

Canada Rebellion 1837

Mss. Coll. No. 55

.5 linear feet

Historical note

The Canadian Rebellion of 1837 was a movement in Lower Canada toward establishing a French Republic on the St. Lawrence River that was led by Louis Joseph Papineau. During the same year William Lyon MacKenzie led a similar armed revolt in Upper Canada which failed, he then fled to the United States and established headquarters on Navy Island on the Canadian side of the Niagara river and tried to continue the rebellion with the aid of sympathizers from the United States. Among the battles fought during the "Patriot War" was the 1838 Battle of the Windmill, November 12-16. Fought near Prescott, Ontario, across the St. Lawrence River from Ogdensburg, NY, some 300 ragtag, mostly U.S. invaders, attempted to cut off the communication lines of British troops by overtaking Fort Wellington in Prescott. The invasion was a complete failure, with only about 200 landing at Windmill Point. The insurgents were repelled by British regular troops, navy ships and local militia over the four day fight. 159 of the invading force were taken prisoner. The leader of the invaders, Nils Von Schoultz, was executed a few weeks later.

Scope & contents

This collection (formerly known as Patriots War Collection) consists of several original letters relating to the Battle of the Windmill plus photocopies of other letters, clippings, a list of Americans captured and photos of Windmill Point, Prescott, Ontario. Also included is an article "Mackenzies 1837 Rebellion" as well as copies of *The New Yorker* from 1838 and *The Albion* from 1835 to 1844 that contain relevant articles about the rebellion.

Provenance: Unknown

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1		
	1	Article— <i>Mackenzie's 1837 Rebellion</i> North York, Ontario Historical Board
	2	<i>MacKenzie's Gazette</i> reprint from <i>Canadian Historical Review</i>
	3	Transcribed letter from Louis Hasbrouck of Ogdensburgh to Sam Dill of Camillus, with list of estate expenses (letter mentions "Our frontier is quiet, 'tho the Canadians have more to fear from their own militia.")
	4	<i>New Yorker</i> magazines from Jan.-Aug. 1838 containing articles relevant to the Canadian Rebellion (article locations indicated by yellow tab)
	5	Eyewitness account of the Battle of the Windmill, Nov. 14, 1838 Written by Hiram Denio to his wife aboard the steamboat United States (original letter and transcript)
	6	Account of Battle of the Windmill from <i>The Albion</i> , Nov. 17, 1838 (photocopy)
	7	Eyewitness account of Battle of the Windmill, Nov. 18, 1838 Letter from Thomas Russell of Canton to his father John Russell of Malone
	8	Photocopy of newspaper account of a list of Patriots captured at Windmill point with a transcription of the photocopy.
	9	Two undated photos of Windmill Point. One is post-Seaway.
	10	<i>Battle of the Windmill</i> brochure produced by Parks Canada

- 11 Newspaper account of SLU Librarian Andrew Peters' presentation to the Canton Rotary Club on the Windmill Point battle, May 23, 1963

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1		
	12	Canadian Rebellion letters 1839 and later. (Mackenzie to Henry O'Reilly; Mackenzie to NY Gov. Seward; O'Reilly to W. C. Bryant—all photocopies)
	13	Select Committee Report—Petition of Alexander McLeod, 1844
	14	House of Commons Records, 1844
	15	Letter to L. H. Ryland concerning money for the rebels, March 18, (1849?)
	16	Souvenir program of dedication of Patriots Monument in St. Denis sur Richelieu, Quebec, July 1, 1913
	17	Letter to R. Webster of Ogdensburg from E. Webster (?) (appears to be unrelated to Canadian Rebellion—discusses U.S. Politics; slavery)
	OVERSIZE	
2	18	Copies of <i>The Albion</i> news gazette 1835-1844 containing articles pertaining to the Rebellion (kept in Oversize area—article locations indicated on cover page of each issue)

DOUBLE-OVERSIZE (Flat file cabinet, drawer #2 in ODY 149)

The Statesman, Brockville, Canada March 27, 1849
The Globe, Washington, DC December 20, 1837
Photostat of names and descriptions of captured rebels
Transcription of the Photostats