

<b>Title:</b>	Niagara Falls and Montreal photos, [1870-1880]		
<b>Creator:</b>			
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	[1870-1880]	<b>Reference Number:</b>	RG 630
<b>Scope and Content:</b>	5 sepia photographs of Niagara Falls and 3 sepia photographs of Montreal. All photos are mounted on 28.5 x 23 cm. ivory cardstock.		
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<p>1. This 18.5 x 13 cm. photo is captioned "Niagara". It is a picture of the Horseshoe Falls taken at a time when private owners controlled the land around the Falls. Shown in this picture is the dome of the Table Rock House, built in 1853. This was the hotel and residence of the unscrupulous American businessman, Saul Davis. He gave his building the same name as Thomas Barnett's building which was located right beside it and was built in 1827. [This photograph is similar to one taken in 1868/69 by William Notman – this could possibly be a Notman photo].</p> <p>2. This is an 18 x 12 cm. photo captioned "Suspension Bridge Niagara". This bridge was in operation from 1855-1897 and connected Niagara Falls, Ontario to Niagara Falls, New York. Trains used the upper deck while pedestrians and carriages used the lower deck.</p> <p>3. This is a 17 x 12.5 cm. photo which is captioned "Falls Niagara". It is a view from Goat Island toward Terrapin Point Tower. The tower was perched on a wooden boardwalk on Profile Rock. A person can be seen in the lower left hand corner.</p> <p>4a. An 8.5 x 5.5 cm. photo captioned "Victoria Bridge, Montreal"</p> <p>4b. An 8.5 x 5.5 cm. photo captioned "General's Island near Montreal". This is now known as Mount Royal Park. The park ranger's house is visible in this photo.</p> <p>4c. An 8.5 x 5.5 cm. photo captioned "Suspension Bridge Niagara"</p>		

	<p>4d. An 8.5 x 5.5 cm. photo captioned “Niagara Falls” including the dome of Davis’ Table Rock House.</p> <p>4e. An 8.5 x 5.5 cm. photo captioned “Montreal”</p>
<p><b>Physical Description/Condition:</b></p>	<p>There is some staining on the cardstock of all of the photos. There is a slight stain on the Suspension Bridge photo. These stains do not affect the quality of the photographs.</p>
<p><b>Biographical / Administrative Notes:</b></p>	<p>1. Thomas Barnett built the first building on the Canadian bank of the gorge about 300 feet south of the Table Rock. This became the Table Rock Museum. His other endeavors included: a stairway to the base of the gorge and the foot of the Horseshoe Falls, a museum at the foot of Murray Hill and a zoological museum.</p> <p>Saul Davis of Buffalo, New York built the Prospect House (hotel) south of Barnett’s Table Rock Museum. This was a time when other businesses were also establishing themselves in the area. In 1853, Davis transferred ownership of the Prospect House to his cousin, Colonel Isaacs. Then, Davis built a hotel immediately south of the Table Rock Museum. He named his hotel the Table Rock House</p> <p>Competition between Barnett, Davis and other businessmen was fierce. A portion of Front Street from Murray Hill Ravine to the Table Rock became a seedy area filled with shops, souvenirs, hotels and museums. The area was frequented by thieves, scam artists and prostitutes. Saul Davis’ Table Rock House was dubbed the “Den of Forty Thieves”.</p> <p>The animosity between Barnett and Davis became even more pronounced and they feuded over access to the walking tour to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. In 1865, a restraining order was issued against Saul Davis to prevent him from interfering with Barnett and his access to the gorge. Saul’s son Edward was attacked by a group of Barnett Supporters. In fear, he shot and killed one of the attackers. He was acquitted at his trial.</p> <p>During the feud between the Saul Davis and Thomas Barnett, three staircases into the gorge were destroyed. Thomas Barnett was bankrupt by 1877. His assets were purchased by his enemy, Saul Davis who continued his operations until the area was taken over by</p>

	<p>the government in 1888. The Davis Table Rock House served as the entrance to the scenic tunnels until it was demolished in 1926.</p> <p>2. This was the world's first working railway suspension bridge (1855-1897). It spanned 821 feet and was located 2 ½ miles downstream of Niagara Falls. It was built by John Roebling during the years 1852 to 1855. The bridge remained in place until the late 1890s when it was replaced by a steel arch bridge.</p> <p>3. General Peter Porter and his brother, Judge Augustus Porter were given possession of Goat Island in 1816. The brothers built a bridge to Goat Island in order to view the Horseshoe Falls. At Terrapin Point, also known as Porter's Bluff, they built a long plank walkway which went to the crest line of the Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p>General Parkhurst Whitney built the Terrapin Towner in 1829. This was actually the first tower to be built a Niagara Falls. It was built on Goat Island at the eastern end of the Horseshoe Falls. It stood 12 m. tall and was made of rough stone which was gathered from nearby. A winding staircase led to a small door at the top of the tower which opened onto a circular balcony and guardrail. The view from the top of the tower was spectacular. In 1872, the tower was purposely blown apart with gunpowder so that it would not compete with a new tower which was being planned for Prospect Point. The tower at Prospect Point was never built.</p> <p>After the destruction of Terrapin Tower, the timber walkway remained in existence until 1905. Terrapin Point (formerly Terrapin Rocks) remains a popular observation site.</p>		
<b>Location:</b>	Brock University Archives		
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<b>Described by:</b>	Anne Adams	<b>Date:</b>	Dec. 11, 2017