

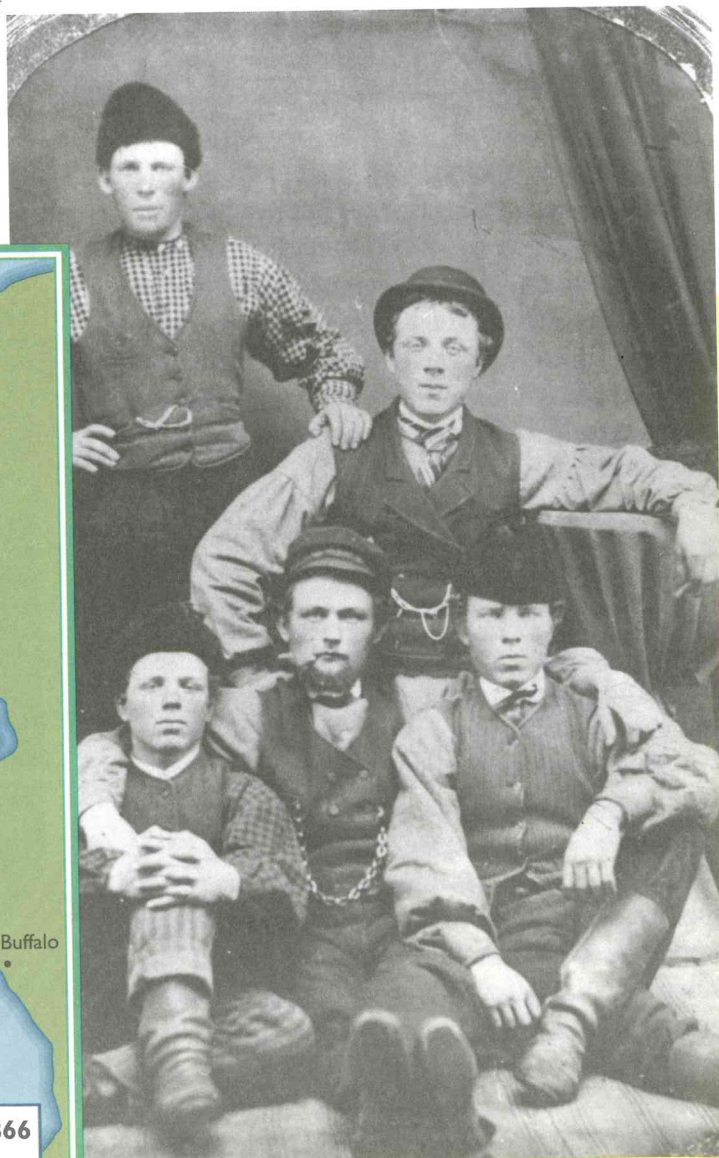
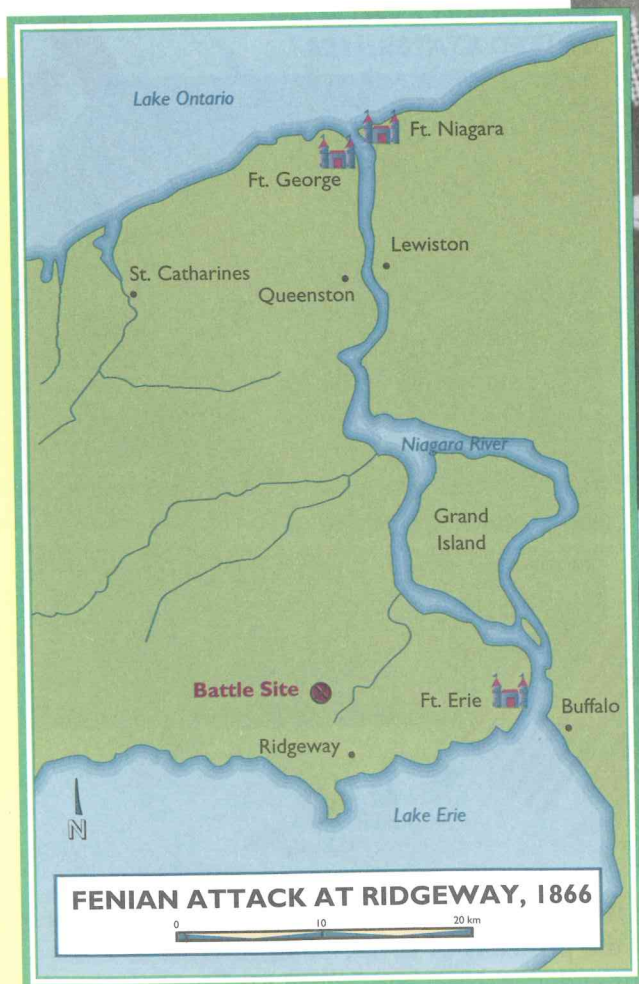
### 3. Fenian Raids

The Fenians were another unsettling influence in the British North American colonies. In addition to the raid on Canada West at Niagara, the Fenians had planned to invade British North America at several other points. After the Battle at Ridgeway in June 1866, a second group of Fenians invaded Canada East. They attacked just north of Lake Champlain, but were again quickly driven off. The same year, British warships prevented a Fenian attack in New Brunswick. For the next several years, people along the United States border lived in fear. They were always on the alert for Fenian raids.

John A. Macdonald turned the raids into an argument for union of the colonies. A united country would be better able to

resist such invasions. It was time, he said, that Canadians thought more seriously about defence. The government voted more money for defence and more volunteers were trained for the army.

The Fenian raids also united the colonies in their resentment against the United States government. Many people in British North America felt that American newspapers encouraged the Fenians. They also believed that the United States government should have stopped the Fenians at the border.



Fenian raiders