

Albina Cyr song lyrics and sheet music, circa 1900-1970

MCC-00262

Finding Aid

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Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Albina Cyr song lyrics and sheet music

Creator/Collector: Cyr, Albina

Collection number: MCC-00262

Shelf list number: UM-262

Dates: ca. 1900-1970

Extent: 1 box (.50 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Ashley Dionne, date unknown.

Language: French, English.

Conservation notes: None.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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: Albina Cyr song lyrics and sheet music, MCC-00262, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: MCC-00175, Albina Cyr song collection.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information:

Albina Cyr was born on March 1, 1920, in Van Buren, Maine, the daughter of Edna Cyr (daughter of Joseph and Flavie Clavette) of St-Basile, New Brunswick and Pierre "Pit" Cyr (son of Vital and Flavie Plourde) of Van Buren, Maine. Around 1925, the family moved to Madawaska, where Pierre got a job at the newly opened Fraser paper mill. After eighteen years of millwork, an increasingly bad ulcer condition forced Pierre Cyr to

quit his job at Fraser and move the family to a farm in Lille, where he farmed for six years. Around 1950, Pierre sold the farm and built the family house in Madawaska.

At age seventeen, Albina quit school to help her mother at home. She continued to care for her parents throughout her life; her mother died at home in 1971, and her father lived at home until the age of 92. Albina worked a variety of part-time jobs over her life, including four years of seasonal work at the Sneider Bird's Eye packing plant in Caribou, and eight years of part-time work for the Saint John Valley Times.

Albina Cyr comes from a musical background on both sides of her family. Her maternal grandfather Regis Clavette was a fiddle player. Her mother, Edna Cyr, sang and played harmonica. Edna Cyr collected some of her favorite songs into a songbook, as did one of her aunts, Anna Clavette (Anna Clavette married Ernest Fournier of St-Basile and was mother of Canadian senator Edgar Fournier). Albina's first instrument was the "bombarde" (jaw harp), which she took up as a small child. Albina began playing fiddle at seventeen. For several years, she and fellow Madawaska residents Therese Cyr and Verna Cyr performed as a volunteer ensemble at senior citizen gatherings. (see MCC-00175 for additional information)

Scope and content:

This collection consists of manuscript pages, both bound and loose, of song lyrics written by Albina Cyr and some of her family members. Songs are written in French and English. Also included is printed sheet music composed by other people. Some of the bound manuscripts had loose pages interspersed. The loose pages have been removed and placed in separate folders with notation as to from which bound volume they were removed. None of the materials are dated, but the songs are assumed to have been written between 1900 and 1970 (these are the dates used for another Albina Cyr collection in the archive).

This collection is arranged into 2 series: Manuscript song lyrics and printed sheet music by other composers.

Inventory:

Series 1: Manuscript song lyrics

Folder 1: Loose pages of song lyrics.

Folder 2: Ledger. First page: Mrs. Pit. Cyr (Edna Cyr, Albina's mother), Madawaska, Me. "Cahier de Chansons."

Folder 3: Binder of song lyrics (removed from binder). Albina Cyr.

Folder 4: Notebook of song lyrics. Title on first page: "Cahier chansons."

Folder 5: Loose pages of song lyrics removed from notebook in folder 4.

- Folder 6: Notebook of song lyrics. Image of Jesus on the cover.
- Folder 7: Loose pages of song lyrics removed from notebook in folder 6.
- Folder 8: Composition book of song lyrics. First song titled, "Prisoner Song."
- Folder 9: Loose pages of song lyrics removed from composition book in folder 8.
- Folder 10: Notebook of song lyrics (cover missing).
- Folder 11: Record book of song lyrics.
- Folder 12: Loose pages of song lyrics removed from record book in folder 11.
- Folder 13: Notebook of song lyrics (fasteners removed).
- Folder 14: Ledgers of song lyrics. 2 items.
- Folder 15: Notebooks of song lyrics. 3 items.
- Series 2: Printed sheet music by other composers**
- Folder 16: *La Bonne Chanson*. Deuxième Année. 1938.
- Folder 17: Loose pages of song lyrics removed from *La Bonne Chanson*.
- Folder 18: *Treasure Chest of Home Spun Songs*. 1935.
- Folder 19: Loose sheet music. "Sioux City Sue;" "Divorce Me C.O.D.;" "O Come All Ye Faithful;" "Qui Veut Me Marier" (recipe for peanut butter cookies on reverse).