Introduction

The Tremblay Collection enhances the understanding of the social and business life of the nineteenth century North Country. It also reflects the successful settling of an immigrant in the United States. 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 bay that bears their name.

At the age of twelve, Peter Tremblay emigrated from Canada and traveled to Redford with his father, Jerome Tremblay. They lived in the area until 1842 at a site that was later known as 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.

Peter Tremblay was well-educated. He studied nature, hunted, trapped, fished, and worked as a surveyor.

Tremblay discovered, by using the mineral compass, that there was iron ore on his father's farm. The mining work started on September 29, 1854 and eventually discovered a rich bed of ore. 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.

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

Tremblay died in June 26, 1895, leaving his wife Herminia and seven children.
This collection contains primarily business and legal papers produced by Peter Tremblay during the course of his life. It also contains papers of his children, Peter A. Tremblay, Dan Tremblay, and some personal correspondence of Eva (Tremblay) Terry. The collection spans the years 1844-1969.

One 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 nineteenth-century immigrant settlement, ways of conducting business, and legal matters.

BACKGROUND SOURCES LOCATED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

"A Silver Mine in Clinton County." *Essex County Republican*, May 17, 1883, p. 6, col. 3.


"Discovery of Silver: A Valuable Find Near Clayburg: A Silver Road ...." *Plattsburgh Telegram*, May 10, 1883, p. 4, col. 2.


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


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

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)
5. May 3, 1877-June 5, 1890 - Kearny Estates (7 items)
6. Undated (2 items)
Box 2: LEGAL PAPERS, 1844-1923

Folder
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, 1862 (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 Bank books, 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

Folder
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 - 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 - Two empty envelopes, one addressed to the Honorable Florence S. Knapp, Secretary of State, Albany, NY; the other addressed to Alfred Terry, Redford NY from the U. S. Senate.
- Boarding School of the Sisters of Charity of Bytown, Distribution of Premiums . . . in Accessit Instruction Religous Given to Miss Tremblay, signed by S. E. Barryere, Superintendent, July 17, 1860
- Invitation to attend the Benediction of Our Lady of Victory’s Church, Sunday, December 19, 1915, envelope addressed to Mr. Peter Tremblay and Family, Redford, NY
- Graduation ceremony program, unknown high school, unknown date
- “Report of Aircraft Observation Post Ground Observer Corps—Aircraft Warning Service”, describes the observer location and signed by Don P. Tremblay and Alfred J. Terry, undated
- U. S. Senator Charles E. Goodell newsletter, August 1969

(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)

Total number of items: 520