

**Shirlee Connors Carlson oral histories with James Connors, Georinna Caron, and  
Joe Kelly**

**MCC-00070**

**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 23, 2003**

**Shirlee Connors Carlson oral histories with James Connors, Georginna Caron, and Joe Kelly**

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

*Collection Title:* Shirlee Connors Carlson oral histories with James Connors, Georginna Caron, and Joe Kelly

*Citation:* Shirlee Connors Carlson oral histories with James Connors, Georginna Caron, and Joe Kelly, MCC-00070, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

*Accession Number:* MCC:92-00070

*Shelf List Numbers:* A154-163  
M70

*Provenance:* Submitted for a course with Roger Paradis at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Fall 1986. Brought to the Acadian Archives/Archive acadiennes by Prof. Paradis in March 1991.

*Date Range:* 1986

*Physical Characteristics/Condition:* 10 C-60 audio cassettes containing oral history interviews with James Connors of Saint Francis, Maine, Georginna Caron of Fort Kent, Maine and Joe Kelly of Allagash, Maine, submitted for a course at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Spring 1981.

*Access:* There are no restrictions on this collection

*Prepared by:* Kim Raymond, June 2003

**Biographical information:**

James R. Connors was born in St. Francis, Maine, on June 13, 1907, the son of David and Mary (O'Leary) Connors. He married Rose McBreairty on October 16, 1931. He was a noted poet and storyteller throughout the state, but especially in the Saint John Valley. Connors also taught in the Allagash school system. He was a member of the Fort Kent Masonic Lodge 209, the Royal Arc Chapter of Caribou, the Houlton Commandry, and the Anah Temple Shrine of Bangor. Connors died on December 29, 1997, at the age of 90.

Georginna R. Dionne Caron was born on May 3, 1892 in Allagash, Maine, the daughter of Charles and Esther St. John Dionne. She married Thomas Robichaud on November 16, 1920; he died in 1956. Georginna remarried to Samuel Caron on November 23, 1957; he died in 1977. Caron died on July 2, 1988 in Fort Kent.

Joseph Kelly was born in Allagash, Maine, February 8, 1907, the son of Ransford and Mary Millins Kelly. He married Ellen "Nellie" Kelly (born January 5, 1910; died November 24, 1995) on an unknown date between 1920 and 1930. He worked as a river driver and lumberman in Allagash. Kelly was also a regionally renowned storyteller. He died on August 2, 2007.

Shirlee Connors Carlson was born on December 26, 1935, daughter of James Connors and Rose McBreairty. She is a graduate of the University of Maine at Fort Kent and was an exchange student attending the University of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. She is a self-published author including many titles: *A Time for Eagles*; *The Lobster who ate the Pine Tree*; *A Letter to Acadia*; *The Legend of Joe McKiel*; and several other books including cookbooks.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of audio recordings of oral history interviews conducted by Shirlee Connors Carlson with James Connors of Saint Francis, Maine, Georginna Caron of Fort Kent, Maine and Joe Kelly of Allagash, Maine. A wide variety of subjects are discussed by the interviewees, including the lumber trade in Allagash; Little Black Lake; music; wildlife; the Allagash River; the Diamond sisters; the Connors family; the history of Allagash and the history of the Scotch-Irish in Northern Maine; Maliseet tribe; home remedies; logging; education; World War II; the St. Francis River; farming; poetry; riddles; Dr. William Drummond; Gerald Potvin; the French language; religion; Brooks Ward boarding house; bloodstopping and bloodstoppers; bootlegging; and the J.T. Miller sawmill. The recordings also include two songs: "Allagash River" and "Poor Poor Woodsmen." These recordings were submitted for a course with Professor Roger Paradis at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in Spring 1981.

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**Order and Arrangement:** 10 C-60 audio cassettes.