

could, and brave whatever disaster an inclement winter and ministerial neglect might entail.

Port Lajoie seems to have been at this time a favorite settlement with those who desired to employ themselves in clearing and tilling the land. From the valley, its slopes and the heights on either side, the forest had well nigh completely disappeared. The axe of the settler had also broken the contiguity of shade that darkened the waters of West River, and an ancient plan of the settlement shows the tract of land lying between the Government buildings, and the point on which the lighthouse now stands, more completely won from the forest, than it is at the present day.

No fisherman had settled at Port Lajoie in 1728. It was a community of farmers and soldiers. Of these two classes the hardships inseparable from an early settlement in a new country seemed to have fallen heavier on the soldier than on the civilian. The former owing to the neglect of the Government he served, was inadequately sheltered against the rigors of a long winter. His comforts were few. The latter was at once the architect and builder of his own dwelling, and to judge from the size of the cellars that are still to be seen scattered along the slopes in the rear and on the flanks of the fortress, many of these dwellings were of considerable dimensions. The rudest tillage was rewarded with abundant harvests. An eye-witness declares, that the fields of wheat he saw at Port Lajoie were equal to any he had seen in France, Spain or Italy. The extent of land under cultivation at this date cannot be accurately ascertained, yet some notion may be formed from the fact, that in the Government returns of 1730 the yield of grain around Port Lajoie is set down at two thousand bushels—a crop more than sufficient to support the entire population. The staple sowings consisted of wheat, barley, oats, peas and rye. Although secluded and laborious, life, in those times, round Port Lajoie, was not wholly barren of comforts or enjoyment. With a few exceptions, the settlers were all French Acadians who preferred building new homesteads and wrestling with the wilderness under their country's