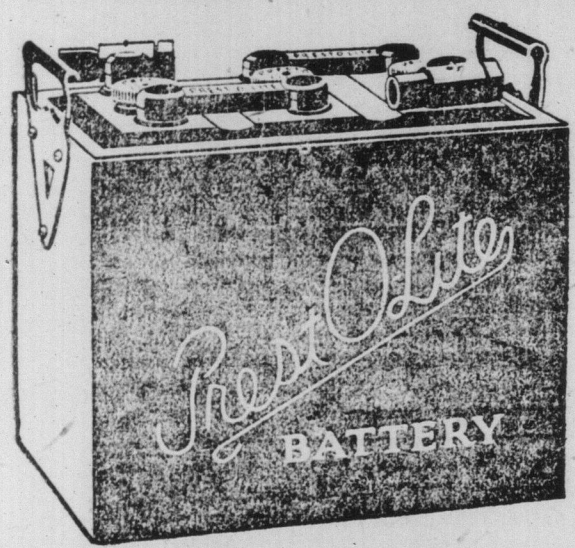




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FURTHER NOTES ON ACADIAN SETTLERS

Old Incidents of History Recalled by M. E. Armstrong in History of this Vicinity.

In my brief notes last week I showed that we had the villages and settlements along both sides of the river more in groups than to-day, and with no main highways connecting the settlements.

The improvement of their farms had been quite rapid considering all they had to contend against, for in the one hundred and fifty years they were here thirteen times Port Royal was besieged or attacked by enemies and the country disturbed generally more than less thereby.

After the final capture in 1710 and the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 it finally passed into the hands of the English and the troubles for the Acadians along the river became much greater. By the treaty they were permitted to remain on their land, enjoy their religion and go on undisturbed if they took the oath of allegiance to Great Britain. Those who cared to move away could sell their property and do so for one year. After twelve months they had not that privilege but forfeited their property by removal. There was no way provided for them to get out of the country in the way of ships, so the year passed with very few removals. After that their property was confiscated if they removed. When asked to take the oath of allegiance they refused to go so far as to swear to take up arms against France but would take an oath of fidelity.

The British were, at this time, afraid to send them away because they would materially strengthen their enemies in Cape Breton which still belonged to France, and at Quebec, and they also needed the products of their farms, so the problem was many sided. Even with the unsettled conditions the Acadians increased and prospered to some degree.

As to-day, there were leaders and ultras among them that gave no place to their British masters and who maintained a continuous hope that France and Quebec would still come to their rescue and the English garrison at Annapolis would be driven out and the country once more become a French colony. This class with the Indians, who were always with the French, made life not only unpleasant for the British forces and government at Annapolis, but interfered with the more friendly disposition toward the English of their neighbors, and these peaceful loving ones were threatened and even punished by the Indians if they provided wood or timber for the Annapolis fort or sold them farm produce. They were in as much terror of being scalped for friendliness or if they took the oath, as their English masters. Numerous tragedies took place due to these conditions.

In 1714 repairs were being made to the Fort at Annapolis and the timber was being procured in the vicinity of Bridgetown by friendly disposed French habitants, but rafts were cut loose and other hindrance made to this work by the Indians as well as threats made if these French settlers who dared to sell their lumber to the English.

In June, 1711, seventy soldiers came up the river to look after this needed timber, with them was engineer Forbes who had charge of the Fort repairs. He was called a very deserving and faithful officer and builder.

When these whale boats were at a narrow part of the river opposite the west end of Bridgetown, probably near what is now the farm of Jarvis Chute's, they were suddenly fired on from the north bank of the river by a group of Indians from Painsbush, Maine, who had been sent over to do just such slaughter. They had crossed the Bay and left their boats at Phinney's Cove or thereabout, crossed the mountain and were laying in ambush for what proved an easy prey. Nearly the entire detachment of soldiers from Annapolis was killed or wounded. One escaped and got back to Annapolis to tell of the fatal tragedy. A priest named Gaulin has supplied some details of the cruel slaughter, he seems to have had a hand in it and later went to Flacencia, Nfld., to endeavor to get further assistance to re-capture the Annapolis Fort. Gaulin tells in his letter to the Indians regarding this bloody massacre that Major Forbes, the brave Fort engineer, refused to surrender, although wounded seven times while on the south bank of the river and that an Indian with a pistol in his mouth and tomahawk in his

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hand swam across the river and ended this brave effort. Strange to say our historians have associated this massacre with Bloody Creek but the maps locate it at a narrow part of the river some distance above the mouth of this stream and quite within the bounds of Bridgetown. No doubt the mouth of Bloody Creek or the Forest River of that day, was the nearest prominent land mark with which it could be located.

Governor Vetch, of Annapolis, report of it to the British Government makes no mention of it being near Bloody Creek.

From 1710 to the end of the chapter of French occupancy or the river Governor after Governor grappled with the problems of what to do with these Acadians who still refused to take the oath of allegiance. Very early some of them suggested their removal and believed that New England settlers would come and take their places, but not until 1755 was this deportation carried out.

It is a sad, sad story, the removal of an entire community from their homes and lands after they had been here and had roots reaching back for one hundred and fifty years, and were now fairly prosperous in spite of their many difficulties in citizenship and sympathy with their conquerors.

The purpose of this paper is only to recall what took place, and not to discuss the merits of the project. In September, 1755, ships came from Boston to carry away the whole of them. There were seven vessels allotted for this river and their tonnage varied from 177 to 136, with one small schooner of 30 tons.

Their total human loads were composed of 150 men, 265 women, 539 children, 611 daughters. One thousand six hundred and sixty-four in all were placed on board the vessels. Two ships were to go to Connecticut, two to South Carolina, and one each to Boston, New York and North Carolina. The soldiers and sailors in charge of the expulsion had great difficulties in carrying out their orders as there was no one place here the men could be assembled and held as at Grand Pre, for the church here had been destroyed some years before the deportation. Consequently a good many attempted to escape and forty-five families hurriedly gathered together what they could carry and fled to the mountains. The place in Aylesford known as French Cross was the burial place of some of these unfortunate people of this vicinity who made their way along the shore hoping to get to New Brunswick or Morden, as it is called to-day, from the cold winter and sickness incident thereto.

In this vicinity a number followed the Bloody Creek stream to Corbett's Lake on the South Mountain and lived there for some time and were eventually settled in Digby County. When it was found the Acadians were attempting to escape, the soldiers were ordered to burn all buildings, and accordingly the torch was applied to all habitations and barns from Digby to Bridgetown on both sides of the river, and within a few days there was nothing but desolation and smouldering ruins.

The Acadians who were put on board the vessels had no idea where they were going or for how long, but they still had a hope that they would soon return and they accordingly buried or hid any treasure they had about their premises until their return.

Ever since those sad days search has been made in likely places for this hidden specie and pots of gold and silver coin, and in a few cases some has been found, but for the most part they buried it so carefully that one hundred and fifty years have revealed a very small amount that was left behind. Pots and kettles and

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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J. L. et al's Potter to Reginald T. Dargie, property at Moschelle.  
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C. W. E. et al's Ollerhead to Chas. J. Warwick, property at Lawrenceton.  
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Augustus Wyatt to Kenneth Wyatt, property at Wilmot and Melvern Square.  
Hells of Israel M. Longley to Ermina J. Longley, property at Paradise.

U. S. TARIFF FRAMERS GET JOLT FROM CANADA  
New York.—Canada has given the United States tariff framers "their worst jolt so far," declares a Washington correspondent of the Tribune, who believes the tariff changes proposed in the Canadian budget are of a retaliatory nature.

The Tribune correspondent says that United States manufacturers have been warning members of Congress that the tariff policy of Messrs. Fordney and McCumber was leading to retaliatory duties which would hamper, if not kill, United States export of manufactured goods, but Senate leaders have not taken these warnings seriously.

HORSE 37 YEARS OLD  
Mention was made in The Herald a few days ago, of a horse at Kentville 32 years old, and still going strong. One at Lower Truro can beat that. A mare owned by Mrs. Ben McNutt, of that place, is 37 years old, and still doing the family driving between the homestead and town. This faithful animal was foaled on the McNutt farm and has been there ever since.—Halifax Herald, May 23.

household iron ware was more common about the old cellars and considerable relics of this character still remain to remind us of this unfortunate period of our history and of these first settlers.

In spite of the attempted clearing out by deportation of these people the unfriendly Indians were left and the refugees French Acadians who escaped and lived with the Indians and still clung to the hope that from Louisburg or Quebec or old France would come aid, and re-dress their wrongs and restore their country to them but in 1758, Louisburg fell into British possession and the following year at the capture of Quebec the possibility of a new France on this continent was forever destroyed and from that time onward Acadians and Indians too, assumed a different attitude toward their British rulers at Annapolis.

Between 1755 and 1759, however, there was much trouble here for the refugees, French settlers who escaped deportation embittered by the loss of their homes and their relatives and neighbors and their property, united with the Indians to do what injury they could to the small garrison at Annapolis. So that if a party went out to cut wood or for any purpose beyond the immediate vicinity of the Fort, it was necessary to be accompanied by an armed guard, and even then they were often surprised or fired on by a hidden Acadian or Indian, or both.

It was during this interim, between 1755 and 1759, that Bloody Creek stream received its baptism of blood and its sanguinary title, that I will describe in the next paper.

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