

**Paul Cyr print collection
MCC-00439**

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, February 2018
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Paul Cyr print collection

Creator/Collector: Paul Cyr

Collection number: MCC-439

Shelf list number: UP-439

Dates: 2010-2015

Extent: 7 boxes, 1 album (11.12 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was purchased from photographer Paul Cyr of Presque Isle, Maine

Language: N/A

Conservation notes: Loose prints on glossy paper were inserted in archival sleeves and placed in an archival photo binder. All prints on canvas were individually inserted in archival folders.

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: Paul Cyr print collection, MCC-00439, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: One photograph was not part of the collection.

Related materials:

County Snapshots DVD:

ACADIAN A-V DVD F27.A7 C97 2013, 2014, 2015

Acadian Roots: images of the St. John Valley = Racines acadiennes : images de la Vallée Saint-Jean ACADIAN STACKS F27.S29 H88 2014

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: *Acadian Roots: images of the St. John Valley = Racines acadiennes: images de la Vallée Saint-Jean* located in the stacks with shelf list number: ACADIAN STACKS F27.S29 H88 2014

Biographical information: Paul A. Cyr is a native of Hamlin in Aroostook County, Maine, and lives in Presque Isle with his wife Karen. Paul first took an interest in photography, as a teenager to help pay for his first car and since then his photography has been a challenging and satisfying lifetime hobby. He is known to be at the right place at the right time with his creative way of capturing the moment.

Over twenty County businesses use Paul's prize-winning photographs for websites, Facebook pages, covers of reports, tourist guides, etc. You will find his photographs featured prominently by Barcroft media of London, U.K., Bangor Metro, Boston Globe, Yankee and DownEast magazines, Pratt & Whitney, Bath Iron Works just to name a few.

In 2014, he and Dottie Hutchins published *Acadian Roots: Images of the St. John Valley/Racines acadiennes: Images de la Vallée Saint-Jean*.

Historical note: Until the early 1870's potatoes were harvested by the farmer to provide for his family and the local lumbermen. They not only used potatoes for food, they learned how to extract starch from them for their own use to stiffen cloth for fancy shirts or dresses.

A tradition unique to Aroostook County residents has been the participation in the potato harvest. Whole families would take part in the harvest to increase the family's earnings. During the latter part of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, the demand for potatoes and potato products created a need for labor to harvest them. With the arrival of railroads, the demand for Maine potatoes and starch changed the economy from the pioneering days when farmers sold locally. Acreage increased and more labor was needed to plant, cultivate, harvest, and ship potato products.

Mechanical diggers pulled by horses were needed to provide a more efficient way of removing potatoes from the ground instead of digging by hand. After the potatoes are laid onto the ground by the digger, the potato picker would pick from a section of the field allotted to the picker. Once the basket is full, it is dumped into a nearby barrel. It takes about four baskets of potatoes to fill a barrel. A full basket will weigh about 30 pounds. Baskets were made locally from strips of wood from the ash trees.

After the barrel was full, the picker would put a ticket, with a number assigned to him/her, in the barrel rim. The barrel loaders would collect the tickets so that the farmer could keep track of the number of barrels picked by each picker. A potato picker started earning 2 or 3 cents per full barrel with the price per barrel increasing over the years until pickers earned up to a dollar a barrel. Most pickers could fill 20 to 40 barrels per day and some potato pickers could fill 100 or more barrels per day.

Around 1900, farmers loaded barrels by hand and barrels were transported to and from the field with wagons that were built with a low platform, allowing the barrels to be more easily loaded and unloaded. During the 1940s, battery powered or hydraulic hoists were used with a grapple placed on the rim of the barrel so the barrel could be hoisted onto the body of a truck. After a truck was loaded with barrels, it was driven to the potato storage building and workers would

unload the full barrels and put the empty barrels back onto the truck to be driven back to the potato field so that the empties could be dropped onto the picker's sections again.¹

Scope and content: This collection consists of 98 colored prints on canvas and 13 colored prints on glossy photo paper. The prints on canvas are mostly aerial view of the towns and landscapes in the surrounding areas of the St. John Valley from Van Buren, Maine to Allagash, Maine. The prints on canvas are fastened on wooden frames and consist of two sizes: 13 in x 8 in. and 17 in. x 11 in.

The 13 colored prints on glossy paper are scenes of potato harvesting, by hand, on the Bonderson Farm in Woodland, Maine: digging of potatoes with a mechanical digger; distributing potato barrels from farm truck; potato picking by hand; collecting potato barrels by hoisting barrels on a flatbed farm truck.

Inventory: prints on canvas:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Aerial view of the Allagash landscape and river. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 2: Aerial view of the Allagash landscape and river. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 3: Aerial view of the Allagash Baptist Church and cemetery on Dickey Road. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 4: Old barn w. barn doors open showing tractor. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 5: Aerial view of potato harvest in Cyr Plantation. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 6: Aerial view of Cyr Plantation with farms and fields. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 7: View of night sky in Cyr Plantation. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 8: View of night sky in Cyr Plantation. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 9: Aurora borealis on the road to Cyr Plantation. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 10: Aerial view of Eagle Lake. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 11: Aerial view of the town and lake in Eagle Lake. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 12: View of Route 11 in Eagle Lake, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 13: Easton at night (vibrant green colors) 13 in. x 8 in. This print is displayed in UMFK IT office.
- Folder 14: Aurora borealis view from Fort Fairfield. 13 in. x 8 in. This print is displayed in UMFK IT office.
- Folder 15: Biathlon competitors on 10th Mountain, Fort Kent, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.

Box 2:

- Folder 16: Fort Kent Blockhouse. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 17: Double barns in Fort Kent. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 18: Aerial view of Route 1 towards Fort Kent; LaBrie Farm land. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 19: Aerial view of the St. John River & LaBrie Farm land on Route 1, Fort Kent. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 20: Aerial view of a buckwheat field in the Fort Kent area. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 21: Aerial view of Bouchard Farm; buckwheat fields, Route 161, Fort Kent.

¹ <http://presqueisle.mainememory.net/page/974/print.html>

- 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 22: Aerial view of the town of Fort Kent and Clair, N. B. from over UMFK, Fish River, St. John River, St. Louis Church, rail road, Station Hill, hospital. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 23: View of East Main St. from Market St. in Fort Kent. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 24: View of Ste-Luce Church in Frenchville, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 25: Aerial view of Frenchville depicting the Ed Pelletier Farm (red roof); potato houses, Route 1, St. John River, fields and mountains. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 26: Aerial view of Frenchville, Maine & St-Hilaire, NB., St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 27: Aerial view of Frenchville Regional Airport. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 28: Aerial view of Grand Isle, Maine on the St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 29: Aerial view of Mizpah, a place of prayer and healing, in the back settlement of Grand Isle, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 30: Aerial view of Hamlin's landscape; St. John River. 13 in. x 8 in.

Box 3:

- Folder 31: Aerial view of Hamlin landscape; farms; St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 32: Tractor plowing field in Hamlin, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 33: Aerial view of a combine harvesting field in Hamlin, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 34: Aerial view of fields in Hamlin, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 35: Aerial view of Keegan, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 36: Tractors working the field. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 37: Harvesting potatoes in Keegan, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 38: Aerial view of Upper Keegan, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 39: Aerial view of Lille, Maine and Musée Culturel du Mont-Carmel 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 40: Aerial view of Lille, Maine and the St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 41: Aerial view of Lille, Maine and the St. John River. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 42: Close-up view of the Musée Culturel du Mont Carmel belfry. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 43: Aerial view of people next to ice fishing shelter on Long Lake, St. Agatha, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 44: Aerial view of Pelletier Island on Long Lake, St. Agatha, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.

Box 4:

- Folder 45: Aerial view of the town of Madawaska and Twin Rivers Paper Co. (Fraser Paper Mill). 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 46: Aerial view of Madawaska, Maine and Edmundston, N.B. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 47: View of Main Street, Madawaska, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
- Folder 48: Aerial view of Long Lake fishing shacks on the Madawaska side. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 49: Several people wearing their grosses têtes / big heads made for the 2014 World Acadian Congress. Madawaska, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 50: Acadian flag hovering in Madawaska. 13 in. x 8 in.
- Folder 51: Aerial view of Lavertu Road (Settlement) in Madawaska; view of Long Lake in the background. 13 in. 8 in.

- Folder 52: Aerial view of Madawaska back settlement. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 53: Aerial view of Pennington Pond and Hedgehog Mountain in the Winterville, Maine, area. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 54: Aerial view of the town of St. Agatha, Maine; Long Lake; Pelletier Island. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 55: Aerial view of St. Agatha and Long Lake; fields of buckwheat. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 56: View of a canola field in bloom at the Chamberland Farm in St. Agatha. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 57: Aerial view of LaBrie Farm in St. Agatha, Maine; potato harvest. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 58: View of buckwheat field on Montagne Plate, St. Agatha. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 59: Aerial view of St. David and Madawaska, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.

Box 5:

- Folder 60: Aerial view of St. David, Maine and St. Basile, N.B. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 61: View of St. David Church and Tante Blanche Museum Acadian carvings. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 62: Aerial view of the Acadian Landing in St. David, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 63: Aerial view of St. Francis, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 64: Aerial view of St. Francis, Maine. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 65: Aerial view of St Paul Congregational Church and Cemetery in St Francis, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 66: View of St. John the Evangelist Church in St. John, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 67: Aerial view of St. John, Maine with view of the St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 68: Aerial view of St. John the Evangelist Church in St. John, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 69: Aerial view of St. John, Maine and the St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 70: Aerial view of Sinclair, Maine and Long Lake during winter. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 71: Aerial view of Sinclair, Maine and Long Lake during summer. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 72: Aerial view of Soldier Pond, Maine, part of Eagle Lake and Fish River. 17 in. x 11 in.
Folder 73: Fisherman in a canoe on Soldier Pond. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 74: Aerial view of Van Buren, Maine, St. Leonard, N.B. and the St. John River. 17 in. x 11 in.

Box 6:

- Folder 75: Aerial view of school and church in Van Buren, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 76: St. Bruno / St. Remi Church, Van Buren, Maine. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 77: Aerial view of the word *Acadian* inside the Acadian star made by snowmobilers on Long Lake, Van Buren Cove. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 78: Fiddleheads coming out of the ground in springtime. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 79: Close view of mama bear and two cubs. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 80: Birds: Cedar Waxwing. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 81: Birds: Adult Bald Eagle in flight. 13 in. x 8 in.
Folder 82: Birds: Two Eagles on a tree branch in the light of the moon. 13 in. x 8 in. This print is displayed in the UMFK IT office, see Peter Cyr.

- Folder 83: Birds: American Gold Finch (male). 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 84: Birds: Snow Buntings (snowbirds), in flight. These Arctic birds are related to sparrows that winter in Northern Maine from late October through late April. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 85: Birds: Snowy Owl (adult male). 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 86: Deer: white-tailed deer. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 87: Deer: Herd of white-tailed deer. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 88: Dogs: Can-Am dog sled races. 13 in. x 8. in.

Box 7:

- Folder 89: Ducks: Common Loon on water with two chicks. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 90: Canada Geese in water with chicks. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 91: Red fox with 2 pups. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 92: Bull Moose and cow moose in field. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 93: Bull Moose. 13 in. x8 in.
 Folder 94: Cow Moose with newborn calf. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 95: Porcupine. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 96: Raccoons. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 97: Skunks. 13 in. x 8 in.
 Folder 98: Woodchucks (Groundhogs). 13 in. x 8 in.

Inventory: prints on glossy paper

Box 8:

- Photo 99: John Deere tractor with digger lifting potatoes out of the ground; children getting ready to pick potatoes.
 Photo 100: Tractor with digger in the foreground; truck distributing empty potato barrels: children picking potatoes by hand.
 Photo 101: View of potato field; digger; children picking potatoes with baskets.
 Photo 102: Tractor in the foreground; children picking; row of potato barrels.
 Photo 103: Truck distributing potato barrels to pickers in the field.
 Photo 104: Potato pickers in a potato field
 Photo 105: Potato field with rows of barrels and children picking potatoes.
 Photo 106: Potato field with rows of barrels and children picking potatoes.
 Photo 107: Emptying potato basket into potato barrel
 Photo 108: Full potato barrel with someone's ticket in the rim; potato basket
 Photo 109: View of worker hoisting a potato barrel on a flatbed truck
 Photo 110: Closer view of worker hoisting potato barrel on truck & grapple employed
 Photo 111: Aerial view of flatbed trailer, full of potato barrels, pulled by tractor