

Title:	Fenian Raid Broadside collection, [1866]		
Creator:			
Dates of Material:	June [1866]	Record Group Number:	RG 500
Summary of Contents:	<p>The collection consists of 6 broadsides reporting the events of the Fenian invasion of Canada on June 2 and 3, 1866. Three of the broadsides are titled <i>Leader Extra</i>, two are titled <i>Globe Extra</i>, and the last is titled <i>News Extra</i> (published by Smith & Co. Publishers, St. Johns, Ontario).</p> <p>The <i>Leader Extra</i> broadsides have multiple articles on each sheet. Most articles are dated. The dates range from June 2-4 [1866]. The first broadside has 8 articles with titles as follows: “2nd Edition First Engagement—Our Gallant Volunteers foremost in the attack”; “3rd Edition Seizure of Fenian Arms. Death of Ensign McEcheran”; “4th Edition Victory! Victory!! The Fenians being dispersed 6 prisoners captured...”; 5th Edition Fenian Leader Shot. The Bells Chime his Requiem. Fort Erie evacuated...”; “6th Edition [reports from Chippawa, Rutland, Vt., New York, Albany, Cincinnati, Sarnia, and Buffalo]; “7th Edition” [includes a list of casualties]; “8th Edition Further particulars of the Battle”; and “Latest! Battle at Fort Erie. Two hours engagement. The Fenians ask Quarter. Heavy Casualties on Both Sides”.</p> <p>The second broadside has 12 articles with titles as follows: “From St. Catharines. The Queen’s own behaved Well”; “The Fort Erie Affair. List of our men taken Prisoners”; “From Port Colborne. Muir and Fahey only wounded. Griffith, Bowes, Foster, Tyner and Rattray are all right. Off to the Front again.”; “2nd Edition Interesting from Buffalo. A small body of volunteers overpowered”; “The Ridgeway Affair. List of Killed and Wounded”; “Militia General Orders. More Troops called Out”; “Military Preparations Latest from Head Quarters. This Force called into service. Gunboats to bed Put on Lakes”; “Second Despatch. The Preparations in the East”; “From Montreal. The American Authorities Waked up in the East. Lower Canada forces off to the Front.”; “Report from New Germany”; “The Evacuation of Fort Erie. The Fenians cross at two this morning...”; “Still Later”.</p> <p>The third broadside has 6 articles. The main titles are: “Fenian Prisoners. Twenty-one of them in Toronto Jail. Their Names, Occupation, Appearance, &c”; and “Latest American Reports. Interesting news from the East”. The first article has interviews with prisoners, only one of whom admitted to being a Fenian. The rest claim they were wrongly arrested. The other article contains American news from Rouses Point, St. Albans, Ogdensburg, Malone, and Poughkeepsie. There is also a section about “the Fenian plan of operations”.</p> <p>The <i>Globe Extra</i> broadsides also have multiple articles on each sheet. The first broadside is dated Sunday, June 3. There are 8 articles with titles as</p>		

follows: "1st Edition! Colonel Peacock's Force. Full Details of their Advance. Concentration of whole Canadian Force at Stevensville. Destruction of Fenians Certain This Morning"; "Later Col. Lowry Joins Col. Peacock with Reinforcements. Battle Momentarily Expected. Annihilation of the Fenians Certain"; "Colonel Dennis' Skirmish. The Volunteers Acted Nobly! Surprised by Superior Force. Forty Canadians taken. Sixty Fenian Prisoners Secured"; "Colonel Booker's Skirmish! Revised List of Casualties"; "Fenian Movements at Ogdensburg. Insincerity of U.S. Government"; "Threatened Raid at St. Albans"; "Preparations at Cornwall!"; "Latest from Ottawa"; "Latest! Bad News! The Fenians Escaped! The Whole Horde Fled Across the River."

The second *Globe Extra* broadside has 7 articles and is dated Sunday Evening, June 3. The article titles are as follows: "2nd Edition. Further Particulars of the Escape. All the Canadian Prisoners Set Free. Numerous Fenian Prisoners in Our Hands"; "3rd Edition. First Despatch. From Belleville and Prescott!..Second Despatch. List of Wounded in Hospital at St. Catharines"; "5th Edition! Further from Montreal! Troops Leaving for the Front...All Quiet at Sarnia"; "6th Edition! First Despatch. From Windsor. 200 Fenians Leave There. Main Attack Expected on the St. Lawrence, Under Sweeny"; "Second Despatch. Executive Council in Session. Our Volunteers being Concentrated on the Frontier".

The *News Extra* (published by Smith & Co. Publishers, St. Johns, Ontario) is dated June 2, 1866. It states that "the Old Fort Erie [is] in their possession...Active preparations to drive back the freebooters". The report further states that "volunteers responded to the call of turnout with hearty goodwill. They expressed the hope that the 'Bloody Finnegans' would come and be prepared to fight and not keep cowardly threatening and doing nothing". The article also describes the arrival of the Royal Artillery, the Volunteers, and the Rifle Brigade, all recently arrived from Montreal. The "news from St. Albans" includes the arrival of 300 Fenians, described as a "resolute looking lot of men, evidently bent on mischief of some sort". More Fenians were expected to arrive from New Haven, CT and Boston. It is also reported that 1500 Fenians crossed the border from the United States into Canada, and it is believed that they are headed towards Chippewa from Fort Erie. The Reeve of Bertie, Dr. Kempson, was shot while reading the riot act. Further reports indicate that the Fenians were in possession of Taylor's Heights, just below Fort Erie, and that they have opened a recruiting office at Fort Erie. Subsequent reports state that the Fenians are "retreating on Chippewa...they are drunk and disorderly". Meanwhile, about 1000 Fenians were reported to be in Malone, N.Y., and thought to be heading towards Montreal. A list of Companies of Lower Canada that have been called out in response is included. The last section reports on an engagement with the Fenians at Port Colborne. Few details were known, but it is reported that the British Forces were able to fend off the attack.

Physical Description / Condition:	6 broadsides, 68 x 35 cm or smaller		
Other Notes:	<p>The Fenians were a group intent on securing Irish independence from England. The movement had its origins in Ireland in 1857, under the leadership of James Stephens, with the assistance of John O'Mahony, an American who had raised funds for the cause. The American branch of this movement was especially successful, having raised \$500 000 and enlisting about 10 000 American Civil War veterans. The group split into two separate factions, one desiring an invasion of Canada and the other preferring an uprising in Ireland. It soon became apparent that an uprising in Ireland was not imminent, and a decision was made to invade Canada. In April, 1866, a raid was launched against New Brunswick. It proved unsuccessful, and another raid was attempted on June 1, 1866, this time in Ridgeway, near Fort Erie, Ontario. The Canadian militiamen were defeated, but the Fenians subsequently withdrew. A third incident occurred on June 7, this time at Missisquoi Bay in Quebec, when the Fenians crossed the border, remained there for 2 days, and withdrew. A failed uprising in Ireland in 1867 signaled the demise of the movement. The Fenian threat helped to promote a sense of union among Canadians and provided an incentive for Confederation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia online http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/fenians retrieved: 2014/02/26</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	<p>The <i>Leader Extra</i> and <i>Globe Extra</i> broadsides were acquired from Alexander Books. Funds to purchase these broadsides were provided in part by David Murray in 2015.</p> <p>The <i>News Extra</i> broadside was acquired from PBA Galleries in November 2013.</p>		
	Chantal Cameron	Date:	July 2015