

Killam, all of whom were adherents of the Baptist denomination.

The home of Amasa Babcock was on the road to Cocagne, about three miles from the present church of St. Martin's in the Woods. It was a small block house, built by one Peter Casey, and by him sold to a Mr. Atkinson, who mortgaged it to a Mr. Barry of Halifax. The Babcocks appear to have been hard working men, of little education, and of the type easily moved to go to extremes on occasions of excitement. They worked at farming and fishing, and were in humble circumstances. Amasa Babcock was a man in middle life. His family consisted of a wife and nine children, (the eldest about twenty and the youngest an infant) and his sister Mercy, who had been married to one Hall, but was not then living with her husband. She was of a melancholy disposition and was not allowed to eat with the others of the family.

Mr. Hanington had taken a liking to Babcock, and had purchased for him the place on which he lived. Babcock was to repay him by catching gaspereaux, but had so far paid nothing of any consequence, and Mr. Hanington had sent some young cattle to his place to be fed and cared for during the winter, as a means of securing some of the amount due.

In the spring of 1804 a revival took place in the settlement, among the Baptist people. The meetings were held on Sunday evenings at first, but as the interest became greater they were held on Thursday night of each week as well. Towards autumn, the enthusiasm in the revival became more and more intense, and the people were wrought up to a high pitch of excitement. Many of them believed the world was coming to an end, and all kinds of interpretations were attached to the prophetic portions of the Old and New Testaments. Among those who came among the people was