

Charles de la Tour—their native homes in Europe having been on the marshy west coast of France, the provinces of Rochelle, Saintonge, and Poitou, within the limits of the modern department of Vendée and Charente Inférieure. At first these emigrants to Acadie confined themselves chiefly to what is now the county of Annapolis, about the river and the marshes, or else to the farther south Atlantic seaboard, near the dividing line between Shelburne and Queens, but about 1680 a few families at Port Royal more adventurous than the rest pushed up the Bay of Fundy into Minas Basin and established themselves with great satisfaction in the fertile country now included in the County of Kings.

To the neighbourhood of the Grand Pré, where they cleared their farms, they were naturally soon followed by others, and by the beginning of the eighteenth century the population had spread over the wide district of Minas; across the Cornwallis River into many parts of the equally fertile district of Rivière aux Canards; to Piziquid, which became after the expulsion the townships of Falmouth and Windsor, in the county of Hants; and across Minas Basin to the Colchester and Cumberland County shores. Long before the expulsion, the districts of Minas and Rivière aux Canards and the settlements near Minas in the District of Piziquid had become by all means the most prosperous and independent part of Acadia, the people industriously cultivating wheat, rye, barley, maize, root-crops, and flax; dyking the marshes, from which they gathered annually great quantities of hay, raising apples, which they pressed into cider, and accumulating fine herds of horned cattle, numbers of horses, and