

Committee of Safety

June 1st 1866

Present. J. W. Hooker, Esq. John Hellum Esq.
A. G. Hill Esq. C. K. Dewhurst Esq. L. D. Raymond
Esq. J. P. Wilson -

Unanimously resolved that J. W. Hooker
Esq. be the Chairman of this Committee -
& J. P. Wilson Esq. Secy -

Moved by J. P. Wilson Esq. seconded by John Hellum Esq.
that this Committee remain in permanent
session until the danger appears to have
passed - Carried unanimously -

Moved by J. Hellum Esq. seconded by C. K. Dewhurst Esq.
that Scouts be sent out in every direction to
obtain information - Carried

Moved by A. G. Hill Esq. seconded by C. K. Dewhurst Esq.
that Mr. Lilly & Mr. L. Earned be appointed Scouts
in the direction of Ridgeway - Carried -

Lilly & Earned dispatched by shortest route in the
direction of Ridgeway - gone - 5 P.M.

Chief Constable Paterson called upon to act in
his official capacity -

Dr. Schooley was added to the Committee
by unanimous agreement - In being present -

Majors. Bennett & Potter appointed Scouts
to go in the direction of Chambersville by shortest
route - & keep to the left as much as possible
without going too much out of the way - gone - 6 P.M.

Constable Gilchrist directed to get twelve
men to act as patrol and report as soon
as possible -

L. Snider reports - Fenians seen by Robt.
P. W. this morning at Bliss - Jamelle saw
them this side of Bucks Tavern - number
not known - and further no doubt that
Dr. Thompson is shot -

Mr. Duffan sent in direction of Shurtz's Crossing by
shortest route and from time if necessary - gone - 6.30 P.M.

Mr. Cafferty reports that he is satisfied that the feeling of the American people at Buffalo is quite unanimously in favor of the Fenians - and that he is satisfied that Authorities there are favoring the Fenians - He relates a conversation between the principal collector of Customs there and his subordinates that quite confirms the opinion.

Decided to post a guard at Aqueduct -
W. C. Burger & Charles Farr & guard upon the Aqueduct 4 hours posted at 10.30 P.M.

Patrol South reported all quit - & returned to duty 10.30

Thos Whitwell }
Jas Chamberlin }
Wbt. Kemp }
George Shutz } relief guard to No. 1 - sent 11.30.

Patrol South reported all quit - 2 in Relief sent 11.30
George Jones & Olen Page -

Patrol Guard East - reported sound of heavy gun to the South in direction of Fort-Gen - 12 midnight

Patrol South reported all quit - 2 in Relief sent 12.30
James Spencer & James Coy -

Farr reported off duty at Aqueduct - J. M. James appointed to fill his place -

Patrol South reported all quit - 2 in Relief sent 1.30
James Smith, & C. Rounds.

S. Hilchist }
Jacob Weaver }
The Brown }
J. M. } relief guard to No. 1 - sent - sent 1.45

Patrol East - reported sound of artillery to the East - in direction of river -

Word also by telegraph that more soldiers are leaving Matharins for Port-Colborne -

Patrol South reported all quiet - 3 relief sent 2.45 J. Vanwyck & A. K. Vanwyck -

Aqueduct guard came in and reported all quiet 3.20 am - daylight -

Patrol South reported all quiet - 4 relief sent 3.20 Thos. Whitwell & J. Chamberlain -

A train has just passed up with soldiers to Port-Colborne from Matharins -

D. Prier & B. Hill sent as scouts in direction of Bridgeway to see after our Scouts - we have heard nothing from any of them during the night - Scout left at 3.45 am.

Patrol East reported all quiet - 4.20 -

Guard discharged with the thanks of the Committee - and they unanimously offered their services further when required by the Committee - 4.10 am - Daylight -

4.26 am - Sibly & Earner - Scouts returned -

We went direct to Stearnsville & waited there for they were organizing a company to go out to reconnoiter - Six horsemen went out with us to the outskirts of Bucks Town -

There were no certain signs of Fenians except a light in the bush and some noise - Bucks Town was deserted - We had communication with Bridgeway - The Volunteers were there -

We also had communication with Chippewas - There were about 400 regulars there and six pieces of artillery - The Michigan was lying in the river but it was thought she did not

to prevent Fenians from crossing - We had of no person being hurt so far - The Fenians were in a meal when they got there -

We left Bennett & Patton going up to
 Ridgway about 12 o'clock, midnight -
 We met Rice & Hill - they went on -
 The people had concealed their stock -
 and seemed to be quiet - heard nothing
 from Point Abino - The Fenians are now
 said to be in the direction of Black Creek -
 Allan of Black Creek and some others were
 taken prisoners by the Fenians - they were out
 as scouts - and got surrounded - - It is said
 that the Fenians were collecting provisions and were
 fortifying themselves at the old Fort, at Fort Erie.

9 am. B. Diffen Scout to Point Abino returned -
 I was at Point Abino - The Fenians have all
 left Fort Erie - They are at the Newby's farm
 2 1/2 miles below Fort Erie - They have left the
 prisoners at home - I left at ten o'clock -
 I was within three of them - They took 40 or
 50 head of horses - - Hundreds of people in
 families with their stock were crowded in the
 Swamp on Hamberston Town line -

10 am. Mr. Carrut reported a Fenian in his neighborhood - Chief
 Constable Patterson sent for him at once
 Scouts report an engagement going on at Fort Erie
 since sunrise - Cannon and small arms plainly
 heard distinctly at Daems Ridge -
 Telegraph arrived to say that the Volunteers had taken
 possession of Fort Erie -

Mr. Vandenberg The Telegrapher agrees to keep his office open all night - - -

Bureau with horse reported - ready for service 7.10
In will report - to committee at 9 PM -
Price - 30 - 30 - 30 - 7.10

No boats returned yet - 7.50 PM -

Mr. P. Hobson by Sheriff arrived - I stayed at Mr. Graham's last night - about 4 o'clock this morning Mr. G. awakened me with the report that the Indians had landed - The report was brought up to him by Mr. Murray Officer of the Customs at Fort Erie - Two Canada boats came over towed by a tug - he immediately came off to inform Mr. Graham - and then returned. Mr. Noonan then came & said that they had landed 1000 strong when he came - and boats had gone back for more - Young Johnson then came & said they were 1000 strong and divided in two squads - one squad taking the Wilmore or Audlem road and the other on the Ferry hill on the Gordon road - that they saw him & fired 16 or 17 shots but he escaped - I then came to Ridgeway and arrived there about 9 AM, & heard that they had burned the Lowerwin bridge & saw the smoke - about 8 or 12 to Lowerwin bridge to burn it, got the breakfast of Indians - took some horses and then went back - I left about 1/2 past 9 - Elliott & Kempson are prisoners, I was informed by Adam Graham he said he left the Ferry about 10 AM, and that they had possession of all buildings at Fort Erie and a guard over them - a majority - were up at the old fort - & the rest scattered along down the river as far as Millers about 4 miles - The U.S. Gunboat in the river to prevent more coming -

D. Rice with horse reported himself - he is at the City Hotel ready - - 8 PM

8.10.

News arrived that a vessel had been seized at
 Throld loaded with Fenian arms —

A suspicious circumstance reported - a man
 at Railway station or Doons - thought to be a
 Fenian - Constable Patterson sent to examine
 him - he returned and said the man was
 as supposed -

1 Patrol east - at Spencers. { Officer of the
 2 " South - Holmes corner. { day. S. P. Patterson

4 men to each patrol - 2 to remain at station
 until relieved - 2 hours at post -

1st patrol. Kilchrist in charge. ~~W. Brown~~
 James Smith Jacob Weaver. - posted 9.30 PM

2nd patrol. G. W. White in charge. ~~J. Brown~~
 F. White James Vawoyak, ~~Blair Perry~~ A. K. Vawoyak
 Posted 9.30 PM. -

at James Ross ^{+ 2 bundles} returned - we went to Bucks Down ^{9.30.}
 and was told there that the Fenians were 2 miles
 from there at J. Egan's cropping - we went on
 to 1/2 mile of railway & halted - we were informed
 that they were watching - we halted there in the edge
 of the woods - a man came and inquired who
 we were - Burns went and met him - & he wanted
 Burns saddle - after talking some time he saw
 others of the Fenians in a corner of the fence not
 far off. They were all armed - we then fled -
 We saw a man by the name of Patrick Cading
 & he said that he came over with the Fenians
 last night and there were about 3000 - and
 more were coming tonight - Cading said that
 he had deserted from them - they had not
 much baggage - they had taken about 40
 horses - and were taking cattle - Dr. Kempson
 is not killed but is a prisoner - also Dr. Elliott
 and Mr. Scoble -

Mr. Coffey reported news concerning the
 who gave for the Committee - he came from
 affairs -