the only available records of Audibert's birthplace were his military records and the 1851 census, in both cases, Audibert claimed French nationality. Subsequent genealogical research by historian Beatrice Craig revealed that Audibert was born and raised in Quebec.

Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse was the original creator of the journal, which he began in January 1842. His firstborn child Joseph L. Audibert apparently inherited the journal, and he added his own entries in the 1880s. This collection also contains a number of unbound papers which were inserted in the back of the Audibert journal. With the exception of a newspaper clipping, these papers were created by Joseph Audibert, his son, his relatives, or tradesmen with whom the Audibert family did business.

Journal entries include history of travels, accounts, “marriage remembrances,” birth records, contracts, lists of correspondents and letters received miscellaneous notes and calculations. Papers contain family correspondence, a petition, a plantation notice, a newspaper clipping, business accounts, and miscellaneous notes. Most journal entries and papers were created between 1842 and 1855; a smaller number were created in the 1880s and early 1890s; a few date from the early 1900s.

Additional materials compiled by Archives staff consist of copies of Audibert family property transfer deeds recorded at the Northern Aroostook Registry of Deeds, Joseph Audibert’s U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy of the Audibert journal and papers, and a “photo-flow” copy of the microfilm edition of the same.

The Joseph Audibert Journal and papers provide unique information about the economic and social history of the upper St. John Valley in the mid-nineteenth century. The journal and family correspondence are of particular interest because first-hand written accounts of personal and family life in the upper St. John Valley during this period are few and far between.

Arrangement

This collection is divided into 2 series. Series I: Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842- 1915; Series II: Supplementary materials collected by Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, 1842-1994.

The first series contains a microfilm edition of a small journal, dating from 1842, into which have been inserted several letters and other papers created or collected by Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse (1820-1857) and his heirs. Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse was the original creator of the journal, which he began in January 1842. His firstborn child Joseph L. Audibert apparently inherited the journal, and he added his own entries in the 1880s. This collection also contains a number of unbound papers which were inserted in the back of the Audibert journal. With the exception of a newspaper clipping, these papers were created by Joseph Audibert, his son, his relatives, or tradesmen with whom the Audibert family did business. This series is arranged in its original order on the microfilm roll.

Series II includes five folders of related manuscript materials compiled by Archives staff, comprising Audibert family property transfer records, Joseph Audibert’s U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy edition of the Audibert journal and papers, and a “photo-flow” copy of the microfilm of the same.

The following page remarks pertain to the microfilmed journal:

PAGE	REMARKS
Front fly	pencil and brown ink
(5 unpaginated pages,	black or brown ink)
8-60	handwritten, ink, some cut pages
61-62	missing
63-65	loose
66	loose and blank (except for page number)
67-68	missing
69-70	blank (except for page numbers)
71-72	missing
73	blank (except for page number)
74	brown ink
75-76	missing
77	calculations
78	pencil
79	pencil and ink
80	pencil
81-84	missing, cut out
85-88	missing
89-90	loosely inserted
91-92	missing
93-97	pencil
98-99	pencil and brown ink
100-104	missing
105-108	black ink
109-110	missing
111	black ink
112-113	blank
114	pencil
115-140	missing
141	pencil
142	pencil and brown ink
143-144	brown ink
145	brown and blue ink
146-148	brown ink
Back fly	brown ink

Location of originals

Original materials in the possession of Lawrence Audibert and family as of 1995.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Account books

Aroostook County (Me.)

Audibert, Charlotte (Person)
 Audibert, Elisabeth, ?-1915 (Person)
 Audibert, Joseph, 1820-1857 (Person)
 Audibert, Joseph L., 1848- (Person)
 Audibert, Marie (Person)
 Audibert, Regis (Person)
 Business records
 B.W. Mallet and Co. (Fort Kent, Me.) (Organization)
 Deeds
 Family papers
 Fort Kent (Me.)--History
 Frenchville (Me.)
 Genealogy
 Hamel, Jacques (Person)
 Journals
 Ledgers (accounting)
 Letters (correspondence)
 Martin, Marie Luce (Person)
 Martin, Thomas (Person)
 Pinette, Edouar (Person)
 Saint John River Valley (Me. and N.B.)
 United States Army--Records and correspondence

Related Materials

Not applicable

Collection Inventory

Roll item	Description	Date(s)
Series I: Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1915.		
1	Journal: Bound notebook 19.5 x 16.5 cm, green faux marble cover with a red spine and printed cover title: "Joseph Audibert/1846," 96 pages plus front and back flyleaves.	1846
2	Petition of Joseph Audibert and alias to members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives for the State of Maine, dated march 1851. 1 sheet 31.5 x 40.4 cm lined cream paper, folder in half Handwritten in brown ink. Side one: left half (sideways) "Petition", right half "to the Honorable/the/members of the Senate..." Side two: left half continues petition, right half blank.	1851
3	Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed by Thomas Martin. 1 sheet 30 x 38 cm cream paper folded into a letter/envelope. Handwritten in brown ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: left half contains address and postmarks, right half contains first page of letter. Side two: two pages of letter.	1852-07-25

- 4 Letters to Joseph Audibert, signed Marie Luce Martin, Jacques Hamel, 1852-08-07
and Thomas Martin. 1 sheet 30 x 38 cm lined cream paper folded into a letter/
envelope. Handwritten in brown ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: left half
contains address and postmarks, the right half contains the first page of a letter
from Marie Luce Martin. Side two: contains two pages completing a letter from
Marie Luce Martin and containing letters from Jacques Hamel and Thomas Martin.
- 5 Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed Charlotte, Marie, and Elisabeth Audibert 1852-12-24
dites Lajeunesse. 1 sheet 21 x 37.5 cm cream paper folded into letter/envelope.
Handwritten in black ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: one half contains
text of letter, other half contains address and postmarks. Side two: (blank).
- 6 Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed Charlotte, Marie, and Elisabeth Audibert 1854-10-29;
dites Lajeunesse; letter to "Monsieur," signed Ch. Beaupre, no date. 1 sheet undated
20.5 x 38 cm cream paper, folded. Handwritten in brown ink. Side one: left
half blank, right half letter dated 29 October 1854. Side two: left half continues
letter of 29 October 1854, right half "Monsieur."
- 7 Plantation notice to legal voters of Hancock Plantation; rough draft of a 1855-03-20;
letter, signed Regis Audibert, dated 20 March 1872. 1 sheet 24.5 x 19.5cm 1872-03-20
blue paper with very faint blue lines. Side one: "Plantation Notice." Handwritten
in black ink. Side two: rough draft of a letter. Handwritten in brown ink.
- 8 Account for Edouar Pinette, signed Joseph Audibert. 1 sheet 6.5 x 19 cm 1855-11-13
cream paper. Hand written in brown ink. Side one: receipt. Side two: (blank,
not filmed).
- 9 Ledger of purchases and credits from B.W Mallett & Co. by J. L. Audibert. 1888-1892
1 sheet 35 x 42 cm ledger paper, folded in half. Handwritten in black ink.
Side one: "B. W. Mallett & Co." Left half blank; right half account of purchases.
Side two: "Credit: Left half continuation of purchases; right half lists of credits.
- 10 Newspaper clipping about weather predictions for Maine, undated, but text Undated
suggests December 1903. 1 newspaper clipping 3.5 x 15 cm. Side one: "La
TEMPERATURE DU ME." Side two: fragments of newspaper articles (not filmed).
- 11 Receipt for funeral expenses for Elizabeth Audibert. 1 sheet 17 x 21.5 cm 1915-04-09
cream paper. Printed receipt form with handwritten black ink. Side one:
receipt. Side two: (blank, not filmed).
- 12 Address (no name, no date). 1 torn sheet. 7.5 x 9.5 cm cream paper, lined. Undated
Handwritten in black ink. Side one: address. Side two: (blank, not filmed).

**Series II: Supplementary materials collected by Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes,
1842-1994**

Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	Transfer of property deeds for Joseph Audibert and heirs.	1850-1878
2	U.S. Army enlistment record for Joseph Audibert.	1842-1847
3	Genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig.	1994
4	Photocopy edition of Joseph Audibert family journal and papers.	1842-1915
5	Photo-flow copy of microfilm edition of Joseph Audibert family journal and papers.	1842-1915