

result, a proclamation was issued requiring them to take the oath of allegiance to the British Crown and calling upon them to assist and encourage the new colonists.

Meanwhile the settlers had been landed, and without loss of time they proceeded to hew down the woods and prepared to erect rough log-houses on the rising ground on the western side of the harbor. In clearing away the underbrush, a number of skeletons were found beside rust-eaten muskets—sad mementoes of d’Anville’s ill-fated expedition.

By the beginning of August about twenty acres had been cleared, some wharves and rough storehouses had been built, a saw mill had been erected, and time had even been taken to sow grain. A small house for the governor was built in the centre of the town, and on completion was defended by a few cannon and a breastwork of gravel-filled casks. Timbers and boards for some of the buildings were brought from Boston, but most of the dwellings were to be formed of logs rough-hewn on the spot. In honor of its patron, the President of the Board of Trade and Plantations, the new settlement was called Halifax.

A plan of the proposed town had been prepared by the engineer who accompanied the expedition, and in August the settlers assembled and drew lots for the land. Each man now knew where to erect his dwelling and the work of building occupied every hand. From morn till night the sound of axe, hammer and saw could be heard throughout the settlement, which rapidly assumed a more town-like aspect. A ship now arrived with over a hundred new settlers from England, for whose accommodation two streets were added to the town.

In order to protect the place in the event of an Indian attack, it was considered necessary that an enclosing line of defence be erected. The settlers were called upon to assist, but refused. The Indians hitherto had come to the settlement from time to time on friendly missions, and a treaty of peace had been made with the tribe that dwelt near the St. John River. About the first of September, however, alarming reports were brought in, that the Micmacs and St. John’s Island Indians under the priest Le Loutre were designing to molest the new settlement. In all haste the troops were employed in making a barricade of logs and brush about the town, clearing away the woods for ten yards outside, and in building five stockaded forts.