

There was another "Shannon" associated with Halifax, a privateer, which made many prizes in the war of 1812-14. The bell has an inscription on it "Helena, 1772" (not H.M.S. Helena as some accounts state). It is not likely that a smart frigate like the Shannon would use a second-hand bell from the merchant service, whereas, a privateer might well use it, for such a vessel fitting out hastily in Nova Scotia, would not consider it amiss to use a bell with such a pedigree. It is to be hoped that the fable associated with the old bell of St. Martin's will soon be forgotten.

William Hanington's name first appears as a Surveyor of Roads in 1801. When it was decided to remove the Shiretown from Westmorland to Dorchester and erect there a Court House and Jail, Mr. Hanington and Andrew Weldon were appointed as Collectors for the Dorchester district, which then included Shediac; the latter was not made a separate district until 1825.

The first trial for murder in Westmorland County resulted from a tragedy which took place in Shediac in 1804 as the sequel of a religious revival known as the "Newlight" movement started by Henry Alline. One of his frenzied followers, Jacob Peck, started the excitement in Shediac, and one of the converted—a man named Amos Babcock, living at Shediac river, attacked his sister with a knife and killed her. His brother gave the alarm and old Mr. Hanington, with two Acadians, Peter and Joseph Poirier, went to the house, where the excited man was walking about brandishing his knife. The former was able to get his attention while the Frenchmen stole behind his back and seized him. They then tied him up with a rope, fastened him to a sled and hauled him through the woods to Dorchester; on the way he broke loose but was recaptured.

The trial took place at the following June Circuit, Judge Upham presiding and Amos Botsford acting as Associate Justice. William Botsford charged the Grand Jury. A true bill was found and the trial was carried out a few days afterwards. The following were the jury:

Aaron Brownell, Bill Chappell, Daniel Gordon, William Trueman, Chris Carter, Thomas Easterbrooks, John Chapman, Thomas Bowser, Oliver Barnes, Jeremiah Brownell, Eliphalet Read, John Dobson.

The Crown witnesses were:—Jonathan Babcock, William Hanington, Amasa Killam, Samuel Cornwall, Robert Keiler, Mary Babcock. (One wonders why the two Poiriers were not in the list).

The witnesses for the defence were John Welling and Mary Babcock.

Mr. William Botsford seems to have acted as Crown Prosecutor but there was no Counsel for the defence. The trial was short and soon after the Judge charged the jury the latter brought in a verdict of murder, the foreman being Mr. Trueman.

The prisoner being asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced did not reply and the Judge thereupon sentenced him to be hanged on the 28th June.