

Halifax. "The Garrison City."



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HALIFAX was founded, in 1749, by English colonists under the leadership of Colonel Edward Cornwallis. Previous to the settlement, the harbor had only been visited by a few storm-stayed fishing smacks. In 1746 the Duc d'Anville's shattered and fever-stricken armada had sought shelter there, and the broken-hearted commander died, some say of poison; and his successor shortly after committed suicide. When Cornwallis arrived, the skeletons of some of d'Anville's men were found beneath the trees, while thousands lay buried in trenches near the shore. For some time the Indians were a constant source of anxiety to the inhabitants, and they murdered several who straggled outside the pickets of the town.

Dartmouth, on the opposite side of the harbor, was attacked by night by Micmacs, under the direction of French Acadians, and a number of the settlers were killed and scalped. This hostility had much to do with retarding the growth of the town. To

aid in defending the settlement, a blockhouse was erected on a commanding eminence now known as Citadel Hill, and others were built in various advantageous positions. The modern fortifications which surround the town are evidences of the great importance of the position as a naval and military station.

St. Paul's church, commenced in 1749, is probably the oldest building in Halifax, and its history is most interesting. The quaint Dutch church was built about six years later as a place of worship for the German settlers who resided in the northern suburbs. The legislative building, erected in the early years of the present century, was once considered the finest building in America. At the close of the American Revolutionary war, the population of Halifax was greatly increased by loyalists from the United States, and we find many New England names represented among the citizens of to-day. Old St. Paul's cemetery and the church records afford rich stores of information for American genealogists.

The city is built on the eastern side of a triangular-shaped peninsula, three miles long and a mile and a half at its greatest width. The neck of land that connects it with the mainland of Halifax County extends half a mile from the head of the Northwest Arm to the waters of Bedford Basin—an oval expansion of the harbor beyond the Narrows. The classic Northwest Arm is on the rear, and on the east the rippling waves of the best seaport in the world wash against the wharves of Halifax.