

documentary. Quotations have been made from public records, official reports, private correspondence and contemporary published accounts. Doubtless a story told in this way is less entertaining than one written in narrative form, but it must be recollected that in all publications of the New Brunswick Historical Society accuracy of detail is more essential than literary form.

As an illustration of the unreliability of tradition, and the ease with which two events of similar character may be confused in the mind of one who has not the slightest intention to mislead, we have the following: An old citizen many years ago gave the late Dr. I. Allen Jack an account of the capture of the old French Fort in Carleton, which he claimed to have had from his grandfather. According to this story the British troops under Monckton landed at Negro Town Point, and cut a road through the woods to the place where the Carleton City Hall now stands, which was then used by the French as a vegetable garden. From there they advanced against the fort in order of battle, and, after one repulse, succeeded in carrying it by assault. They captured 200 or 300 prisoners, and the rest of the garrison escaped across the river in boats, and finally made their way up the river. The loss of both French and English was heavy, especially of the former, more than forty being killed. This account is at variance with the facts recorded by Monckton himself in his journal. The story, I have not the least doubt, is based upon an incident that happened nearly twenty years after Monckton's arrival at the St. John River. John Allan, who figures in it, formerly lived near Fort Cumberland, and at one time was a member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. At the outbreak of the Revolution he went to Machias and cast in his lot with the American "rebels." While there he planned an expedition to the River St. John with the idea of holding the territory of all western New Brunswick for the United States. On May 20th, 1777, he sent a party of militia from Machias to St. John under the command of Captain Jabez West, with instructions to "annoy the enemy as much as possible till such time as reinforcements should arrive from the westward." On the 31st May, Allan himself set out for St. John with a party, which included "Parson" Noble and Dr. Nevers, who had been obliged to leave Mougerville on account of their disloyalty. Allan states in his Journal that they arrived at the old fort at the mouth of the river at 3 p. m. on Monday, the 2nd of June—went over the falls in their