

**Jacquard woven afghan of *Les Eglises de la vallée* 2014  
MCC-00493**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by  
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**Title:** Jacquard woven afghan of *Les Eglises de la vallée 2014*

**Creator/Collector:** Country Mills Inc.

**Collection number:** MCC-00493

**Shelf list number:** AX-493

**Dates:** 2014

**Extent:** 1 box (.35 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Material was donated by Gertrude Albert.

**Language:** French and English

**Conservation notes:**

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** None.

**Technical restrictions:** None.

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**Citation:** Jacquard woven afghan of *Les Eglises de la vallée 2014*, MCC-00493, 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.

**Historical information:** The **Jacquard machine** is a device fitted to a loom that simplifies the process of manufacturing textiles with such complex patterns as brocade, damask and matelassé. The resulting ensemble of the loom and Jacquard machine is then called a **Jacquard loom**. The machine was invented by Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1804, based on earlier inventions by the Frenchmen Basile Bouchon (1725), Jean Baptiste Falcon (1728), and Jacques Vaucanson (1740). The machine was controlled by a "chain of cards"; a number of punched cards laced together into a continuous sequence. Multiple rows of holes were punched on each card, with one complete

card corresponding to one row of the design. Both the Jacquard process and the necessary loom attachment are named after their inventor. This mechanism is probably one of the most important weaving inventions as Jacquard shedding made possible the automatic production of unlimited varieties of pattern weaving. The term "Jacquard" is not specific or limited to any particular loom, but rather refers to the added control mechanism that automates the patterning. The process can also be used for patterned knitwear and machine-knitted textiles, such as jerseys.

This use of replaceable punched cards to control a sequence of operations is considered an important step in the history of computing hardware.<sup>1</sup>

**Informational note:** Country Mills is located in Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania. This organization primarily operates in the Gifts and Novelties business / industry within the Wholesale Trade - Nondurable Goods sector. This organization has been operating for approximately 19 years.<sup>2</sup>

**Informational note:** *L'Association Française de la Vallée St-Jean* or Le Club Français is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting an environment for the French language to prosper for all people in the St. John Valley, an area deeply connected to its Franco-American and Acadian heritage.

They seek to influence attitudes towards use of French language in the region by raising awareness and demonstrating its cultural, linguistic, and economic value. Through education, recognition, encouragement, and community service, they support those who value French as a viable and beneficial form of expression in the St. John Valley.

Le Club Français holds monthly meetings in French. It serves as an important repository for preserving French culture and language related to the St. John Valley. Books for adults and children are available on loan.<sup>3</sup>

**Scope and content:** This collection consists of one Jacquard woven afghan measuring 45 inches wide by 69 inches long with a fringe border. The afghan depicts all the catholic churches of the St. John Valley and their names woven in black on a light gray-colored background. Also, depicted in the center of the afghan are the names of *L'Association Française de la Vallée St-Jean*; *Le Centre Français Madawaska*; *La maison Mikesell*; and the flag representing le centre français. The backside of the afghan shows a black background with white churches and letters.

This afghan was the result of a fundraiser for L'Association française de la Vallée St-Jean, an idea of Marie-Paule and Dan Lapointe of Van Buren, Maine in 2013. Marie-Paul went around and photographed the churches in the valley except for one; the church in Eagle Lake was photographed by Bob Devoe. The afghans are/were made as needed and available in two colors, red and black.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacquard\\_machine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacquard_machine)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.buzzfile.com/business/Country-Mills-Inc-610-847-3284>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/leclub.htm>

Written on the label of the afghan: “Country Mills Inc., 100% cotton, Jacquard woven afghan, Made in USA.”

***Inventory:***

Box 1/1: Item 1/1: One afghan measuring 45 inches wide by 69 inches long with a fringe border. The colors are light gray background with black woven churches and writing.