

Spring 4-4-2022

## Georgette Bérubé Papers Finding Aid

Dana Roberts  
*Simmons College*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/fac-finding-aids>

---

### Recommended Citation

Roberts, Dana, "Georgette Bérubé Papers Finding Aid" (2022). *Finding Aids*. 24.  
<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/fac-finding-aids/24>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Franco-American Collection at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu](mailto:jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu).



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN MAINE**  
Lewiston-Auburn College

FRANCO - AMERICAN  
**COLLECTION**  
FRANCO - AMÉRICAIN



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE**

**LEWISTON-AUBURN COLLEGE**

**FRANCO-AMERICAN COLLECTION**

**Reference Codes**

Country Code: US

Repository Code: EFRA

**Georgette Bérubé Papers Collection, (1910s-2011, bulk 1970-2005)**

**Number:** 2021.03

**Creator:** Georgette Bérubé, Bérubé Family

**Extent:** 1.917 ft., 2 boxes, 2 binders, 1 box of slides

**Statement of Responsibility:** Dana Roberts, Lewiston, M.E., March, 29, 2022  
Copyright 2020 by the University of Southern Maine Libraries, Franco-American  
Collection

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

Georgette Bérubé Papers Collection, (1910's-2011, bulk 1970-2005)  
Franco-American Collection  
University of Southern Maine Libraries

**Provenance:** Donated by Claude Bérubé, son of Georgette Bérubé, in two installments. The first donation was made in 2010. The second and larger donation was made in 2021.

**Ownership and Literary Rights:** The Georgette Bérubé Papers Collection **is the physical property** of the Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or her/his legal heirs and assigns. For further information about use of the collection in publications, consult the Head of Special Collections.

**Cite As:** Georgette Bérubé Collection, (1910's-2011, bulk 1970-2005), Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

**Restrictions:** Any researcher interested in viewing the collection must submit a request letter to the family stating the nature and purpose of the research. Contact the FAC archivist for contact information.

**Languages:** English and French.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Georgette Beauparlant Bérubé (1927-2005) was a lifelong resident of Lewiston, ME, and served in the State Legislature for 26 years, the longest of any other Maine woman. The daughter of Leonard and Blanche (Tremblay) Beauparlant, Georgette attended St. Peter's School and Ave Maria Academy in Lewiston. She later attended the University of Maine at Augusta and the Maine School of Commerce, where she met her future husband, Gérard Bérubé. The two married in 1952 and had two children, Claude and Michele Bérubé.

After working at the family business, Beauparlant Furniture, Georgette won her first election to the State Legislature in 1970, despite considerable backlash from Party elite, including "Mr Democrat" himself, Louis Jalbert. As a State Representative and Senator, Georgette was an independently minded democrat who often voted with Republicans on fiscal issues. In 1977 she controversially endorsed Republican candidate William Cohen for United States Senate and was later censured by the local Democratic party. In 1982 Georgette Bérubé became the first woman to run for Governor in the state of Maine. However, her bid was unsuccessful and she lost in the primary to incumbent candidate Joseph Brennan. She retired from the State Senate in 2000.

Georgette was a strong advocate for Franco-American heritage as a legislator and community member. She hosted a long running French radio station *Le Rendez-Vous de la Chanson* on the Bates College Radio Station. She was also a member of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, the *Fédération Feminine*, *L'Union Saint-Jean Baptiste d'Amérique*, and the Financial Council of the Catholic Diocese of Maine. Additionally, Georgette was one of the founding members of the original *Centre d'Héritage Franco-Américain*, which became the Franco-American Collection at USM LAC. She was the chair of the Collection at the time of her death in 2005.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The Georgette Berube Collection houses the personal and family papers of Georgette Berube, a Franco-American legislator from Lewiston, Maine. The collection, which dates from the 1910's to 2011 consists of newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence like memos and constituent letters, speeches, newsletters, certificates, and ephemera documenting Georgette's extensive political career and family life.

Series 1, The Georgette Bérubé Series, dates from 1970 to 2005, and forms the bulk of the collection and contains newspaper clippings, photographs, hand-written and typed speeches, as well as correspondence, letters, cards, and memo's from colleagues, prominent political figures, constituents, and organizations including USM, the Portland Diocese, St. Mary's Hospital, and *Fédération Feminine*. Files and items are arranged chronologically by date whenever possible. The correspondence highlights major moments in Bérubé's career, including her Gubernatorial campaign in 1981-1982, and her controversial endorsement of William Cohen for Senate in 1977. The collection also includes the manuscript of Georgette's 2004 book titled "Thank You Georgette," as well as campaign ephemera, newsletters, and articles collected throughout her career.

The Family and Personal Papers Series, which dates from the early 1900s to 2011, includes the personal papers of Georgette, her husband Gerard, and her son Claude. The series includes early school records, marriage certificates, baptism certificates, birth certificates, and military records. The series also includes condolence letters and other documents relating to the death of Gerard in 1977, as well as the tributes and eulogies from Georgette's passing in 2005. Folders are organized by individual and event, and items are arranged chronologically by date whenever possible.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:** The collection is arranged into two series: "Georgette Berube, 1970-2005," and "Family and Personal Papers, 1910s-2011." Files and items are arranged chronologically by date whenever possible.

The original collection was donated in 2010 and processed in 2013 by James Myall. This collection did not have an accession number when it was originally processed. It was given the accession number 2019.F1c.150.1 in 2019. A significant accrual to the collection was donated by Claude Bérubé in 2021 and has the accession number 2021.03. The two collections have been combined and interfiled as 2021.03. However, folders and items in box 2 are from 2019.F1c.150.1. Some items from 2019.F1c.150.1 were interfiled into folder 10.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Series #</u>	<u>Series Title</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	1	Georgette Bérubé Papers			1969-2005
OS1			OS 1	Newspaper Clippings	1969-2005
2			19	Pre-2021 Newspaper Clippings	1969-2005
1			1-3	Speeches/"Remarks"	1971-2002, n.d
3			25	Manuscript, "Thank you Georgette"	2003
1			4	General Correspondence	1970-1997
2			20	Pre-2021 General Correspondence	1975-1993, n.d
1			5	1970 election and Louis Jalbert related	1970, n.d
1			6	William Cohen Senate Endorsement	1977-1978, bulk 1977
1			7	Gubernatorial Campaign, correspondence received	1981-1982
2			22	French Ambassador visit to Lewiston	1992
2			24	Involvement with Franco Collection	2001, 2004
2			21	Invitations and Events	1970-2004
1			8	Campaign Ephemera	1978-1999
2			26	"Certificat de Mérite"	n.d.
2			23	Newsletters, received	1975, 1976, 1985
1			9	"Franco Reference Papers"	1937-1986 1910's-2005
	2	Bérubé Family and Personal Papers			
1			10	Georgette Bérubé Personal Papers	1927-1991
1			11-13	Gerard Bérubé Personal Papers	1926-1991
1			14	Death of Gerard Bérubé	1977
				Death of Gerard Bérubé, gifted book: <i>A Way of Life</i>	
1			15	Claude Bérubé Papers	1937, 1977
1			16		1966, 2004-2011
				Photographs	
OS			OS 2	Family Photographs, framed	1910s-2005
2			17-18	Slides	n.d
OS			OS 3	Georgette Bérubé Eulogies and	1954-1967
2			27	Tributes	2005
				2 vhs cassettes	
2			OS 4		n.d.

Georgette Bérubé Papers Collection, (1910's-2011, bulk 1970-2005)

Franco-American Collection

University of Southern Maine Libraries

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Berube, Georgette B., 1927-

Maine. Legislature

Maine. Legislature. House of Representatives

Maine. Legislature. Senate

Cohen, William S.

Lewiston (Me.)