

Dr. Harris was the first magistrate in Pictou, and he held other public positions. He resided in Pictou until 1778, when he removed to Truro. It is said that his removal was due to his strong sympathies with the rebels in the Revolutionary War.

The outbreak of the American War led to bad feeling between the Scottish and American settlers. The Scots were loyal, while most of those who had come from Philadelphia, as well as most of the inhabitants of Truro and the adjacent settlements, had a very warm sympathy with the rebels. A number of the Pictou people, joined by reinforcements from Truro, seized a valuable vessel then loading in Pictou harbor, belonging to Captain Lowden, and started off to join the Americans, who then had possession of the country about Baie Verte. The vessel was quickly recaptured, and soon afterward, most of the Philadelphia settlers left Pictou.

After coming to Truro, Dr. Harris devoted more attention to the practice of medicine. He represented Truro in the House of Assembly, from 1779 to 1785, and was Clerk of the Peace for some years. He was also a Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas. As a magistrate, he celebrated marriages.

His death took place on April 9th, 1802. It was due, Dr. Patterson says, to a fall from his horse. On the other hand, Dr. Page was informed by Miss Soley, of Truro, that the real cause of death was apoplexy, which caused him to fall while his horse was either standing still or walking slowly. He had inoculated Mrs. Soley with smallpox a short time before, and her arm had not healed at the time of his death.

It is of interest to note that Dr. Harris usually kept one or two negro slaves. He seems to have been an active, public-spirited man, and a good physician. Descendants of himself and his brother Matthew are numerous.

Dr. Parker Clarke.

Is known to us only by certain proceedings in the Courts of Law, at Cumberland and Halifax. The township of Cumberland was first settled by New Englanders and immigrants from the North of Ireland. During the Revolutionary War most of these settlers warmly sympathized with the revolted colonies. In November, 1776, at the instance of parties from Machias, Maine, many of these settlers led by Jonathan Eddy, attempted the capture of Fort Cumberland. They had gone so far as to invest the fort when the timely arrival of forces from Windsor and Halifax put an end to their plans and dispersed them. Several arrests were made. Among them was Doctor Clarke, who was taken to Halifax, tried for high treason and found guilty. He pleaded the King's pardon before sentence was passed, and was respited.

Before this arrest he had been accused of extorting money from Thomas Robinson, of Amherst. The circumstances were these:—