

Peter Tremblay Business and Personal Papers

Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
Plattsburgh State University College
Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

By
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Introduction

The Tremblay Collection enhances the understanding of the personal and business life of the nineteenth century North Country. It also reflects the successful attempt of an immigrant to settle in this country. Peter Tremblay, born in Canada in 1823, was one of the pioneers in the iron mining industry in the United States. His grandfather, Bruno Tremblay, was originally from France and became the third settler in the Town of Chazy. The Tremblays settled at the beautiful bay that bears their name.

At the age of twelve, Peter Tremblay emigrated from Canada and traveled to Redford with his father, Jerome Tremblay. It was said that Tremblay Sr. worked at the Redford Glass Company. They lived in the area until 1842 at a site that was later known as the Tremblay's Ore Bed (Williamsburgh.) During the next two years Peter Tremblay traveled extensively, as far south as New Orleans and as far west as Montana.

By Saranac Valley standards Peter Tremblay was a well educated man. Travel and study of nature were his best teachers. He hunted, trapped, fished and also worked as a surveyor.

While searching for iron Tremblay discovered, by using the mineral compass, that there was an attraction on his father's farm. The mining work started on September 29, 1854 and after a month of disappointment a rich bed of ore was discovered. In 1860 this mine was the principal supplier of bloomeries operating in the middle Saranac Valley. Tremblay also discovered the Fairbanks Ore Bed on Dannemora Mountain and the Chateaugay Ore Bed about 1862. His knowledge of the iron mining business was so great that he was sought by iron manufacturers from throughout the country.

Peter Tremblay owned all the land adjacent to his mine and built a brick house in Peterburgh, one of the most elegant in the Saranac Valley. The depression of the late 1870's, however, ruined the Tremblay Iron Company and by 1880 the iron works shut down.

Tremblay was always optimistic about the future of the Saranac Valley and said that "our inexhaustible iron mines must secure us a permanent importance." He died in June 26, 1895, leaving his wife Herminia and seven children.

The Tremblay Collection contains primarily business and legal papers produced by Peter Tremblay during the course of his life. In addition, it also contains papers from his children, Peter A. Tremblay, Dan Tremblay and some personal correspondence of Eva (Tremblay) Terry. The collection encompasses the years 1844-1969.

An interesting feature of the Tremblay papers is the connection between Major-General Philip Kearny and Peter Tremblay, who acted as agent for the Kearny Estate in the Saranac Valley.

This collection is of value to the researchers in lifestyle, ways of conducting business, and legal matters in the nineteenth century. It is also useful for anyone researching real estate transactions. Finally, the Tremblay papers are the records of an immigrant who settled in the United States and contributed to the diversity of cultures that characterizes this country.

BACKGROUND SOURCES LOCATED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

"A silver mine in Clinton County," Essex County Republican, May 17, 1883, p. 6, col. 3.

"Daniel R. Tremblay," Plattsburgh Daily Press, May 1, 1923, p. 7, col. 2.

"Discovery of silver; a valuable find near Clayburgh; a silver road ...," Plattsburgh Telegram, May 10, 1883, p. 4, col. 2.

"Historic Chazy:" Clinton County Farmer, Oct. 27, 1898, p. 1, col. 6.

"Rome enterprises, no. 45," Plattsburgh Republican, June 12, 1880, p. 1, col. 3-5.

"Iron ores," Plattsburgh Sentinel, Nov. 15, 1867, p. 3, col. 5.

Moravek, John Richard, "The Iron Industry as a Geographic force in the Adirondack Champlain Region of New York State, 1800-1971" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, June 1976).

CONTENTS

The collection is housed in five Hollinger boxes according to the following arrangement: Box 1, Correspondence; Box 2, Legal Papers; Box 3, Business Papers and Box 4, Miscellaneous Materials. Box 5 contains oversized items.

Box 1 CORRESPONDENCE 1871-1969

Folder

1 Aug. 21, 1871-Nov. 10, 1889 20 ITEMS

- 2 Jan. 6, 1890-Dec. 9, 1892 20 ITEMS
- 3 Jan. 4, 1893-Jan. 31, 1919 15 ITEMS
- 4 Dec. 22, 1920-Sept. 3, 1969 20 ITEMS
- 5 May 3, 1877-June 5, 1890 - Kearny Estates 7 ITEMS

6 UNDATED CORRESPONDENCE 2 ITEMS

Box 2 LEGAL PAPERS 1844-1923

- 7 Agreements. April 22, 1869-June 1905 6 ITEMS
 - 8 Bill of sale. Dec. 14, 1909 1 ITEM
 - 9 Bonds. Dec. 2, 1867-Aug. 27, 1923 2 ITEMS
 - 10 Certificates. Oct. 3, 1844-Aug. 24, 186 2 ITEMS
 - 11 Chattel mortgage, leases. March 13, 1855-Jan. 26, 1894 15 ITEMS
 - 12 Citation - Judicial settlement. May 18, 1918. 1 ITEM
 - 13 Comptroller's Office. Jan. 14, 1856-Sept. 14, 1901 13 ITEMS
 - 14 Consent - Alteration of boundaries. Oct. 11, 1879. 1 ITEM
 - 15 Court's notices - Summons. July 20, 1868-April 15, 1909. 17 ITEMS
- 16 Deeds - Blank forms. 1905-1907 7 ITEMS
- 17 Deeds - Kearny Estate - P. Tremblay, Agent. Nov. 5, 1846-March 24, 1884. 30 ITEMS
- 18 Deeds - Quit claim. June 18, 1845 June 6, 1904. 28 ITEMS
- 19-23 Deeds. (See Box 5 - Oversized materials)
- 24 Letters of Administration. July 9, 1895-April 25, 1917 2 ITEMS
- 25 Power of Attorney. Jan. 3, 1859-April 23, 1894 3 ITEMS
- 26 Wills - Addenda. June 4, 1889-Sept. 19, 1902. 5 ITEMS

Box 3 BUSINESS PAPERS 1839-1934

Folder

- 27 Auction notice. Aug. 19, 1890. 1 ITEM
- 28 Bills. June 11, 1899-April 30, 1934. 7 ITEMS
- 29 Books, bank. 1868-1883. 4 ITEMS
- 30 Checks, cancelled. Nov. 3, 1885-May 1, 1886. 26 ITEMS
- 31 Checks, cancelled. May 1, 1886-Nov. 21, 1925. 26 ITEMS
- 32 Letterhead. May 8, 1883-Aug. 15, 1890 2 ITEMS
- 33 Notice to Terminate Tenancy. April 4, 1882-Dec. 14, 1896 3 ITEMS
- 34 Promisory Notes. Nov. 21, 1879-Aug. 6, 1875. 17 ITEMS
- 35 Receipts. Nov. 12, 1857-Dec. 29, 1883 17 ITEMS
- 36 Receipts. Aug. 8, 1884-June 2, 1889. 14 ITEMS
- 37 Receipts. July 11, 1889-Jan. 9, 1924. 16 ITEMS
- 38 Records. Jan. 25, 1839-1924 27 ITEMS
- 39 Records - Book. March 31, 1869-Sept. 4, 1872. 1 ITEM
- 40 Records - Book. Sept. 24, 1877-Jan. 20, 1879. 1 ITEM
- 41 Records - Notebook. 1861-1883. 1 ITEM
- 42 Release - Debts and obligations. Oct. 2, 1885. 3 ITEMS
- 43 Road warrant. March 1, 1901 (1907?) 1 ITEM

44 Statements of Account. Jan. 1, 1912-March 21, 1917. 2 ITEMS
45 Survey, land. Feb. 22, 1884. 1 ITEM

Box 4 MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS 1832-1937

46 Catholic's Youth Hymn Book (undated) 1 ITEM
47 Book. Leary's Improved Ready Reckoner, 1884 1 ITEM
48 Book. Rural Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems 1 ITEM
49 Daily Journal Book, 1864 1 ITEM
50- Index to Journal Book. (See Box 51 5 - Oversized materials)
52-53 Maps. (See Box 53 - Oversized materials)
54 The New York Annual Register, 1832 1 ITEM (photocopy)
55 Newspaper - Fragments. 1872-1888 3 ITEMS
56 Notebooks. 2 ITEMS
57 Publications - Fragments 5 ITEMS
58 Snapshots - Album 1 ITEM
59 Survey Book. Dec. 1941. 2 ITEMS
60 Time Book. 1909-1937 2 ITEMS
61 UNRELATED MATERIALS 8 ITEMS

Box 5 OVERSIZED MATERIALS 1846-1923

Folder
19 Deeds. July 14, 1846-June 9, 1859 21 ITEMS
20 Deeds. April 10, 1860-Nov. 11, 1868 23 ITEMS
21 Deeds. April 17, 1869-July 22, 1871 13 ITEMS
22 Deeds. April 8, 1878-Jan. 3, 1885. 21 ITEMS
23 Deeds. July 24, 1886-Aug. 27, 1923. 11 ITEMS
50 Index to Journal Book (undated) 1 ITEM
51 Index to Journal Book, 1872. 1 ITEM
52 Maps. (Manuscript) 9 ITEMS
53 Maps (Printed) 3 ITEMS

Number of Items:

Box 1 86

Box 2 133

Box 3 170

Box 4 28

Box 5 103

TOTAL: 520