

entered into partnership with a Dutch merchant named Witzel and carried on an extensive lumber business. It was no doubt in connection with explorations for lumber at Pokemouche, the lumber from which was long rafted to Shippegan for shipment, that he became acquainted with this place. About 1811 one of his daughters married Gilbert Duke, an English man-of-warsman (very likely one of the same group to which James Harper and Thomas Cowan, of Miscou, belonged); and in 1812 this couple went to settle at Upper Pokemouche, and thus became its founders and first settlers. About this time, or very soon after, the Witzel firm failed, and Topham, with his wife, also removed to Upper Pokemouche, and settled beside Duke on the South River, at the location shown by their names on the historical map. Duke remained and became the ancestor of the families of that name now at Pokemouche; but Topham's wife having died (she was buried on Topham's Island, also called after her *Polly's Island*), he removed to Gaspé, entered the employ of Chas. Robin & Co., and soon after died while on his way home to England to claim a fortune left him by his father. His other children did not settle at Pokemouche, and his only descendants there are through his daughter, who married Duke.

The next settlers of Upper Pokemouche were Irish. Apparently the first were Herbert, born in Limerick, a British man-of-warsman, who came via Halifax to Chatham, and married there, and James Ducey, native of Waterford; they settled at Pokemouche in 1815. Next came Thomas Rivers, a native of Waterford; he had gone to Newfoundland in 1816, followed cod-fishing for a time, and in 1820 settled at Upper Pokemouche, at Rivers Point, near the church. Several of his descendants still live at Pokemouche, and a granddaughter married "Adirondack" Murray, the writer, whom she met at Bathurst when he was on