Madawaska Training School collection
(MCC-00501)

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: 0.47 ft

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Updated by Madeline Soucie, May 2023
Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

Madawaska Training School collection (MCC-00501)

Shelf List Number: UP-501

Collection Overview

Creator

Unknown

Dates

Circa 1868-1934

Extent

1 box, 1 folder (0.47 cubic feet)

Provenance

Unknown
The graduation photograph of women from the MTS that is numbered was donated Parise M. Ouellette

Language

English

Conservation Notes

All the framed photographs were left in their frames.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

No restrictions

Physical:

No restrictions

Technical:

No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Biographical Information

William Dickey (1810-1899)

William Dickey (1810-1899) was born in Damariscotta, Maine on January 26, 1810 to John Dickey and Margaret Jones. He worked his way through Farmington Academy; taught in Wilton, Maine; worked in a store in Strong, Maine; in 1832 went in business for himself; was elected captain of the Strong Light Infantry; was promoted by Governor Dunlap to brigade major of the Second Brigade, Eight Division and was known as Major Dickey from then on. He served as postmaster of Strong, deputy sheriff and coroner, and was elected as representative to the legislature in 1841. He was considered “the promptest and most generous man in recognizing the new rights of the Acadian and Canadian settlers of river St. John on the American side.” As a true public servant, Major Dickey embarked on a legislative career to bring roads, bridges, schools, and his crowning achievement, a normal school to the Madawaska Territory. For over 30 years he has been the representative of Fort Kent in the legislature and for over 40 years he has been the friend, the counselor, the protector, the father of the people of Madawaska.[1] Major Dickey is buried in Christ Congregational Church Cemetery in Fort Kent, Maine.

Vetal Cyr (1846 – 1897)

Vetal Cyr (1846 – 1897) Mr. Cyr was the son of Salomon Cyr and Olive Michaud from the St. John Valley, Maine. He was a graduate of Houlton Academy and the State College in Orono in the class of 1876. Mr. Cyr was the first principal of the Madawaska Training School from 1878 to 1897 and served as town superintendent of common

[1] *The University of Maine at Fort Kent: A Century and a Quarter of Progress.* The University of Maine at Fort Kent. 2004. Published by the University of Maine at Fort Kent Alumni Association and the 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

schools. When Mr. Cyr passed away on September 22, 1897, it was said that the MTS had lost a “Principal and a teacher of the highest distinction.” Mr. Cyr was believed to be cheerful, kind, cordial, wise, and efficient. It is mentioned that Mr. Cyr was “the most painstaking and efficient members of the teaching profession and a man who had not only a broad interest in education in general, but a deep interest in the welfare of each individual student who came under his care.”

Mary P. Nowland (1853-1932)

Mary P. Nowland (1853-1932) was the Madawaska Training School second principal from 1897 to 1926. Mary Nowland was born on November 23, 1853 in Hodgdon, Maine, the daughter of James Nowland and Helen Parker. She died in 1932 and is buried in the Ashland Municipal Cemetery.

Historical information:

The Madawaska Training School was established February 21, 1878 by the Maine Legislature "for the purpose of training persons to teach in the common schools of the [Madawaska] territory." Originally the school year was split between separate locations at Fort Kent and Van Buren (1879-1883) or Fort Kent and Grand Isle (1884-1887), but in 1888 the Legislature established a year-round facility at Fort Kent. Once the school was permanently located at Fort Kent, it became necessary to provide lodging for students from other parts of the Saint John Valley. A boarding house "convenient in arrangements and sufficiently commodious for the accommodation of forty to fifty students" opened in 1893. Those staying at the boarding house paid no rent, but "they did have to bear their proportionate share of HEATING, LIGHTING, and supplying their home with water, an equivalent $1.50 per month" (Grindle, Roger. The University of Maine at Fort Kent: A century of progress, p. 30).

Scope and Content

This collection consists of seven framed photographs; three copies of photographs, without frames; 1 original photograph; a document regarding general regulations for the Madawaska Training School Boarding House; and two diplomas awarded to students who completed their coursework. The photographs are of individuals or groups of individuals representing some of the Madawaska Training School’s staff, students, and alumni. Two of the framed photographs also depict buildings on campus. This collection is part of the Acadian Archives permanent collections.

Arrangement

This collection is broken down into three series: series I: Looseleaf photographs; series II: Framed photographs; and series III: Framed diplomas.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Acadians--Maine--History
Diplomas
Fort Kent (Me.)--History
Madawaska Training School--Fort Kent (Me)
Photographs
Saint John River Valley (Me. and N.B.)
Teacher educators
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Universities and colleges

Related Materials

MCC-00183: Madawaska Training School Account Books, 1897-1927

Collection Inventory

Series I: Looseleaf photographs

Box	Photo	Description	Date
1	1	Copy of photograph of staff at Madawaska Training School: Front row L to R: Tom Henderson, Elisabeth Bellefleur, unknown, (seated on the floor) unknown. Second row: Vital Beaulieu, Unknown Wheelock, Vital Cyr, Mary Nowland, Raymond Albert. Third row: Unknown, Lex Robbins, Michel Ouellette, Jos Cyr, Ozithé Pelletier, Fred Theriault. B&W. 10.75 x 8.25 inches	c. 1897
1	2	Main classroom inside Cyr Hall. Copy of a photograph. B&W. 10.75 x 8.25inches.	c. 1890
1	3	General Regulations for the Boarding House at the Madawaska Training School. (Gift of Yvonne Garceau written on the back) Document 5 x 8 inches.	Undated
1	4	Decal for Fort Kent State Teachers College. Decal measures 3.25 inches in diameter. Gold and green.	c. 1960s

Box	Photo	Description	Date
1	5	Image of a graduating class from the MTS with numbers written over each woman and a list of names on the backside. 1 Delphine Daigle; 2 Hedwidge Bourgoin; 3 Marie Bourgoin; 4 Marie Anderson; 5 Maggie Bell; 6 [-] Currier; 7 Clara Cooper; 8 [Erinia] Daigle; 9 June Nadeau; 10 Georgia Sinclair.	Undated

Series II: Framed photographs

Photo	Description	Date
1	Major William Dickey, (white hair and long white beard), in a brown wooden frame with dark green matting. Black and white photo within the matting measures 4.75.x 6.75 inches. On the reverse side of the frame, on brown paper is written “Major Dickey, representative to the State Legislature, was “responsible” for every piece of legislation affecting this school from 1878 to 1897”.	c.1868
2	Vetal Cyr in black and gold metal frame with black plastic backing. Black and white photo within the frame measures 4.5 x 6.5 inches.	c.1880
3	Mary P. Nowland in black and gold metal frame with black plastic backing. Black and white photo within the frame measures 4.5 x 6.5 inches.	c.1897
4	View from Pleasant Street of Model School constructed as a 2 room building in 1909; the old Noland Hall, built as dormitory in 1893, burned down in 1955; and the old Cyr hall was constructed in 1895 and served as an academic building until 1959 when it was demolished. The photo is in a light brown frame with green matting. The black and white photo within the matting measures 9.75 x 7.75 inches and with the frame measures 14.5 x 11.5 inches.	1909

Photo	Description	Date
5	Graduating class of 1917 (names were taken from page 33 of A Century and a Quarter of Progress and are not in order as they appear on the photo): Edithe M. Bouchard, T. E. Bardbury, Florence E. Cote, Euphémie A. Cyr, Charles Alphee Cyr, Isaïe Cyr, Hedwidge A. Dumais, Marguerite M. Farrell, Verna H. Hafford, Adeline B. Harvey, Anabelle M. L'Abbé, Rosa A. Lapointe, Denis Lausier, Ernestine E. Lausier, Bernice C. Levesque, Fançoise J. Martin, Isabelle Martin, Alvia A. Michaud, Zenas R. Michaud, Eva M. Mills, Henry E. Ouellette, Amanda Paradis, Pauline M. Pelletier, Gertrude I. Pinette, Gertrude P. Saucier, Alfred D. Soucy. There are 27 people in the photo but 28 names are mentioned in the list of the same book on page 135 Annie Connors and James Hoyt are not mentioned on page 33 This photo is in a dark brown wood frame with green matting. The black and white photo within the matting measures 9.75 x 8.75 inches and measurement with the frame is 15.5 x 12.5 inches.	1917
6	Madawaska Training School faculty: Front: Helen Hance, Sarah Doone McAnay, Richard Crocker, Emily Bernher Douglas, Gladys Sylvester. Back: Angeline (Morneault) Michaud, M. Antoinette Page, David Garceau, Irene Benn, James Nowland, Belle Downes, Eva Daigle. This photo is in a dark brown wood frame with green matting. The black and white photo within the matting measures 9.5 x 7.75 inches and with the frame it measures 15.5 x 12.5 inches.	1917
7	Madawaska Training School 1934 Men's Basketball Team: # 22 Louis 1934 Bourgoin; # 55 Jack (John) Kirk; # 75 Raoul Bourgoin; # 11 Vernon Kent; # 77 Albert Canaan; # 44 Vin Marquis; # 15 ? Picard; # 17 [-] Soucy; # 25 [-] Larson; # 33 Don Collins; # 23 Pete Dufour; # 50 Dick Crocker; Coach Jim Hoyt. The black and white photo is in a dark brown wood frame and measures 8.5 x 6.5 inches.	1928-1929

Series III: Framed diplomas

Item	Description	Date
1	Framed diploma from the Madawaska Training School awarded to Nathaniel B. Savage and signed by Principal Vetal Cyr.	1894-05-02

Item	Description	Date
2	Framed diploma from the Madawaska Training School awarded to Emile J. Bourgoin and signed by Principal Mary P. Nowland.	1918-06-01