Félix Gatineau Collection [1835-1929]

Creator: Félix Gatineau (1857-1927)

Abstract: Papers of Félix Gatineau, including newspaper clippings, diaries, correspondence, programs from Franco-American gatherings, and photos.

Language: French and English

Extent: (measures need to be taken) 2 boxes and 43 vol. stored separately.

Access: Materials are available to researchers without restriction.

Separated Material: Diaries, 43 vol.

Source: Donation, Fr. Wilfrid Dufault

Preferred Citation: Félix Gatineau Papers, French Institute, Assumption College

Scope & Content: This collection consists of a variety of documents that concern the social and political life of the Franco-American group not only in Southbridge, but all over New England and in the Mid-West. Gatineau travelled extensively participating a great number of Franco-American gatherings. There is a great number of pamphlets and programs from these gatherings as well as correspondence between Gatineau and the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

Biographical Note: Félix Gatineau was born November 12, 1857 in Sainte-Victoire-de-Sorel. At the age of 20, he immigrated to Southbridge, Massachusetts as did a number of Sorelois, like Dr. S-A Daudelin. He first worked in the Hamilton cotton factory, but was quickly hired at the local grocery store and pharmacy. He later opened his own grocery store with Joseph Proulx. He eventually sold it however to play a more crucial role in the social and political life of the Franco-American community. He was President of the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste (USJB) and later ran their Caisse des vieillards. And he was a founding member of the Société Historique des Franco-Américains. Gatineau was not only involved in Franco-American affairs however. An ardent supporter of veterans rights, he was elected a number of times as a republican state representative (1906, 1920, 1921, and 1926). He married Odile Giard on June 20, 1882. Gatineau died December 31, 1927, at statue was built in his honor in Southbridge by the USJB. It was later moved in 2002 at which moment Claire Quintal, founding director emerita of the French Institute, made a speech honoring his legacy. Apart from these archives, Gatineau wrote two books concerning Franco-Americans: Histoire des Franco-Américains de Southbridge, Massachusetts (1919) and Historique des Conventions générales des Canadiens-Français aux États-Unis (1927).
Series Outline:

Series 1: Biographical Documents
Series 2: Correspondence
Series 3: Genealogy
Series 4: Southbridge
Series 5: Franco-American Gatherings
Series 6: Photos
Series 7: Volumes & Ephemera
Series 8: Diaries (Stored Separately)

Series Descriptions:

Series 1: Biographical Documents
These are papers that directly relate to the life of Félix Gatineau. Including but not limited to newspaper clippings. There is also a list of books that belonged to Félix Gatineau and business cards that were given to him. These documents could provide details on the type of ideas circulating in the Franco-American community at the time as well as an idea of Gatineau’s social network.

Series 2: Correspondence
There is a wide range of correspondants amongst the letters in this collection. However the correspondence with the USJB is probably one of the most interesting of the correspondences in this collection.

Series 3: Genealogy
As is the case in many collections of Franco-American papers there are papers concerning genealogy. There are the genealogies of Gatineau’s family as well as his mother’s (Theriault) and his wife’s (Giard).

Series 4: Southbridge
This series contains various documents concerning Southbridge including newspaper clippings, pamphlets, programs and other documents.

Series 5: Franco-American Gatherings
This is a collection of pamphlets and programs from events concerning Franco-Americans not only in New England, but the Mid-West as well. These documents are often rare, so the collection compiled by Félix Gatineau given its wide variety is quite rare.

Series 6: Photos
These photos are not only self and family portrait, but there are photos from important Franco-American gatherings. There is also a picture of Félix Gatineau dressed as Paul Revere to honor French heritage in the United States since its foundation.
**Series 7: Volumes & Ephemera**
These are volumes that belonged to Gatineau, mostly plays. There are some interesting handwritten copies of plays that show what sort of theater was being performed in Franco-American communities.

**Series 8: Diaries (Stored Separately)**
His daily diaries kept over 46 years, the entries are rarely very detailed. These could be considered more as daily planners than diaries. But, considering his extensive travels during this period, there could be important details about his life.
Series 1  Biographical Documents

1-1 Survey of Félix Gatineau’s Life
1-2 Biographical Notice
1-3 Newspaper Clippings Concerning Félix Gatineau
1-4 Félix Gatineau’s Business Cards
1-5 List of Félix Gatineau’s Personal Library
1-6 Documents Concerning Félix Gatineau as President of the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste (USJB)
1-7 Félix Gatineau’s Writings

Series 2  Correspondence

2-1 Sampling of USJB correspondence chosen by Fr. Wilfrid Dufault [1923-1924]
2-2 Comite Executif USJB [1925]
2-3 Comite Executif USJB [1925-1926]
2-4 Commission des Vieillards USJB [1926]
2-5 Vezina, Elie [1923-1927]
2-6 Various USJB Members [1925-1927]
2-7 Frechette, Clement [1920-1921]
2-8 Lajoie, Philippe-Armand [1926]
2-9 Martin, J.-A. [1920-1926]
2-10 Robert, Adolphe [1922-1927]
2-11 Correspondence Concerning Augustin Roy [1925]
2-12 Correspondence about Franco-American Celebrations [1914-1916]
2-13 Franco-American Correspondence outside of New England [1919-1926]
2-14 Correspondence Concerning Félix Gatineau’s History of Franco-Americans in Southbridge [1919-1921]
2-15 Family Correspondence [1908-1927]
2-16 Happy New Year Checks
2-17  Miscellaneous Correspondence [1919-1927]

Series 3  Genealogy
3-1  Genealogy Gatineau
3-2  Genealogy Theriault
3-3  Genealogy Giard

Series 4  Southbridge
4-1  Newspaper Clippings about Southbridge [1914-1926]
4-2  Southbridge Documents [1835-1923]
4-3  Southbridge Documents [1836-1926]
4-4  Club Canadien in Southbridge

Series 5  Franco-American Gatherings
5-1  Franco-American Gatherings in Massachusetts [1903-1924]
5-2  Franco-American Gatherings in New England (except Massachusetts) [1907-1924]
5-3  Franco-American Gatherings outside New England [1901-1924]
5-4  Theatre, Opera and Concert Programs [1907-1926]
5-5  Saint-Jean-Baptiste Celebration Programs [1901-1926]
5-6  USJB Memorabilia
5-7  USJB Congress Programs [1901-1929]
5-8  Franco-American Parish Documents [1907-1921]
5-9  Newspaper Clippings about Franco-Americans
5-10  *La Race francaise en Amerique* Newspaper Clippings

Series 6  Photos
6-1  Personal Photos
6-2  Franco-American Gathering Photos
6-3 Franco-American Portraits and Business Cards

Series 7 Volumes and Ephemera

7-1 Franco-American Books
7-2 Canadian Books and Documents
7-3 Félix Gatineau’s Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings
7-4 Sign for 1926 Election

Series 8 Diaries

43 vol. 1881-1889, 1904-1927
There are two diaries for 1921 and 1924