



## Eloise A. Brière Franco-American Oral History Collection

1982-1984

1 box (0.25 linear feet)

Call no.: MS123

### Collection overview

In 1982, Eloise A. Brière received support from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities for a series of oral histories with Franco-Americans in Massachusetts. A noted scholar of Francophone communities, Brière interviewed 44 first and second generation immigrants from Canada of varied backgrounds, ranging from parish priests and nuns to former textile workers, activists in language preservation, and the Mayor of Holyoke.

The interviews in this collection, conducted mostly in French between August 8, 1982 and Jan. 18, 1983, document the lives and experiences of forty-four Franco-American residents of Massachusetts, concentrated in the areas around Easthampton and Lowell.

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### Background on Eloise A. Brière

In 1982, Eloise A. Brière received support from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities for a series of oral histories with Franco-Americans in Massachusetts. A noted scholar of Francophone communities, Brière interviewed 44 first and second French-speaking generation immigrants from Canada of varied backgrounds, ranging from parish priests and nuns to former textile workers, activists in language preservation, and the Mayor of Holyoke. These interviews were in turn used as part of fourteen one-hour episodes for the radio show "Tout en Français," broadcast by WFCR radio in Amherst.

Earning degrees at UMass Amherst (BA), Middlebury College (MA in French literature), and the University of Toronto (PhD), Brière began her teaching career at the College Sainte-Jeanne D'Arc, a secondary school in Dakar, Senegal, while also earning a second master's degree (Maitrise) at the University of Dakar. A specialist in the culture of French-language communities throughout the world, she was co-author of the important textbook, *Rendez-vous: La France et la Francophonie* (1982). She and her husband Jean-François enjoyed distinguished careers on faculty at the University at Albany (SUNY), from which she retired in 2012.

### Scope of collection

The interviews in this collection, conducted mostly in French between August 8, 1982 and Jan. 18, 1983, document the lives and experiences of forty-four Franco-American residents of Massachusetts, concentrated in the areas around Easthampton and Lowell. Transcripts are available for five interviews: Paul Racine, Paul Morrisette, Mme. Dauphinais, Eugène St. Pierre, and Vivianne Potvin.

## Inventory

Anne, Sr.: Filles du St. Esprit, Convent of St. Cecilia (Leominster, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 18	007-176	Tape 8B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Barrette, Raymond (Lowell, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 14	001-221	Tape 6A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Brideau, Alfred (Leominster, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 18	185-end	Tape 8B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Carvalho, Joseph: Genealogy and Local History, Springfield City Library (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 17	184-end	Tape 3B
<i>Language:</i> English			
Carvalho, Joseph, part 2 (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 1	284-end	Tape 7B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Charest, Mrs. André and daughters Anne and Marie-Claude (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 11	082-198	Tape 3A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Chartier, Georges-Étienne (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 11	001-182	Tape 3B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Chicoine, Gabrielle and Bill (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 24	168-end	Tape 10A
<i>Languages:</i> French and English			
Costa, Grace (Lowell, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 14	233-end	Tape 6A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Coté, Albert (Lowell, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 13	572-end	Tape 4A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Coté, Albert, part 2 (Lowell, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 13	007-246	Tape 4B
<i>Language:</i> French			
D'Amour, Gerald (Springfield, Mass.)	1983 Jan. 18		Tape 14B
<i>Language:</i> French			
➤ <b>Dauphinais, Mme. Adam</b> (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 9	239-350	Tape 1A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Donais, Henry (Easthampton, Mass.)	1984 Mar. 5		Tape 16A
<i>Language:</i> English			
<b>Contents:</b> Interview collected after the end of the grant and included for Donais' account of the phenomenon of chain migration (from Sorel) and of intermarriage with native people.			

Dugas, Donald (New York, N.Y.)			Tape 15A and B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Dugas, Estelle (Amherst, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 16	443-end	Tape 6B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Dugas, Estelle, part 2 (Amherst, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 16	065-266	Tape 7B
<i>Language:</i> French			
➤ <b>Gagnon, Henri and Françoise</b> (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 17	001-268	Tape 8A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Garon, Michelle (Northampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 16	252-end	Tape 4B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Gordon, Milton: Dept. of Sociology, UMass Amherst (Amherst, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 25	324-end	Tape 12A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Graveline, Robert (Three Rivers, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 25	002-297	Tape 12A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Keller, Geneviève Lapointe (Northampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 19	001-164	Tape 10A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Langlois, Guy (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 10	169-470	Tape 2A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Leland, Marine (Northampton, Mass.)	1980 Dec.		Tape 17A and B
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Contents:</i> Interview collected prior to the start of the grant and used in the radio program because Leland was instrumental in the development of French Canadian studies in the United States.			
Lépine, Cora (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 19	182-end	Tape 9B
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Contents:</i> Includes information of the beginnings of Notre Dame du Bon Conseil parish in Easthampton.			
➤ <b>Lussier, Mr. and Mrs. Emil and daughter Lucille</b> (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 10	487-end	Tape 2A
<i>Language:</i> French			
➤ <b>Lussier family, part 2</b> (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 10	002-251	Tape 2B
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Contents:</i> Includes information of the beginnings of Notre Dame du Bon Conseil parish in Easthampton.			
Moquin, Leonard (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 15	055-433	Tape 6B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Morissette, Armand, Rev. OMI (Lowell, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 13	004-565	Tape 4A
<i>Language:</i> French			
➤ <b>Morissette, Paul: Parish priest, Notre Dame de Bon Conseil</b> (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 9	00:09:46	Tape 1A
<i>Language:</i> French			

Moynihan, Kenneth: Dept. of History, Assumption College (Worcester, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 23		Tape 11A
<i>Language:</i> English			
Paquette, Raymond (Leominster, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 18	001-end	Tape 9A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Payette, Eglantine Laberge (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 20	392-end	Tape 8A
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Contents:</i> As a young girl, Payette was the subject of the photograph Lewis Hine while working in a textile mill in Winchendon. Payette discusses her work experience and witnessing the arrival of French Canadian immigrants in Winchendon.			
Peloquin-Faré, Louise (Paris, France)	1982 Aug. 23	001-322	Tape 11B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Perras, Leo (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 15	001-end	Tape 7A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Poirier, Clementine (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 11	256-end	Tape 2B
<i>Language:</i> French			
Poirier, Clementine, part 2 (Springfield, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 11	005-079	Tape 3A
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>Potvin, Vivian</b> (Holyoke, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 10	086-622	Tape 1B
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>Potvin, Vivian</b> (Holyoke, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 10	019-166	Tape 2A
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>Proulx, Ernest:</b> Mayor of Holyoke (Holyoke, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 19	021-176	Tape 9B
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Language:</i> English			
Quintal, Claire: Institut Français, Assumption College (Worcester, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 23	329-end	Tape 11B
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>Racine, Paul: master of town infirmary</b> (Easthampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 8	00:42:41	Tape 1A
<i>Language:</i> French			
<i>Contents:</i> Racine was the gérant of l'Hospice d'Easthampton (the Town Infirmary) on Oliver Street, and arrived in town in 1947.			
Rancourt, Jeanette (Northampton, Mass.)	1983 Jan. 9		Tape 14A
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>St. Laurent, Anne</b> (Chicopee, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 17	270-388	Tape 8A
<i>Language:</i> French			
▶ <b>St. Pierre, Eugène</b> (Northampton, Mass.)	1982 Aug. 9	00:19:30	Tape 1A
<i>Language:</i> French			
Turcotte, Rodolphe (Northampton, Mass.)	1983 Dec. 31		Tape 13A and B
<i>Language:</i> English			

*Language:* French

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## Administrative information

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### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Eloise A. Briere, 1984.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2015.

### Languages:

English, French

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Eloise A. Brière Franco-American Oral History Collection (MS 123). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

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### Subjects

- Brière, Eloise A.
- Easthampton (Mass.)--History
- Franco-Americans--Massachusetts
- Holyoke (Mass.)--History
- Lowell (Mass.)--History
- Notre Dame du Bon Conseil (Church : Easthampton, Mass.)

### Contributors

- Brière, Eloise A. **[main entry]**

### Genres and formats

- Audiocassettes
- Oral histories

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Immigration and ethnicity

Massachusetts

Oral history

