

**Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1994**

**MCC-00028**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Lisa Ornstein, July 1995; updated by Kathryn Donahue, October 2013**  
**Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes**  
**University of Maine at Fort Kent**  
**Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** Joseph Audibert family journal and papers

**Creator/Collector:** Audibert, Joseph, 1820-1857; Audibert family

**Collection number:** MCC-00028

**Shelf list number:** UF-0003; SF-0003 (1 master, 1 negative copy located in storage area of the archives); M28; OM28

**Accession number:** MCC:93-00028

**Dates:** 1842-1994

**Extent:** 1 roll microfilm, 5 folders (.25 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Material was acquired from Lawrence Audibert, 1993. Supplementary materials were added by Archives staff.

**Language:** French and English

**Conservation notes:** None.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** None.

**Technical restrictions:** A microfilm reader is required to access a portion 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:** Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, MCC-00028, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** Not applicable.

**Related materials:** Not applicable.

**Location of originals:** Original materials in the possession of Lawrence Audibert and family as of 1995.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

***Biographical information:***

Joseph Audibert dit Lajunesse was born in September 1820, the son of Joseph Audibert and Marguerite Breton of St-Jean parish on the Ile d' Orleans, Quebec. Of his early life little is known as yet, and it is as yet unclear just when or why he came to the United States.

Audibert enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Sullivan in Eastport, Maine in January 1842. Military records describe him as dark-complexioned 22-year old standing five feet, five inches, with hazel eyes and black hair, occupation sailor. The most striking element of his enlistment records is Audibert's claim to be a French national, a charade he would maintain officially for at least the next eight years.<sup>1</sup>

According to his journal, Audibert was stationed at Fort Kent, Maine from 6 April 1843 to 12 September 1845. He served as an artificer in various eastern army sites including Tamp Bay and Fort Pickens (Pensacola, Florida) where he completed his military service in January 1847. He travelled northward, purchasing along the way with new clothes, a set of carpenter's tools, and a number of articles of women's finery.

Audibert arrived in the Fort Kent region on 20 November, 1847; four days later, in the parish of Ste-Luce (Frenchville, Maine), he married Marguerite Martin, daughter of Chrysostome Martin and Marie Luce Cyr.

The couple acquired land in St-Luce parish (T18R6). The 1850 federal census lists Joseph and his wife as residents of Hancock Plantation (are of present town of Fort Kent and plantations of New Canada, St. Francis, St. John and Wallagrass), parents of two-year-old son, and lists his occupation as carpenter. Family correspondence suggests that the couple spend several months in Portland, Maine area in 1852 for unknown reasons, but seem to have returned to Ste-Luce shortly thereafter.

Joseph and Marguerite Audibert had eight children in their nine years of marriage. Family correspondence suggests that the couple maintained warm relations with Marie-Luce's family as well as with Joseph's three sisters in Quebec City. Joseph Audibert died at the age of 37 on 26 October 1857. His widow re-married nine years later to Joseph Vital Marquis.

***Scope and content:***

This collection primarily consists of a microfilm edition of a small journal, dating from 1842, into which have been inserted several letters and other papers created or collected by Joseph Audibert dit Lajunesse (1820-1857) and his heirs.

---

<sup>1</sup> The biographical note prepared by Archives staff which appears as a target on the microfilm lists Audibert's birthplace as France. At the time, the only available records of Audibert's birthplace were his military records and the 1851 census, in both cases, Audibert claimed French nationality. Subsequent genealogical research by historian Beatrice Craig revealed that Audibert was born and raised in Quebec.

This collection also includes five folders of related manuscript materials compiled by Archives staff, comprising Audibert family property transfer records, Joseph Audibert's U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy edition of the Audibert journal and papers, and a "photo-flow" copy of the microfilm of the same.

Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse was the original creator of the journal, which he began in January 1842. His firstborn child Joseph L. Audibert apparently inherited the journal, and he added his own entries in the 1880s. This collection also contains a number of unbound papers which were inserted in the back of the Audibert journal. With the exception of a newspaper clipping, these papers were created by Joseph Audibert, his son, his relatives, or tradesmen with whom the Audibert family did business.

Journal entries include history of travels, accounts, "marriage remembrances," birth records, contracts, lists of correspondents and letters received miscellaneous notes and calculations. Papers contain family correspondence, a petition, a plantation notice, a newspaper clipping, business accounts, and miscellaneous notes. Most journal entries and papers were created between 1842 and 1855; a smaller number were created in the 1880s and early 1890s; a few date from the early 1900s.

Additional materials compiled by Archives staff consist of copies of Audibert family property transfer deeds recorded at the Northern Aroostook Registry of Deeds, Joseph Audibert's U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy of the Audibert journal and papers, and a "photo-flow" copy of the microfilm edition of the same.

The Joseph Audibert Journal and papers provides unique information about the economic and social history of the upper St. John Valley in the mid-nineteenth century. The journal and family correspondence are of particular interest because extent first-hand written accounts of personal and family life in the upper St. John Valley during this period are few and far between.

This collection is divided into 2 series: Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1915; Supplementary materials collected by Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, 1842-1994.

The following page remarks pertain to the microfilmed journal:

PAGE	REMARKS
Front fly:	pencil and brown ink
(5 unpaginated pages,	black or brown ink)
8-60	handwritten, ink, some cut pages
61-62	missing
63-65	loose
66	loose and blank (except for page number)
67-68	missing
69-70	blank (except for page numbers)

71-72	missing
73	blank (except for page number)
74	brown ink
75-76	missing
77	calculations
78	pencil
79	pencil and ink
80	pencil
81-84	missing, cut out
85-88	missing
89-90	loosely inserted
91-92	missing
93-97	pencil
98-99	pencil and brown ink
100-104	missing
105-108	black ink
109-110	missing
111	black ink
112-113	blank
114	pencil
115-140	missing
141	pencil
142	pencil and brown ink
143-144	brown ink
145	brown and blue ink
146-148	brown ink
Back fly:	brown ink

***Processing information:*** In 1993, the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes received permission from Lawrence Audibert to borrow the journal and papers to create a microfilm edition, which was produced by Micrographic Systems of Connecticut.

***Inventory:***

Series 1: Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1915.  
This series contains a microfilm edition of a small journal, dating from 1842, into which have been inserted several letters and other papers created or collected by Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse (1820-1857) and his heirs. Joseph Audibert dit Lajeunesse was the original creator of the journal, which he began in January 1842. His firstborn child Joseph L. Audibert apparently inherited the journal, and he added his own entries in the 1880s. This collection also contains a number of unbound papers which were inserted in the back of the Audibert journal. With the exception of a newspaper clipping, these papers were created by Joseph Audibert, his son, his relatives, or tradesmen with whom the Audibert family did

business. This series is arranged in its original order on the microfilm roll.  
1 microfilm roll.

- Journal.** Bound notebook 19.5 x 16.5 cm, green faux marble cover with red spine, printed cover title: "Joseph Audibert/1846," 96 pages plus front and back flyleaves. Roll item 1
- Petition of Joseph Audibert and alias to members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives for the State of Maine, dated march 1851.** 2  
1 sheet 31.5 x 40.4 cm lined cream paper, folder in half  
Handwritten in brown ink. Side one: left half (sideways) "Petition", right half "to the Honorable/the/members of the Senate..."  
Side two: left half continues petition, right half blank.
- Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed Thomas Martin, dated 25 July 1852.** 3  
1 sheet 30 x 38 cm cream paper folded into letter/envelope. Handwritten in brown ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: left half contains address and postmarks, right half contains first page of letter. Side two: two pages of letter.
- Letters to Joseph Audibert, signed Marie Luce Martin, Jacques Hamel, and Thomas Martin, dated 7 August 1852.** 4  
1 sheet 30 x 38 cm lined cream paper folded into letter/envelope. Handwritten in brown ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: left half contains address and postmarks, right half contains first page of letter from Marie Luce Martin. Side two: contains two pages completing letter from Marie Luce Martin and containing letters from Jacques Hamel and Thomas Martin .
- Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed Charlotte, Marie, and Elisabeth Audibert dites Lajeunesse, dated 24 December 1852.** 5  
1 sheet 21 x 37.5 cm cream paper folded into letter/envelope. Handwritten in black ink, postmarks in red ink. Side one: one half contains text of letter, other half contains address and postmarks. Side two: (blank)
- Letter to Joseph Audibert, signed Charlotte, Marie, and Elisabeth Audibert dites Lajeunesse, dated 29 October 1854; letter to "Monsieur," signed Ch. Beaupre, no date.** 6  
1 sheet 20.5 x 38 cm cream paper, folded. Handwritten in brown ink. Side one: left half blank, right half letter dated 29 October 1854. Side two: left half continues letter of 29 October 1854, right half "Monsieur."
- Plantation notice to legal voters of Hancock Plantation, dated 20 March 1855; rough draft of a letter, signed Regis Audibert, dated 20 March 1872.** 7  
1 sheet 24.5 x 19.5 cm blue paper with very faint blue lines. Side one: "Plantation Notice." Handwritten in black ink. Side two: rough draft of a letter. Handwritten in brown ink.

**Account for Edouar Pinette, signed Joseph Audibert, dated 13 November 1855.** 1 sheet 6.5 x 19 cm cream paper. Hand written in brown ink. Side one: receipt. Side two: (blank, not filmed). Roll item 8

**Ledger of purchases and credits from B.W Mallett & Co. by J. L. Audibert, dated 1888-1892.** 1 sheet 35 x 42 cm ledger paper, folded in half. Handwritten in black ink. Side one: "B. W. Mallett & Co." Left half blank; right half account of purchases. Side two: "Credit: Left half continuation of purchases; right half lists of credits." 9

**Newspaper clipping about weather predictions for Maine, undated, but text suggests December 1903.** 1 newspaper clipping 3.5 x 15 cm. Side one: "La TEMPERATURE DU ME." Side two: fragments of newspaper articles (not filmed). 10

**Receipt for funeral expenses for Elizabeth Audibert, dated 9 April 1915.** 1 sheet 17 x 21.5 cm cream paper. Printed receipt form with handwritten black ink. Side one: receipt. Side two: (blank, not filmed). 11

**Address (no name, no date).** 1 torn sheet. 7.5 x 9.5 cm cream paper, lined. Handwritten in black ink. Side one: address. Side two: (blank, not filmed). 12

Series 2: Supplementary materials, 1842-1994.  
This collection also includes five folders of related manuscript materials compiled by Archives staff, comprising Audibert family property transfer records, Joseph Audibert's U.S. Army enlistment record, genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, a photocopy edition of the Audibert journal and papers, and a "photo-flow" copy of the microfilm of the same. 5 folders.

Transfer of property deeds for Joseph Audibert and heirs, 1850-1878. Folder 1

U.S. Army enlistment record for Joseph Audibert, 1842-1847. 2

Genealogical research notes by Beatrice Craig, 1994. 3

Photocopy edition of Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1915. 4

"Photo-flow copy of microfilm edition of Joseph Audibert family journal and papers, 1842-1915. 5