

Cumberland young man was the first to preach there and form a society in 1784, when he was on his way to the Christmas Conference of Methodists in the States, meeting at Baltimore, at which the M. E. Church was organized, and Mr. Black received ordination from Dr. Coke and Bishop Asbury. He also obtained preachers to help in carrying on the work in Nova Scotia.

With the exception of Newfoundland, Cumberland, then the first Circuit, had the first revival, the first preacher, and a little afterwards the first local preacher, John Black, and the first church opening at Sackville, 1790. All these things took place while John Wesley was yet living. From two to three years afterwards Methodism was introduced into Windsor, Halifax, Shelburne and Liverpool. There may have been in other places individual Methodists, but except one, Benjamin Chappell, at Charlottetown, who came from London in 1775, we have no record; yes, there was another still earlier in Newport, near Windsor, John Smith, in 1773. He and his wife had been many years members of society, most devoted, excellent Christians. For some years he raised the tunes in Mr. Wesley's services, who, whenever he saw occasion would say, "A little faster, brother."

His musical talent was inherited by his descendants, who rendered the Methodist choir at Windsor, fifty years ago the most popular in our Conference.

From 1784 to 1800 Methodism rapidly increased throughout the Maritime Provinces, largely through the labors of preachers from the States. Those stationed on the Cumberland Circuit besides Black were Mann, Early, Cooper, Grandin, Fidler, Whitehead.