

Eunice Tardif audio recordings

MCC-00251

Finding Aid

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

Title: Eunice Tardif audio recordings

Creator/Collector: Tardif, Eunice

Collection number: MCC-00251 Shelf list number: AJ-251

Dates: 1992-1999

Extent: 8 compact discs (.40 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Eunice Tardif, 2009.

Language: English, French.

Conservation notes: The original 6 audiocassettes were recorded onto 8 gold CDs, with copy CDs made for patron use.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: A compact disc player is required to access this collection.

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Citation: Eunice Tardif audio recordings, MCC-00251, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Original audiocassettes are in the possession of the donor as of 2/2009.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information:

Lionel Doucette was born 20 August 1936 in Grand Isle Maine. He is the son of Siméon Doucette of Grand Isle and Roseanna Michaud from Ste Agathe, Maine. Lionel married Simone Bouchard on 25 October 1955. They had 3 daughters and 3 sons. Lionel worked at Frasers for 42 years and retired in December 1998. His father, Siméon, was a farmer and an avid fiddle player who played at weddings and *soirées* for many years.

Lionel Doucette grew up with house parties and dances. Even as a small boy, he was passionately interested in music. He's been playing the fiddle since he was 13 years old. He likes to tell the story of how he would sneak into the living room for his father's fiddle after the elder Doucette left for work. The first song he learned was "Reel of St. Agathe". The late Siméon Doucette was a regular at soirées and community events. Well aware of Lionel's escapades, Mrs. Doucette watched, as her son secretly became an accomplished fiddler in his own right. ¹ Lionel was 56 years old at the time of the recordings and he presently lives in St. David, Maine with his wife Simone.

Lionel was 56 years old at the time of the recordings in 1992 and 1993.

Siméon Doucette was the son of Hubert Doucette, a farmer, and Odélie Thibodeau, a homemaker, both of Grand Isle, Maine. He was born December 23, 1906 in Grand Isle, Maine. Siméon attended one room school house in the Doucette back settlement of Grand Isle. He married Roseanna Michaud of Ste-Agathe when he was 29 years old. Siméon was a farmer all his life

Siméon started playing the fiddle when he was 10 or 11 years old and he started playing regularly at the age of 15. He used to make-up his own tunes. His entire family were musicians. Siméon is the father of Lionel and brother of Reid and Alfred.

Siméon was 86 years old at the time of the recording in 1992 and 1993

Eunice Tardif is the daughter of Alfred Doucette and Alma Levesque both of Grand Isle, Maine. Eunice is the niece of Siméon and Reid Doucette mentioned in this finding aid. Eunice was born August 9, 1935 in Madawaska, Maine. Her father worked at Fraser Paper Company and her mom was a homemaker.

Eunice attended school in Madawaska and at "le couvent de Ste-Agathe". She married Maurice Tardif in 1952 and moved to Connecticut. They have 4 children. In Connecticut she worked for different companies such as S&A – 5-10 ¢ store; Royal Typewriter; Underwood Typewriter; Milton Bradly; and also worked with husband Maurice who was owner of a gas station in Connecticut. Eunice and Maurice moved back to Ste-Agathe in 1973.

Eunice is an avid piano player and from a family of musicians. She and Maurice did some wood crafting together for many years. In summertime, Eunice dedicates her days for gardening and in wintertime, she helps daughters Diane and Karen take care of their snowshoe and cross country ski trails, cutting branches and maintaining the trails. Eunice has a special collection of over 300 spoons coming from places they visited and gifts received from travelling friends and family members. Eunice and Maurice still live in Ste-Agathe.

Reid Doucette was the son of Hubert Doucette, a farmer, and Odélie Thibodeau, a homemaker, both of Grand Isle, Maine. Reid was born April 24, 1921. He married Lorette Lausier on June 30, 1947 and they had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Lorette is a

¹ Traditions d'icite

homemaker and a precious hobby of hers was making blankets that she sold all over the United States and gave to her children and family members.

Reid attended a one-room school house till the 8th grade, in the Doucette back settlement of Grand Isle. He was in the army in the United States for 1 year and spent 1 year in Japan, as a soldier, after World War II was over. When he came back home after the war, he worked as a farmer for 1 year and then got a job at Fraser Paper Company in Madawaska, Maine.

Reid was a fiddle player and was from a family of musicians. He loved hunting and gardening and was a fan of baseball. Reid died November 11, 1999 at the age of 78. He was 72 years old at the time of the recordings in 1993.

Roméo Michaud was born on February 25, 1928. He was the son of Fred Michaud from Madawaska and Marguerite Deschaines. Roméo married Corinne Chabre Michaud from Lille, Maine and had 7 children. They lived in Connecticut for 20 years while Roméo worked as a forger “forgeron” making knives and axes. They came back in the region around 1973 when Roméo bought a wood mill on Birch Point Road on Long Lake in Madawaska. He worked at his mill for about 13 years and had to stop because he got sick with emphysema.

He loved to go fishing and hunting. He learned to play the guitar at the age of 18 and also played the violin once in a while. Roméo played in dance halls, for weddings, and other events, with family and friends throughout his adult life. Siméon Doucette’s wife, Roseanna, and Roméo Michaud’s father, Fred, were sister and brother.

Roméo was 65 years old at the time of the recordings in 1992 and 1993. He passed away in 1999.

Scope and content:

This collection consists of 6 audio recordings of interviews conducted by Eunice Tardif between November 23, 1992 and April 1993 with Lionel Doucette, Siméon Doucette, Reid Doucette, and Roméo Michaud, as well as fiddle playing by these men.

Inventory:

- Item 1: Fiddling by Siméon Doucette, his son Lionel Doucette, Reid Doucette, and Roméo Michaud for the St. Agatha Centennial Parade, 1999. Side 1A of original audio cassette.
- Item 2: Fiddling and other music with Siméon Doucette, his son Lionel Doucette, Reid Doucette, and Roméo Michaud for the St. Agatha Centennial Parade, 1999. Side 1B of original audio cassette.
- Item 3: Lionel Doucette interview and violin music, November 23, 1992. Side 2A of original audio cassette. Interview notes: 56 years old; playing since age 13; originally interested in guitar; started playing his dad's friend's violin in secret and taught himself; first song learned was "Reel de St. Agathe;" fiddle used to be lead instruments and they would play jives and waltzes at

dance bars. Songs recorded with Lionel Doucette: Reel de St. Agatha; Chinese Breakdown; Big John McNeal; Little Scottish; Spanish 2 Step; Country Waltz; Long Star Rag; Guitar Break Down; Sims Break Down (dad); Bear Barrel Polka; Blue Green Waltz.

- Item 4: Siméon Doucette interview and violin music. Side 2B of original audio recording. Interview notes: Songs recorded with Lionel and his dad Siméon Doucette: Unnamed tune; Reel de St. Agatha #2; Mack's Reel; Snow Deer; Ernest Cyr's Tune (played by Lionel and Siméon); Around the Chimney (Siméon); Johnny Wagoner (Lionel); Blue Dream Waltz in C; La Tune Grandmère Doucette; Uncle Henry (Lionel); Snow Deer in D; Maple Sugar Reel in D; Mocking Bird in A; German Waltz in G; Flopped Ear Mule in D; Annie in D; Silver and Gold 2 Step; Pourquoi dionc.
- Items 5-6: Fiddling with the Doucettes, "Acadian Festival Parade Music," St. David, Maine. Sides 3A and 3B of original audio cassette.
- Item 7: Fiddling with Lionel, Siméon, Reid Doucette and Roméo Michaud on guitar, St. David, Maine, April 23, 1993. Side 4A of original audio cassette.
- Item 8: Fiddling with Lionel, Siméon, Reid Doucette and Roméo Michaud on guitar. St. David, Maine, April 23, 1993. Side 4B of original audio cassette. Includes small talk between the players, deciding which song to play next.

Order and Arrangement: The 6 audio cassettes were transferred to 8 archival gold compact discs with the following shelf list numbers. The audio cassettes were also transferred on 8 white label CDs for patron use with shelf list numbers below:

<u>From Above Inventory</u>	<u>Acadian Archives shelf list #</u>	<u>AA Stacks/Media section</u> AudioCD
Item 1	MCC-00251 AJ-251 1A of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 1A
Item 2	MCC-00251 AJ-251 1B of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 1B
Item 3	MCC-00251 AJ-251 2A of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 2A
Item 4	MCC-00251 AJ-251 2B of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 2B
Item 5	MCC-00251 AJ-251 3A of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 3A
Item 6	MCC-00251 AJ-251 3B of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 3B
Item 7	MCC-00251 AJ-251 4A of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 4A
Item 8	MCC-00251 AJ-251 4B of 4	CS71 .D68 1999 Disc 4B