

**James Connors collection,  
1925-1998**

**MCC-00195**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Kathryn Donahue, January 2009  
Reviewed by Anne Chamberland, March 2009  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** James Connors collection

**Creator/Collector:** Connors, James R., 1907-1997  
Unknown.

**Collection number:** MCC-00195  
Shelf list number: UM-195, AA-195, AJ-195, V2-195, BM-195

**Dates:** 1925-1998

**Extent:** 1 box, 1 oversize box (1.0 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Unknown, date unknown.

**Language:** English

**Conservation notes:** Some materials were removed from frames. 2 reels were removed from the collection on April 2, 2009 and returned to Shirlee Connors Carlson, Mr. Connors daughter. Certificates and diploma were inserted in polypropylene sleeves for protection.

2 rolls of 35 mm film were found in the box with this collection and were brought to a local business to be developed. From the 2 rolls that were developed, the Archives staff kept 2 photos that were identified by a family member as being Mr. James Connors who was married to Rose McBreairty and as Mr. John Connors, brother to above mentioned James Connors. This John Connors was married to Eleonor Sturgeon. The other photographs were taken out of the collection since it didn't relate to it. (See series 7 for details)

**Access restrictions:** Two folders in series 3 are restricted from use.

**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:** James Connors collection, MCC-00195, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** Not applicable.

**Related materials:** Not applicable.

**Location of originals:** Unknown (for photocopies).

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

**Biographical information/Organizational history:**

James R. Connors was born in St. Francis, Maine, on June 13, 1907, the son of David and Mary (O'Leary) Connors. He was a noted poet and storyteller throughout the state, but especially in the Saint John Valley. Connors also taught in the Allagash school system. He was a member of the Fort Kent Masonic Lodge 209, the Royal Arc Chapter of Caribou, the Houlton Commandry, and the Anah Temple Shrine of Bangor. Connors died on December 29, 1997, at the age of 90.

**Historical information:** The Knights Templar was a Catholic military order active c. 1119-1312 protecting the Christian pilgrims. Their headquarter were the Temple Mount , in Jerusalem. They were also known under *Order of Solomon's Temple Order of Christ* and their patron saint was Bernard of Clairvaux. They were reconized by Pope Innocent II in 1139. The order was founded in 1119 and active from about 1129 to 1312. The First Grand Master was Hugues de Payens.

The order, which was among the wealthiest and most powerful, became a favored charity throughout Christendom and grew rapidly in membership and power. They were prominent in Christian finance. Templar knights, in their distinctive white mantles with a red cross, were among the most skilled fighting units of the Crusades. Non-combatant members of the order managed a large economic infrastructure throughout Christendom, developing innovative financial techniques that were an early form of banking, and building fortifications across Europe and the Holy Land.

The abrupt reduction in power of a significant group in European society gave rise to speculation, legend, and legacy through the ages. The appropriation of their name by later organizations has kept the name "*Templar*" alive to the present day.<sup>1</sup>

**Scope and content:**

This collection consists of correspondence written to Connors, some of his original manuscripts, class rosters and planners from the Allagash school system, many financial and business records, as well as notes and newsletters concerning the Fort Kent Masonic Lodge, some awards, certificates, and diploma received by Connors, sound recordings and photographs. Also included are sympathy cards written to his family, as well as materials concerning Connors' funeral and memorials.

This collection is divided into 9 series: correspondence, 1971-1991, undated; manuscripts 1977-1991, undated; Allagash school system records, 1973-1974, undated;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights\\_Templar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Templar)

Fort Kent Masonic Lodge materials 1950-1987, undated; awards and certificates, 1965-1998, undated; funeral and memorial materials, 1997-1998; images and negatives, 1984-1990, undated; sound recordings, 1988, undated; and printed materials, 1954-1989.

***Inventory:***

**Series 1: Correspondence, 1972-1991, undated.**

**Folder 1:** 1970s. 3 items.

- Item 1: Donald L. Osborn, Aroostook Cooperative Ministry to "Board Members." April 5, 1972. 1 p.
- Item 2: Roger (?), University of Maine at Fort Kent to Mr. Connors. March 23, 1977. 1 p.
- Item 3: David A. Dow to "Uncle Jim." August 26, 1977. 3 p.

**Folder 2:** 1983. 2 items.

- Item 1: Norman Stadig to Jim. Harmony, Me. July 21, 1983. 2 p.
- Item 2: Rowena Waeton to "Uncle Jim." August 30, 1983. 2 p.

**Folder 3:** 1984. 5 items.

- Item 1: Henrietta, Phil, and Chris Mason to Uncle Jim. March 10, 1984. 2 p.
- Item 2: Wedding invitation for Tressa McBreairty and Peter Bosworth. July 26, 1984. 1 p.
- Item 3: Sandy (?), University of Maine at Orono, to Jim. August 8, 1984. 2 p.
- Item 4: Una to "Daddy." December 22, 1984. 2 p.
- Item 5: Frank Grady, Jr. to Jim. Fort Kent. 1984. 1 p.

**Folder 4:** 1985. 5 items.

- Item 1: Laura Beckwith to Jim. February 2, 1985. 2 p.
- Item 2: Invitation. Allagash Centennial Celebration, July 3-5, 1986. August 17, 1985.

Item 3: Gilman Hartt family to (?). Thank-you note for serving as pallbearer at a funeral. October 31, 1985.

Item 4: Sister Anne to Jim. December 15, 1985. 1 p.

Item 5: Jim and Judy to "Grandfather." December 16, 1985. 1 p.

**Folder 5:** 1986.

Item 1: Maynard Jalbert to Jim. Caribou, Me. March 24, 1986. 6 p.

Item 2: Wedding invitation for Katrina Dow and Norman Currier. June 5, 1986. 2 p.

Item 3: Henrietta to "Uncle Jim." June 10, 1986. 5 p. Includes clipping and a card.

Item 4: Pam Dietlin to "Grampy Jim." June 13, 1986. 1 p.

Item 5: Pam Dietlin to "Grampy Jim." June 13, 1986. 3 p.

Item 6: Norman and Kate to "Uncle Jim." July 11, 1986. 1 p.

Item 7: Charlotte Turner to Mr. Connors. Ashland, Me. July 17, 1986. 1 p.

Item 8: Nicki and John to "Grampa Jim." December 10, 1986. 1 p.

Item 9: Annie to Jim. December 20, 1986. 1 p.

**Folder 6:** 1987. 2 items.

Item 1: Roger Ketcham to Jim. Hardwick, Mass. November 5, 1987. 1 p., with attached Tri-Parish Community Church newsletter.

Item 2: Una and "Rob" to James Connors. December 21, 1987. 1 p.

**Folder 7:** 1988.

Item 1: Laura Beckwith to Jim. January 24, 1988. 2 p.

Item 2: Laura Beckwith to James Connors. January 25, 1988. 1 p.

Item 3: Laura Beckwith to Jim. February 9, 1988. 1 p.

Item 4: Laura Beckwith to Jim. February 23, 1988. 3 p.

- Item 5: Nicki and John to James R. Connors. Bermuda. May 27, 1988. 1 p.
- Item 6: Laura Beckwith to James Commons. June 8, 1988. 1 p.
- Item 7: Laura Beckwith to Jim. June 15, 1988. 3 p.
- Item 8: Laura Beckwith to Jim. August 1, 1988. 2 p.
- Item 9: Jeff Titon to James R. Connors. Providence, R.I. August 22, 1988. 1 p. Originally in an envelope containing two audiocassette tapes labeled Jim Connors 8/18/88, tape 1 and 2 (see series 8).
- Item 10: Laura Beckwith to Jim. September 6, 1988. 2 p. Also includes a newspaper clipping.

**Folder 8:** 1989. 5 items.

- Item 1: "Sis" Anne to Bro. Jim. Westbrook, Me. January 23, 1989. 2 p.
- Item 2: Peggy McGreal to James. March 26, 1989. 1 p.
- Item 3: Laura Beckwith to Jim. July 1(?), 1989. 1 p.
- Item 4: Jeff Titon to James Connors, St. Francis, Me. Little Deer Isle, Me. July 23, 1989. 1 p.
- Item 5: Jeff Titon to James Connors, St. Francis, Me. Little Deer Isle, Me. July 25, 1989. 3 p. Includes letter written from Titon to Connors' daughter, Shirlee Connors Carlson.

**Folder 9:** 1990. 11 items.

- Item 1: Laura Beckwith to Jim. April 2, 1990. 3 p. Also includes 2 postcards.
- Item 2: Laura Beckwith to James Connors. June 8, 1990. 1 p.
- Item 3: Eugene and Faye Hamm to James Connors. 50th anniversary invitation for Mr. and Mrs. Elbert L. O'Leary. August 7, 1990. 1 p., plus RSVP card.
- Item 4: Henry Hatch to Jim Connors, St. Francis, Me. Islesboro, Maine. August 24, 1990. 2 p.
- Item 5: Jeff Titon, Brown University, to Jim, St. Francis, Me. Providence, R.I. August 30, 1990. 2 p.

- Item 6: Laura Beckwith to Jim. October 11, 1990. 2 p.
- Item 7: Catherine Tardie to "Dear Friends." Eagle Lake, Me. October 30, 1990. 2 p.
- Item 8: Pamela Robinson to Grandpa Jim. November 9, 1990. 1 p.
- Item 9: Hallie Humphrey to Uncle Jim. November 14, 1990. 2 p.
- Item 10: Henry Hatch to James Connors, St. Francis, Maine. Islesboro, Maine. December 15, 1990. 5 p.
- Item 11: Mel and Joan to Uncle Jim. December 16, 1990. 1 p.
- Folder 10:** 1991. 1 item.
- Item 1: Laura Beckwith to Jim. January 26, 1991. 1 p.
- Folder 11:** Undated. 5 items.
- Item 1: John and Pat to Uncle Jim. Undated. 1 p.
- Item 2: Visiting Nurses of Aroostook and Hospice of Aroostook to James. Undated. 1 p.
- Item 3: Barb Ames to James Connors. Undated. 1 p.
- Item 4: Gale Valentine to Jim. Undated. 2 p.
- Item 5: Gale Flagg to Jim. Undated. 1 p.
- Series 2: Manuscripts and notes, 1977-1991, undated.**
- Folder 12:** Manuscripts and notes, 1977-1991, undated.
- Item 1: "Allagash." Photocopy, 2 p.
- Item 2: Notes on the history of post offices in Allagash and Dickey, Maine, along with a list of postmasters. Notes by J. Connors, typed by his daughter, Shirlee, ca. 1991.
- Item 3: "'Ol' Doc River." 1 p.
- Item 4: Financial notes. 4 p.

- Item 5: Index cards containing names and dates. 3 p.
- Item 6: "Forward." 4 p.
- Item 7: Statement for St. Francis Historical Society, June 6, 1988. 1 p.
- Item 8: Genealogy notes, possibly by Connors' sister, Anne Connors Dow, "perhaps copied from a family Bible." 2 p.
- Item 9: Bookmark "In Loving Memory of Lucinda McBreairty who died on May 6, 1977." 1 p.

**Series 3: Allagash school system records, 1973-1974, undated.**

- Folder 13:** RESTRICTED. Class Registers.
- Folder 14:** RESTRICTED. Attendance sheets and class lists.
- Folder 15:** Daily Plan Book, Allagash High School, SAD #10, 1973-1974.
- Folder 16:** Weekly schedules.
- Folder 17:** General documents.

**Series 4: Fort Kent Masonic Lodge materials, 1950-1987, undated.**

- Folder 18:** Correspondence, 1963-1987, undated.
- Folder 19:** Business and financial records, 1950-1980, undated.
- Folder 20:** Notices, newsletters, and program, 1965-1985, undated.
- Folder 21:** Printed materials. 1977, undated.

**Series 5: Awards and certificates, 1965-1998, undated.**

- Folder 22:** Awards and certificates, 1965-1988, undated
  - Item 1: Outstanding Achievement letter. Elmer J. Romigh, Jr., Lt Col, USAF, Department of Civil Engineering Training, 3750th Technical School, USAF, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, to 42d Civil Engr Sq, Loring AFB, Maine. July 28, 1965. Letter stating that James R. Connors, W-11, received a course grade of 91 and was the outstanding student in his diesel engine governors course; letter also recommends Connors for the organization. Letter was originally housed in class-enclosed metal-edged frame.



- Item 2: Certificate of Service, Department of the Air Force. James R. Connors, "in recognition of 13 years of faithful and devoted Federal Service on the occasion of retirement from civilian employment. Signed Robert W. Childs, Colonel, USAF Commander. August 31, 1972. Photocopy. Original was pasted onto a wooden mount.
  
- Item 3: Distinguished Service Award from the University of Maine at Fort Kent for "a lifetime of dedicated service to the residents of his beloved St. John Valley and of the State of Maine." May 7, 1988. Photocopy.
  
- Item 4: Coat of Arms Report for family name Connors. Undated. Originally housed in a steel-edged glass-enclosed frame.
  
- Item 5: **Oversize folder BM-195:** Certificate "In Memoriam" from the State of Maine for James Connors upon his death. Signed by Mark W. Lawrence, President of the Senate; Elizabeth A. Mitchell, Speaker of the House; Joy J. O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate; and Joseph W. Mayo, Clerk of the House. June 17, 1998.
  
- Item 6: **Oversize folder BM-195:** Public High School Diploma dated "ninth day of June A.D. 1925 from Ashland, Maine
  
- Item 7: **Oversize folder BM-195:** Certificate from the "Royal Arch Mason in Garfield #48 Royal Arch Chapter" dated "20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1986".
  
- Item 8: **Oversize folder BM-195:** Certificate from the "Order of Knights Templar around the Globe" from the St. Aldeman Commandery in Houlton, Maine, dated "18<sup>th</sup> day of December 1986"

**Series 6: Funeral and memorial materials, 1997-1998.**

- Folder 23:** Funeral documents. 1997-1998.
  
- Folder 24:** Sympathy cards. 1997-1998.
  
- Folder 25:** Memorials. 1998.

**Series 7: Images and negatives, 1984-1990, undated.**

- Folder 26:** Images removed from correspondence, 1984-1990. 11 items.

- Item 1: "Annie Elizabeth Phillips (daughter of Cathy Mason and Mark Phillips), 1 day old, Jan. 5, 1984." Removed from letter dated March 10, 1984 (Series 1, folder 3, item 1).
- Item 2: James Connors' daughter, Una. Removed from letter dated December 22, 1984 (Series 1, folder 3, item 4).
- Item 3: "Ryan James Connors, 3 days old, born Nov. 19, 1985." Removed from letter dated December 16, 1985 (Series 1, folder 4, item 5).
- Item 4: Photograph of unidentified man standing on a lawn. Removed from letter dated December 20, 1986 (Series 1, folder 5, item 9).
- Item 5: Photograph of an unidentified woman sitting on a motorized cart. Removed from letter dated December 20, 1986 (Series 1, folder 5, item 9).
- Item 6: "Laura and Smudge in front yard, June 12, 1988." Removed from letter dated June 15, 1988 (Series 1, folder 7, item 7).
- Item 7: "Diane, Laura and Smudge in front yard, June 1988." Removed from letter dated June 15, 1988 (Series 1, folder 7, item 7).
- Item 8: "I tried to get a picture of my little (Living Room) where I sit and watch T.V. My old camera leaks light, so guess it's a waste of film." Removed from letter dated June 15, 1988 (Series 1, folder 7, item 7).
- Item 9: "Justin William Robinson, 23 mos." Removed from letter dated November 9, 1990 (Series 1, folder 9, item 8).
- Item 10: Photograph of young woman with infant girl. Removed from letter dated November 11, 1990 (Series 1, folder 9, item 9).
- Item 11: "Mum and Rowena, August 1990." Removed from letter dated December 16, 1990 (Series 1, folder 9, item 11).
- Folder 27:** James Connors. Undated. 3 items.
- Folder 28:** Developed Jan. 6, 1989. 11 items. Removed from envelope.
- Folder 29:** Developed Feb. 2, 1989. 10 items. Removed from envelope.
- Folder 30:** Developed Feb. 13, 1989. 11 items. Removed from envelope.
- Folder 31:** Various. 8 items.

**Folder 32:** Item 1: James Connors (who was married to Rose McBreairty)  
Item 2: John Connors (who was married to Eleonor Sturgeon)

**Series 8: Sound recordings, 1988, undated.**

Item 1: Audio cassette. Jim Connors, 8/18/88, recorded by J. Titon. Tape 1 of 2 (copy).

Item 2: Audio cassette. Jim Connors, 8/18/88, recorded by J. Titon. Tape 2 of 2.

Items 3-4: Reel to reel tapes. Unlabeled.

**Series 9: Printed materials, 1954-1989**

**Folder 33:** *Sesquicentennial of Aroostook County, Maine, 1839-1989.*

Oversize folder: Map. World Aeronautical Chart: St. Lawrence River, United States-Canada. U.S. Air Force edition. March 1945, revised April 1954.

***Processing Actions:***

**Series 5: Awards and certificates**

The oversize certificate "State of Maine In Memoriam" for James Robert Connors was placed in an archival polypropylene sleeve with shelf list number MCC-00195 BM-195 1/1 and placed in an archival oversize box.

**Series 7: Images and negatives:**

All the photographs from the different folders in series 7 were placed in archival sleeves for preservation and kept in the same folders as mentioned above.

The 2 photographs of John Connors and James Connors that were developed from the 2 rolls of films found in the box for this collection were placed in this series in folder 32 as items 1 and 2.

**Series 8: Sound Recordings: audiocassettes:**

The 2 audiocassettes in this collection were labeled with shelf list numbers MCC-00195 AA-195 1 of 2 and MCC-00195 AA-195 2 of 2 and placed in our collection room for preservation.

The data from the 2 audiocassettes were transferred on 3 gold archival compact discs with the following shelf list numbers and placed in our collection room for preservation.

MCC-00195 AJ-195 1A of 2

MCC-00195 AJ-195 1B of 2

MCC-00195 AJ-195 2A&B of 2

The data from the 2 audiocassettes were also transferred on white label compact discs for patron use. They were placed in the Archives stacks with the following call numbers:

AudioCD PN4151 .C66 1988 pt.1A

AudioCD PN4151 .C66 1988 pt.1B

AudioCD PN4151 .C66 1988 pt.2A&B

**Series 8: Sound Recordings: Reels:**

The 2 reels mentioned above were returned to Shirlee Connors Carlson on April 2, 2009. The content of the reels were audio recordings of television programs and did not pertain to the content of this collection.

**Series 9: Printed materials:**

The map from series 9, measuring 28  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 21  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", was placed in an archival sleeve in a map folder with shelf list number MCC-00195 V2-195 1/1