

addressed verbally in the unconventional manner of the time and place, to one family was understood to include the other.

Of course there were knowing neighborhood whispers and nods over the intimacy of the families, all unsuspected by those interested. But no one, not even Auntie Hunt, could look far enough into the future to, of a certainty, predict, and not being Highlanders, their probabilities were nowhere near what really did happen.

I have just said their nearest neighbors were not Highlanders. James and Sandy came in the wake of the Military Settlement, and got grants on the Ninth Concession—not on the "Scotch Line"—which, at the time of their arrival, had some good clearings and several crops had been raised. Their neighbors—speaking in a sense of those who lived nearest—were of mixed nationality, more of everything else than Scotch.

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