

**Gerald Nelson oral history with Robert O. Pearson**

**MCC-00029**

**Finding Aid**

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

**Completed January 2000**

*Collection Title:* Gerald Nelson oral history with Robert O. Pearson

*Citation:* Gerald Nelson oral history with Robert O. Pearson, MCC-00029, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

*Accession Number:* MCC-00029

*Shelf List Number:* A80-81

*Provenance and Chain of Custody:* Gerald Nelson created these sound recordings as an assignment for a University of Maine at Fort Kent semester 1987 course entitled History 353: History of Maine. The recordings were initially submitted to Professor Paradis in Fall 198, who brought them to the Archives in March 1991.

*Inclusive Date Range:* 1944-46

*Bulk Date Range:* same as above

*Physical Characteristics/Conditions:* C-90 audio cassettes, audibility is poor to nil

*Quantity:* 2

*Access:* There are no restrictions on this collection.

*Prepared by:* Lisa Ornstein, January 2000.

Scope and Content Note: The two audiocassettes which constitute this collection contain approximately 80 minutes of interview with World War II veteran Robert O. Pearson of New Sweden, Maine. The tape was created by Gerald Nelson as a class assignment for a History course which he completed in Fall 1987 entitled History 353: History of Maine.

Sound Quality: The audibility of these recordings is poor to nil: the voices of the interviewer and interviewee are barely discernable above constant white noise, suggesting that the original recording gain was set too low. The researcher who wishes to make use of these recordings should be prepared to audition the tape repeatedly in order to determine what is being said, and to expect that some parts of the conversation will simply be inaudible.

Summary of Contents:

Tape 1 of 2(A80):

Side A: 40-minute (approximate) interview with Robert O. Pearson of New Sweden, Maine. Mr. Pearson reminisces about his Army experiences during his term of military services from 1944-1946. The minimal audibility of this recording made it impossible to determine the precise contents of the interview within the time allowed for producing this finding aid.

Side B: Blank

Tape 2 of 2:

Side A: 40-minutes (approximate) interview with Robert O. Pearson of New Sweden, Maine, presumably a continuation from Tape 1(A80). Mr. Pearson reminisces about his Army experiences during his term of military services from 1944-1946. The minimal audibility of this recording made it impossible to determine the precise contents of the interview within the time allowed for producing this finding aid.

Side B: Blank

Biographical Note: [Archives Director Lisa Ornstein gathered the following information during a phone conversation on 24 January 2000 with Maurice Lizotte, a Veterans' Administration employee at the Caribou VA office. Mr. Lizotte obtained this information from Mr. Pearson's case file.] Robert O. Pearson was born 14 January 1925 in New Sweden. On 21 July 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army at the Portland, Maine office and, after basic training, was attached to Company A 290<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment as a light machine gunner. HE served in this capacity in France, the Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe, earning the Rank of Corporal. Mr. Pearson was discharged from Fort Devons, Massachusetts on 22 May 1946. He died 22 September 1997 in Caribou, Maine.