Old Mines French Language and Culture Collection (C4803)

Collection Number: C4803

Collection Title: Old Mines French Language and Culture Collection

Dates: 1957-2022 (bulk 1977-1983)

Creators: Bone (dit Beaulne), Kent, collector
Hyde, Rosemary C., collector

Abstract: Recorded interviews and songs in French, notes, and related materials pertaining to the French language and culture in Old Mines, Missouri, collected by Kent Bone (dit Beaulne) and Rosemary Hyde.

Collection Size: 0.05 cubic feet, 247 GB of digital files
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in French and English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Old Mines French Language and Culture Collection* (C4803); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Kent Bone (dit Beaulne) and Rosemary C. Hyde on June 29, 2026 (Accession No. CA6805).

Existence and Location of Originals: The original recordings are located at the Old Mines Area Historical Society.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Old Mines French Language and Culture Collection can be found in the following collections:

Pierre A. Boyer Collection, (C4349)
French Heritage Project Collection, (C4735)

Processed by: Processed by Elizabeth Engel, October 26, 2026.

Historical Note:

The Old Mines area of Missouri is located in Washington, St. Francois, and Jefferson counties. It was settled by French colonists in the early eighteenth century who came to the area to mine for lead. Due to both geographic and cultural isolation, the area maintained their distinctive French culture and dialect into the twentieth century.

A native of Old Mines, Missouri, Kent Bone (dit Beaulne) is one of the last speakers of Missouri French. He learned the dialect from his grandmother Ida Portell and other relatives when he was a teenager.

Rosemary C. Hyde was born on January 4, 1939, and grew up in an Irish Catholic community in Rhode Island. She attended Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, where she received a B.A. in French and Education in 1961. Hyde was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for graduate study in France where she completed a year studying French literature at the Université de Toulouse. She received a second Fulbright to teach English and study psychology and applied linguistics at the Université de Nancy.

Hyde returned to the U.S. where she completed an M.A. and Ph.D. coursework in French linguistics at Indiana University. She then moved to St. Louis to teach French at Lindenwood College. In 1970, Hyde returned to graduate school to complete her Ph.D. at Saint Louis University. While there, Hyde applied for an NEH Project Grant to study and document the Missouri French-speaking community in Old Mines, Missouri. The study resulted in her dissertation in 1979, and she continued to study the region until 1984.

After teaching for 35 years at Lindenwood College and St. Louis Community College, Hyde retired in 1998. In her retirement, Hyde continued to teach as an adjunct faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley. She also attended seminary and was ordained as a Unity minister in 2017.

For further information on Hyde's Old Mines French Project, see the following resources:

Thomas, Rosemary Hyde. "Getting People Involved: A Case Study of Community Involvement in the Old Mines French Project." *Missouri Folklore Society Journal*, vol. 8-9, 1986-1987, pp. 167-180.

Thomas, Rosemary Hyde. "Some Aspects of the French Language and Culture of Old Mines, Missouri." Doctoral dissertation, Saint Louis University, 1979. ProQuest Dissertation and Theses Global (8010766).

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Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Notes
Born Digital Files

Scope and Content Note:

Notes

This series contains copies of handwritten and typed notes of Kent Beaulne, largely of French songs and vocabulary. The series also includes a copy of a log of French story meetings held by Rosemary Hyde in 1980.

Born Digital Files

This series consists of audio and video recordings collected by Kent Beaulne and Rosemary Hyde, largely in the 1970s and 1980s. The majority of the recordings concern Old Mines, Missouri. There are also some interviews that were recorded in Prairie du Rocher, Illinois.

Container List:

Notes Series

f. 1	Kent Beaulne notes, 1983-1999
f. 2	Rosemary Hyde story meeting log, 1980

Born Digital Files Series

b.d.f. 1		Kent Beaulne Recordings, 1957-2022
b.d.f. 2-8		Rosemary Hyde Collection
	b.d.f. 2	Old Mines Numbered Tapes #1-81, 1977-1983 (no #38, 46, and 52)
	b.d.f. 3	Old Mines Bouillon Interviews #1-4, 1977
	b.d.f. 4	Old Mines Tapes, Assorted, Unnumbered, 1977-1983
	b.d.f. 5	Song Meetings #1-9, 1982-1983
	b.d.f. 6	Videos, 1977-1980
	b.d.f. 7	Prairie du Rocher Interviews, 1977, n.d.
	b.d.f. 8	Notes and Index, 2022, n.d.

Index:

Index Terms	Folders	Born Digital Folders
French Americans--Illinois		b.d.f. 7
French Americans--Missouri	1, 2	b.d.f. 1-6
French language	1, 2	b.d.f. 1-7
Old Mines (Mo.)	1, 2	b.d.f. 1-6

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