



THE FENIAN RAID, JUNE 1866

This year, the members of Co. B, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, are putting aside their Civil War impression to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Fenian Raid of Canada in June of 1866.

Many members of the 8th Ohio were also members of the Fenian Brotherhood.

The Fenian Brotherhood was an Irish American organization that was dedicated to freeing Ireland from British rule. Between 150,000 and 175,000 Irishmen served in the American Civil War and from this conflict the Irish were able to gain valuable military experience and were able to purchase surplus military goods upon the conclusion of the war.

However, by the end of the Civil War, the Fenians had split into two factions. The original faction led by Fenian founders [James Stephens](#) and [John O'Mahony](#) focused more on fundraising for rebels in Ireland while the more militant "senate faction" led by [William R. Roberts](#) believed that even a marginally successful invasion of the [Province of Canada](#) or other parts of [British North America](#) would provide them with leverage in their efforts to secure Ireland's independence.

In the fall of 1865 this faction organized themselves into an army and began their preparations to invade Canada. In March of 1866 they met in Cincinnati and formulated their plan. Unfortunately, their security was not very good and both the Canadian authorities and the American government knew what they were planning.

Cleveland was well represented in this "army" by the "Cleveland Rangers" of the 18th Ohio Regiment.* The Fenians wore an assortment of blue U.S. Army and grey Confederate Army tunics, some with green facings sewn to them, but many of the Fenians took to the field in civilian clothing with green scarves, while the "Cleveland Rangers" wore green caps and green shirts.

Approximately 1000 to 1,300 Fenians crossed the [Niagara River](#) at Buffalo in the early hours of June 1, 1866. The Fenians were mostly battle-hardened American Civil War veterans, armed with weapons procured from leftover war supplies, either Enfield rifled muskets or the comparable [Springfield](#).^[1]

After fighting and winning 2 pitched battles with Canadian militia the Fenian leadership, considering the inability of reinforcements to cross the river and the approach of large numbers of both militia and British regulars, decided to release their Canadian prisoners and return to Buffalo early in the morning of June 3. They were intercepted by the gunboat *Michigan* and surrendered to the American navy.

Five days after the start of the invasion, U. S. President [Andrew Johnson](#) issued a proclamation requiring enforcement of the neutrality laws, guaranteeing the Fenian invasion could not continue. Following instructions from General [Ulysses S. Grant](#), General [George Meade](#) went to Buffalo, New York to inspect the situation. Meade issued strict orders to prevent anyone from violating the border. The [U.S. Army](#) was then instructed to seize all Fenian weapons and ammunition and prevent more border crossings. Further instructions on 7 June 1866 were to arrest anyone who appeared to be a Fenian.

For the Fenians, the Battle of Ridgeway was the first Irish victory over the forces of the British Empire since 1745. Ironically, although they did nothing to advance the cause of Irish independence, the 1866 Fenian raids and the inept efforts of the Canadian militia to repulse them, helped to galvanize support for the [Confederation of Canada](#) in 1867. Some historians have argued that this affair tipped the final votes of reluctant Maritime Provinces in favor of the collective security of nationhood, making Ridgeway the “battle that made Canada.”

On June 11th and 12th, of this year there is going to be a reenactment of this event at Ridgeway, Ontario across from Buffalo.

We invite all of you to join us in remembering this little-known episode of Irish-American history.

*18th Ohio Regiment (the "Fenian Cleveland Rangers" wore green caps and green shirts)

- Lt Colonel John Grace - Born in Ireland, age 28; had been captain of company K in 34th OVI during the Civil War; captured while covering O'Neill's retreat but was not pronounced guilty by Toronto court. +

The 150th Anniversary of the Fenian Raids

The 150th Anniversary of the 1866 Fenian Raids and the Battle of Ridgeway. A victory of Irish Insurgents on Canadian soil to attempt to free Ireland from the British. 2 Battles, one each day, encampments on original battle field. American and Canadian reenactors will portray the battle that made Canada.

There will be a pancake breakfast for all Fenian participants on both Saturday and Sunday. The Canadian forces will not be included because most of the Canadian reenactors are members of the Canadian Army and will be conducting a week-long field exercise and will have their own mess section with them.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto: Since The Queen's Own Rifles have been continuously active in the Canadian military since 1860, the men who fell or were wounded at Limestone Ridge can be considered the first casualties of the Canadian Army; even though it was not formally established as such until 1883,

The 13th Hamilton Battalion: predecessor of the modern Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment

We will have musket passes, for those going across the border of Canada and then back to the USA. You will need either a Passport, a Passport Card or an Enhanced driver license.

All who go, you can bring muskets, black powder in locked cases, your swords, bayonets and other equipment,

NO BLACK POWDER PISTOLS!

U.S. Passport Card

Why a passport card?

The U.S. Passport Card (PASS Card) is a less expensive, more portable version of the traditional passport book. As a response to the new security measures imposed by Homeland Security and WHTI, PASS Cards come equipped with a microchip that assigns a distinct number to its owner. This number, through vicinity-read radio frequency technology, matches up with a Custom and Border Protection (CBP) database to promote more secure crossings with faster queuing. The PASS Card is a new form of approved identification targeted at border communities who make frequent crossings. It's wallet-sized, less expensive than the full passport book, and a suitable alternative for anyone who travels by land or sea between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, or the Caribbean.

NOTE: The PASS Card is not approved for air travel. Unlike the passport book, the card is not considered an international travel document recognized worldwide.

Specifics

- Valid for land and sea crossings only, not air
- Valid for travel to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean
- Valid for 10 years if you're at least 16 years old, just like a passport book. Or, 5 years for applicants under 15 years old.
- What does it cost?

- Wallet-sized, with a protective sleeve
- \$55 for first-time applicants (\$40 for minors).
- \$30 for renewals from an expiring passport book.

This compares to \$110 (plus a \$25 execution fee) for a first-time passport book or passport book renewal.

Enhanced Drivers Licenses

NB. Check if your State offers these at this time.

State-issued enhanced drivers licenses (EDLs) provide proof of identity and U.S. citizenship, are issued in a secure process, and include technology that makes travel easier. They provide travelers with a low-cost, convenient alternative for entering the United States from Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean through a land or sea port of entry, in addition to serving as a permit to drive.

The Department has been working with states to enhance their drivers licenses and identification documents to comply with travel rules under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), effective June 1, 2009.

Enhanced drivers licenses make it easier for U.S. citizens to cross the border into the United States because they include

- a vicinity Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that will signal a secure system to pull up your biographic and biometric data for the CBP officer as you approach the border inspection booth, and
- a Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) or barcode that the CBP officer can read electronically if RFID isn't available.

The top 39 land ports of entry, which process more than 95 percent of land border crossings, are equipped with RFID technology that helps facilitate travel by individual presenting EDLs or one of the other RFID-enabled documents.

THE BEST SITES FOR CROSSING THE BORDER WILL BE THE PEACE BRIDGE AT BUFFALO, NY OR DETROIT/WINDSOR.

THE PARKS CANADA COORDINATOR WILL CONTACT THOSE 2 SITES DIRECTLY TO ALERT THEM TO OUR COMING.

PLEASE NOTE--- THE CBP FORM 4457 HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FIREARMS IT IS MERELY A DECLARATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TO PROVE YOU DID NOT BUY YOUR GUN IN CANADA BUT HAD IT WITH YOU WHEN YOU WENT IN.

YOU WOULD FILL OUT THE SAME FORM FOR A LAP TOP.

TOM



TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. - TEMPORARILY TAKING A FIREARM, RIFLE, GUN, SHOTGUN OR AMMUNITION ABROAD

What is the process for a traveler temporarily taking a firearm, rifle, gun, shotgun or ammunition abroad for hunting or sports-related purposes?

In the interim, CBP will continue to follow their long standing practice of issuing and certifying a Certificate of Registration (CBP **Form4457**). During this time, when a traveler contacts CBP to register their firearm for export and reentry, CBP will:

Complete a CBP **Form4457** to ensure a problem-free return to the U.S.

If you need to complete a **form4457** in the course of your travel, please give yourself enough time to do so, 2-3 hours is a good estimate. You also have the option of registering in advance at a CBP Port of Entry. Once the CBP **4457** is completed, it can be used repeatedly for that particular firearm.

Please note, if you are taking ammunition, and there is a possibility you will not use it all and would like to re-import it, your 4457 should reflect the kind of ammunition you are departing with.

The fastest way to get through Customs is to fill out the form at a Customs office BEFORE you go to the event.

Following is a list of Customs offices in your area. You'll have to get a phone number and call for an appointment.



Customs Offices: US

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Ashtabula/Conneaut	1170 Lake Avenue Ashtabula, OH44004	Chicago
Cleveland	6747 Engle Road Middleburg Heights, OH44130 440-891-0038	Chicago
Columbus	6431 Alum Creek Drive Suite A Groveport, OH43125	Chicago
Dayton	3800 Wright Drive Vandalia, OH45377	Chicago
Toledo-Sandusky-Port Clinton	709 SE Catawba Rd. Port Clinton, OH43452	Chicago

OHIO

PENNSYLVANIA

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Erie	Erie International Airport/Tom Ridge Field 4459 W. 12 St. Erie, PA16505	Chicago
Harrisburg	Port of Harrisburg 1215 Manor Drive, Suite 301 Mechanicsburg, PA17055	Baltimore
Philadelphia	2nd & Chestnut Streets Room 102 Philadelphia, PA19106	Baltimore

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh International Airport P.O. Box 12445, U.S. Customs (Airside) Pittsburgh, PA15231	Baltimore

MARYLAND

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Baltimore	40 South Gay Street Baltimore, MD21202	Baltimore

NEW JERSEY

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Morristown Airport	15 Airport Road Morristown, NJ07960	New York
New York/Newark	1100 Raymond Boulevard Newark, NJ07102	New York
Perth Amboy	205 Jefferson Street Perth Amboy, NJ08861	New York

NEW YORK

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Albany	445 Broadway, Room 216 Albany, NY12207	Buffalo

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Alexandria Bay	46735 Interstate Route 81 Alexandria Bay, NY13607	Buffalo
Binghamton	2534 Airport Road Johnson City, NY13790	Buffalo
Buffalo	726 Exchange Street Suite 400 Buffalo, NY14210	Buffalo
Champlain	237 West Service Road Champlain, NY12919	Buffalo
John F. Kennedy International Airport	John F. Kennedy International Airport Bldg #77 Jamaica, NY11430	New York
Massena	30M Seaway International Bridge Roosevelt, NY13683	Buffalo
Ogdensburg	Ogdensburg Bridge Plaza Ogdensburg, NY13669	Buffalo
Rochester	1200 Brooks Avenue Rochester, NY14624	Buffalo
Rome	650 Hanger Road Griffiss International Airport Rome, NY13441	Buffalo
Syracuse	152 Air Cargo Road Suite 201 N. Syracuse, NY13212	Buffalo
Trout River	17013 State Route 30 Constable, NY12926	Buffalo

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Manchester (User Fee Airport)	1 Airport Road (Old Terminal) Manchester, NH03103	Boston

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Portsmouth	42 Airline Avenue Portsmouth, NH03801	Boston

DELAWARE

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Wilmington	908 New Churchman's Road Suite C New Castle, DE19720	Baltimore

VIRGINIA

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Front Royal	No CBP personnel on site. Please contact the Port of Richmond- Petersburg Front Royal, VA22630	Atlanta
New River Valley Airport	No personnel on site. Please contact the Port of Richmond- Petersburg Dublin, VA24084	Atlanta
Norfolk-Newport News	101 E. Main Street Norfolk, VA23510	Atlanta
Port of Washington- Dulles	22685 Holiday Park Drive Suite 15 Sterling, VA20598	Baltimore
Richmond - Petersburg	5707 Huntsman Road, Suite 104 Richmond, VA23250	Atlanta

CONNECTICUT

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
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Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Bridgeport	915 Lafayette Blvd. - Room 201 Bridgeport, CT06604	Boston
Hartford	Bradley International Airport International Arrivals Building Windsor Locks, CT06096	Boston
New Haven	150 Court Street - Suite 672 New Haven, CT06511	Boston
New London	150 Bank Street New London, CT06320	Boston

MICHIGAN

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Battle Creek	4950 Dickman Road Battle Creek, MI49037	Detroit
Capital Region International Airport Lansing	4100 Capital City Blvd. Lansing, MI48906	Detroit
Detroit	2810 B West Fort Street Suite #123 Detroit, MI48216	Detroit
Detroit Metropolitan Airport	Edward H. McNamara Terminal 2596 Worldgateway Place Detroit, MI48242	Detroit
Grand Rapids	6450 Air Cargo Drive SE Grand Rapids, MI49512	Detroit
Port Huron	526 Water Street - Room 301 Port Huron, MI48060-5471	Detroit
Saginaw/Bay City/Flint	8500 Garfield Rd. Suite 103 Freeland, MI48623	Detroit
Sault Sainte Marie	900 International Bridge Plaza Sault Sainte Marie, MI49783- 1492	Detroit

NORTH CAROLINA

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Charlotte	1901 Crossbeam Drive Charlotte, NC28217	Atlanta
Morehead City - Beaufort	534H 35th Street Morehead City, NC28557	Atlanta
Raleigh-Durham	2400 John Brantley Boulevard Morrisville, NC27560	Atlanta
Wilmington	721 Medical Center Drive Suite 200 Wilmington, NC28401	Atlanta
Winston-Salem	532-C North Regional Road Greensboro, NC27409	Atlanta

WEST VIRGINIA

Port Name	Location Address	Field Operation Office
Charleston	No CBP Personnel on site please Contact the Port of Richmond-Petersburg for Charleston, WV25311	Atlanta