

# The Grand Dispatch



A brief social history of Port Maitland Ontario, and the surrounding area  
Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association (PMHA) - Free to PMHA members

## Carp – Who needs them?

### This article started out about Carp and Soon Changed

**Doctor George Alexander MacCallum** (not related to Senator MacCallum) lived in Dunnville in the late 1800's and was among other things well-known and involved in the Ontario Game Fish Commission. I was going to tell you that through this commission and at his own expense he stocked the upper Grand River with German Leather Carp.



I was going to tell you my feeling about what harm this has done to the Grand River and other tributaries. I was even going to tell you that the first carp known to be captured near Port Maitland was by the tug *WILSON* in April 1892, when while out boating on the lower river one of the crew was attracted to the splashing water near the shore. To his astonishment he discovered it was a large German Leather Carp; though I doubt he knew its proper name. After capture it was weighed and found to be 15½ pounds. It seemed that this fisherman was so intrigued he cut the fish open and found that its spawn weighed 3½ pounds. It was my intention to even tell you that some Americans had stocked Lake Erie in 1887 with German Leather Carp. But the research for all this became so entangled in so many other issues that it scared me off! What I might tell you is that those Americans and Dr. MacCallum were not alone. In the United States the Commission of Fish and Fisheries stocked nearly every

river and stream on continental United States with various species of carp from Europe and Asia. Why? I can only use the reasoning that Dr. MacCallum used. He felt that these fish would make a good commercial stock providing income and food for the new settlers of this Country.

So keeping with Dr. George Alexander MacCallum, but not his carp I decided to tell you about him and his son William George MacCallum.

First a quick mention of the senior Dr. MacCallum. After a very distinguished career as a local surgeon in the Dunnville area Dr. MacCallum took a position as superintendent at the London Asylum for the Insane in London Ontario. Later Dr. MacCallum went on to be appointed as superintendent of the Asylum at Penetanguishene in 1908. Some years later he moved to New York City to be near his son, and was elected Fellow of the New York Zoological Society and became a pathologist for the New York Aquarium. There is no doubt in my mind that a book could be written about George Alexander MacCallum, but it is his son William George that I wish to address now.

**Doctor William George MacCallum** was the second son of Dr. George Alexander MacCallum and Florence Eakins. He was born in Dunnville on April 18, 1874 and attended elementary and high school here, graduating from Dunnville High School at age fifteen.

William had a very close relationship with his father and even assisted his father in operations while still a child. He entered the University of Toronto at the early age of fifteen. During his time at the University of Toronto he took Greek, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology graduating at age twenty in 1894. He then entered the new Johns Hopkins Medical School graduating with his M.D. in 1897.

In 1900 Dr. William went to Germany for a short time working with Professor Marchand in Leipzig.

Dr. William returned to Baltimore then went on to

Columbia University holding the position of Professor of Pathology while serving as a pathologist to the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.



Due to space and tons of details about Dr. William I am going to end my story. If you are interested in learning more about him I have provided you with considerable references below.

Recently, I sent an email to Miss Jayne Chalmers the principal of the Dunnville High School suggesting the School consider creating a Wall of Fame should they not already have one. I nominate Dr. William as a Member of the Wall.

The following websites were used or reviewed for the purpose of writing this article. Most of these sites deal with the Doctors MacCallum but some deal with the introduction of Carp both in Canada and the United States of America.

<http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/maccallum-william.pdf>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1582082/pdf/canmedaj00579-0179.pdf>

<http://www.whonamedit.com/doctor.cfm/2620.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1562183/pdf/canmedaj00527-0150.pdf>

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/archives/virtualexhibits/londonasylum/mccallum.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_George\\_MacCallum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_George_MacCallum)

<http://www.uscap.org/about/history/past-presidents/w-g-maccallum>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/william-george-maccallum/>

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/99/2572/290>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/path.1700560415/abstract>

<file:///C:/Users/Bill/Downloads/canmedaj00579-0179.pdf>

<http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=1111757>

[https://books.google.ca/books/about/A\\_Textbook\\_of\\_Pathology.html?id=zYxXnQEACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.ca/books/about/A_Textbook_of_Pathology.html?id=zYxXnQEACAAJ&redir_esc=y)

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Special thanks to Judy and April at the Dunnville Heritage Association.

## **THE FENIAN INVASION A PRELUDE TO CONFEDERATION**

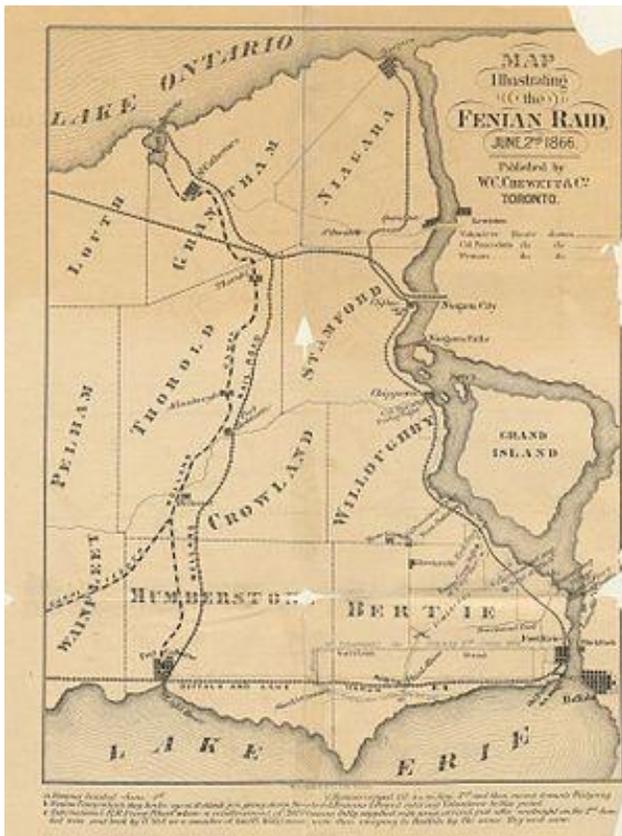
By  
GARY K. KANGAS

2017 commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Confederation. The colonies of Upper and Lower Canada plus the Maritimes became the Nation of Canada on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1867. The road to Confederation was not easy, simple or without armed conflict and loss of life. The process was complex, much negotiated, driven by patriotism plus economic and military security.

Canada as a nation was not a far off vision at the end of the French and Indian war in 1763. The Canada's became colonies of Britain and became known as British North America. The beginnings of Canada began with an elected assembly in Nova Scotia 1758, followed by Prince Edward Island in 1773 and New Brunswick in 1784. In December of 1791, 225 years ago, the Constitutional Act was passed in the British Parliament establishing Upper and Lower Canada with its first elected assemblies. The road to Confederation was under construction. By the War of 1812 the Britain's Empire was far reaching. The British Regular Army was stretched to the limit around the Empire. Canadian Militia's and British Regulars were in active combat during the War of 1812. Canada was flexing its independence.

The armed rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada in 1837

and 1838 were uprisings directed at the ineffective Government and British power. The pressure for independence was mounting. By the 1850's the Militia Acts of various jurisdictions provided man power for defense. In 1855 the situation was dramatically altered. Most of the British Regular Army was withdrawn to fight in the Crimea. This paved the way for the Militia Act of 1855 which approved an active, trained and paid Militia to be formed. In 1856 additional, volunteer, unpaid Militias were authorized another precursor of independence for Canada!



The Maritimes were not enthusiastic about a united country. In 1864 the first formal conference to unite the British North American colonies was held in Charlottetown. The three Maritime Provinces wanted a union for themselves. John A. MacDonal and George Etienne Cartier negotiated for a wider Federal union! There was a great deal of resistance by individuals, business interests, and religious intervention. The negotiations over time were hotly contested. There was also opposition by certain Maritimers distressed by the composition of the proposed Parliament. The U.S. Civil War had ended in 1865. There were fears of annexation by the U.S. felt by many Canadians. The political

maneuvering, internal and external pressures were enormous.

Enter the Fenian Brotherhood, now known as the Irish Republican Army, (IRA) who were Irish patriots. The membership believed if they invaded Canada and successfully captured major cities they could exchange them for Ireland's freedom from British rule. Or, their act would cause an insurrection in Ireland.

The Fenian Brotherhood had a membership in excess of 10,000 in the U.S. By April of 1866 thousands of Irish patriots had formed a covert army; many were battle hardened Civil War veterans from both the Union and Confederate Armies. In May of 1866 the Fenian Army mobilized. By the end of May there were Fenians deployed along the Canada U.S. border. There were 1000 Fenians positioned in Buffalo, New York alone.

The Fenian invasion was the worst kept secret of 1866. The Canadian government had intelligence information early in 1866 of the multi pronged Fenian invasion to take place in early summer. The Canadian government called up militia units to resist the Fenians.

The event began to unfold just after midnight on June 1, 1866. The Fenian army slipped across the Niagara River in tugs and canal boats. The invasion of the Niagara peninsula had begun. The objective was to seize the Welland Canal to block shipping. Another unit captured the rail yards in the vicinity. June the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1866 the IRA regiments marched toward the town of Ridgeway Ont. The Queens Own Rifles armed with the latest cartridge Spencer repeating rifles were in the lead of the Canadian militia units. They were only issued with 28 rounds of ammunition each. The other militia units were armed with Enfield muzzle loading rifles. The Canadians closed in and engaged the Fenian army. These inexperienced volunteers went toe to toe with the Fenian battle tested veterans. Upon fearing a cavalry charge the Canadian militia formed a square. That strategy exposed the Canadians to concentrated fire. The Fenians then mounted a bayonet charge which broke the Canadians ranks. The Fenians knowing Canadian support units were approaching also withdrew leaving behind their dead and wounded. As the Fenians approached Fort Erie they were confronted by the Welland Canal Field Battery and Dunnville Naval Brigade who had landed ahead of the Fenians by tug boat on Lake Erie.

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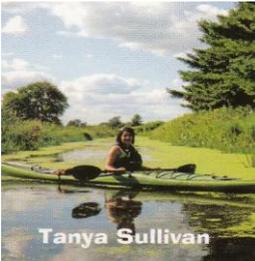
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Continued from pg 3

In the fierce engagement that followed the Fenians drove back the Canadians and retreated to the Niagara River to board their boats back to the United States. They were escorted by the gun boat USS Michigan. Back in the U.S. the Fenians were placed under arrest by the U.S. Marshalls and the U.S. Army.

The Fenian units that were positioned to attack from New York and Vermont plus units at the Quebec border did not cross into Canada as planned. The few that did were met by Canadian militia and were disarmed, others encountered Canadian armed resistance.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1866 United States President Andrew Johnson declared that the U.S. neutrality laws of 1818 would be upheld.

The events of early June 1866 altered the security vision of Canadians dramatically. The deficiencies of the Canadian militias were addressed and training enhanced. The Government ordered more up to date firearms. The road to Canadian National independence was nearing completion.

The 150<sup>th</sup> year re-enactment portraying the Battle of Ridgeway was held at Historic Old Fort Erie, Ontario (Niagara Parks Commission). The event organizer for the commemoration was Tim Warnick. His support staff Teresa Warnick, Matthew Warnick, Dennis Watson and photographers Donna Elliott and Robin McKee.

The units, Crown Forces: 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Ceremonial Guard (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry) Brockville Infantry Re-enactment Group, 12<sup>th</sup> York Battalion (Forresters), Scarlett Regiment: Norwood High School Drill Team, Green Regiment: Brighton High School Drill Team, Caledonia Rifles: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Militia 1812, Fort Staff 1812, Fort Safety Officers Travis Hill and Sam Stark. Irish Brotherhood (Fenian) 10<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry (Canadian, 21<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Infantry (Canadian) 18<sup>th</sup> Ohio Irish regiment (U.S.A.) 155<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry (U.S.A.) 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Sharpshooter 1 (U.S.A.) 21<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry 1 (U.S.A.)

Comment by re-enactor David J. Bertucca, map Librarian, Lockwood Memorial Library, University of Buffalo, New York.

“The events of June 1866 were romanticized in the news and in art of the period. For a young person interested in history I was drawn to learn more about the Battle of

Ridgeway by a large painting in our local history museum, depicting red and green uniformed soldiers, in opposing battle lines, at a place that was within 30 minutes from my home. It occurred to me over 50 years ago that there was one method of learning that would go beyond studying the past in books. If I could re-create history through using artifacts and by experiencing every day activities, I would gain a better understanding of our ancestors.

Re-enactors dedicate their time to learning how things worked: how people dressed, what they ate, what life was like in a different era. It is one thing to read about troops fighting over a battle field: it is another thing to actually march over a battle field in the same uniform, carrying the same equipment, and spending the time trying to see how it felt”.

The stalwart Militia men who faced the Fenians were students, farm boys, clerks, men of all ages and classes. They are a stellar example of Canadian’s firearms heritage.

Photo Credits: Donna Elliott, Robin McKee

Map: Early Canadian Historic Narratives

Sources: David J. Bertucca, Tim Warnick

Historica Canada

National Library of Canada

The Canadian Encyclopedia

January 5, 2017

## Siblings of Queen Victoria Follow up!

In the last issue of *The Grand Dispatch* I wrote about two women whose family claimed were half sisters of Queen Victoria. I concluded this was very unlikely. Following that article I came across a book called “*Prince Edward, Duke of Kent – Father of the Canadian Crown*” by [Nathan Tidridge](#).

Mr. Tidridge is very knowledgeable on the Subject of the Duke of Kent and has written a number of books on related subjects receiving high praise from high places. I could take up an entire issue of *The Dispatch* just outlining Nathan’s many awards and accomplishments. In the end, I accept his word as “the final word”! Please see his note to me on next page.

Dear Mr. Warnick,

*After researching and writing my book on the Duke of Kent (Prince Edward, Duke of Kent: Father of the Canadian Crown) I find myself in agreement with you that Prince Edward and Julie de St. Laurent did not produce any children. Had they a daughter or a son, the evidence suggests that the Duke would have acknowledged and supported them. I live in the Hamilton area, and have come across a few individuals who claim to be relatives of Queen Victoria, and I am compelled to tell them that it cannot be through the Duke of Kent's bloodline. The Duke of Kent is a fascinating individual and a largely unsung figure in Canadian history.*

My very best to you -

Nathan Tidridge

Please find where and how to obtain this and other books by Mr. Tidridge on our web page at "Books" or open the page at ["Prince Edward, Duke of Kent – Father of the Canadian Crown"](#)

### Find other books on our Website!

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!!

As you may recall we advised you in earlier Dispatches that dues are going up to \$15.00 beginning October 1, 2016. This is due to the cost of printing and mailing the Dispatch as well as there being more cost to maintaining the Port Maitland lock than anticipated.

Please make payment to Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association and mail to Bill at address below

### Do we or Don't we Purchase the Port Maitland Lock Property?

Please stay in touch. We have a tentative date and location set, but I am having trouble getting my ducks in order at this point. We are planning the meeting for late spring or early summer to discuss this with anyone who wishes to hear and give an opinion. A vote to give guidance to the executive will be taken from PMHA members only, but all are welcome to offer suggestions.

### Four Husbands!

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

"He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought.

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, and a preacher when in her 60's, and now - in her 80's - a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!"

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### Prints available!

One of the major prizes in our recent lottery was a painting by William Biddle well-known of the Dundas Valley School of Art and owner of William Biddle Gallery Dunnville. The painting depicts a period in Port Maitland Harbour from early 1900s to approximately 1930. The winner of this painting Simon Courtenay and Mr. Biddle have agreed to permit PMHA to have prints made of the painting. We have printed a limited edition of 11" x 15" prints.

**Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association** wishes to make this limited edition print available to whomever wishes to purchase them.

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