

**Jane E. Helgesen oral histories, photographs, and papers**

**MCC-00063**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Kim Raymond; revised by Kathryn Donahue, August 2013  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine**

**Completed June 17, 2003**

## Jane E. Helgesen oral histories, photographs, and papers

### SUMMARY INFORMATION

*Collection Title:* Jane E. Helgesen oral histories, photographs, and papers

*Citation:* Jane E. Helgesen oral histories, photographs, and papers, MCC-00063,  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

*Accession Number:* MCC:92-00063

*Shelf List Numbers:* A144-147

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*Provenance:* Submitted for a course with Roger Paradis at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Spring 1974. Brought to the Acadian Archives/Archive acadiennes by Prof. Paradis in March 1991.

*Date Range:* 1974

*Physical Characteristics/Condition:* 4 C-60 audio cassettes containing oral history interviews with Gladys Gardner, Eunice McBreairty and Eva McBreairty of Allagash, Maine, and with Elizabeth and Margaret Hughes. Also: 31 color photographs, 120 index cards of riddles, and report titled "House at 34 James Street". Submitted for a course at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Spring 1974.

*Access:* There are no restrictions on this collection

*Prepared by:* Kim Raymond, June 2003

#### **Biographical Information:**

No biographical information on Jane Helgeson is available.

Note: The surname McBreairty is also sometimes found as "McBrierty."

Gladys Gardner was born on June 18, 1893, in Kingsclear, New Brunswick, Canada, the daughter of Abraham and Christy Morrison Mills. She married Thomas V. Gardner on June 28, 1916. She was a graduate of the Madawaska Training School in Fort Kent, Maine and taught in the Allagash schools for 24 years. Gardner died on June 29, 1977.

Eunice McBreairty was born on August 10, 1887 (some sources list her birth year at 1886), the youngest child of Charles and Sarah Mullins Kelly of Allagash, Maine. She

married Thomas James McBreairty (born July 25, 1884; died August 10, 1968), the son of James McBreairty Sr. and Mary Walker McBreairty, in 1905. Her sister, Eva Kelly, married Thomas' brother, Albert, and lived down the road. She died on April 15, 1975.

Eva McBreairty was born in Connors, New Brunswick, Canada, on March 30, 1877, the daughter of Charles and Sarah Mullins Kelly. "Aunt Eva" was a pillar of the community in Allagash and served as the community doctor for the region. She married Albert McBreairty on June 11, 1899, the brother of her sister Eunice's husband, Thomas. Albert died on January 4, 1950. Eva died on June 23, 1974.

Margaret Kelly Hughes was born May 22, 1906 in Allagash, Maine, the daughter of Thomas and Eunice Kelly McBreairty. She married Elbridge McBreairty on June 26, 1923. Elbridge (born November 1, 1898 in Allagash, the son of James and Abigale Oakes McBreairty) died August 15, 1951. Margaret remarried to Philip C. Hughes on August 14, 1957. She died October 20, 1997 in Fort Kent, Maine.

Elizabeth Hughes was born on April 11, 1894 in Allagash, Maine, the daughter of William and Ascinta Hafford Walker. She married Preston Edward Hughes, who predeceased Elizabeth. One of her many children, Mary Jane Hughes (born June 3, 1918 or 1919; died July 2, 1997) married Robert McBreairty. Hughes died on July 22, 1978.

#### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection primarily consists of oral histories Jane Helgeson conducted with Gladys Gardner, Eunice McBreairty, and Eva McBreairty all of Allagash, Maine, and Elizabeth and Margaret Hughes. In these interviews, the subjects discuss family life, religion, lumber camps, medicine, the Allagash region, midwifery, marriage, education, home remedies, holidays, and other topics.

Also included in the collection are Polaroid photograph of Gladys Gardner, Eunice McBreairty, and Eva McBreairty; hunting tools; farm equipment; and household tools. 4 C-60 audio cassettes containing oral history interviews with Gladys Gardner, Eunice McBreairty and Eva McBreairty of Allagash, Maine, and with Elizabeth and Margaret Hughes. In addition, the collection contains 120 index cards of riddles, and a report entitled "The House at 34 James Street," written by Helgeson.

#### **Provenance:**

Submitted for a course with Roger Paradis at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Spring 1974. Brought to the Acadian Archives/Archive acadiennes by Prof. Paradis in March 1991.

**Order and Arrangement:** Four C-60 audio cassettes, 31 color photographs, 120 index cards and one four-page manuscript.