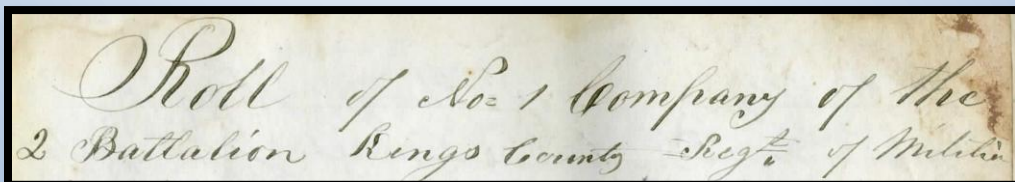


ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

**KINGS COUNTY REGIMENT
OF MILITIA (NS) COLLECTION**

**Accessions 1968.001-MIL
and 1900.287-COR**



Compiled by Wendy Robicheau and Patrick Gouthro

March 2010

**Kings County Regiment of Militia collection. – [textual records]. –
1863-1867. – 2 folders of textual records**

Table of Contents

(click on title to jump to that page)

Scope and Content	3
Administrative History	4
Custodial History	5
Notes	5
Citation for this electronic finding aid:	6
Access Points	6

Scope and Content

The collection consists of two items containing information about the Kings County Militia members.

1968.001-MIL/1 [Kings County Militia roll](#) (1863-1865, 1867) for the 1st Battalion Kings County and contains a list of names, ages, and other notations. Their captain was John S. Belcher. Most of the Kings County men were from Scott's Bay, NS

1900.287-COR/1 [three letters](#) [1864?] in which Leander Rand, Major commanding the 1st Regiment Kings County Nova Scotia Militia, attests to the training of three of his men

Note: On verso, minutes (1864) of a meeting held in the school house at Cornwallis on 25 October 1864. Those present decided to 'support a school agreeable to the new School law'. Also contains a list of the 'rateable inhabitants of School Section 57'

Administrative History¹

With the advent of responsible government in Nova Scotia in 1758, an Act was passed in the Assembly, "An Act for Establishing and Regulating a Militia", which established a universal militia for the province with provided that "from and after 1st December, 1758, all males between 16 and 60 years shall bear arms and attend all musters, etc." Upon the arrival of the New England planters in Nova Scotia, they established militia regiments in every township with their officers receiving commissions from the government at Halifax. In a 12 December 1760 letter from the President of the Council, Jonathan Belcher, to the English Board of Trade, it was remarked that almost immediately upon their arrival and establishment of the townships of Horton, Cornwallis, and Falmouth, the planters erected palisaded forts and formed militias to "oppose any attempts that might be formed against them by Indian tribes which had not then surrendered, and bodies of French inhabitants who were hovering throughout the country." In 1870, shortly after Confederation, militia conscription ceased in favour of volunteerism and all the King's County militia regiments were disbanded except for that of Third King's which was reorganized as the 68th King's County Regiment and absorbed into the national Canadian Militia.

The King's County militia's mandate and sphere of responsibility remained remarkably consistent during the many continental wars, conflicts and disputes that ebbed and flowed during the little over a century of its existence. In the period of c.1758-1761, the newly established militia offered a frontline defence of the newly established Planter townships in the North American theatre during the waning years of the Seven Years War (1756-63) against specifically the recently dispossessed and disaffected Acadians as well as any potentially hostile Mi'kmaq. During the American Revolutionary War (c. 1775-1781), the militia, again, acted as a frontline defence against any American retaliatory action or raids by privateers. The militia also played a highly symbolic role in ensuring that any pro-American sympathies did not lead to any societal unrest or outward acts of rebellion. To be a member of the militia at this time was considered a demonstrable act of loyalty to the British crown. The militia would also be called upon again to provide that frontline defence against possible American attacks during the War of 1812 (1812-1815) and during the French Revolutionary/Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) where the threat, real or imagined, of retaliatory attacks by the French Atlantic naval fleet remained a concern. The possibility of punitive raiding or attacks increased again due to the increasing hostility between Britain and the American Union government because of the Trent Affair and British sympathies for the Confederate cause and the Fenian raids which followed the conclusion of the United States Civil War. In the immediate aftermath of Confederation, an act was passed by the Canadian Parliament relative to the Militia and Defence of the Dominion by which all the local and provincial militias were either dissolved or integrated into a national reorganization of the military structure as the militia role became a supportive one in the defence of the nation as a whole.

¹ Source: A.W.H Eaton. 1910. The History of Kings County Nova Scotia. Salem: The Salem Press Company. 426-439.

Notable Actions by the King's County militia:

- In 1761, the King's county militia was ordered by the Government to collect whatever remained of the Acadian residents and bring them to Halifax.
- On 21 May 1781, roughly thirty Americans rebels/privateers sailed an armed shallop along with two armed whaleboats up the Bay of Fundy to Cornwallis, seized a schooner and, after a naval confrontation with the local militia under the command of Captains Bishop and Crane, took them prisoner. One Lieut. Benjamin Belcher with twenty-eight volunteers from the Cornwallis militia gave chase and soon freed the captured vessels and prisoners while taking the rebels prisoner.
- In 1793, Provincial Governor John Wentworth ordered one thousand men from the regiments of Hants, King's, and Annapolis to march to Halifax for the protection of the town. The militia regiments from Hants, King's, and Annapolis counties marched to Halifax and were quartered on Melville Island.
- A 1795 Act amended and consolidated the several militia Acts hitherto in force and established a minimum 6 militia drills per year but an additional act in 1796 reduced this number to four. There would a regular annual militia drill held in King's County until 1837 where, for some twenty years afterwards, it was neglected.

Custodial History

Unknown.

Notes

Supplied title based on contents of collection.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*.

See also:

1900.148-CHI/2 military certificates (1863-1864) for Leverett DeVeber Chipman's commission as Major and Lt. Colonel in the Kings County Regiment

1900.318-MIL/1 general, regimental, and brigade orders (1807-1808) for the Militia at Halifax

"The Annapolis Regiments" of Nova Scotia [electronic resource] : the officers, NCOs and men of the 69th and 72nd battalions of infantry volunteer militia, 1867-1914 Walker, Wayne.

Edwards, Joseph Plimsoll The militia of Nova Scotia, 1749-1867 [UA601 .N68 E39 1913 – SPDEN]

Revised regulations and orders for the local forces of Nova Scotia [microform]
Nova Scotia. Militia. Halifax, N.S. : A. Grant, 1864.

Manual of preliminary drill for Nova Scotia volunteers [microform]
Canada. Canadian Army. [Halifax, N.S.? : s.n.], 1860 (Halifax, N.S. : A. Grant)

The Militia laws of the province of Nova-Scotia [microform] [Halifax, N.S.? : s.n.], 1839
(Halifax [N.S.] : Royal Gazette Office)

Militia laws of the province of Nova Scotia, in force in the year of our Lord, 1813 ... with an index and references by H.H. Cogswell Nova Scotia. Laws, statutes, etc. Halifax :

Printed by John Howe and Son, 1813. [KEN7927.2 .A31 A2 1813 – SPDEN]
Rules and articles for the better government of the militia forces of this province, while embodied on actual service [microform] Nova Scotia. Militia. Halifax [N.S.] : Printed by John Howe & Son ..., 1812.

Rules and regulations, for the militia forces of Nova Scotia [microform] : also an abstract of the militia laws, and a circular letter to the inspecting field officers of districts Nova Scotia. Militia. Halifax [N.S.] : Printed by J. Howe and Son, 1808.

Citation for this electronic finding aid:

APA style: Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. (2010). Kings County Regiment of Militia collection. Retrieved <date>, from Vaughan Memorial Library web site: library.acadiau.ca/archives/research/acadia_archives/KCoMilitiaFA.pdf

Chicago manual: Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2010. Kings County Regiment of Militia. Vaughan Memorial Library. http://library.acadiau.ca/archives/research/acadia_archives/KCoMilitiaFA.pdf (accessed <date>.)

Turabian style: Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2010. Kings County Regiment of Militia. On-line. Available from Internet, http://library.acadiau.ca/archives/research/acadia_archives/KCoMilitiaFA.pdf, accessed <date>.

Access Points

Kings County Militia (NS)
1st Kings County Regiment
2nd Kings County Regiment
Belcher, John S. (fl. 1864)
Rand, Leander (fl. 1864)
Nova Scotia—History, Military—19th century