

“Civil War Veterans of the St. John Valley”

MCC-00236

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General Information

Collection Title: "Civil War Veterans of the St. John Valley", MCC-00236, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Date Range: ca. 1861-1865

Accession Number: MCC-00236

Shelf Number: UM-236

Quantity: 22 leaves

Introduction. The American Civil War was the greatest war in American history. 3 million fought - 600,000 paid the ultimate price for freedom. The American Civil War (1861–1865), also known as the *War Between the States* and several other names, was a civil war in the United States of America. Eleven Southern slave states declared their secession from the U.S in 1860 and 1861 and formed the Confederate States of America (the Confederacy). Led by Jefferson Davis, they fought against the U.S. federal government (the "Union"), which was supported by all the free states and the five border slave states. The coexistence of a slave-owning South with an increasingly anti-slavery North made conflict likely. Northerners ranging from the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to the moderate Republican leader Abraham Lincoln emphasized Jefferson's declaration that all men are created equal. Lincoln mentioned this proposition in his Gettysburg Address.

Maine contributed greatly to the Union side during the American Civil War. 70,107 men from Maine served during the war. Of those 13% died as a result of their service. 3,184 were killed or mortally wounded in battle. 5,257 died of disease. 957 died of other causes.

But their stories go far beyond the numbers. They came from all over the state. They went to war for many different reasons. They served in nearly every theater. They came home with battle honors that would make anyone proud.

Physical Characteristics. The "Civil War Veterans of the St. John Valley" collection, compiled by Jean-Paul Pelletier of New Canada, Maine, consists of 22 photocopied hand written sheets documenting the names, ranks, companies of the soldiers from the St. John Valley who fought in the Civil War between 1861-1865. The penmanship is good to fair.

Access.

This collection is available to researchers without restriction.

Provenance/Chain of Custody. Mr. Jean Paul Pelletier of New Canada, Maine, compiled a list of the volunteers from different sources located at Blake Library at the University of Maine in Fort Kent and noted the names of the soldiers from the St. John Valley. He also noted the names of volunteers living in Old Town with Valley Roots. Mr. Pelletier loaned the document to the Archives in 2005 so it could be reproduced and preserved for future references.

Arrangement. The list was found in the administrative files and made into a collection in October 2008. The sequence was kept as found but the pages were numbered in pencil. The 22 page document was placed in an archival folder and given a collection name and number.

Scope and Content Note. This document lists the names of soldiers/volunteers from the St. John Valley who fought in the Civil War between 1861-1865. The 22 photocopied handwritten sheets lists the names of the soldiers, dates involved, ranks, the companies they served, and their hometown.

Biographical Note: Jean Paul Pelletier was born 24 June 1936 in New Canada, Maine, which is located next to Fort Kent. He is the son of Willie D. Pelletier and Laura Pelletier. He was a foreman on his worksite and now retired. He's been interested in local history at a very young age and has done genealogical research of his family.