

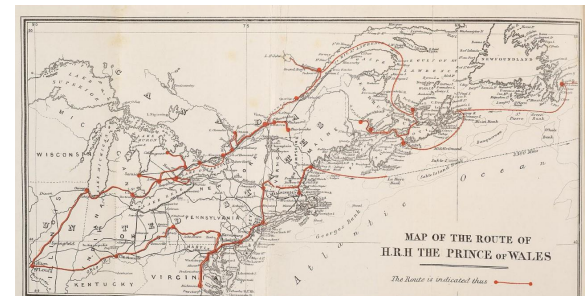
# A Princely Tour: The 1860 Royal Visit of the Prince of Wales to British North America and United States

Presented at *The Gathering*

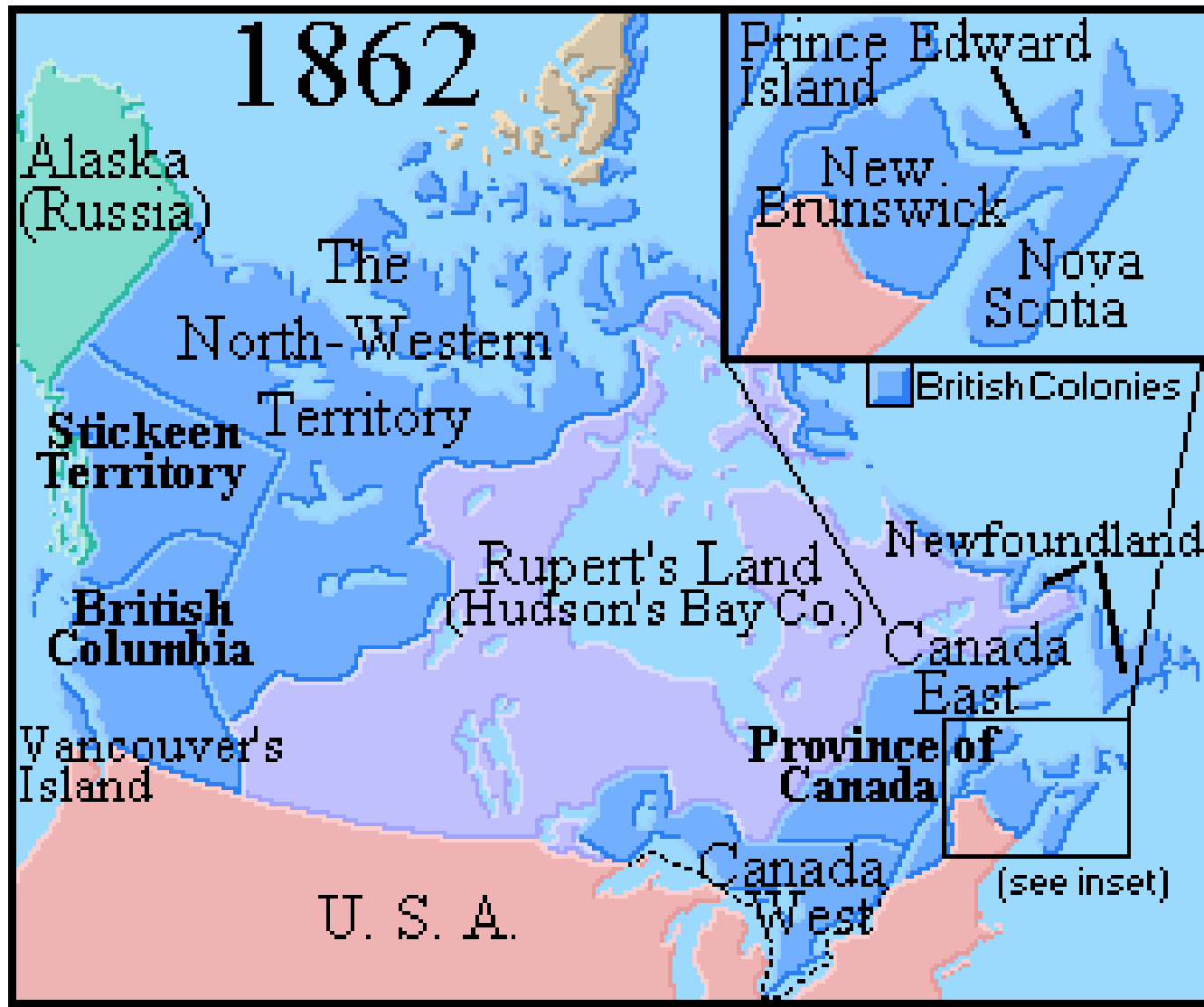
Based on Two Part Article in *BNA Topics*

February 15, 2025

Presenter: Ron Majors



## Geographic Layout of Canada/BNA During Early 1860s



# Provinces of Canada

Name and postal <u>abbr.</u>		Cities		Entered Confederation <sup>[2]</sup>	Official language(s) <sup>[3]</sup>
		Capital <sup>[7]</sup>	Largest <sup>[8]</sup>		
<u>Ontario</u>	ON	<u>Toronto</u>		July 1, 1867	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
<u>Quebec</u>	QC	<u>Quebec City</u>	<u>Montreal</u>	July 1, 1867	<u>French</u> <sup>[b]</sup>
<u>Nova Scotia</u>	NS	<u>Halifax</u> <sup>[c]</sup>		July 1, 1867	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
<u>New Brunswick</u>	NB	<u>Fredericton</u>	<u>Moncton</u>	July 1, 1867	<u>English, French</u> <sup>[d]</sup>
<u>Manitoba</u>	MB	<u>Winnipeg</u>		July 15, 1870	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
<u>British Columbia</u>	BC	<u>Victoria</u>	<u>Vancouver</u>	July 20, 1871	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
<u>Prince Edward Island</u>	PE	<u>Charlottetown</u>		July 1, 1873	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
<u>Saskatchewan</u>	SK	<u>Regina</u>	<u>Saskatoon</u>	September 1, 1905	<u>English</u> <sup>[e]</sup>
<u>Alberta</u>	AB	<u>Edmonton</u>	<u>Calgary</u>	September 1, 1905	<u>English</u> <sup>[e]</sup>
<u>Newfoundland and Labrador</u>	NL	<u>St. John's</u>		March 31, 1949	<u>English</u> <sup>[a]</sup>
Total provinces					

# Background for the Visit of British Royalty to British North America in 1860

- By the late 1850's-early 1860's strong belief in Canada that British No. America was the "gem" in the British Crown. Canadian loyalty to the throne was strong.
- Economy was improving (esp. fur trade and logging industries); Hudson Bay Company was bringing great wealth to Gt. Britain.
- Major construction projects were underway esp. Victoria Bridge (considered the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of world) and new Parliament Bldg. in Ottawa (selected by Queen Victoria as Canada's capital).



Victoria Bridge (Montreal)



Parliament Bldg. (Ottawa)

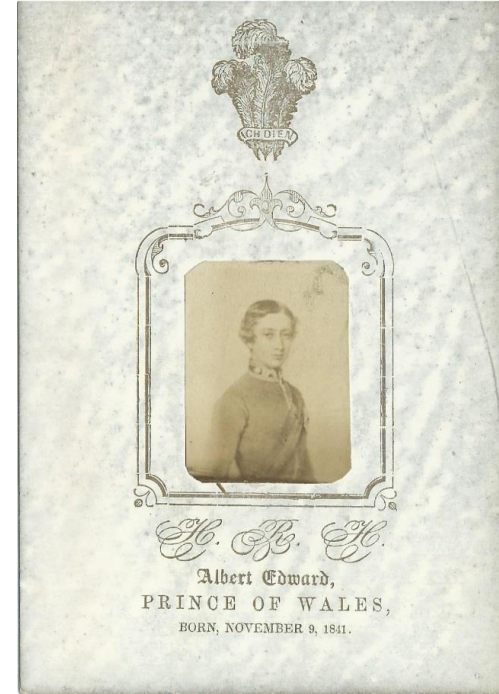
- Canada/BNA military garrison was stripped & strongly supported British in Crimean War; many Canadians volunteered to fight in War
- With all these events in mind, Parliament felt that it was time for a monarch to officially visit Canada/BNA.
- Only male members had set foot on Canadian soil during naval military activities in BNA ports, especially Halifax NS, and St. Johns, Newfoundland.
- Plans to entice royalty to come to Canada/BNA

# Getting The Royal Visit Organized

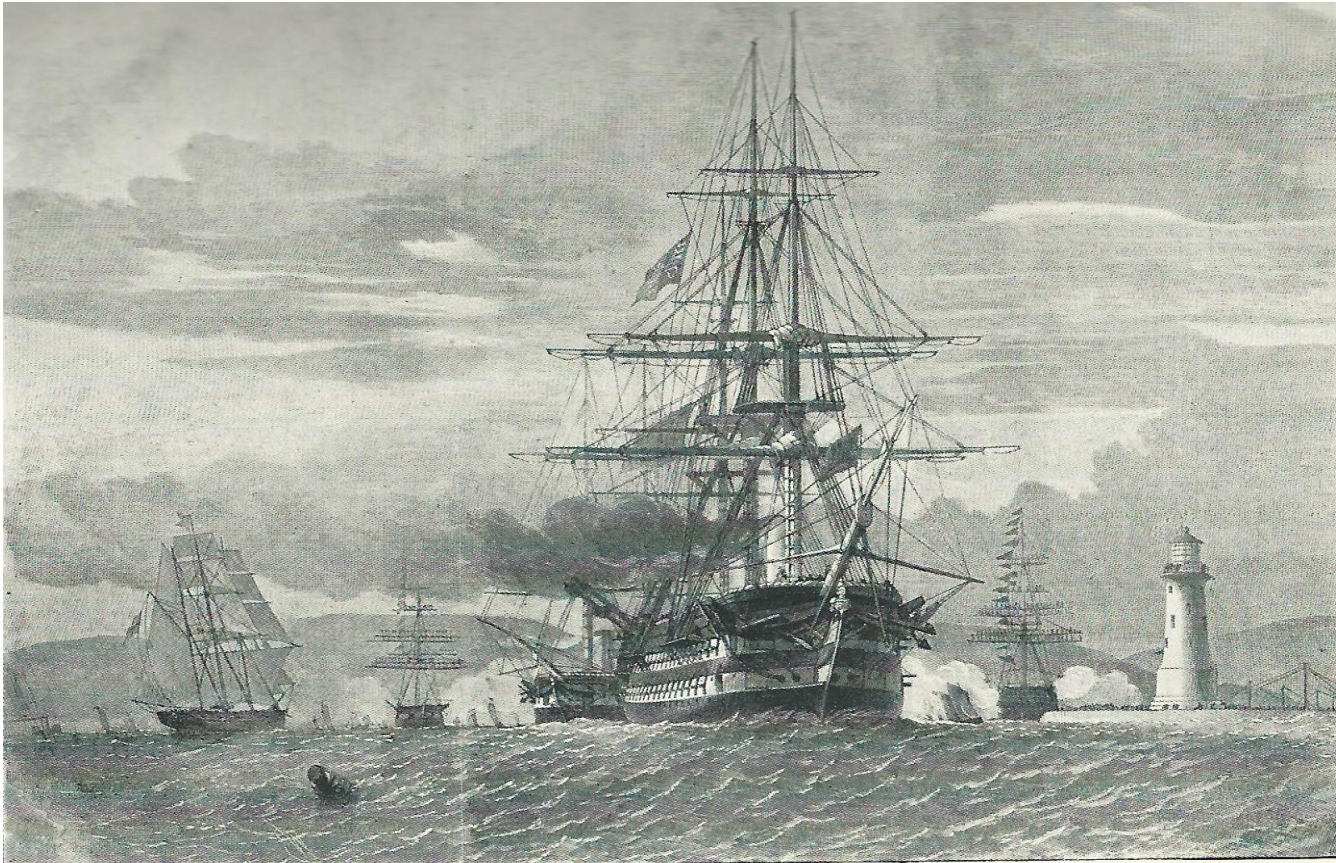
- First Attempt in 1858 was private Toronto citizen Mr. JG Morris, getting signatures of most members of Parliament (200) to sign petition. Most signers were unaware that Morris wanted to deliver invitation to Queen himself!
- Rejected by #10 Downing St. for not going through proper protocol (Governor-General of Province of Canada); he was reprimanded by Canadian officials, but it set the stage for visit of a member of Monarch to Canada.
- The official invitation was hand delivered by Sir Henry Smith, Speaker of the House of Assembly, but Governor-General did not receive final invite until early in 1860.
- Queen Victoria was first to respond that she wasn't fond of ocean travel (too long and tiring) and argued that many official duties required her to remain in England. With urging by Prince Consort & foreign secretary Lord Russell she finally relented and agreed to send her eldest son, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales who was 18 yr. old & student at Oxford.
- Official reason of visit was to dedicate Victoria Bridge and to lay cornerstone at new Parliament Building in Ottawa.
- Once word got around, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick wanted a visit; even President Buchanan jumped on the bandwagon and invited the POW to extend visit to U.S. and the White House.
- Some examples of preparation for Royal Party's visit:
  - Buildings on route updated with gas-fueled illuminations, amphitheaters and ballrooms built
  - Montreal constructed single use extravagant building at cost of \$25,000, a fortune at the time. Demolished after Princes' visit.
  - Railroad cars fitted for the Royal Party
  - Various ship, steamers and other vehicles diverted for their use
  - Military of high alert for safety and security
  - Triumphal arches built for Royal Party to pass under
  - Marching bands, concerts, troop reviews, grand canoe reception by First Nation people.



**Autographed engraving of the POW executed by AW Graham based on a painting by prominent court painter Franz Xaver Winterhalter (1805-1873), done in 1859**

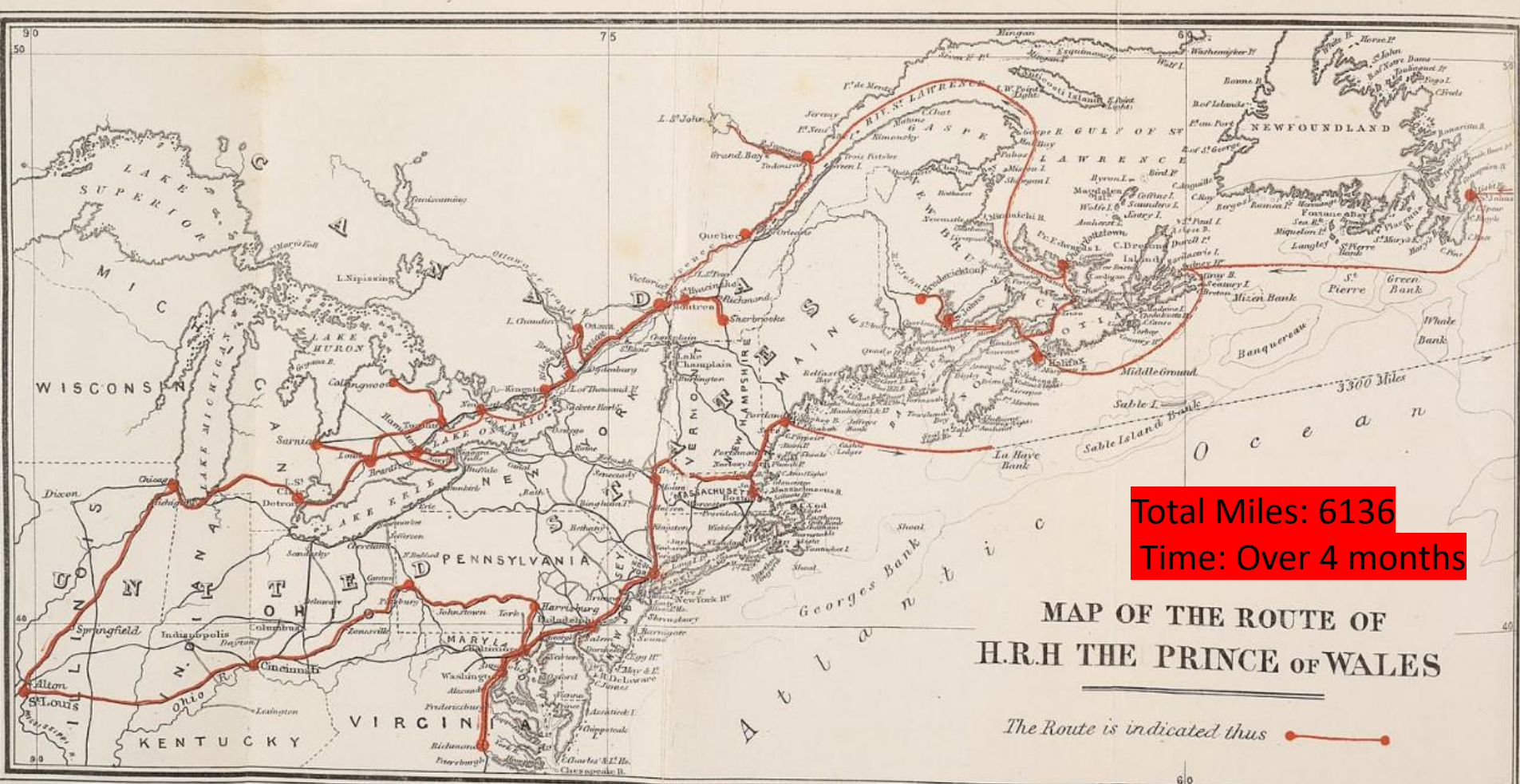


**The *carte de visite*-style presentation card given by the POW to dignitaries during the tour**



The Royal Party Departing Plymouth heading to Canada/BNA and USA  
on July 10, 1860

# Map of Prince of Wales Historic Journey Through British No. America & USA



Shows the route traveled by the Prince of Wales' 1860 Trip through Canada/BNA and the U.S. (courtesy of the Toronto Public Library).



1860 book written by Henry Morgan, longtime government Official in Canada West. Mr. Morgan (alias British Canadian) who accompanied the Prince of Wales & his Royal Party on his historic Canada, BNA and United States visit.

### The Royal Party

- HRH Prince Albert Edward, future King Edward VII
- (His Governor) Major General Bruce
- (Physician) Dr. Auckland
- (Secretary of State for the Colonies) Henry Pelham-Clinton, 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Newcastle
- (Secretary) Edward Eliot, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of St. Germans.
- (Lord Chamberlain) John Robert Townshend, 1st Earl Sydney
- (Commander-in-Chief, North America & West Indies Navy) Rear Admiral Sir Alexander Milne
- ...The list goes on!

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

THROUGH

BRITISH AMERICA

AND

THE UNITED STATES.

BY A BRITISH CANADIAN.



Montreal :

PRINTED FOR THE COMPILER BY JOHN LOVELL,  
ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1860.

# Detailed Itinerary of Prince of Wales 1860 Historic Visit to Canada, BNA and USA

Places Visited in Canada & BNA (Cities and  
Parks):

18

Places in USA:

16

Total Duration: 4 months (July 10-Nov.5)

Traveled by:

- Ship
- Boat
- Raft
- Barge
- Canoe
- Rail
- Carriage
- Horseback

*Recapitulation of Places visited by His Royal Highness Albert Edward,  
Prince of Wales.*

<i>Leave.</i>	<i>Arrive at</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
July 10, Plymouth, England.	July 23, St. Johns, N.F.....	—
" 26, St. Johns, N. F.	" 30, Halifax, N.B.....	990
Aug. 2, Halifax.	Aug. 2, St. John, N.B.....	120
" 7, St. John, N.B.	" 9, Charlottetown, P.E.I.	250
" 11, Charlottetown.	" 12, Gaspé.....	200
" 13, Gaspé.	" 15, Quebec, Canada East.	650
" 20, Quebec.	" 20, Chaudière Falls, and back.....	30
" 23, Quebec.	" 24, Montreal, C.E.....	170
" 29, Montreal.	" Gaughnawaga and back.....	180
" 30, Montreal.	" Sherbrooke and back..	50
" 31, Montreal.	Sept. 1, Ottawa.....	180
Sept. 3, Ottawa.	" 4, Kingston.....	100
" 6, Kingston.	" 6, Cobourg.....	90
" 7, Cobourg.	" 7, Toronto.....	70
" 10, Toronto.	" 10, Collingwood.....	95
" 13, Collingwood.	" 13, London.....	25
" 15, London.	" 16, Chippewa.....	126
" 17, Chippewa.	" 17, Queenston.....	10
" 18, Queenston.	" 18, Hamilton.....	25
" 20, Hamilton.	" 20, Detroit, Michigan....	150
" 21, Detroit.	" 21, Chicago, Illinois.....	284
" 22, Chicago.	" 22, Dwight.....	70
" 25, Dwight.	" 25, Stewart's Grove and back.....	30
" 27, Dwight.	" 27, St. Louis, Missouri....	212
" 29, St. Louis.	" 29, Cincinnati, Ohio.....	340
Oct'r 2, Cincinnati.	Oct'r 2, Harrisburg, Pa.....	615
" 3, Harrisburg.	" 3, Washington, via Balti- more.....	123
" 5, Washington.	" 5, Mount Vernon and back	34
" 6, Washington.	" 6, Richmond, Va.....	130
" 8, Richmond.	" 8, Baltimore, Md.....	150
" 9, Baltimore.	" 9, Philadelphia.....	98
" 11, Philadelphia.	" 11, New York.....	90
" 15, New York.	" 15, West Point.....	51
" 16, West Point.	" 16, Albany.....	99
" 17, Albany.	" 17, Boston, Mass.....	200
" 20, Boston.	" 20, Portland, Me.....	187
" 20, Portland for England.		—
Total distance travelled.....		6,134

## Search for Canada's First Patriotic Cover (Revisited) by Ron Majors

Nearly 9 years ago, Ron McGuire and myself wrote a two-part summary of the 1860 visit of the Prince of Wales (Prince Albert Edward, Queen Victoria's eldest son) to Canada/BNA and the United States, the first visit of British Royalty in a non-military operation to North America (References 1-2) . A special cached envelope was issued to commemorate this historic visit (Figure 1). This cover was adapted from an official photograph of the young Prince who was 18 years old at the time. Surprisingly, only a few copies of the properly used cover have been uncovered, and they will be summarized in this article. Since the original publication, only a couple of additional Prince of Wales covers have surfaced but out of the proper period.

My collecting interest in Canadian postal history covers the pence- and cents-era, particularly with illustrated covers such as hotel, manufacturing, merchandize, military theme, etc. In my subsequent years of searching for the earliest patriotic cover, I have asked many specialist Canadian dealers, not one can tell me that they have encountered an earlier patriotic cover particularly in the pence era (1851-1859). The general definition of a patriotic cover is one created in wartime, often featuring a nation's flag and a slogan. However, most specialists would considered covers celebrating a royal event such as Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee or the early visit of the Prince of Wales covered here in the same category. So, my search goes on to find a patriotic in the pence period of Canadian philately.

The first two covers depicted in Figure 1, both from the Ron Brigham collection were recently sold in the 2023-2024 four-part Eastern Auction devoted to his pence and decimal covers and stamps. This historic collection was one of the best ever put together devoted to the earliest Canadian stamp and stampless postal history. Prices were very strong for these auctions including the two patriotic covers depicted in Figure 1. Bottom **cover sold for \$3500 plus commission/tax.**

Almost all of the Prince of Wales covers posted in the proper timeframe depicted in the following pages were sent from one individual **Mr. MacGillivray from Montreal, L.C.** to Smith Falls, C.W. and all to the same household. The unique Price of Wales cover (Figure 4) sent to New Hampshire in the U.S. was sent to a different person, presumably not a family member.

References:

- 1) R.E. Majors and C.R. McGuire, BNA Topics 73(3) , 10-16 (2016)
- 2) R.E. Majors and C.R. McGuire, BNA Topics 73(4), 25-29 (2016).

# Prince of Wales Cachet Covers from Ron Brigham's Decimal Exhibit

**CANADA - CENTS**  
1859

**Five cents**  
Wove paper - Perf 11½

Two of the three recorded 'Welcome To Canada' patriotic covers for the visit to British North America of Prince Albert Edward, The Prince of Wales - July 23 to September 20, 1860.

1860 photograph on which the patriotic cachet is based. The photographer was from *Della Torre & Co.* of Halifax, Nova Scotia.



B-2426

B-686

AU 11 (*Ex - Greene*)  
and AU 17, 1860,  
Montreal, L.C. to  
Smith Falls, C.W.  
Perf. 11½.



B-1683

**Additional Cachet Covers sent by Same Sender to  
Different Individuals in Smith Falls, C.W.**



**Figure 2: Ron Majors Copy (colour affected by scanner)  
Purchased in Nutmeg Auction, 20+ yrs. ago**



**Figure 3: Bill Radcliffe Copy (purchased on eBay)**

# Prince of Wales Cachet Sent Across Border to New Hampshire During Proper Period

Only example known to U.S.



**Ron Majors Copy (Purchased in Eastern Auction)**

## Prince of Wales Cachet Cover Used within U.S.



Above sent from Derby Line VT to Fisherville, NH

## Prince of Wales Cachet Used within Canada But Out of Period

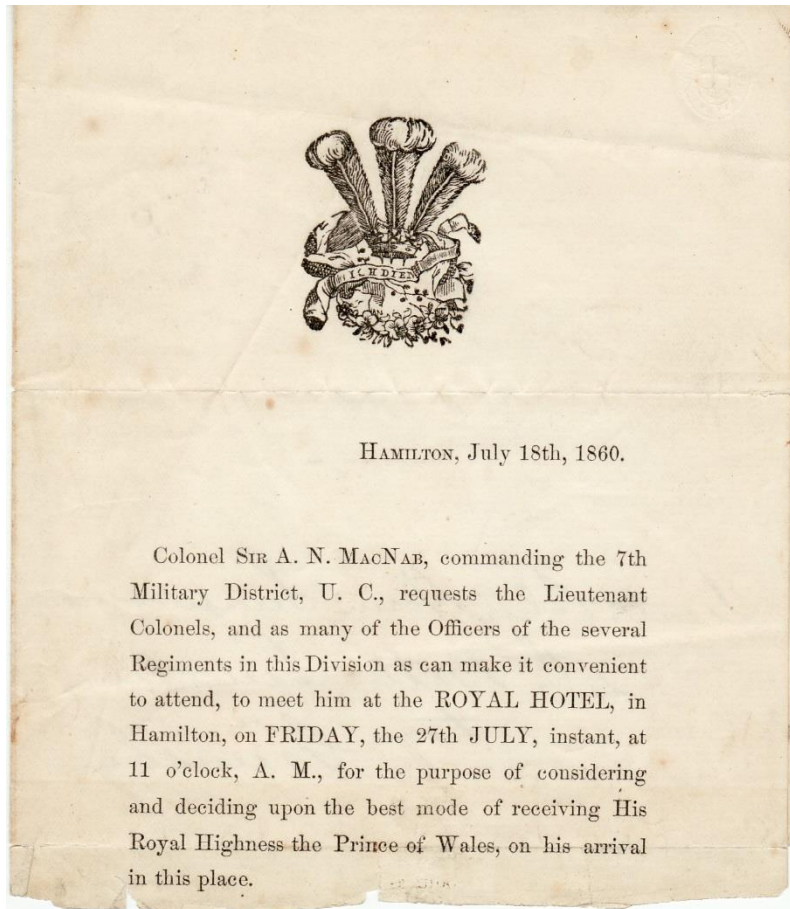
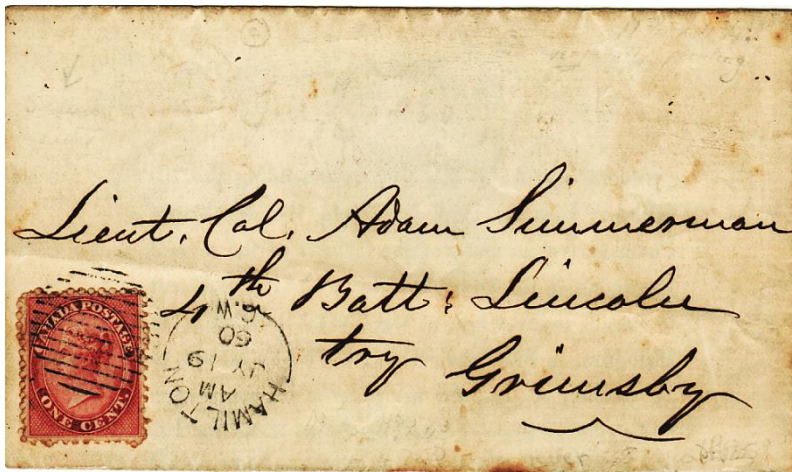


### New Glasgow to Montreal 29 FE '1869 (Maresch)

Sc.#25 cancelled by target on full front from New Glasgow 29 FE '69 to Montreal with large illustration at left of the Prince of Wales in uniform with caption "Welcome to Canada".

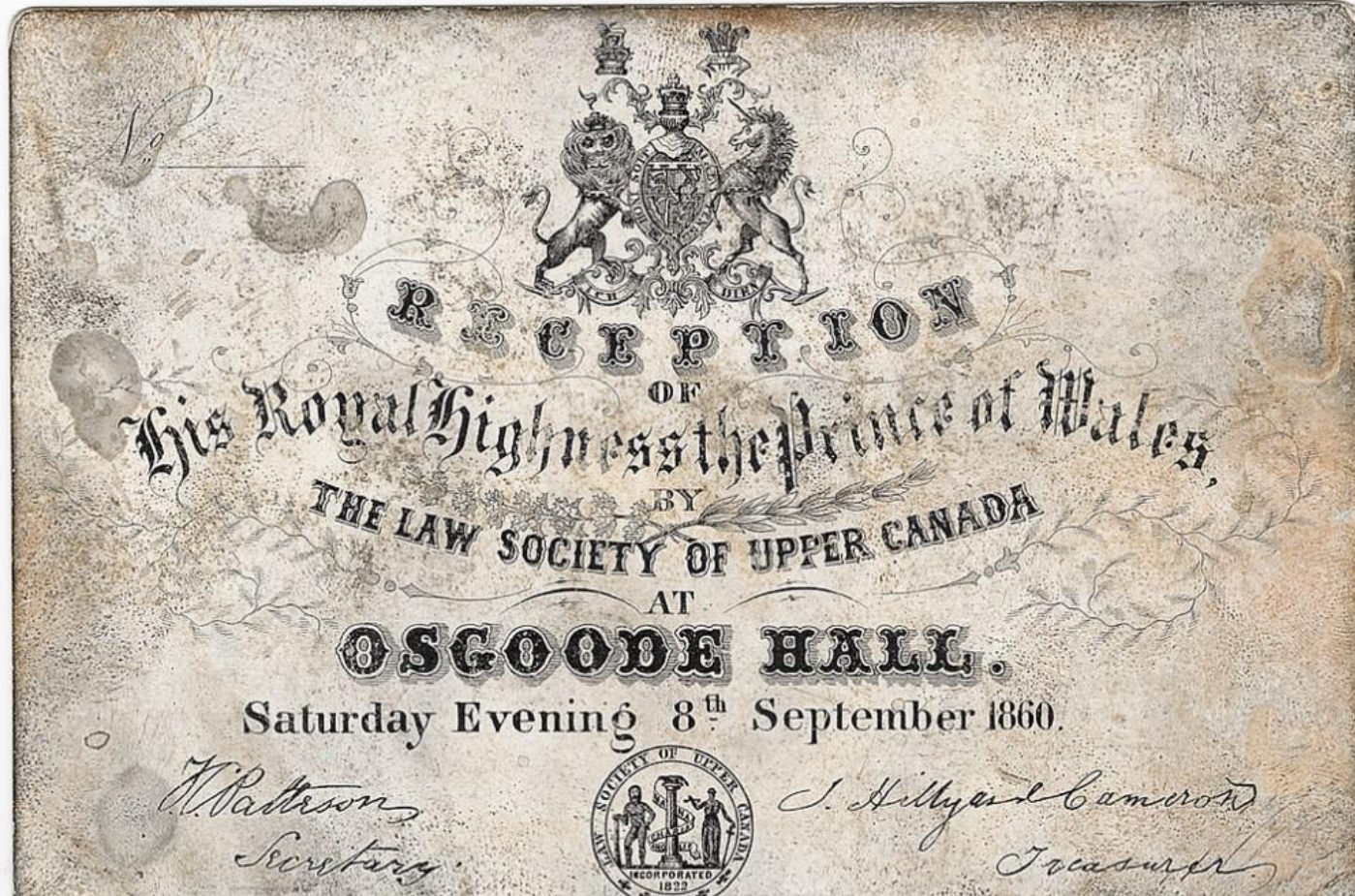
## Preparing for Prince of Wales Visit to Hamilton

Military cover to officers of Militia  
(reduced)



Invitation to Militia Officers for a Planning Meeting on how to host *H.R.H.* at Royal Hotel in Hamilton later in the summer.





Invitation to the Prince of Wales Ball in Toronto 8 September 1860 (courtesy of the Toronto Public Library)



Same Invitation to the Prince of Wales Ball,  
1860 from The Law Society of Upper Canada  
Archives, 995.022

reference@ontario.ca

Phone: 416-327-1600

The Archives of Ontario

134 Ian Macdonald Boulevard

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

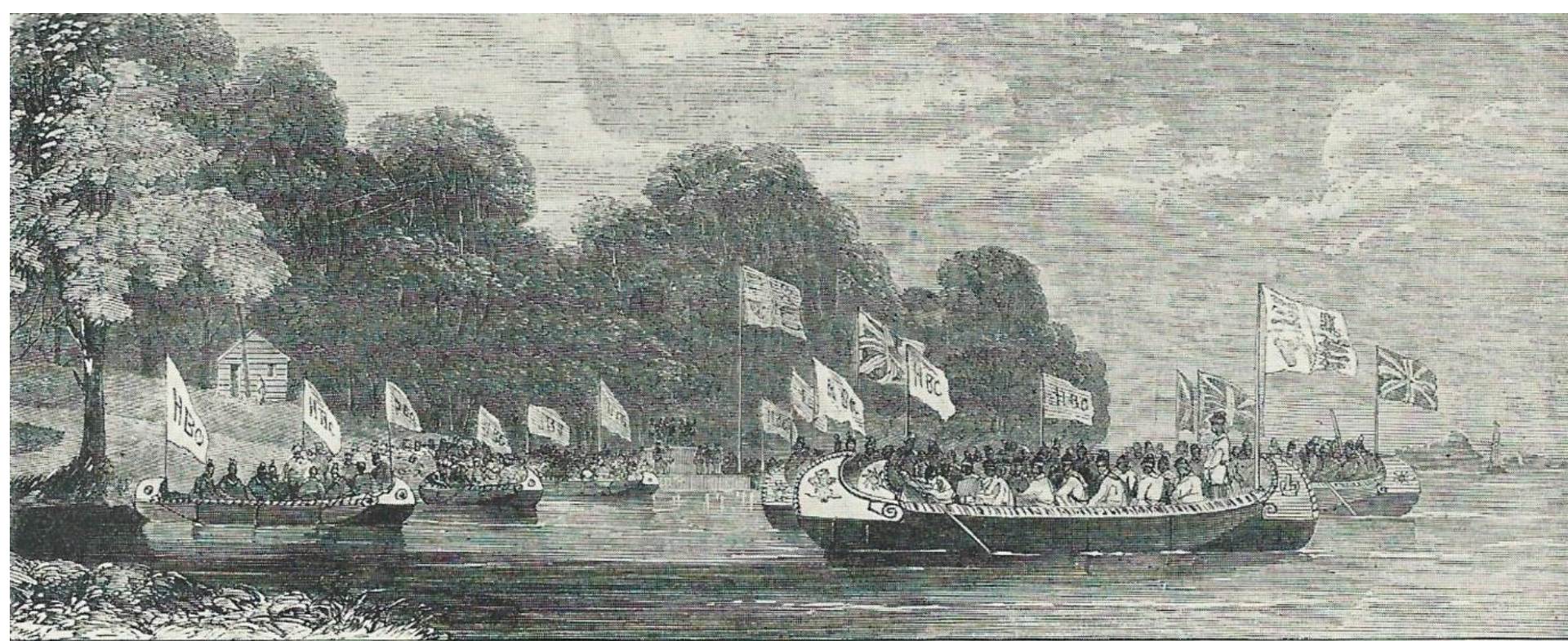
M7A 2C5

The Garland Series No. 15.



Landing of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Edward of Wales (now King Edward VII of Great Britain) at St. John's, Newfoundland in 1860.

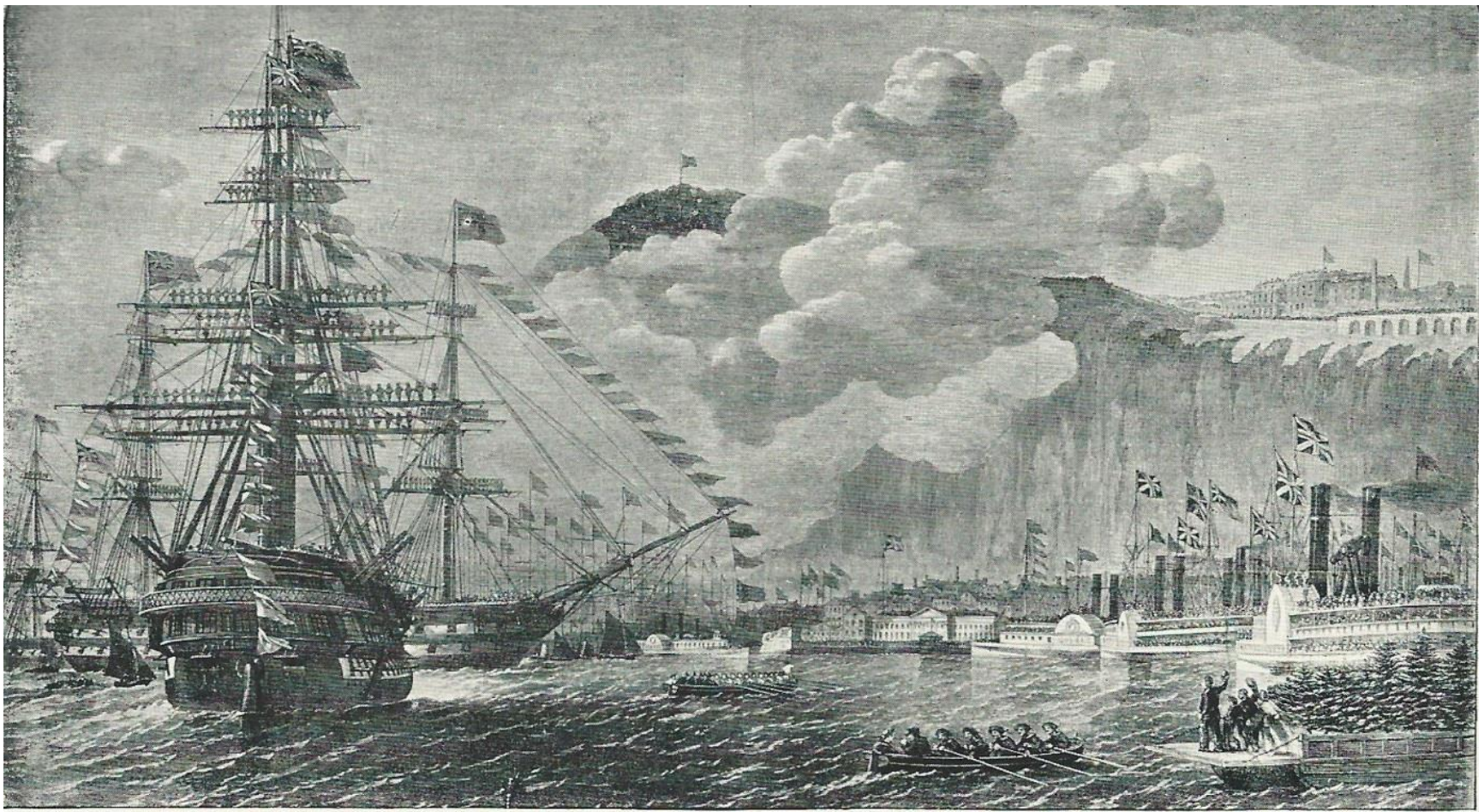
**Newfoundland on 23 July 1860. This is a ca 1905 picture postcard, number 15 in the Garland Series of Newfoundland postcards (reduced).**



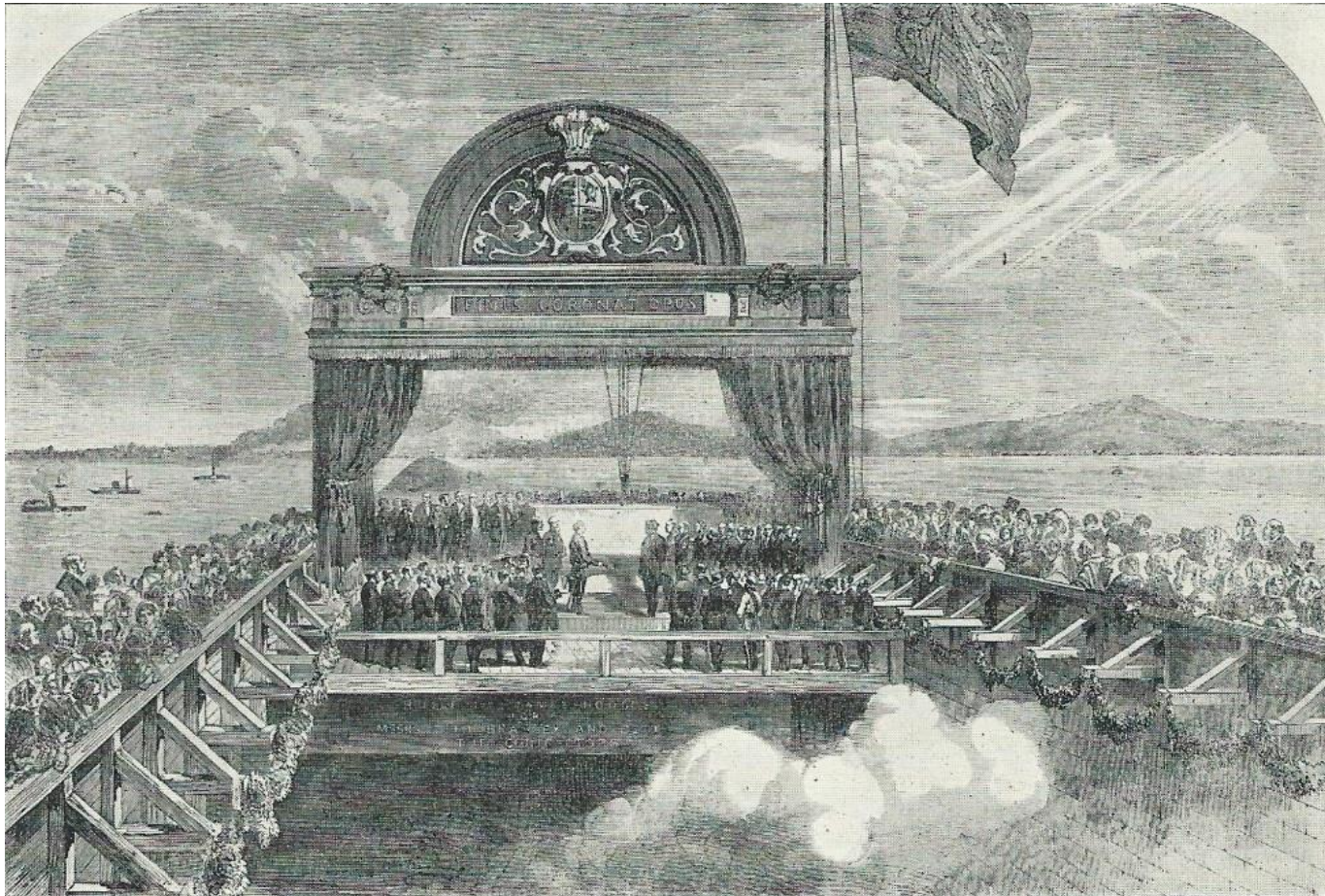
## Engraving of the grand canoe reception in Halifax by Mic-Mac Indians First Nation's People

Other light moments for the Prince:

- Salmon Fishing in Saguenay Bay
- Raft run on timber slides
- Bypassing Chaudiere Falls on the Ottawa River
- Watched acrobat Blondin walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope.
- Shooting on praires of Illinois
- Sailed in a regatta in Toronto Bay
- Danced with aristocratic ladies at numerous balls into the early morning (very fond of dancing and a real ladies' man)



**Engraved picture of the reception of the 1860 Royal Party in Quebec**

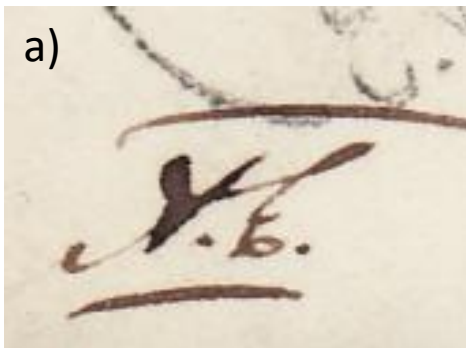


**The POW laying the last stone of the Victoria  
Bridge over the St. Lawrence in Montreal  
(from a sketch by G.H. Andrews)**

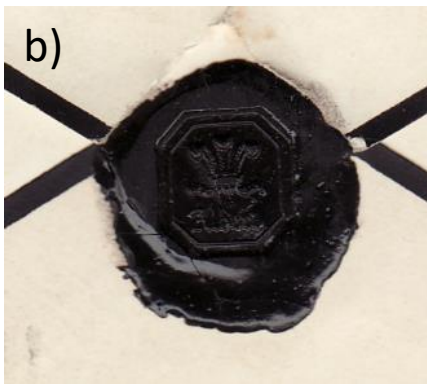
**Mourning Letter Written by Prince of Wales to Rear Admiral Milne on the *H.M.S. Nile* in Halifax about the Death of his Eldest Son (b. 1851, d. Sept. 7 1860)**



Right, Photo of Rear Admiral Alexander Milne



Patrick Frost, Managing Director of Argyll-Etkin (London) and head of Stamp & Royalty Memorabilia Dept. confirmed address and initials are in the Prince of Wales handwriting and that wax seal is consistent with that used by the Royal Family (private communication Oct. 2015)

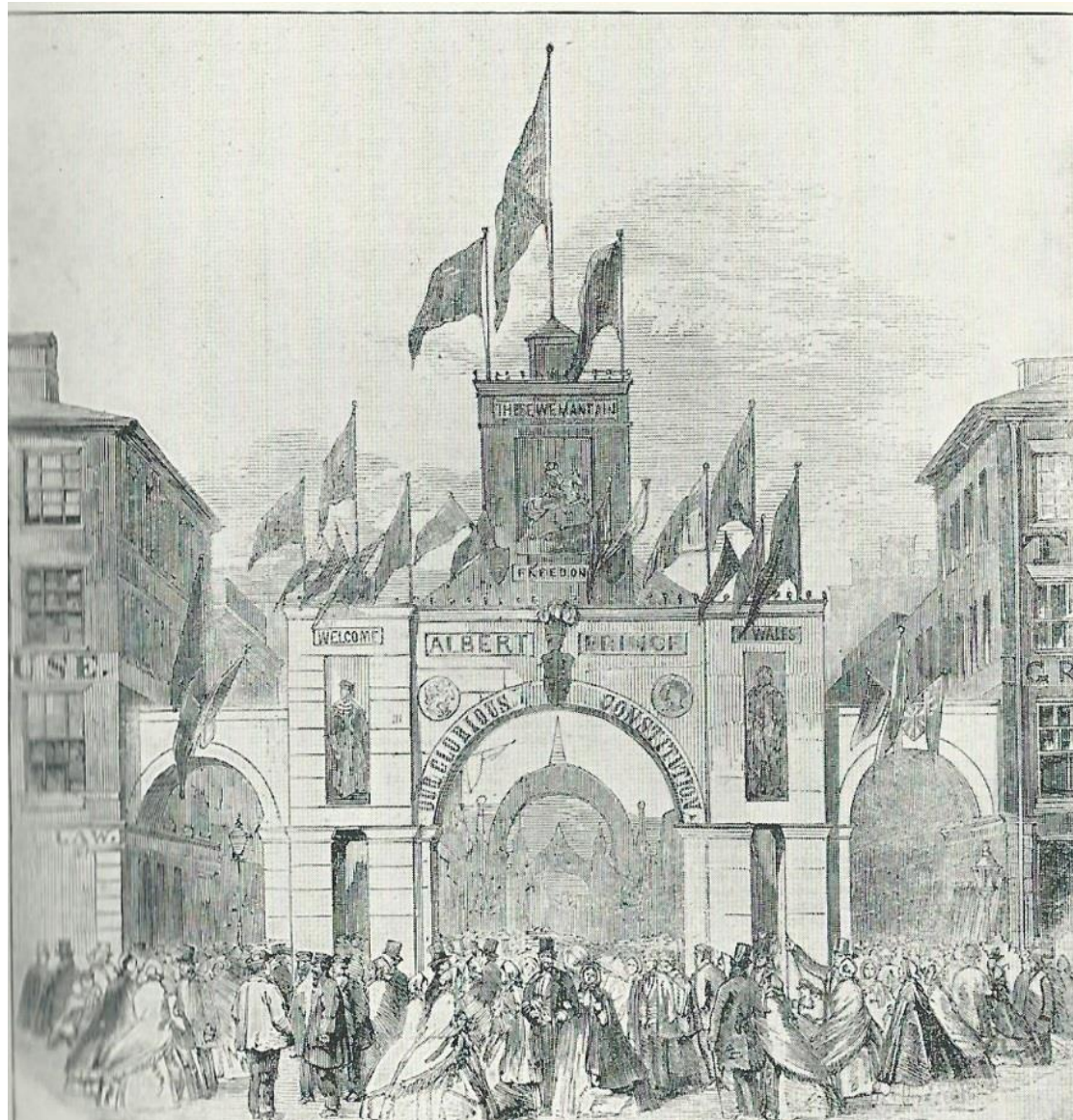


Blowups of Prince of Wales: a) Initials (front, lower left of cover) and b) Royal Wax Seal (on reverse of cover)



(Above). Reverse of Letter showing transit and receiver handstamps (reduced).

Cover is one of 3 recorded that paid the 5 ct. rate to Nova Scotia using 5 X 1ct stamps

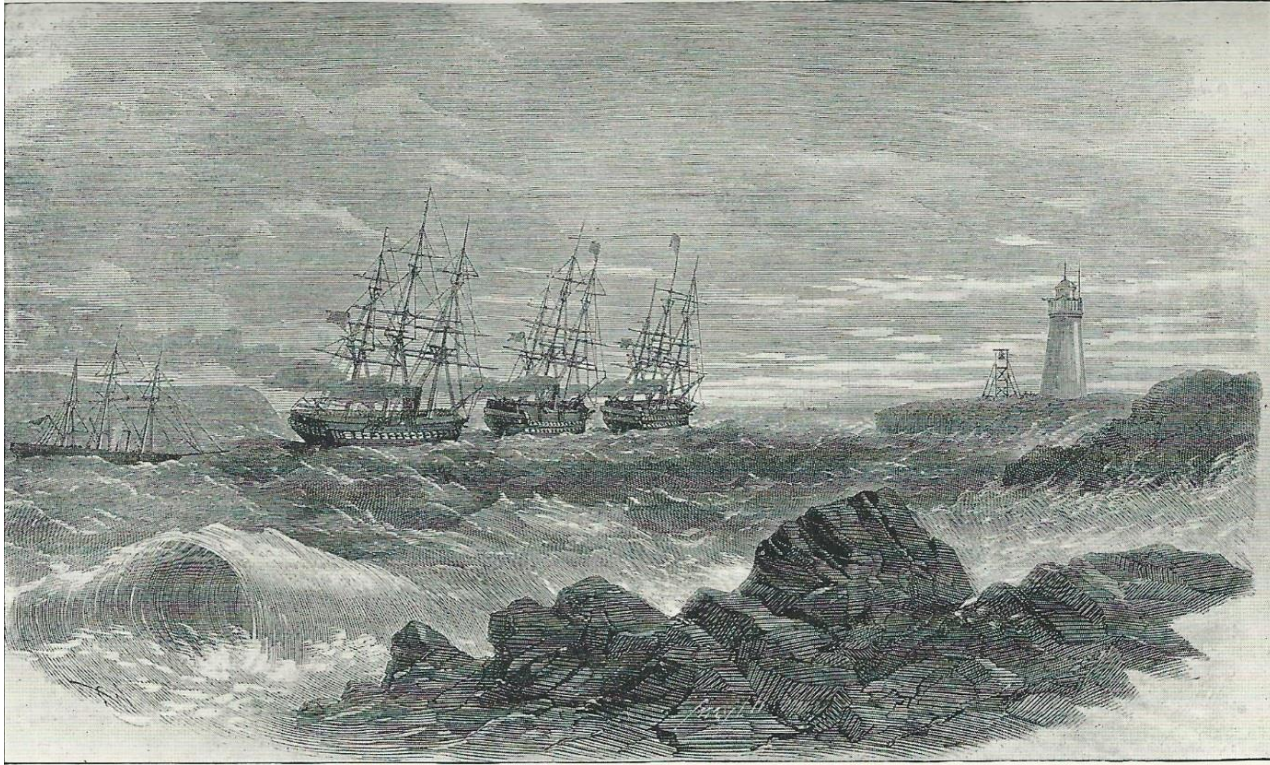


**Gate in Toronto Renamed “The Orangemen's Arch in Toronto” after trick played by them**



# Orange Order “Trick”

- Orange Order was Protestant Irish Society flourishing in Ulster and throughout British Kingdom and Canada, especially in Ontario; opposition to Catholic majority.
- Members were called “Orangemen” because they were always dressed in brilliant orange regalia.
- In Toronto, they wanted a prominent role in official POW reception but did not get an invitation to participate. When they showed up in full dress in other cities, the Royal Party did not stop.
- So, in Toronto, they disguised the Royal Arch with false decorations. When the Party passed under the arch, the outer layer was pulled down and revealed their Orange symbols.
- The Prince was not amused!



**Engraving of the departure of the POW and his party on Oct. 20  
1860 from Portland, Maine (left to right: *H.M.S. Flying Fish, Ariadne,  
Nile, Hero*)**

# More of the Story

Upon his return to England, the POW awaited his turn since Queen Victoria remained the Monarch for the next 40 years (sound familiar?). Prince Albert Edward mostly spent his time attending to official duties.

His Mother and Prince Albert the Consort (her husband) arranged the Prince's marriage to Princess Alexandra of Denmark; marriage held in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on March 10, 1863. He was 21, she 18. They apparently got along quite well from the beginning. An illustrated wedding envelope commemorating the marriage is shown on the next page.

Queen Victoria died on Jan. 22, 1901 and Edward was crowned on Aug. 9, 1902 becoming King Edward VII. He passed away on May 6, 1910.



**Illustrated wedding envelope commemorating the marriage of Edward Albert POW and Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1863.**