

ALMOST CIRCULATED



Contact Us

Editor - Kevin Day-Thorburn
harbouredtreasures@gmail.com

Treasurer - Tom Craig
ycart@rogers.com

President - Jim Young

Vice President - George Murray

Secretary - Steve Small

Upcoming Events

March 18, 2017 - Florenceville
Collector Show

April 22, 2017 - Woodstock
Collector Show

May 14, 2017 - Saint John Coin
& Stamp Clubs Annual
Collector Show

June 1 & 2, 2017 - Geoffrey
Bell Auctions Ltd. Toronto Coin
Expo 2017 Spring Sale

Newsletter Ad Rates

Single 1/4 page ad \$5/issue

6 consecutive months \$20

Contact the editor for details



“The Fenian Raids and Confederation”

by Jim Butler

1. Who were the Fenians? Why raid Canada?

Irish Potato Famine: 1845 –1852 caused by the Potato Blight through Europe. But 1/3 of Ireland’s population depended in some form to the growing of potatoes. The Potato Famine was a watershed time in Ireland’s history. It strained its relations with Britain and lead to a stronger nationalism and republicanism.

Since 1801 “Acts of Union” Ireland had been part of the United Kingdom but 40 years later had become, as Benjamin Disraeli put it in 1844, "a starving population, an absentee aristocracy, and an alien Church, and in addition the weakest executive in the world." In 1848 there was a failed insurrection in Ireland. All through this period much of the population of Ireland emigrated

to other countries, including Canada and especially Saint John. A Political cartoon of the 1880s shows talks of the loss of so many young people and its devastation on Ireland.

The Fenian Brotherhood grew directly from the Potato Famine. “Fenianism” or the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was the English version of the Irish “Na Fianna” who were mythic fighters with Ard Ri (High King) from ancient Irish history. Ireland history is full with warring factions fighting for freedom. This time Ireland was united and the IRB formed in 1858 to create an independent Ireland free from England as a depression swept through Ireland around that year.

The British Government caught wind of the Fenians and arrested them. Their leader John O’Mahony fled to New York where in 1860 there were more Irish living than any city in Ireland. A branch of the Fenian Brotherhood was formed of Irish immigrants who were veterans of the Confederate and Union armies.

To make a long story short. O’Mahony’s idea was for the Fenian Brotherhood to capture the British Colony of Canada and hold it ransom for the freedom of Ireland. By 1863 they claimed to have 10,000 members in the USA. In 1865 the British were taking them serious and acted. As well the Americans began to watch them closely. To begin their campaign John O’Mahony devised a plan to attack an island off the coast of New Brunswick on St. Patrick’s Day in 1866. In April 1866 some 700 of them arrived and camped in Eastport Maine opposite the Islands of Campobello, Deer Island and Indian Island.

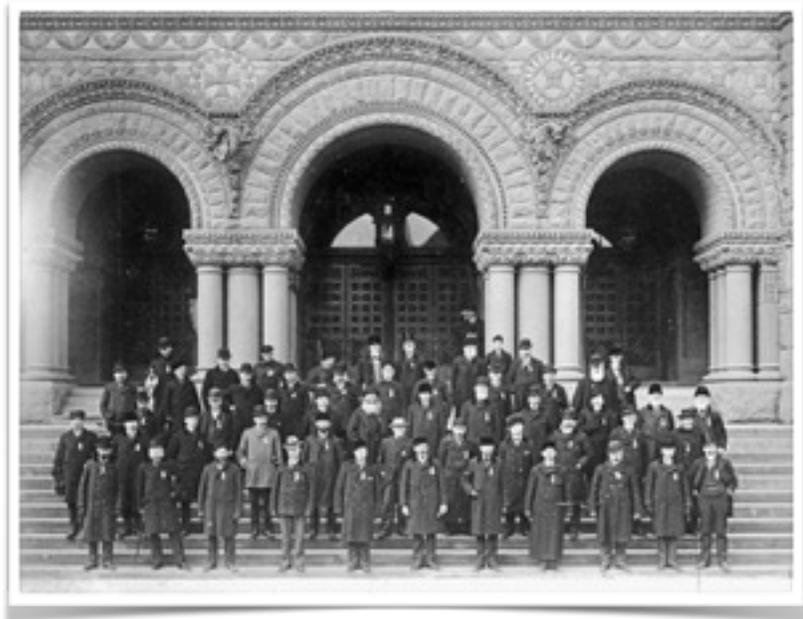
2. The Fenian Raid of Indian Island

First Fenian Raid was the Indian Island Raid April 14, 1866 (hand out “The Story of Indian Island” by Muriel Dixon) off the coast of New Brunswick near Campobello Island Raid. Over 700 members of the Fenian Brotherhood camped in Maine opposite the island to seize Campobello. The Fenians felt with such a large population of New Brunswick made up of Irish immigrants they would support the invasion.

Fenian Raid Veterans Ontario 1900

In boats a small group went to Indian Island, which had a small community, schoolhouse and post office/custom house. They woke the post master up in the middle of the night and threatened his family as well to burn the house if he did not surrender the British flag that flew over his office. He surrendered the flag. They returned to camp.

The New Brunswick Militia in Saint John and British warships from Halifax were called for. But on April 21 the Fenians returned and burnt 4



large storage sheds on the island. They did try a third time but when the troops arrived along with some intervention from the American authorities the Fenians were forced to withdrawal to New York. They took the British flag to New York as a triumphant spoil of war.

Support for the Fenian Brotherhood's invasion of Canada eventually dwindled with no raids after the 1890s.

3. The results of the Fenian raids on New Brunswick and Canada

Maritime Union – Canadian Confederation:

During the 1860s a Maritime Union was being actively pursued by New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Upper Canada and Lower Canada heard of this plan and meet with the three Maritime Provinces in 1864 to consider a wider union. The Maritime Provinces were not too warm to the idea. New Brunswick in particular was not that keen on joining since they were the most successful and richest region at the



Saint John Volunteers Fenian Raid 1866

time.

Fear of Invasion - genuine

At the same time the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) was happening. There was fear in all of British North America that the tensions in the United States might flow over into Canada. This fear subsided somewhat with the demobilization of the Union Army. But a new threat was brewing in the rise of the Fenian Brotherhood in the USA. After all British North America, in particular New Brunswick had no standing army of its own only the presence of British Troops.

Fear – Hear Say & Mongering

The Fenians who held open national conventions in the USA did not hinder their aspirations to invade Canada and hold it ransom. Their plans were well published in the papers and known by the political powers of the USA, Britain and the powers in British North America. The governments in Canada and Britain were suspicious of the US government as to how they stood with regards to the Fenians. There was strong suspicion that President Jackson was of the mind to stand on the sidelines with a neutral stance.

The newspapers in New Brunswick caught word of the plans to invade New Brunswick and certain government and city officials began to voice concerns. The fear of Irish/British strife also rose with a fear of the Orange/Green or Catholic/Protestant discord. The Fenians were the tip of a region divided and scarred. Part of the slow reaction on New Brunswicks part was to control this

Military – Development

The threat of the Fenians caused a stir though out British North America especially with an ambivalent neighbouring country in which the invaders were amassing. The threat showed clearly that BNA had with no standing army and with only British regular troops to defend itself was in danger. It also revealed weaknesses in training, equipment and logistic support of its Canadian Militia. As a result, organizational aid and finances were increased, new equipment was provided and training was improved.

The key players who were proactive in BNA were Edward Archibald (British consul general in New York City) who feed intelligence on the Fenians to Governor General Charles Stanley Monck (Ottawa) and John A. MacDonald (minister of Militia). The New Brunswick government and others chose to wait. But a new home grown military was being envisioned for BNA.

Colonial Secretary Edward Cardwell warned the New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor Arthur Hamilton Gordon of the possible Fenian attack from Maine. He began the creation of a military in New Brunswick to augment the British battalions.

NB Militia Act 1862: created three classes of Militia

Class A – Calvary, artillery & engineer all with military training

Class B – 16 – 45 unmarried, widowers, no children

Class C – 16 – 45 married, widowers, with children

Companies made up not less than 45 no more than 75

NB Militia Act 1865: established Annual Camps of Instruction lasting 28 days.

Home Guards in border towns formed of unpaid Volunteers

By New Year 1866 defence measures were in place in NB which had –

2,099 Volunteers



7 Cavalry Companies

10 Artillery Companies

1 Engineer Company

21 Infantry Companies

Saint John had a large concentration of militiamen and ½ of the Class A volunteer units, in addition to a large British garrison. Of the 10 batteries in the NB Regiment of Artillery, 5 were located in Saint John as well the volunteer company of engineers was also located in Saint John.

There was a Camp of Instructions held July 1866 at Camp Torryburn, outside of Saint John. These camps became a permanent policy for the militia and concept through WW I and WW II a military legacy from Lieutenant-Governor Gordon and the Fenian crisis.

Confederation and US Canada relations

There were a number of things that encouraged Confederation:

1. 1865 the cancellation of the Canadian-American Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 which was a free trade agreement
2. Manifest Destiny – which was the American idea that they were to control all of North America (eg. Later purchase of Alaska)
3. America Civil War
4. Fenian Raids

Despite the failure of the Indian Island Raid, it served to swing public opinion in New Brunswick in favour of federation in the provincial elections that took place immediately after the raid when the Honourable Samuel Leonard Tilley on January 30, 1865 dissolved the legislative assembly and called an election on the issue of Confederation. Tilley and his pro-confederation party lost so on March 6 he resigned. Albert James Smith and his pro-maritime union came into power. The British government, Queen Victoria made it clear they preferred BNA union. Lieutenant-Governor Gordon who was pro-maritime suddenly changed sides. On May 9, 1866 the government was dissolved and Tilley was re-elected. Without NB confederation would not have happened and with out the Fenian Crisis NB would not have joined confederation.

Conferences:



Sept 1864 Charlottetown

October 1864 Quebec

December 1866 London

March 1867 Royal Assent

The raids, however, did have a large effect on Canada-U.S. relations for years. There was a great deal of anger in Canada with the U.S. government, who Canadians felt had looked the other way and failed to prevent the raids. There is even some indication that U.S. President Andrew Johnson may have given his blessing to the early raids, saying that he would "recognize the accomplished facts," implying that if the Fenians were successful, he would support them.

Fenian Raid Medals

Memory of the Fenian Raids and the militia faded over time. In January 1899 Joseph Chamberlain, the British Colonial Secretary, announced in recognition of the services of those who had served Canada in the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870, as well for the Red River Expedition of 1870 Queen Victoria had the Canadian General Service Medal struck. It was first issued only to survivors where parades were held at their presentation. In 1912 the government of Canada offered \$100 to the survivors or the widows of veterans of the Fenian Raids.

Medal

Issued to Pte. Robert Rattray, Saint John Volunteer Battalion

From: Floyd Medals, Alexandria, Virginia

"Canada General Service Medal Roll 1866 – 1870" compiled & edited by John E. Thyen and published by Bunker to Bunker Books, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ca 1998

taken from pages 251 – 254 of above book

ST JOHNS CAV - Fenian Raid 1866 12 medals awarded

ST JOHNS G.A. - Fenian Raid 1870 20 medals awarded

5 also awarded Fenian Raid 1866 for 21st Battalion

ST JOHNS V.A. - Fenian Raid 1866 13 medals awarded

ST JOHNS BN. - Fenian Raid 1870 1 medals awarded

ST JOHNS CO. MIL. - Fenian Raid 1866 1 medals awarded

ST JOHNS V.B. - Fenian Raid 1866 120 medals awarded

Taken from page 30 of above book

LATE ISSUE MEDALS

ST JOHNS GARRISON ARTILLERY - Fenian Raid 1866 2 medals awarded

ST JOHNS PROVISIONAL BN - Fenian Raid 1866 6 medals awarded

ST JOHNS VOLUNTEER BN - Fenian Raid 1866 4 medals awarded - Robert Rattray PTE FR66
1915.05.28

Total Medals Issued for Saint John = 184

Minutes for the Saint John Coin Club from the January 17, 2017 Meeting

11 Members present

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Lloyd, seconded by Kevin.

Treasurer report was given by Tom, noting the proceeds of the previous club auction were around \$90.

The report was approved on a motion by Jim, seconded by Kevin.

Kevin gave a brief update on the potential Canada 150 medal noting Pressed Metal Products of BC is now a possible source for making the medal. We are still awaiting more details from the RCNA.

Tom mentioned the Central Nova Coin Club in Truro, NS will be having a show sometime in April. It is believed it will be an APNA show. There is a Florenceville show in March.

Tom has been preparing tickets for the draw for our upcoming show in May. A 2017 proof set will be the first prize, with second and third prizes to be decided.

Tom discussed the new circulating coins being produced for 2017, going over the different designs.

Kevin read an article concerning an American caught and prosecuted for selling counterfeit coins.

Tom read about the upcoming Covered Bridge Collection of paper money in Geoffrey Bell auctions.

Tom is looking for volunteers to help with our show May 14th.

Jim Butler gave a presentation on the Fenian Raid of NB and the medals produced, showing a superb example he picked up from an American dealer.

The auction was performed by Steve, with our president attending a funeral for a family member.

Meeting adjourned.

Steve Small - Secretary



APNA Election Results

There was an election to name the new executive for the Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association on January 17, 2017. The position of president was the only one voted on with the others appointed by acclamation.

President - Dan McCormick

Vice President - Joe Merlin

Treasurer - Bob Ronan

Secretary - Barry MacDonald

An executive meeting is scheduled for February 8th.



**Fundy Coins
& Collectables**

84 King St
Saint John, NB
506.642.2646

THE COIN CABINET 
1141 MAIN ST, MONCTON 506-857-9403

THE COIN CABINET 

Buying & Selling

Gold & Silver Coins, Jewellery,
Watches, Rolex, Coin Sets, Paper Money,
Military Medals & Badges, Coin Supplies

30 Years in Business

506-857-9403
1141 MAIN ST, MONCTON
WWW.COINCABINET.CA

Geoffrey Bell
Auctions