

Gerry Morin sculptures and papers

MCC-00402

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, June 2013
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Gerry Morin sculptures and papers

Creator/Collector: Gerard (Gerry) Morin

Collection number: MCC-00402

Shelf list number: UM-402, AX-402

Dates: 1978-1982

Extent: 2 folders + 2 boxes (.35 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Gerard (Gerry) Morin in June 2013

Language: French and English

Conservation notes: A photocopy of one side of the envelope was made on archival paper for the 'Chez-nous' document and the original envelope was discarded; staples were removed from documents; all colored paper documents were photocopied on archival paper and colored papers were discarded.

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: Gerry Morin sculptures and papers, MCC-00402, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: 3 books were cataloged separately:

Lettres sur l'Amérique du Nord par Michel Chevalier
(ACADIAN STACKS E165.C5 L4 1836)

Cadastrés abrégés des seigneuries du district de Québec (2 volumes)
(ACADIAN ARCHIVES F1054.Q5 C3 1863 v.1)
and
(ACADIAN ARCHIVES F1054.Q5 C3 1863 v.2)

Related materials: MCC-00244 Gerry Morin collection
MCC-00245 Gerry Morin engraving and lithograph of Evangeline
MCC-00246 Gerry Morin collection of sheet music and legal instruments

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Gerard (Gerry) Morin, son of Ida Pelletier and Joseph Denis Morin, was born in Ste-Agathe, Maine on February 1945, the 10th child of a family of 13 children. He was raised in a typical French-Catholic home where the language spoken was uniquely French. He never heard spoken English until enrolled in the elementary schools in the community. From that point on, all his education was uniquely in the English language. His French was totally oral and spoken, really never exposed to French books, magazines, newspapers, or other written format. Most of his education was taught by the nuns of the Daughters of Wisdom. Many of these nuns were originally from New York and the curriculum was basically that which they had been educated under, very Irish and English.

He graduated from St Agatha High School in 1963 and enrolled as a Freshman at Fort Kent State College. While at FKSC, he worked in the library on a part time basis. Gerry was part of the team responsible for the physical movement of the library collection from Cyr Hall to its present site (which was until that time the gymnasium). During that time, he had decided to pursue a library degree and had enrolled at Louisiana State University. At the last minute, he changed his mind and decided to take a year or two off to earn extra money. Late that September, he accepted a teaching position in MSAD #33(St. Agatha and Frenchville). The temporary break lasted over 27 years. During his teaching career, his duties included teaching self-contained classes, Junior High Reading, and finally district librarian.

During his first years of teaching, the teachers of MSAD #33 were given the opportunity to take part in a federally funded bilingual program. The summers were filled with workshops on personal growth and discovery, self-assertion techniques, and sensitivity training. As a result of these workshops, Gerry rediscovered his roots and identity. Sponsored trips to Montreal, Quebec City, towns along the south shore of the St Lawrence and a summer course in Dijon, France made him realize the richness and depth of his cultural heritage. It served as the impetus for him to organize and lead the efforts to establish the Ste Agathe Historical Society. If he wanted the town's story preserved and promoted then it would have to be done the citizens of that town. Waiting for outsiders and "experts" to come around and tell our story was now becoming an unrealistic expectation.

Gerry taught school until the mid-1980's when the opportunity to pursue his Master's degree in Library Science became a reality. He enrolled in the Masters of Library Science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Gerry spent a full summer at their home campus. Other courses were offered at the University of Maine at Orono. He completed the MLS in the summer of 1987 and at which time Gerry was serving as the MSAD #33 District Librarian. He served in that capacity until 1994. In 1995, Gerry accepted the position of Library Director for the Dyer Library in Saco, Maine and retired from that position in 2003.

His main residence has been Old Orchard Beach for the past 15 years and Gerry spends many weekends rummaging through used bookshops, flea markets, and antique shops looking for material related to the St John Valley history, language, or culture.

After all these years, he is still intrigued by the amount of historical information which was never introduced in their education or shown to them as they were growing up.

Scope and content: This collection consists of two wooden figurines and documents.

The smallest figurine is a wood carving of an elderly man wearing a hat with very pronounced facial expressions and has a mustache. He is wearing a coat, shirt with collar, and a bib-and-brace overall. He has one hand in his jacket pocket and in his other hand it looks like he had a walking stick which is missing. This wood carving measures 25 cm high x 6.5 cm wide at the base. The name 'C. Peltier' is carved in the base.

The second figurine is a wood carving of an elderly man, a hunter, sitting on a log with a rifle leaning on his right leg. He has a beard, he smiles but looks tired. He is wearing a fedora hat, shirt, jacket, pants, and boots. Both hands are resting on his legs. This figurine measures 19 cm high x 11.5 cm. wide at the base. The name 'Caron' is carved in the base underneath his right foot. Both figurines were bought in the province of Quebec.

The documents include a folded banner titled "Chez-Nous: The St. John Valley" with an invitation to the opening of a reception and viewing of this exhibit held at Maine State Museum in Augusta, Maine on 22 May 1982. Other documents include papers on the "1er Colloque International de l'Acadie.

Inventory:

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| Folder 1: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-photocopy of envelope-Banner "Chez-nous: The St. John Valley"- "Chez-nous: The St. John Valley" invitation to reception of viewing of exhibit |
| Folder 2: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Programme 1er Colloque International de l'Acadie" 11-12-13 mai 1978-Carte touristique de Moncton tourist map - Royal Bank-Pamphlet "service alimentaire, Univ. de Moncton 1978"- "Le centre d'étude acadiennes" typescript letter-Paper "1er Colloque International de l'Acadie" w. handwritten notes- "La société historique acadienne"- "La société historique acadienne de la Baie Sainte-Marie"- "La société historique de Kent Inc."- "La société historique du Madawaska"- "La société historique de la Vallée de Memramcook"- "La société historique Nicolas-Denys"- "Dans le cadre du 1er Colloque International de l'Acadie et du congrès de L'A.S.M.C.- "Le department d'art dramatique présente Mademoiselle Marguerite"- "Le department d'art dramatique présente en tournée et en reprise Mademoiselle Marguerite un morceau de bravoure- Bienvenue – Université de Moncton map/carte |

Box 1: -wooden sculpture of elder man walking

Box 2: -wooden sculpture of elderly man sitting on tree log with rifle leaning of
his right knee