

**Darrell McBreairty collection on John Stadig, 1800-2005**

**MCC-00191**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Kathryn Donahue, February 2009  
Revised by Anne Chamberland, April 2009  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** Darrell McBreairty collection on John Stadig

**Creator/Collector:** McBreairty, Darrell, 1949-

**Collection number:** MCC-0191

**Shelf list number:** UM-191, AA-191, UA-191, AJ-191

**Dates:** 1800-2005

**Extent:** 1 box, 30 audiocassettes (1.0 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Material was acquired from Darrell McBreairty, date unknown.

**Language:** English.

**Conservation notes:** None.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** None.

**Technical restrictions:** An audiocassette player is required to access portions of this collection.

**Copyright:** 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

**Citation:** Darrell McBreairty collection on John Stadig, MCC-00191, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** Not applicable.

**Related materials:** MCC-00190 John M. Stadig: comprehensive inmate file; MCC-00192 John Millage Stadig collection; Darrell McBreairty, *Alcatraz Eel: The John Stadig Files* (HV6248.S83 M118 2005).

**Location of originals:** Darrell McBreairty has the originals as of April 27, 2009.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Darrell McBreairty, *Alcatraz Eel: The John Stadig Files* (Allagash, Me.: Darrell McBreairty, 2005).

***Biographical information:***

Darrell McBreairty was born on March 20, 1949, in Allagash, Maine, the son of Hope McBreairty. He is the author of numerous books, including *Alcatraz Eel: The John Stadig Files*, *Lamentation in Two Parts*, *The Passing of Martha O'Shea*, *Redemption*, *New York Nights*, *At Ant Ev's*, *Conversations with Ant Ev*, *Diaries*, and *Voices*. McBreairty is also a professional photographer. He lives in Allagash, Maine.

***Scope and content:***

This collection consists of oral interviews, transcripts, and other research materials collected and used by Darrell McBreairty for his publication, *Alcatraz Eel: The John Stadig Files*. Included in the collection are the audio recordings of the interviews, along with transcripts of most of the interviews; correspondence; images; research notes; a biographical sketch of John Stadig created by McBreairty; the Stadig genealogy given to McBreairty by Carl Larson; and newspaper clippings.

John Millege Stadig (1907-1936) was a St. John Valley resident. He escaped imprisonment multiple times between 1930 and 1936, before committing suicide in 1936.

McBreairty interviewed the following people: Merton Morrison; Ruth Walker; Colleen (O'Leary) Jackson McBreairty; Lowman McBreairty; John Connors; Robert O'Leary, Sr.; Elbert and Gladys (Pelletier) O'Leary; Phyllis (Morrison) McBreairty; Joseph Kelly; Laura (Jones) McBreairty; Eleanor (Sturgeon) Connors; Kathy (Kelly) Rioux; Leanna Rose (McBreairty) Connors; Pearl Morrison; Eva (McBreairty) Jackson; Susan (Sullivan) Bernier; Armand Bernier; Rachel Blair; Leonard McBreairty; and Guy Landry.

This collection is arranged into two series: interviews, 2000-2005, and research, 1800-2004. Series 1, interviews, is divided into two subseries: interview transcripts and interviews. Series 2, research, is divided into four subseries: correspondence, notes and other research materials, images, and newspaper clippings.

***Inventory:***

**Series 1: Interviews, 2000-2005**

**Subseries 1.1: Interview transcripts, 2000-2005**

Folder 1: Transcripts without corresponding audio recordings.

Item 1: Notes with Merton Morrison. May 13, 2000. 1 p.

Item 2: Notes with Ruth Walker. June 9, 2000. 1 p.

Item 3: Notes with Colleen (O'Leary) Jackson McBreairty. July 19, 2000. 1 p.

Item 4: Notes with Lowman McBreairty. February 4, 2002. 1 p.

- Folder 2: John Connors. June 25, 2000. 11 p.
- Folder 3: Robert O'Leary, Sr. June 28, 2000. 9 p.
- Folder 4: Elbert and Gladys (Pelletier) O'Leary. July 10, 2000. 14 p.
- Folder 5: Phyllis (Morrison) McBreairty. July 11, 2000. 17 p.
- Folder 6: Joseph Kelly. July 23, 2000. 11 p.
- Folder 7: Laura (Jones) McBreairty. July 26, 2000. 16 p.
- Folder 8: Eleanor (Sturgeon) Connors. August 3, 2000. 17 p.
- Folder 9: Kathy (Kelly) Rioux. August 3, 2000. 3 p.
- Folder 10: Leanna Rose (McBreairty) Connors. August 16, 2000. 2 p.
- Folder 11: Pearl Morrison, with Laura Jones McBreairty. August 17, 2000. 26 p.
- Folder 12: Eva (McBreairty) Jackson. April 3, 2002. 29 p.
- Folder 13: Susan (Sullivan) Bernier, Laura (Jones) McBreairty and Armand Bernier. Also includes Rachel Blair. July 10, 2003. 100 p.
- Folder 14: Guy Landry. January 15, 2005. 30 p.

**Subseries 1.2: Interviews, 2000-2005**

- Tape 1: Side A: John Connors, June 25, 2000  
Side B: Robert O'Leary, Sr., June 28, 2000. (with copy)
- Tape 2: Side A: Elbert and Gladys O'Leary, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000  
Side B: Elbert and Gladys O'Leary, July 9th, 2000. (with copy)
- Tape 3: Side A& B: Phyllis Morrison McBreairty, July 11, 2000. (with copy)
- Tape 4: Side A: Joseph Kelly, July 24, 2000.  
Side B: Laura Jones McBreairty, July 25, 2000. (copy)
- Tape 5: Side A: Eleanor (Sturgeon) Connors, August 3, 2000  
Side B: Kathy (Kelly) Rioux, August 3, 2000. (with copy)
- Tape 6: Side A: Leanna Rose McBreairty Connors, August 16, 2000. St. John, Maine (with gold CD copy)

Side B: Pearl Morrison, August 16, 2000. Madawaska, Maine

- Tape 7: Side A: Pearl Morrison with Laura Jones McBreairty Jones, August 17, 2000. (with copy)  
Side B: blank
- Tape 8 Side A: Eva McBreairty Jackson, April 3, 2002. (with copy)  
Side B: Eva McBreairty Jackson, April 3, 2002
- Tape 9 Side A: Eva McBreairty Jackson, April 3, 2002  
Side B: Blank
- Tape 10: Side A: Carl Burton McBreairty, October 18, 2002. (with copy)  
Side B: (cont.) Carl Burton McBreairty, October 18, 2002
- Tape 11: Side A: Susan Sullivan Bernier (wife of Roméo Bernier), Laura Jones McBreairty, Armand Bernier, Rachel Blair, Connors, N. B., July 10, 2003. (with copy)  
Side B: Susan Sullivan Bernier (continued)
- Tape 12: Side A: Phoebe Oakes Long, September 8, 2003, Baker Lake, N.B. (with copy)  
Side B: Phoebe Oakes Long and Edgar Long, Sept. 8, 2003, Baker Lake, N.B.
- Tape 13 Side A: Phoebe Oakes Long and Edgar Long, September 8, 2003, Baker Lake, N.B.  
Side B: Blank
- Tape 14: Side A: Leonard McBreairty. October 31, 2002, Allagash, ME. (with copy)  
Side B: Leonard McBreairty. October 31, 2002, Allagash, ME.
- Tape 15: Side A & B: Guy Landry, January 14, 2005, Fort Kent, Maine (with copy)

**Series 2: Research, 1800-2004**

**Subseries 2.1: Correspondence, 1800-2002**

Folder 15: Correspondence, 1800-2002

- Item 1: Carrie McLellan to Iona (Flippin). Woodland, Me., March 24, 1800. Letter written from McLellan to her niece thanking her for the Christmas card and discussing the weather and family. 2 p. Photocopy.

- Item 2: Catherine Sylvia, InfoEdge, to Darrell McBreairty. San Jose, California, July 5, 2002. Responding to request for information on John Millege Stadig and providing copies of articles found in the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- Item 3: Darrell McBreairty to Whom it May Concern. Allagash, Me., September 24, 2002. Letter attempting to locate a copy of a manuscript written by Stadig.

**Subseries 2.2: Notes and other research materials, 2004, undated**

- Folder 16: Research notes from internet sources. 3 items.
- Folder 17: Biographical sketch of John Stadig, compiled by Darrell McBreairty. 2 p.
- Folder 18: Stadig Genealogy. Sent to Darrell McBreairty by Carl Larson, April 27, 2004. 233 p. Photocopy.

**Subseries 2.3: Images, 1976-2000, undated**

- Folder 19: Photographs.
- Item 1: N. Lawrence Stadig grave stone. Cong. cem., St. Francis, Me. June 20, 2000.
- Item 2: Olof and Ella's grave stone. Cong. cem., St. Francis, Me. June 20, 2000.
- Items 3-5: Olaf Stadig house. July 6, 2000.
- Item 6: Toward mouth, St. Francis. July 6, 2000.
- Items 7-8: Gravesite of John L. Stadig, 1868-1944, and Martha Sodergren, 1876-1951. Connors, N.B. Photo by Darrell McBreairty, August 19, 2000. 2 copies.
- Items 9-10: Close-up of graveside of John L. Stadig and Martha Sodergren, 1876-1951. Photo by Darrell McBreairty, August 19, 2000. 2 copies.
- Items 11-12: Connors Memorial Church. Connor, N.B. Photo by Darrell McBreairty, August 19, 2000.
- Item 13: Caroline "Carrie" (Jones) Stadig McLellan (April 24, 1871-August 13, 1950). From Darrell McBreairty collection, given to Darrell

McBreairty by Laura (Jones) McBreairty. Undated. Photograph of a painting.

Folder 20: Photocopies of images

Items 1-6: Jones-Stadig House. Connors, N.B., ca. 1976. Photo by Darrell McBreairty.

**Subseries 2.4: Newspaper clippings, 1931-1936**

Folder 21: *Aroostook County Examiner*. 1 item

Item 1: Undated. "County Reflections."

Folder 21: *Aroostook Republican*. 1 item.

Item 1: Undated. "O.L. Stadig, Lumber Pioneer, Dies at St. Francis."

Folder 22: *Chicago Daily Tribune*. 3 items.

Items 1-3: November 1, 1933. "Two U.S. prisoners flee patrol wagon with aid of woman;" "Two federal prisoners flee patrol wagon on the way to jail;" "Two Federal prisoners flee patrol wagon on the way to jail."

Folder 23: *Las Vegas Evening Review Journal*. 11 items.

Item 1: November 30, 1931. "Counterfeiting ring here smashed."

Item 2: February 10, 1932. "Second counterfeit ring smashed."

Item 3-5: February 12, 1932. "Counterfeit case set for February 18 (2 copies);" Untitled.

Item 6: February 15, 1932. "2 plead guilty to counterfeit count."

Item 7: February 29, 1932. "Counterfeit case on deck tomorrow."

Item 8: March 22, 1932. "Warden sees full house at prison."

Item 9: June 7, 1932. "Prison population in Nevada drops."

Item 10: November 16, 1932. "'Queer' 20 dollar bills passed here."

Item 11: December 2, 1932. "Coiners' face U.S. grand jury."

Folder 24: *Morning Oregonian, Sunday Oregonian.* 3 items.

Item 1: January 2, 1934. "Third suspect held as counterfeiter."

Item 2: September 12, 1934. "Prisoner's vow to escape kept."

Item 3: December 16, 1934. "Stadig returned to island cell."

Folder 25: *Oregon Journal.* 1 item.

Item 1: September 25, 1936. "Coiner known here severs throat, dies."

Folder 6: *San Francisco Chronicle.* 17 items.

Item 1-3: January 1, 1934. "Counterfeit ring chief caught here;" "He made money-all bad;" "S.F. police nab accused bogus money maker."

Item 4: January 13, 1934. "Counterfeit bill suspect jailed."

Item 5: March 28, 1934. "Felon's escape tries foiled."

Item 6-7: April 14, 1934. S.F. Convict flees prison, pal wounded;" "Escaped Federal prisoner captured."

Item 8: April 15, 1934. "Escaped Federal prisoner captured."

Item 9: December 8, 1934. "Alcatraz prisoner escapes from guard near Richmond."

Item 10-12: December 9, 1934. "Blood nail clue to Stadig's fate (2 copies);" "Concord posse seizes fleeing Alcatraz felon."

Item 13: December 10, 1934. "Contra Costa posse trailing Alcatraz felon."

Item 14: December 11, 1934. "Farmer feeds fleeing felon."

Item 15-16: December 12, 1934. "Bay police give up Stadig chase" (2 copies).

Item 17: December 16, 1934. "Alcatraz short of frills, cream puffs, convict tells."

Folder 7: *San Francisco Examiner.* 7 items.

Item 1: January 1, 1934. "College-bred counterfeiter captured here."



- Item 2: April 14, 1934. "2 McNeil Island prisoners smash gates with truck."
- Item 3: December 8, 1934. "Alcatraz 'Bad Man' escapes at Richmond."
- Item 4: December 10, 1934. "Fugitive from Alcatraz seen at farm house."
- Item 5: December 15, 1934. "Alcatraz bad man caught."
- Item 6: December 15, 1934. "Alcatraz 'hell-hole.'"
- Item 7: December 16, 1934. "Stadig back in Alcatraz: fears dungeon."
- Folder 8: *Seattle Post Intelligencer*. 9 items.
- Item 1: April 14, 1934. "Convict shot, one escapes in M'Neil break."
- Item 2: April 15, 1934. "Convict who fled, caught."
- Item 3-6: April 14, 1934. "Convict shot, one escapes in M'Neil break;"  
""Convict shot in M'Neil Break;" "Convict who fled, caught;"  
"One gets away through rain of guards' fire."
- Item 7: Undated. "One gets away through rain of guards' fire."
- Folder 9: Unidentified newspapers. 1 item.
- Item 1: "Alcatraz Eel," by Edmond Van Tyne.

## Appendix A: Interviews

Interviewee and date	Permission form avail.	Transcript pages	Interview tape number
John Connors. 6/25/2000	X	23-33	1
Robert O'Leary. 6/28/2000	X	34-42	1
Elbert O'Leary. 7/10/2000	X	9-22	2
Gladys Pelletier O'Leary. 7/10/2000	X	9-22	2
Phyllis Morrison McBairty. 7/11/2000	X	17 p. (no #s)	3
Joseph Kelly. 7/23/2000	X	11 p. (no #s)	4
Laura Jones McBairty. 7/26/2000	X	72-87	4
Eleanor Sturgeon Connors. 8/3/2000	X	88-104	5
Kathy Kelly Rioux. 8/3/2000	X	105-107	5
Leanna Rose McBairty Connors. 8/16/2000	X	7-8	6
Laura Jones McBairty. 8/17/2000	X	121-133	7
Pearl Morrison. 8/17/2000	X	108-133	7

Eva McBairty Jackson. 4/3/2002		134-162	8-9
Carl Burton McBairty. 10/18/2002	X		10
Armand Bernier. 7/10/2003	X	100.	11
Rachel Blair. 7/10/2003		100 p.	11
Susan Sullivan Bernier. 7/10/2003	X	100 p.	11
Laura Jones McBairty. 7/10/2003	X	100 p.	11
Phoebe Oakes Long. 9/8/2003			12-13
Edgar Long. 9/8/2003			12-13
Guy Landry. 1.15.2005		30 p.	15
Leonard McBairty. 10/31/2002	X		14
Merton Morrison. 5/13/2000		3	N/A
Ruth Walker. 6/9/2000		4	N/A
Colleen O'Leary Jackson McBairty. 7/19/2000		5	N/A
Lowman McBairty. 2/4/2002		6	N/A

***Alphabetized list of informants:***

Bernier, Armand  
 Bernier, Susan (Sullivan)  
 Blair, Rachel  
 Connors, Eleanor (Sturgeon)  
 Connors, John  
 Connors, Leanna Rose (McBairty)  
 Jackson, Eva (McBairty)  
 Kelly, Joseph  
 Kelly, Kathy (Rioux)  
 Landry, Guy  
 Long, Edgar  
 Long, Phoebe (Oakes)  
 McBairty, Carl Burton  
 McBairty, Laura (Jones)  
 McBairty, Leonard  
 McBairty, Phyllis (Morrison)  
 Morrison, Pearl  
 O'Leary, Elbert  
 O'Leary, Gladys  
 O'Leary, Robert, Sr.

***Order and Arrangement:***

**Series I: Subseries 1.2: Interviews on tapes, 2000-2005:**

Processing Actions

The cassettes were auditioned for general contents. "Archival masters" on audio cassettes were already created on high-bias chromium dioxide audio cassettes from the

originals which are in the hands of Darrell McBreairty. "Use copies" were prepared from the masters cassettes at the same time.

In April 2009, 23 archival quality gold compact discs were created from the masters cassettes for better preservation method.

Since the materials from 15 masters cassettes were transferred onto 23 archival quality gold compact discs, Archives staff prepared concordances correlating the masters and "use" cassettes to the gold compact discs. Concordances are included below in this finding aid.

A copy of the cassettes was also done on white label compact discs for patron use and placed in the stacks area of the archives with the following call number: ACADIAN A-V AudioCD HV6248.M33 D37 2005

### *Concordances*

The "Darrell McBreairty Collection on John Stadig" consists of 30 cassette tapes (masters and use). The cassettes were not numbered, so in April 2009, the Archives staff numbered the cassettes to represent an order.

The present Archives staff thought that archival masters were created by the Archives staff at the time the collection was received a few years before. Blank cassette sides were not copied. In some cases, both sides of a cassette were transferred on one archival compact disc to save space and material, and in other cases, each side of a cassette were transferred on two archival gold compact discs because of the length of the recordings where both side could not fit on 1 compact disc.

### Label Data Note

The "label data" given in the following concordances records whatever handwritten labels appeared on Mr. McBreairty's original cassette housings.

#### **Archives cassette-by-cassette labels**

MCC-00191 AA-191 1 of 15  
MCC-00191 UA-191 1 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 2 of 15  
MCC-00191 UA-191 2 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 3 of 15  
MCC-00191 UA-191 3 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 4 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 4 of 15

#### **Archival gold compact disc labels**

MCC-00191 AJ-191 1A&B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 2A&B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 3A&B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 4A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 4B of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 5 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 5 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 6 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 6 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 7 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 7 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 8 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 8 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 9 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 9 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 10 of 15

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MCC-00191 AA-191 13 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 13 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 14 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 14 of 15

MCC-00191 AA-191 15 of 15

MCC-00191 UA-191 15 of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 5A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 5B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 6A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 6B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 7A of 15

(7B is Blank)

MCC-00191 AJ-191 8A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 8B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 9A of 15

(9B is Blank)

MCC-00191 AJ-191 10A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 10B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 11A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 11B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 12A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 12B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 13A of 15

(13B is Blank)

MCC-00191 AJ-191 14A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 14B of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 15A of 15

MCC-00191 AJ-191 15B of 15