

La Société l'Assomption 'tableau d'honneur' document

MCC-00460

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
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Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: La Société l'Assomption 'tableau d'honneur' document

Creator/Collector: La Société l'Assomption

Collection number: MCC-00460

Shelf list number: V1-460

Dates: circa 1930s

Extent: 2 large documents (0.05 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Mr. Scott McClendon in Frederick, Maryland while remodeling an old building.

Language: French

Conservation notes: The two-page document was inserted in a clear polyester enclosure with an archival tissue paper in-between the pages.

Access restrictions: None.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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Citation: La Société l'Assomption 'tableau d'honneur' document, MCC-00460, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: See: <https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-ceaac/node/198>

Fonds Société l'Assomption at University of Moncton, Moncton, N.B.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Historical information: In all Acadian villages at the beginning of the 20th Century, people would help each other out in many different ways. If a family would lose their house to fire, family and friends would get together to rebuild the house. If a family were having a hard time financially, someone would organize a fundraiser in the parish to help them out. There were no

existing organization to help French Catholics. The Acadians living in the United States felt the need for some type of organized association.

At an Acadian National Congress in Waltham, Massachusetts on August 16, 1902, Dr. Lucien J. Belliveau was hoping to form a fraternal association and establish school funding in all Acadian centers. In Fitchburg, MA, on May 30, 1903 a decision was made to form a charitable and mutual aid corporation exclusively for Acadian families. They would assist the people in finding jobs, they would help in case of sickness and/or death in a family, and they would help widowers and orphan children.

The founders of this association were Clarence F. Cormier, Dominique S. Léger, Rémi Benoit, Jean H. LeBlanc, Jaddus V. Léger, André Babineau, and Daniel LeBlanc. This association was officially called *Société l'Assomption* on September 8, 1903 in Waltham, MA, where regulations were prepared and the first funding contributions were made. Article 2 of the constitution had for objectives to rally all Acadians under one flag; to assist all members that got sick; to assure monetary help to legal heirs of departed members; to preserve the language, the customs, and religion. Articles 92 to 100 of the constitution established school funding with regulations.

This society founded in the United States in 1903 expanded to the three Maritime provinces as soon as 1904. In 1913, the head office of the *Société l'Assomption* was transferred from Fitchburg, MA to Moncton, New Brunswick where it continued to grow.

Scope and content: This collection consists of a two-page document/poster from *La Société l'Assomption, Région du Maine et New Hampshire*. The first page is hand designed and colored by J. A. Lanctot of Augusta, Maine. The document measures 52.5 x 86 cm and the top part of the document is rounded. The document is a *Tableau d'honneur / Honor Roll* of Franco-Americans who are members in this *Société 'Assomption* and who either performed volunteer work for their communities or did well academically. The document is not dated but according to some members' names that are presently living, we conclude it might be from the 1930s. The members mentioned are from different branches of the *Société* from Maine and New Hampshire. It is divided in five columns with names of individuals belonging to the different branches of the *Société* from Rumford, Westbrook, Sanford, Bath, Waterville, Madawaska, Fort Kent, Mexico, Augusta, Lewiston, Skowhegan, Madison, Frenchville, Berlin, Lincoln, Chisolm Maine, and Lincoln, New Hampshire. Four hand-drawn and decorated pillars separate the columns of names. There is an emblem at the top of the document depicting an eagle between a United States flag and an Acadian flag with a motto, *Union-Charité-Protection*. At the bottom of the document, on each corner, is a soldier/scout playing a bugle and in the middle is a cross on a bed of flowers. The calligraphy on the document is exceptional and the handwriting from different individuals are evident.

The second page is the start of a draft design with pencil drawings of a cross, a pillar, and what looks like the beginning of an emblem.