

Seotia. The British gave liberal grants of that part of the province from which the Acadians had been removed, and the officers of the army secured a large share of that fertile soil. A county was formed and probably named Cumberland,¹ from the fort before mentioned. It may be stated that this was the same which Col. Eddy attempted to capture in 1776. See Eddy's letter, page 67.

It may be supposed that Wm. Allan served as an officer through the French war from 1754 to 1763, and then receiving a large grant of fertile alluvial land, which the poor Acadians had with much labor banked in, to protect it from any inroads of the bay, and commenced life as a farmer. In a few years he was known to be wealthy and prosperous; his large farm was cultivated mainly by the labor of the French Acadians, who became for a time servants to the conquerors of their own territory. He was a member of the colonial legislature, and occupied some other positions of trust and honor.

His children, nine in number, received educational advantages, and eventually became connected with the best families in the province. In religion, he was probably an Episcopalian, and was undoubtedly a man of intelligence and of energy. His wife died in 1767; he married a second time, and died some years subsequent to the close of the revolution.

Of the boyhood of his son John, the subject of this memoir but little can be gleaned, but we may suppose he early displayed indications of that vigor and self-reliance which was so characteristic of him in his manhood. It is certain that he received for that period and locality a very respectable education, of which his long and able letters give us such proofs, and from some of his papers we know he was well read in the books common at that period, particularly in English history. He was acquainted with the French

¹ Cumberland county is unquestionably the most productive part of Nova Scotia, and not inferior to any portion of America, of the same extent. Here stood the two rival forts of Beau Sejour (Fort Cumberland) and Lawrence, separated from each other by the little stream of Missiguash. From the bastion of Beau Sejour Fort, there is a splendid view embracing the great Tantimur and Missiguash meadows, Barons fields, Westmoreland and the country at the foot of the Shepody mountains; vast stacks of hay cover these alluvial lands, as far as the eye can reach, and the substantial farm houses and numerous herds, bespeak the wealth and independence of the yeomanry.—*Martin's History of Nova Scotia*, p. 32. London, 1833.