

Gerry Morin collection, 1837-1935

MCC-00244

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: .50ft

Prepared by
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University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine
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Gerry Morin collection (MCC-00244)

Shelf List Number: UM-244, BM-244

Collection Overview

Creator

Morin, Gerry

Dates

1837-1935

Extent

1 box (.50 cubic feet)

Provenance

Material was acquired from Gerry Morin, January 2005.

Language

English

Conservation Notes

None

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Gerry Morin, son of Ida Pelletier and Joseph Denis Morin, was born in Ste-Agathe, Maine in February 1945, the 10th child of a family of 13 children. He was raised in a typical French-Catholic home where the language spoken was uniquely French. He never heard spoken English until enrolled in the elementary schools in the community. From that point on, all his education was uniquely in the English language. His French was totally oral and spoken, really

never exposed to French books, magazines, newspapers, or other written format. Most of his education was taught by the nuns of the Daughters of Wisdom. Many of these nuns were originally from New York and the curriculum was basically that which they had been educated under, very Irish and English.

He graduated from St Agatha High School in 1963 and enrolled as a Freshman at Fort Kent State College. While at FKSC, he worked in the library on a part time basis. Gerry was part of the team responsible for the physical movement of the library collection from Cyr Hall to its present site (which was until that time the gymnasium). During that time, he had decided to pursue a library degree and had enrolled at Louisiana State University. At the last minute, he changed his mind and decided to take a year or two off to earn extra money. Late that September, he accepted a teaching position in MSAD #33(St. Agatha and Frenchville). The temporary break lasted over 27 years. During his teaching career, his duties included teaching self-contained classes, Junior High Reading, and finally district librarian.

During his first years of teaching, the teachers of MSAD #33 were given the opportunity to take part in a federally funded bilingual program. The summers were filled with workshops on personal growth and discovery, self-assertion techniques, and sensitivity training. As a result of these workshops, Gerry rediscovered his roots and identity. Sponsored trips to Montreal, Quebec City, towns along the south shore of the St Lawrence and a summer course in Dijon, France made him realize the richness and depth of his cultural heritage. It served as the impetus for him to organize and lead the efforts to establish the Ste Agathe Historical Society. If he wanted the town's story preserved and promoted then it would have to be done the citizens of that town. Waiting for outsiders and "experts" to come around and tell our story was now becoming an unrealistic expectation.

Gerry taught school until the mid-1980's when the opportunity to pursue his Master's degree in Library Science became a reality. He enrolled in the Masters of Library Science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Gerry spent a full summer at their home campus. Other courses were offered at the University of Maine at Orono. He completed the MLS in the summer of 1987 and at which time Gerry was serving as the MSAD #33 District Librarian. He served in that capacity until 1994. In 1995, Gerry accepted the position of Library Director for the Dyer Library in Saco, Maine and retired from that position in 2003.

His main residence has been Old Orchard Beach for the past 15 years and Gerry spends many weekends rummaging through used bookshops, flea markets, and antique shops looking for material related to the St John Valley history, language, or culture.

After all these years, he is still intrigued by the amount of historical information which was never introduced in their education or shown to them as they were growing up. Gerry cannot understand why they were never given the opportunity to know the full richness of their cultural heritage or language. It is his hope that many of the items given to the Acadian Archives will provide the next generation with the opportunity to discover their heritage and story.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of materials collected by Gerry Morin concerning various people, businesses, and events in Aroostook County. Included are correspondence, financial records

(including accounts, bills of sale, and telephone bills), land documents, images, and maps. The financial records are for many businesses, both in Aroostook County and elsewhere, many in retail and agriculture, including American Agricultural Chemical Co. The telephone bills are from three separate telephone companies: White Mountain Telephone Company, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company. Also included are twenty-two issues from various newspapers, 1837-1841, containing articles on the Northeastern Boundary dispute. Included in the images are cabinet cards of Major William Dickey and Hannibal Hamlin. A large portion of the correspondence and the financial records concerns Horace G. Richards of Fort Fairfield, Maine, and his brother, George W. Richards of Houlton, Maine, as well as A.S. Richards of Van Buren, Maine. George W. Richards owned G.W. Richards and Co., a merchant of dry goods and other "small wares." The collection also contains sheet music for "Come to the Heart that is Thine," from an opera based on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *Evangeline*.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in folders by subject matter. See collection inventory for more details.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

The sheet music titled "Come to the Heart that is Thine." Words by J. Cheever Goodwin, music by Edward E. Rice. From the "new American opera bouffe, *Evangeline*.", included in this collection was placed in an oversize self sealing sleeve with acid free stiffener and placed in an oversize archival box for preservation. See shelf list number MCC-00244 BM-244 (1/1)

Subject Headings

Aroostook County (Me.)
Bills of sales
Financial records
Fort Kent (Me.)
Land grants
Letters (correspondence)
Maps
Sheet music

Related Materials

Evangeline Artifact Collection, (MCC-00510). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Gerry Morin collection of sheet music and legal instruments, (MCC-00246). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Gerry Morin engraving and lithograph of *Evangeline*, (MCC-00245). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder Item	Description	Date(s)
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- 1 1: Correspondence, 1865-1927
- 1 I.R. Clark, State Land Office, Bangor, Me. to Mr. A.S. Richards, Van Buren. 1 p. "Dear Sir/Enclosed please find land certificates for W. Hammond Jr., Hebert Thibodeau, Antoine Violette, Frederic Souci, Francis Parent, Gabriel Violette, Paul Page, Firman Cyr, Cyr King, Zellerford D(?), More anon, yours truly, I.R. Clark." Certificates not included with letter. 1865-05-13
 - 2 E. Levasseur, No. Lyndon, Me. to Mr. Richards. 1 p. Advises Richards that a draft for \$129.77 for oats is enclosed. Levasseur was a "dealer in dry and fancy goods, groceries, provisions, small wares, etc." 1883-02-06
 - 3 Springfield Manufacturing Company, Springfield, Ohio to Thurbogh and Richards, Fort Fairfield, Me. 1 p. With envelope. 1885-12-19
 - 4 Springfield Manufacturing Company, Springfield Ohio to Thurbogh and Richards, Fort Fairfield, Me. With envelope. 1886-05-24
 - 5 George W. Richards, Houlton, Me. to "dear brother." 1 p. Letter is signed "George" and is on stationery of G.W. Richards and Co., dealers in dry and fancy goods, small wares, etc." 1887-07-19
 - 6 J.M. Childs and Co., Utica, N.Y. to Mr. H.G. Richards, Fort Fairfield, Me. 1 p. J.M. Childs and Company were "manufacturers and wholesale dealers in agricultural implements, wagons, and carriages." 1889-02-06
 - 7 J.M. Childs and Co., Utica, N.Y. to Mr. H.G. Richards, Fort Fairfield, Me. 1 p. J.M. Childs and Company were "manufacturers and wholesale dealers in agricultural implements, wagons, and carriages." Envelope included. 1889-02-14
 - 8 H.L.D., Mars Hill, Me. to "Dick." 1 p. Letter written in pencil on letterhead of "R.A. and C.N. York, hardware, stoves, and tinware, builder's material, etc." of Mars Hill. 189-
 - 9 W. Dickey, Augusta, Me. to "Private." 1 p. "I also want 4 lap boards for ladies writing with springs to hold paper..." 1895-02-15
 - 10 Alden Spicers Sons Co., Boston, Mass. to Messers Thurlough and Richards. Telegram demanding fulfillment of order for starch or check for \$1364.26. 1897-07-15
 - 11 F.W. Woolworth Co., Boston, Mass. to Hopkins Bros, Ft. Fairfield, Maine. Telegram enclosing a check for \$175 "in full settlement for rent for month of January 1927 premises which we occupy at Ft. Fairfield, Maine." No enclosure. 1927-01-14
 - 12 F.W. Woolworth Co., Boston, Mass. to H.G. Richards and T.E. Holt, Fort Fairfield, Maine. Telegram "in full settlement for rent for month of February 1927 premises for which we occupy at Fort Fairfield, Maine." 1927-02-14
 - 13 Burton McCracken, Portland, Me. to T.E. Holt, care of Fort Fairfield Lumber Co. (Me.). Telegram stating "can now cover all or part Hopkins Block fifty dividend wire or mail coverage/ Binder will follow receipt." 1927-02-18

- 14 A.Y. Nickerson, Fall River, Mass. to H.G. Richards, Fort Fairfield, Me. undated. Partial envelope only. A.Y. Nickerson was a "wholesale dealer in potatoes, apples, fruit, country produce, etc." Undated
- 2: Contracts, 1866-1896
- 1 Memorandum of agreement with Jos. Nugent. Unknown person agrees to timber prices for pine and spruce, stumpage prices on the lumber, and agrees to furnish molasses and tobacco at noted prices. The author also notes that Nugent wants a pair of work horse collars and two bridles and a set of double lines. 1862
- 2 H.A. Amiraux and Co. agree to pay Baptist Violette \$5.00 per thousand feet of "good spruce logs." 1866-11-21
- 3 Antoine Violette to A.S. Richards. Van Buren, Me., "Settlement in full of my account at Grand Isle store.." 1867-04-24
- 4 Desire Violette to A.S. Richards. Van Buren, Me., Agreement signed with Violette's mark, agreeing to pay A.S. Richards \$100.00 in shingles for a "sorrel mare." 1870-11-04
- 5 A.S. Richards to B.F. Brown and Co., Van Buren, Me., Richards assigns "goods, lumber, accounts and notes" from "the joint business with B.F. Brown and Co." for \$1600. For an additional fifteen bushels of buckwheat, Richards rents the store premises until November 1st. 1871-01-18
- 6 Alexander and Fossey Gagnon of Caribou, Me. to the Standard Feed Company of Boston, Mass. Chattel mortgage for two horses. On printed form. 1896-08-17
- 3: Financial records: bills, 1866-1898
- 1 I and F Burpee bill, St. John N.S. Account statement 1866-09
- 2 Scammell Bros., St. John, N.S. Bill of Crocking. Account statement. 1866-09-29
- 3 A.H. Amiraux and Co. with Temple Pickard. Account statement. 1866-10
- 4 Messers H.A. Amiraux and Co., both of Robison and Whelan. "Bill of liquors." Account statement. 1866-10-01
- 5 W.A. Amiraux. W.A. Amiraux. 1866-10-02
- 6 Messr. M. Lean and Dowling bought of Thos. R. Jones, wholesale and retail clothier, St. John, N.B. Bill of sale. 1866-10-04
- 7 Mes. M. Lean Dowling bought of I. and F. Burpee, dealers in all kinds of British and foreign hardware, St. John, N.B. Bill of sale. 1866-10-13
- 8 H.A. Amiraux to Vetal Morin for a horse and shingles. Bill of sale. 1967-01-29
- 9-12 J.M. Childs and Co. of Utica, N.Y. to Richards and Thurlogh of Fort Fairfield, Me. J.M. Childs and co. were 1888-06-1, 13, 14, 23

- "manufacturers and wholesale dealers in agricultural implements, wagons, and carriages. 4 bills.
- 13 Mr. H. Richards. Account statement with Crockett Bros., 1895-09-12
"manufacturers of and dealers in hard wood flooring, sheathing, moulding, etc."
- 14 Conant, Patrick and Co., Dr. of Portland, Me. to H.G. Richards, Mars Hill. Account statement. 1896-11-30
- 15-16 R.A. and C.N. York of Mars Hill, Me. to H.G. Richards. 1897-08-12,
R.A. and C.N. York were dealers in hardware, stoves and 1898-08-05
tinware, builder's materials, etc. 2 bills.
- 17 Ralph Greenough to H.G. Richards. Payment order on 1895-11-13
stationery of Ralph Greenough, manufacturer of light and heavy harness. "H.G. Richards, please pay R. Greenough on order Three and 38/100 dollars and charge the same to me. Albion Merrill." Stationery printed as from Houlton, Me., but Mars Hill, Me has been stamped over it.

4: Financial records: bills, 1901-1935

- 1 Mr. H.G. Richards to G.W. Richards. On stationery of G.W. Richards and Co., "wholesale and retail dealers in all kinds of dry and fancy goods, small wares, etc. Bill. Envelope included. 1901-06-20
- 2 Joseph W. Gerry, Boston, Mass. to Horace G. Richards of Fort Fairfield, Me. Bill of sale for rolls of wallpaper. 1904-04-15
- 3 Myer Abrams and Co., Boston Mass. to H.G. Richards. Bill of sale for harness. 1904-12-21
- 4 The American Agricultural Chemical Co., M.E. Wheeler and Co. Branch, manufacturers of high grade fertilizers of Rutland Vt. Credit settlement sheet for various individuals in Fort Fairfield, Me. 1905-01-10
- 5-9 The American Agricultural Chemical Co., M.E. Wheeler and Co. Branch, manufacturers of high grade fertilizers of Rutland Vt. to A.C. Duncan of Presque Isle, Me.; George H. Stone of Presque Isle, Me.; A.M. Foy of Fort Fairfield, Me.; W.J. Wymouth of Easton Center, Me.; and E.S. Patterson of Fort Fairfield, Me. 5 bills. 1905-08
- 10-19 The American Agricultural Chemical Co., Lazaretto Guano Works Branch, Rutland Vt. to Thomas Gibson of Fort Fairfield, Me.; D.L. Whitmore of Fort Fairfield, Me.; O.D. Noble of Presque Isle, Me.; Chas. L. Whittaker of Sprague Mills, Me.; P.M. Smith of Castle Hill, Me.; F.E. Shaw of Caribou, Me.; D.J. and W.D. Crabb of Spragues Mill, Me.; J.F. Currier of Washington, 1905-08-15

- Me.; E.E. Austin of Fort Fairfield, Me.; and J.W. Plummer of Fort Fairfield, Me. 10 bills.
- 20 Horace Richards. Account with the Star Clothing Co. 1907-03-20
Account statement.
- 21 H.G. Richards and Son, Fort Fairfield, Me. Bill of sale for one 1935-05-09
car of "screened coal" from H.G. King of Chipman, N.B.
Envelope included bearing note: "library coal."
- 5: Financial records: telephone bills, 1905-1908
- 1-2 White Mountain Telephone Company to H.G. Richards. 1905-12- 1906-01
General services only, no parties specified. 2 bills.
- 3-8 New England Telephone and Telegraph Company to H.G. 1906-1907
Richards. List calls made and parties called. 6 bills.
- 9-13 Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company to H.G. 1906-1908
Richards. General services only, no parties specified. 5 bills.
- 6: Financial records: replevin bond, 1853
- 1 Replevin bond for Stephen E. Phipps, Henry N. Hyde, and 1853-04-23
John B.Grafton for \$200.00.
- 7: Financial records: Equitable Life Assurance Society receipts, 1907
- 1-2 H.G. Richards. Annual premium payments to the Equitable 1907-01-03
Life Assurance Society of the United States of New York,
N.Y. for policies on the life of H.G. Richards. Envelope included.
- 8: Financial records: Notary public statement, 1905
- 1 Statement by Frank Shay, Notary public, of failed attempt to 1905-04-13
cash a check drawn on the First National Bank of Houlton, Me.
- 9: Land documents: certificates, 1866-1867
- 1 State Land Office permitting Laurence Parent and Guigey 1866, 1868
Deplisis to "enter as a Settler upon Lot numbered thirty-eight
in Township L Range Two WELS." Signed by Isaac R. Clark,
land agent, July 17, 1866. Relinquished and assigned by Parent
and Deplises to Henry A. Amiraux, March 25, 1868.
- 2 State Land Office permitting George Pluard to "enter as a 1867-11-15
Settler upon Lot numbered twenty-nine in Township G Range
one WELS." Signed by Isaac R. Clark, land agent.
- 10: Land documents: monies paid for bridge and road work, 1860-1866
- 1 "Van Buren Plantation 3." Information on monies paid for 1860-1866
bridge and road work in the years 1860-1866. Written on
reverse of blank School Agent's Return form.
- 11: Maps, undated

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| 1 | Map of Maine showing pre-1842 American-claimed northern boundaries. 3 cm. x 18 cm. Appears to have been removed from a book. | Undated |
| 2 | Map of New England showing pre-1842 American-claimed northern boundaries. 13 cm. x 18 cm. Appears to have been removed from a book. | Undated |

12: Newspapers, 1837-1841

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| 1 | <i>The New World</i> , New York. vol. 2, no. 10 (New York). No local content except for indirect mention "late news from Washington on the Maine Boundary question is so decidedly pacific, that we may consider it (at least temporarily) settled" in one of several articles on "the McLeod affair." | 1841-03-06 |
| 2 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 2. Brief article on Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 15. | 1839-02-16 |
| 3 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 3. Article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 22. | 1839-02-23 |
| 4 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 4. Article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 30. There are several other mentions of the issue in other articles in this issue. | 1839-03-02 |
| 5 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 5. Details on activities related to the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 38. | 1839-03-09 |
| 6 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 6. Mention of passing a bill for surveying and settling "the Aroostook River and road" and a report of Congressional debate on the Northeast Boundary, p. 46. | 1839-03-16 |
| 7 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 7. Brief notes on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 54. | 1839-03-23 |
| 8 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 18. Brief notes on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 142. | 1839-05-25 |
| 9 | <i>Maine Farmer and Journal of the Arts</i> , Winthrop, Me. vol. 7, no. 19. Brief article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 150. | 1839-06-01 |
| 10 | <i>Evening Palladium</i> , New Haven, Conn. vol. 1, no. 50. An article on the Northeast Boundary dispute on p. 2. | 1840-01-24 |
| 11 | <i>Evening Palladium</i> , New Haven, Conn. vol. 1, no. 54. An article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 3. | 1840-02-03 |
| 12 | <i>Yankee Farmer and Portland News Letter</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 3, no. 24. Article on arrest of E.S. Greeley, p. 198. | 1837-06-17 |
| 13 | <i>Yankee Farmer and Portland News Letter</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 3, no. 25. Brief report on arrest of E.S. Greeley, p. 198. | 1837-06-24 |

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| 14 | <i>Yankee Farmer and Portland News Letter</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 3, no. 29. Article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 230. | 1837-07-22 |
| 15 | <i>Yankee Farmer and Portland News Letter</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 3, no. 39. Brief article on Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 310. | 1837-09-30 |
| 16 | <i>Boston Weekly Magazine</i> . vol. 1, no. 27. Brief article on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 215. | 1839-03-09 |
| 17 | <i>Boston Weekly Magazine</i> . vol. 1, no. 28. Brief article on the return of troops from Aroostook, p. 263. Very brief article on "The War" in Aroostook, p. 223. | 1839-03-16 |
| 18 | <i>Boston Weekly Magazine</i> . vol. 1, no. 33. Brief article on the return of troops from Aroostook, p. 263. | 1839-04-20 |
| 19 | <i>The Albion: British, Colonial, and Foreign Weekly Gazette</i> , New York. vol. 2, no. 28. A lengthy article with a large map on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 225-226. | 1840-07-11 |
| 20 | <i>Eastern Argus</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 6, no. 40. Lengthy letter by Hon. John Forsyth to Gov. Kent appears on front page. | 1838-04-04 |
| 21 | <i>Eastern Argus</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 6, no. 53. Lengthy article on the Northeast Boundary dispute on inside pages. | 1838-05-18 |
| 22 | <i>Eastern Argus</i> , Portland, Me. vol. 6, no. 57. Two articles on the Northeast Boundary dispute, p. 2. | 1838-05-28 |
- 13: Images: cabinet cards, undated
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| 1 | Jno. B. Madigan. By C.E. Shorey, Augusta. |
| 2 | Fred N. (?). By Hearn, Portland. |
| 3 | W. Dickey. By Shorey, Augusta. |
| 4 | William Dickey. By Rendee(?), Augusta. |
| 5 | Hannibal Hamlin. By Purdy, Boston. |
- 14: Northern Telegraph Company message forms (blank)
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| 1-21 | Northern Telegraph Company message forms (blank). |
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- 15: Messenger note, Office of the Sheriff of Aroostook County, 1885
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| 1 | Deputy sheriff's notice advising "Horace Richards of Fort Fairfield" that Oscar B. Keene was deemed an insolvent debtor by the Court of Insolvency for Aroostook County. | 1885-12-16 |
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