

Merle C. Rainey correspondence and articles

MCC-00434

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, October 2017
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Merle C. Rainey correspondence and articles

Creator/Collector: Mr. Roger Paradis

Collection number: MCC-00434

Shelf list number: UM-434

Dates: 1975-1998

Extent: 1 folder (.8 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Mr. Roger Paradis

Language: French and English

Conservation notes: None.

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: Merle C. Rainey correspondence and articles, MCC-00434, 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: Mr. Merle Rainey was born on August 29, 1919 in Prospect, Waldo County, Maine, the son of Thomas Rainey and Malinda Gray. Mr. Rainey earned a B.A, and a Master's degree in Education at the University of Maine. He enlisted in the Air Corps on June 20 1941 during WWII. As per Mr. Roger Paradis, Merle was a wingman to Colonel Thomas Christian when both pilots were shot down by the Germans on August 12, 1944 in Boisieux-au-Mont, France. Colonel Christian died, but Merle was able to bail out and hide from the Germans when they came looking for him. During the night, he met someone from the French

underground who took him in and placed him with the family of René and Louise Ducroquet. He remained with them until the liberation. In 1948, when his commission was terminated, he was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Air Forces and was part of the 132nd Fighter Squadron (Jet). After the war, he became a traveling salesman for Dunn & Bradstreet. Mr. Rainey lived in Fort Kent and taught a few years at the Fort Kent Community High School around 1963. He left the area for a while to come back to Fort Kent and worked as an immigration officer. He married Katherine Hanscom in 1980. He lived in Fort Kent until he died in October 1999.

Scope and content: his collection consists of handwritten correspondence from 1975-1997 between Mr. Merle Rainey and Mr. René Ducroquet who was Mr. Rainey French resistance host while he was hiding from the Germans in France, during World War II. Also included are a few newspaper articles on Colonel Thomas Christian whose plane was shot down on August 12, 1944 during the same mission over France with Mr. Rainey.