

Debra Durkin research paper on domestic textile production
MCC-00386

Finding Aid

Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, October 2012
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

Title: Debra Durkin research paper on domestic textile production

Creator/Collector: Debra Durkin

Collection number: MCC-00386

Shelf List number: UM-386, UP-386

Dates: 1992-1993

Extent: 1 folder + 1 box (.25 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Debra Durkin

Language: English.

Conservation notes: Photographs were inserted in Mylar sleeves for preservation

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

Copyright: Copyright has 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: Debra Durkin research paper on domestic textile production, MCC-00386, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Debra Durkin grew up in a household where sewing and knitting were common place activities as her maternal grandmother was a trained tailor who passed the skills onto her daughter who in turn taught Debra. There were always special projects to work on during summers and the holiday season. Her introduction to spinning and weaving in 1980 was a seamless transition – just more hand work. Primarily self taught in this area, Debra was the founding president of the River Bend Fiber Arts Guild in Chattanooga, TN 1983-1986. During that time the Guild, in partnership with the local history museum, refurbished a 1700's era loom and created a spinning/weaving exhibit in

the museum. Upon moving to the St. John Valley, Debra taught spinning and weaving through MSAD #27 from 1991-1994.

Scope and content: This collection consists of a research paper and photographs on domestic textile production among the French speaking communities in the Upper St. John River Valley. The information focuses on types of fibers, spinning techniques, and tools used. The study included communities on both sides on the St. John River. This was part of an independent study done with professor Lowell Daigle in 1992-1993 at UMFK.

Inventory:

- 1 folder: item 1. Objectives of the research. 17 sheets
- item 2. Photocopies of articles on spinning, weaving and carding mills. 11 sheets

- 1 photo box: Photos of woven blankets, linens, and laces.

Processing action: Photos were inserted in Mylar sleeves with corresponding information sheets.

Order and arrangement: The order of the photo collection was kept as is and placed in an archival photo box with respective information sheets.

- Photo 1: blanket woven by Mrs. Modeste (Rossignol) Fortin
- Photo 2: blanket woven by Mrs. Modeste Fortin
- Photo 3: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Lisa Ornstein
- Photo 4: blanket woven by Mrs. Glorieuse (Lochance) Ouellette, owner Mrs. ? Lausier
- Photo 5: blanket woven by Mrs. Glorieuse (Lochance) Ouellette, owner Mrs. ? Lausier
- Photo 6: blanket woven by Mrs. Glorieuse (Lochance) Ouellette, owner Mrs. ? Lausier
- Photo 7: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Ste-Agathe Historical Society
- Photo 8: blanket woven by Mrs. Severin (Ozithé) Dumond, owner Ste Agathe Hist. Soc.
- Photo9: blanket, unknown weaver, owner St. Agathe Historical Society
- Photo 10: blanket woven by Mrs. Germaine Lajoie Nadeau, owner Mrs. ? Chasse
- Photo 11: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Ste Agathe Historical Society
- Photo12: blanket woven by Pauline (Albert) Chasse, owner Ste Agathe Hist. Society
- Photo 13: blanket woven by Mrs. Onezime (Mattie Tardif) Michaud, owner Ste Agathe Hist. Soc.

- Photo 14: blanket woven by Mrs. Guerrette, owner Mrs. Candide Desrosiers
- Photo 15: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 16: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 17: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 18: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 19: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 20: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 21: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 22: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 23: blanket, unknown weaver, owner Don Cyr
- Photos 24 & 25: lace pieces, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 26: knit socks, owner Don Cyr
- Photo 27, 28, 29: Mrs. Fabienne Landry demonstrating spinning

- Photo 30: sample of handspun wool by Mrs Fabienne Landry
Photo 31: Mrs Blanche Long spinning wheel
Photo 32: part of spinning wheel
Photo 33, 34, 35: textile tool collection at the Clair Historical Society in Clair, New Brunswick
Item 36: negatives of photos in this collection