

**“Fort Kent Muster Rolls, 1841 – 1845”
(also known as
“Federal Muster Rolls, Fort Kent, Maine, 1841 – 1845”)**

(MCC: 00150)

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July 28, 2008

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Collection Title: “Fort Kent Muster Rolls, 1841 – 1845” (also known as “Federal Muster Rolls, Fort Kent, Maine, 1841 – 1845”) [microfilm]

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Provenance: Muster rolls microfilmed by the National Archives in Washinton D.C. at request of the Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent, Maine.

Access: No restrictions.

Date Range: 1841 - 1845

Physical Characteristics/Condition: 35mm microfilm, positive. The entries in the document are handwritten and at times illegible.

Quantity: 1 roll microfilm

Guide Prepared by: Anne Chamberland, July 28, 2008

Introduction. This microfilm documents the 1841 – 1845 Federal Muster Rolls in the Fort Kent area at the time of the border dispute between the British North America (Canada) and the United States.

Scope and Content Note. The microfilm contains the names, ranks, enlisted dates, discharged notes, etc. of the military personnel stationed at Fort Kent during the “Aroostook War”, a confrontation between Canada and the United States over the international boundary.

Historical Note. The Aroostook War was an undeclared and ultimately bloodless confrontation in 1838-1839 between the United States and Great Britain over the international boundary between British North America (Canada) and the United States. It is called a war because not only were tensions high in Maine and New Brunswick, but troops were raised and armed on both sides. The timely intervention of the U.S. and British governments prevented bloodshed by local militias.

The cutting of the forests in the St. John River Valley is at the heart of the conflict. Lumberjacks from Maine and New Brunswick wanted free access to the sale of wood at mills and naval yards and would gain access to public lands without permission. The United States government and Great Britain claimed access to the territory and multiple complications issued relating to the cutting of the forests.

The Treaty of Paris (1783) had only vaguely defined the northeastern boundary of the United States and as the population grew in northern Maine, friction developed between rival groups of lumberjacks.

The building of the Fort Kent had many advantages for the state of Maine. The militia was able to control the activities of the lumberjacks on the Fish River and the St. John River. Federal soldiers occupied the Fort from 1841 to 1843.

The dispute resulted in a mutually accepted border between the state of Maine and the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. It was resolved with the signature of the Treaty of Webster-Ashburton on August 9, 1842, clearly defining borders between Maine and New Brunswick.

The only losers in this conflict were the original “Brayons”, who were the French-speaking population of the Madawaska, and native inhabitants of the region, who saw their homeland and people split between the American state of Maine and the British colony of New Brunswick.¹

Related collection: “Fish River Blockhouses Map Collection MCC-00227”
“Fort Kent Blockhouse Interpretive Panels 2004, MCC-00221”
“Maine Militia Record Book, 1839, MCC00198”

¹ Reference to these notes were taken and translated from the “Revue de la Société historique du Madawaska, février 2006”