



Chapter 10

 **Women's Agency in Upper Canada:
Prescott's Board of Police Record, 1834-1850** 
Katherine M.J. McKenna

Questions for Critical Reading

1. Many authors in this volume discuss “resistance.” How were women using the Police Courts as a form of resistance?
2. Based on the most common infractions brought to Police Courts, what do these records reveal about expectations for women at this time?
3. McKenna uses Prescott, a single town in Upper Canada, as a case study. What are the benefits and dangers of using a single place as evidence?
4. The legal system in Canada changed significantly in the 1850s, when this article concludes. What political and social factors influenced this change, and how did women's relationship with the law impact their agency?

List of Primary Sources

- “Plan of Ordnance Property in the Town of Prescott.” Crown Lands Dept. Map. 1859.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4137241&rec_nbr_list=4137241
- “Buildings Shelled during the Battle of the Windmill, Prescott.” Ainslie, Henry Francis. Watercolour. 1839.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2833184&rec_nbr_list=2833184
- “Prescott from Ogdensburgh Harbour.” Bartlett, W. H. Print. 1841.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3017806&rec_nbr_list=3017806
- “His Honour Peter O’Brian.” Topley, William James. Photograph. 1896.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3423502&rec_nbr_list=3423502
- “Civil Secretary’s Letterbooks.” Textual Documents. 1799-1841.

http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=126291&rec_nbr_list=126291

- “Andrew’s Tavern in 1819 and Neighbourhood.” Bigsby, John J. Print. 1850.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3028536&rec_nbr_list=3028536
- “Map of the Counties in Canada West.” D.P. Putnam. Map. 1862.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3990068&rec_nbr_list=3990068
- “Prescott Mill Point on the St. Lawrence River.” Watercolour. N.d.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2837292&rec_nbr_list=2837292
- “Civil Secretary, Appointments to Offices.” Textual documents. 1793-1876.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=105217&rec_nbr_list=105217
- “Map of Upper Canada engraved for Statistical Account.” Neele and Son. Map. 1821.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4138696&rec_nbr_list=4138696
- “A1 – Upper Canada Sundries.” Textual Documents. 1766-1841.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=125539&rec_nbr_list=125539
- “Civil Secretary’s Letterbooks.” Textual Documents. 1840-1867.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=126289&rec_nbr_list=126289

Multimedia Resources

- Victorian Crime and Punishment
www.vcp.e2bn.org
- Town of Prescott - Heritage
<http://www.prescott.ca/en/live-here/History-and-Heritage.asp>
- Canadian Legal History
www.duhaime.org/LawMuseum/CanadianLegalHistory.aspx
- Upper Canada Village
www.uppercanadavillage.com