

# **A Guide to the Emma Almira Jones Collection**

## **MCC-00194**

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8 November 2000

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## General Information

*Collection Title:* Emma Almira Jones collection

*Provenance/Chain of Custody:* Emma Almira Jones, compiler; Laura A. McBeairty, donor

*Date Range:* 1910 - 1939

*Accession Number:* MCC-00194

*Quantity:* 6 still images, 18 pieces of ephemera, 1 certificate

### Introduction.

The Emma Almira Jones collection documents graduation exercises and other events related to the Madawaska Training School in Fort Kent, Maine ( now the University of Maine at Fort Kent) from 1910 through 1939. Donated to the Archives in 2000, the collection consists of still images and ephemera.

### Physical Characteristics/Conditions.

This collection consists of still images (photographs and post cards), (programs, invitations, membership cards) and a certificate. All items are in generally good condition; some papers are embrittled.

### Access.

This collection is available to researchers without restriction. With the permission of the Archivist, and in accordance with existing archival photocopy policies, researchers may make one copy of the material for research and educational purposes. They must quote “Emma Almira Hones Collection, MCC-00194, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent” as a source if the item is used in papers of publication.

### Emma Almira Jones Biographical Note

[Archivist's Note: The following biographical data was supplied by the donor and has not been corroborated.]

Emma Almira Jones was born Emma Almira McPherson on 10 October 1894 in St. Francis, Maine. Her parents were Cyrus McPherson (n. 17 January 1872 in St. Francis, Maine; d.30 December 1955 in St. Francis, Me) and Neille Caron (b. 16 September 1877 in St. John, Maine; d. 21 October 1919 in St. Francis, Maine). Cyrus McPherson and Nellie McPherson were married 17 July 1893. Emma Almira was the first of 11 children:

<u>Child</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Emma Almira	10 October 1894	19 September 1967
Sadie Ellen	4 July 1896	16 July 1967
Charles Hebert	17 May 1899	28 July 1952

<u>Child</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
William Chester	30 August 1901	13 April 1968
Cyrus Melvin	3 January 1904	24 April 1904
John Isaac	5 June 1905	15 April 1976
Hanford	23 September 1909	14 July 1981
Lawrence H.	18 September 1907	12 August 1915
Leonard	6 December 1912	12 August 1913
Herman	1 June 1914	22 December 1914

Emma Almira Jones's maternal grandparents were Charles A. McPherson (b. 15 September 1819 in Scotland; d. 31 May 1909) and Lydia Yearington (b. April 1826, d. 20 February 1013). Her paternal grandparents were Joe Caron (birthplace: mouth of the St. Francis River New Brunswick; birth and death dates unknown) and Emma Nellie Sturgeon (b. 29 June 1849, St Francis, Maine; d. 9 September 1924).

Mrs. Jones's father Cyrus McPherson was a farmer and woodsman; his first wife Nellie was a housewife. Cyrus McPherson re-married to Sarah Crone (b. 1877; d. 3 July 1932) 22 October 1923.

Emma Almira was a member of the Madawaska Training School class of 1912 and received her state certification to teach common school on 1 September of the same year. After her graduation, she taught school in St. Francis, Maine, where she was a lifetime resident. In Houlton, Maine on 11 March 1914, she married George Medley Jones (b. 20 July 1883, St. Francis, Maine; d. 1 September 1968, Houlton, Maine). They raised nine

children:

<u>Child</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Mary Ethelyn	1 August 1915	Living at time of donation
Charles Adelbert	24 December 1916	9 June 1983
Emma Viola	26 July 1918	30 October 1990
Greta Mae	26 August 1921	5 February 1992
Lola Kathleen	4 September 1924	Living at time of donation
Laura Vesta	18 April 1926	“ ” “ ” “
Georgia Henrietta	15 August 1928	“ ” “ ” “
Betty Imogene	11 February 1931	“ ” “ ” “
Letha Rosella	15 April 1934	“ ” “ ” “

In addition to raising her children, Emma Almira Jones was St. Francis, Maine's town clerk and also served as its town treasurer for 23 years. She was a protestant and member of the St. Paul's Congregational Church in St. Francis, Maine, where she served as secretary and treasurer for many years. Mrs. Jones Died 19 September 1967 in Norway, Maine.

#### Provenance/Chain of Custody.

This collection was donated by Emma Almira Jones' daughter Laura J. McBreairty in October 2000. Mrs. McBeairy informed the Archives staff that the materials came from a scrapbook which her mother compiled. After her mother's death, Mrs. McBreairty's siblings removed personally relevant photographs and ephemera from the scrapbook. Mrs. McBeairy eventually became the owner of the remaining materials. Because of her mother's connection to the Madawaska Training School, Mrs. McBreairty felt that the donated pages and still images properly belonged in archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. In November 2000 the donor sent the Archives her mother's 1912 Maine teacher's state certificate, which we added to this collection.

#### Arrangement.

This collection is titled "Emma Almira Jones Collection" because this individual compiled its constituent items.

Four of the six still images had been removed from the scrapbook prior to their

donation. The remaining two still images as well as the ephemera were mounted on scrapbook pages. Archives staff created photocopy facsimiles of the mounted pages in order to create a record of the original arrangement of these items. As original order was incomplete at the time this collection was deposited, Archives staff created an arrangement to maximize its usability by researchers, with two series organized by genre:

- I. Ephemera
- II. Still Images
- III. Certificate

The ephemera has been ordered chronologically.

#### Preservation Actions.

When possible, mounted items from scrapbook pages have been dismounted and rehoused in protective enclosures. Still images have been placed in protective polypropylene sleeves within inert plastic binders.

#### Scope and Content.

The Emma Almira Jones Collection spans the years 1910 - 1939 and documents commencement ceremonies, certification, alumni activities, and memorial exercises related to the Madawaska Training School in Fort Kent, Maine (now the University of Maine at Fort Kent). It includes a program for the 1926 fourth annual commencement of the Fort Kent High School, then a department of the Madawaska Training school, and memorial exercises for Miss Mary P. Nowland, who served as principal at the School from 1896 through 1926.

These documents shed light on the institutional culture of the Madawaska Training School. Alumni Day programs provide clues to the type of entertainment which organizers thought would attract a large turn-out from their largely local alumni in the early 1930s.

#### Related Collections.

Related collections at the Acadian Archives at the time of this donation include the Joseph Francois Cr Papers (MCC-00144) and the Fort Kent Historical Society Collection (MCC-00123). Researchers may also wish to consult the University of Maine at Fort Kent alumni materials presently on file in Blake Library's Special Collections.

## BOX/FOLDER LIST

### SERIES I. EPHEMERA, 1901939, N. D.

UM-194      Folder 1      Ephemera relating to Madawaska Training School 1910-39,  
n.d.

### SERIOUS II. STILL IMAGES, 1912, N.D.

UP-194                      Photographs relating to Madawaska Training School 1912,  
n.d.

### SERIES III. CERTIFICATE, 1912

UM-194      Folder 1      State of Maine Teacher's State Certificate                      1912

### SERIES DESCRIPTIONS: ITEM LEVEL

#### SERIES I. EPHEMERA, 1910 - 1939, N.D.

This series consists of ephemera documenting activities at the Madawaska Training School in Fort Kent, Maine, collected by Emma Almira Jones of St. Francis, Maine, who was a graduate of the class of 1912. The donor dismantled these materials from Mrs. Jones's scrapbook. Prior to dismantling the individual items, archives staff photocopied the pages in order to preserve a record of their original arrangement.

- 194/1:1-4      Photocopiers of scrapbook pages prior to dismantling.
- 194/1:5      Invitation to commencement exercise fro Madawaska Training School class of 1910. Lists names of graduates.
- 194/1:6      Invitation to closing exercises for Madawaska Training School Graduation class of 1912.
- 194/1:7      Program of graduating exercises for Madawaska Training School class of 1912. Lists names of graduates. Page 1 of 2.
- 194/1:8      Program of graduating exercises for Madawaska Training School Class of 1912.

Lists exercises, speakers, class officers etc. Page 2 of 2.

- 194/1:9 Program of fourth annual commencement exercises at Fort Kent High School, 1926. According to the program, the high school was then a department of the Madawaska Training School
- 194/1:10 Announcement for 16 June 1931 Alumni Day activities, presumably for Madawaska Training School.
- 194/1:11 Invitation to commencement ball for Madawaska Training School Graduating class of 1931.
- 194/1:12 Envelope from Madawaska Training School. This envelope originally contained item 194/1:11.
- 194/1:13 Invitation to commencement ball for Madawaska Training School graduating class of 1932.
- 194/1:14 Announcement for 21 June 1933 Alumni Day activities, presumably for Madawaska Training School.
- 194/1:15 Invitation to commencement ball for Madawaska Training School graduating class of 1932.
- 194/1:16 Membership card for Madawaska Training School Alumni Association for 1933.
- 194/1:17 Program for memorial exercises in memory of Mary P. Nowland, 21 June 1939. Miss Mary P. Nowland, served as principal at the Madawaska School from 1896 through 1926. According to the program, the Honorable Lewis O. Barrows, governor of Maine, was a featured speaker.
- 194/1:18 Invitation to commencement exercises for Madawaska Training School; invitation lists month and date but not year. Item was dismantled from a page containing activities from 1933, but does not correspond to the date listed for 1933 commencement exercises on a program in Blake Library's UMFK files. The description of the exercises location at "New Gymnasium" (the gymnasium which now houses Blake Library was built in 1928) Suggests that this invitation dates within a few years of 1928.

SERIES II. STILL IMAGES, CA. 1912 N. D.

This series consists of six undated black-and-white photographic prints (2 sets of matted portraits and 4 post card prints) collected by Emma Almira Jones of St. Francis, Maine. Subjects are the Madawaska Training School, Emma Almira Jones and unidentified young women



who may have been her classmates at the Madawaska Training School.

- 194/P1 Matted formal portraits of five unidentified young women (head-shots), possibly Madawaska Training School lass-mates of Emma Almira Jones. No date. 1 of 2
- 194/P2 Matted formal portraits of five young women (head-shots), possibly Madawaska Training School class-mates of Emma Almira Hones. Caption underneath one of head-shot reads “mom, Emma McP;” other portraits unidentified, No date. 2 of 2.
- 194/P3 Postcard formal portrait print of unidentified young women, possible graduating class of Emma Almira Jones. No date. 1 of 2.
- 194/P4 Postcard formal portrait print of unidentified young women, possibly graduating class of Emma Almira Jones. No date. 2 of 2.
- 194/P5 Image of Madawaska Training School cut from postcard photographic print. No date. Identical to 194/P6.
- 194/P6 Image of Madawaska Training School cut from postcard photographic print. No date. Identical to 194/P5.

### SERIES III. CERTIFICATE, 1912

- 194./1:19 Emma Almira Jones’ State of Maine Teacher’s State Certificate, 1 September 1912. Back of Certificate Provides educational back ground and examination results