

**National Archives of Canada collection of Prudent L. Mercure papers  
MCC-00134**

**Finding Aid**

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**July 1, 2003**

**Revised by Anne Chamberland 10 June 2008**

**National Archives of Canada collection of Prudent L. Mercure papers**

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Collection Title:** National Archives of Canada collection of Prudent L. Mercure papers

**Citation:** National Archives of Canada collection of Prudent L. Mercure papers; MCC-00134, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

**Accession Number:** MCC:92-00134

**Shelf List Numbers:** F97-98

**Provenance;Chain of Custody:**

One of two known manuscript collections created by Prudent L. Mercure sometime between the 1890's and 1913. Donated by the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa. (See also MCC:00135)

Some mystery surrounds the chain of custody for this collection. Mercure offered to sell three volumes of his notes to the Dominion Archives. Whether or not this sale took place cannot be determined on the basis of available documentation, but it is clear that 17 volumes of Mercure's manuscripts as well as a small number of his unbound papers eventually were deposited at the Dominion Archives.

**Date Range:** 1890-1913

**Physical Characteristics/Condition:** 2 rolls of 35mm microfilm containing microfilm edition of documents, transcriptions of primary source materials, and notes relating to the history of the Madawaska Settlement region.

**Access:** There are no restrictions on this collection.

**Scope and content note:**

Microfilm edition of documents, transcriptions of primary source materials, and notes relating to the history of the Madawaska Settlement, created and / or compiled by Prudent L. Mercure circa 1890-1913 and deposited at the National Archives of Canada. Subject matter includes first families history and genealogy, early land grants, religious and parish histories, the Northeast Boundary conflict, and native Americans.

**Biography:** Prudent L. Mercure was born in Saint-Basile, New Brunswick 20 February 1873, son of Joseph P. Mercure and Sophie (à Régis) Cyr. Mercure descended from two of the oldest Acadian families in the Madawaska settlement.

After graduating from the local district school, Mercure completed his studies at the Saint-Joseph de Memramcook College in southeastern New Brunswick. He

then worked as a school teacher in Ste-Anne, Saint-Léonard, and Baker-Brook, N.B.. Deeply interested in history, Mercure championed the Acadian cause in his community, lecturing on regional history, writing articles, and communicating with regional historians such as W. O. Raymond and Placide Gaudet. In 1895, Mercure decided to write a history of the Madawaska settlement. His research led him to communicate with the Dominion Archives (known today as the National Archives of Canada) in Ottawa.

By 1902, Mercure had moved to Ottawa where he worked as a postal employee for the House of Commons. In 1906 he became a clerk at the Dominion Archives. He married Rose-Eva Hudon in 1910 and transferred to the department of the Secretary of State in 1912. He died of peritonitis on 24 June 1913.

***Order and Arrangement:*** 2 rolls of 35 mm microfilm.

Revised by Anne Chamberland, 10 June 2008 from notes compiled by Lisa Ornstein