

When the intendant of New France, M. Jacques de Meulles, visited Acadia in 1686, there were less than a dozen French settlers on the River St. John, and scarcely one above the present city of Fredericton. Bishop St. Valier, of Quebec, visited the River St. John the same year, and in his journal speaks of meeting some Christian Indians encamped at the mouth of the Madawaska. This river the bishop re-named in honor of Saint Francois de Sales. He, the day following, visited the Grand Falls, or, as he calls it, "Le grand sault Saint Jean-Baptiste," of which we have in his book the first published description.

The first reference to the Madawaska region in an English book is found in the well known narrative of John Gyles. The narrator was taken captive by the Indians at Pemaquid on the coast of Maine, in the year 1689, and carried to the River St. John, where he remained nine years in captivity. During the course of the first winter he accompanied the savages in their hunting to the head waters of the St. John, and in the spring came down the river with them in canoes stopping on the way at the place called "Madawescook," where Gyles says, there lived an old man who kept a trading house where they tarried several days.

In the course of the protracted conflict between England and France for supremacy in America, war parties were constantly passing between Quebec and Acadia by way of the upper St. John, and messages were sent by couriers from the French Governor at Quebec to LeLoutre at Beauséjour and even to Count Raymond at Louisbourg. In the time of the Revolutionary war dispatches were sent from Governor Haldimand at Quebec to Governor Parr at Halifax by the hands of the brothers Louis and Michel Mercure and other Acadian couriers.

Although many of the Acadians had become very familiar with the upper St. John region during the troublous war period, no attempt seems to have been made to establish settlers there until the close of the American Revolution. During the French regime Madawaska was deemed the meeting place of the jurisdiction of Acadia and Quebec, although the precise line of demarcation had never been fixed. This condition of affairs existed for years after the English assumed control. In the year 1764, the Indians complained that the Canadians hunted beaver on their lands between the Grand Falls and Lake Temisquata, "where the French had at all times been forbid-