Commission of Frederick A. Wood of Lebanon as Ensign of the third Regiment, in the First Brigade, and First Division of the Maine Militia, 1840 May 5.
MCC-00470

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: .24

Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, September 2019
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

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Shelf List Number: BM-470

Collection Overview

Creators

Gerry Morin

Dates

1840

Extent

1 box (.24 cubic feet)

Provenance

Phil Morin brought in the document on behalf of Gerry Morin who bought it at a flea market.

Language

English

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

No restrictions

Physical:

No restrictions

Technical:

No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Collection Description

Biographical Information

JOHN FAIRFIELD

JOHN FAIRFIELD, Maine's thirteenth and sixteenth governor, was born in Saco, Maine on January 30, 1797. His education was attained in the common schools of his native state and later at Bowdoin College. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1826, and established his legal career, serving as the reporter of decisions for the Supreme Court of Maine from 1832 to 1835. Fairfield entered politics in 1835, serving as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a position he held until 1838. He won the 1838 Democratic gubernatorial nomination and went on to win the general election. He was reelected in 1839, 1841 and 1842. During his tenure, the Aroostook War erupted over the long-disputed boundary quarrel, and the state militia was summoned to safeguard the contested land. Upon his election to the U.S. Senate, Fairfield resigned from the governor's office on March 7, 1843. He served in the senate until he passed away on March 7, 1847. Governor John Fairfield was buried at the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Saco, Maine.[1]

FREDERICK ANSEL WOOD

Frederick Ansel Wood, the son of Daniel Wood and Miriam Bodwell, was born on March 12, 1811 and died on July 14, 1871 in Lebanon, Maine. He married Mary Libbey on August 28, 1831 in Lebanon, Maine. He was a House Representative in 1843 and a Senator in the State Legislature in 1845.

Frederick's grandfather, Daniel Wood (1739-1819), came from England to Ipswich, Massachusetts, about the middle of the 17th Century and held various public offices in the colony, including membership in the Executive Council of Maine. Daniel Wood was a major in the Revolutionary War.

[1] https://www.nga.org/governor/john-fairfield/

Historical notes: The militia's purpose was to uphold the law and the Constitution. Prior to the creation of the National Guard of the United States, the United States armed forces consisted of a relatively small professional, full-time military supported by state militias. During the War of 1812, the relatively large size of the various Maine militias was enough to discourage enemy interventions on the Maine coast. From 1820-1861 the militia was providing insight into the peacetime administration of the State militia and some records reveal Maine's response to the border troubles led to the Aroostook War of 1839.

Scope and content

This collection consists of one two-sided document signed by John Fairfield, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Maine, for the 1840 appointment of Frederick A. Wood of Lebanon, as Ensign in the State Militia around the time of the Aroostook War. The document is signed by Philip C. Johnson, Secretary of State at the time, and by A. B. Thompson Adjutant General. On the reverse side of the document, within a paragraph, appears the name of Jeremiah Butler, Colonel of the said Regiment. The document measures approximately 16 in. x 10 in. with the State of Maine seal embossed in the top left corner.

Arrangement

Not applicable

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Evangeline ACADIAN ARCHIVES PS2263.A2 E83

The American almanac and repository of useful knowledge for the year ACADIAN ARCHIVES AY64 .A5 1840

Sir William Pepperell of Colonial New England / Neil Rolde. ACADIAN STACKS E198.P43 R64 1982

Manuel lexique, ou, Dictionnaire portatif des mots françois dont la signification n'est pas familiere a tout le monde /Abbé Prévost. 1755. 2 volumes. ACADIAN ARCHIVES PC2680.M36 1755

Subject Headings

Aroostook War, 1839
Boundaries
Legal documents
Maine – History
Maine Militia Infantry Regiment, 3rd Company C
Maine – Militia – Appointments and retirements

Related Materials

Not applicable

Collection Inventory

One two-sided document.