

Alfred Parent music notation cards
MCC-00564

Total boxes: 1
Linear feet: 0.88ft

Prepared by
Madeline Soucie
Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine
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Alfred Parent music notation cards (MCC-00564)

Shelf List Number: UM-564

Collection Overview

Creator

Alfred "T.-Ferd" Parent

Dates

1981

1991-92

1997

Undated

Extent

41 notecards with hand drawn violin frets and lyrics plus two sticky notes with descriptions.

Provenance

Donated by Don Levesque in February 2024.

Language

English

French

Conservation Notes

Notecards rehoused in clear archival sleeves.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Alfred “Ti-Fred” Parent was born in Lille, Maine on June 1, 1911 to Octave and Cesarie (Michaud) Parent. Alfred married his wife, Louise Corbin. He worked in Lille from 1932-1958 as a farmer before moving to employment with Colt Industries and later Pratt and Whitney in Hartford, Connecticut before retiring in 1971. After his retirement, Alfred and his wife moved back up to the Saint John Valley. Alfred passed away in 2001 in Van Buren, Me.¹

Alfred was a self-taught fiddle player and played an important part in preserving the music of Acadian culture for future generations. Alfred couldn’t read music notes and played tunes 100% by ear. He and his wife would play their fiddles at the Acadian Village in Van Buren, Me as well as at music festivals around the state of Maine with fellow Saint John Valley musicians, Don Cyr and Ida Roy, including at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. He was a storyteller as well as musician and well loved by all who knew him.²

Alfred gave these notes to his daughter, Rose Dubois, who gave them to Don Levesque who then donated them to the Acadian Archives.

Scope and Content

Handmade musical notations for a self-taught fiddler. The notations are written on notecards and include fret layouts as well as lyrics and notes for the reader. There are 5 lines and 5 numbers, tracing the fingering for the first five notes of a song. Start with #1 and go on from there. Alfred could then remember the rest of the tune and continue playing.

Arrangement

The notecards were left in their original order by the processing archivist. The note cards were put in clear archival sleeves so that the user can see both sides of the cards. The order goes from top left to top right, bottom left to bottom right.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Cords (music)
Fiddling
Musical notation
Violin

Related Materials

Not applicable

Collection Inventory³

¹Blair, Diane. Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55646246/alfred-joseph-parent>. Accessed on 5/30/2024.

²Most of the information gathered for this biography was done so via a facebook post put out by Don Levesque asking the local community to share any information they had on Alfred Parent.

³Descriptions used in collection inventory are taken directly from the titles/notes written on the note cards themselves.

| Sleeve | Item # | Description |
|--------|--------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Sticky note with "Violin "frettes" ^chords= music" written on it |
| 1 | 2 | Thaddy time frets |
| 1 | 3 | Scrap of paper with notes in french |
| 1 | 4 | Polka a clouis martey[sic] frets |
| 2 | 5 | Mrs. Rioux frets - notes written on backside |
| 2 | 6 | Thaddie polka frets- crossed out frets on backside |
| 2 | 7 | Waltz 7/25 frets |
| 2 | 8 | Unlabeled frets |
| 3 | 9 | Clouis Martin polka frets |
| 3 | 10 | Poor girl waltz (no frets) |
| 3 | 11 | Feb. 1997 frets- frets also written on the backside |
| 3 | 12 | Fast frets |
| 4 | 13 | Unlabeled fret |
| 4 | 14 | Jay frets |
| 4 | 15 | G Jay frets- with notes written on backside |
| 4 | 16 | Feb. 18 frets |
| 5 | 17 | Slow fret |
| 5 | 18 | Ben Gilmette Waltz fret |
| 5 | 19 | February 21- 1992 fret- notes crossed out on backside |
| 5 | 20 | Taxee honey (blank fret) |
| 6 | 21 | Jaz a Thaddie frets- notes written on back |
| 6 | 22 | Jaz leller[sic] in dans frets |
| 6 | 23 | Old tune for [-] frets- notes written on back |
| 6 | 24 | Maybe waltz from forthert[sic] |
| 7 | 25 | Lee cream fret |
| 7 | 26 | To old [saillse] real fret |
| 7 | 27 | Jaz a-Thaddie fret |
| 7 | 28 | Old s turn -2- frets- writing on backside |
| 8 | 29 | Mom and dad good old jaz fret |
| 8 | 30 | Good nite waltz |
| 8 | 31 | Believe Thaddie tune fret |
| 8 | 32 | Thaddy's tune fret |
| 9 | 33 | Real 1991 fret |
| 9 | 34 | Sticky note- "Pato is from Mr. Parent" |
| 9 | 35 | -1- Lines in french |
| 9 | 36 | -2- Lines in french |
| 10 | 37 | -3- Lines in french |
| 10 | 38 | -4- Lines in french |
| 10 | 39 | -5- Lines in french |
| 10 | 40 | -6- Lines in french |

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------|
| 11 | 41 | -7- Lines in french |
| 11 | 42 | -8- Lines in french |
| 11 | 43 | -9- Lines in french |