

Bishop Burke, was convinced that this was the spot. It is about six miles from town: there were Catholics there as the register of baptisms proves. The barn in which Father Bailly celebrated mass in Halifax to the sons of Erin was owned by the first Michael Tobin, and stood on South street, almost opposite Hillside house. Mr. Tobin came to Halifax in 1700.

In spite of the atrocious penal laws, the people of Halifax, with the exception of the puritans from New England, tolerated their brethren of the old faith, and winked at the evasion of the acts of oppression passed by the first parliament, convened in 1758. Few have read the acts passed by the first Assembly of the province—the statutes that lack, so painfully to the present generation, the spirit of religious toleration. It does not require a fertile imagination to picture the Irish Catholics, after the barn chapel was closed, stealing out of town in the dim light of early morning of a Sabbath day, and wending their way along the Bedford road to Birch Cove, to be present at the celebration of mass. Among those wayfarers to the "hole in the country" could be seen leading pioneer Roman Catholics such as William Meany, John Cody, James Kavanagh, John Mallowney, John Murphy, Michael Tobin, Constant Connor, who were eventually to gain recognition for their faith from Governor Andrew Snape Hammond and his Council, and to be obliged no longer to test the sincerity of their belief by long journeys to Birch Cove. The following is the amended act which gave liberty to Roman Catholics to worship in public:

"An act for the relieving His Majesty's subjects professing the popish religion from certain penalties imposed upon them by two acts of the General Assembly of this province made in the thirty-second year of his late majesty, entitled: an act confirming titles to lands and quieting possessions; and an act for the establishment of religious public worship in the province and for suppressing of popery."

On the 27th September, 1768, John Tracey applied for a grant of 500 acres of land in the back range of lots at Bedford Basin adjoining the late Mr. Monk's lands at Birch Cove. The Council agreed to the application provided the land asked for was unoccupied. It was on this land, towards Kearney

lake, that the Acadians probably built their temporary habitations, when they made their way back from the colonies after their expatriation.

Murdoch says: "That a fire raged in the woods back of Birch Cove from the 28th to 31st of May 1782, destroying on Sunday 28th, Bedford Lodge. This lodge was built by the Monk family. One of them, George Monk, afterwards Judge Monk, had a town house on Hollis street near the Halifax hotel on the opposite side.

Andrew Belcher afterwards built a residence at Birch Cove. He was a son of the first chief justice of Nova Scotia, and became a successful merchant about the time the Duke of Kent was commander-in-chief on this station. He was the father of Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, the famous Arctic explorer. Andrew Belcher's portrait was done by Field, and once graced the walls of the Rockingham Club. After Mr. Belcher removed to England his house at Birch Cove became the summer residence of Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, K. B., who greatly enlarged it and improved the grounds. The house was built on three sides of a square. Sir John was one of Wellington's gallant captains. He was born 1764, the third son of William Coape, J. P., of Farnah, in Duffield, Derbyshire. His father took the name of Sherbrooke on his marriage in 1756, with Sarah, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Sherbrooke. Sir John Sherbrooke entered the army as an ensign in the 4th Regt. of Foot, 1780. He got a company in the 85th Regt., 1783. He afterwards became a captain in the 33rd Regiment; and was stationed in the Halifax garrison in 1784. It was while on detachment duty at Sydney, C. B., that a remarkable ghost incident occurred. He and a brother officer named Winyard, while sitting conversing in their quarters, saw a figure pass through the room, and Winyard recognised it as his brother who, as he afterwards learned, had died in England at the time the apparition appeared.

Sir John Sherbrooke received his majority in 1794, and was at Ostend in the 83rd, in the Duke of York's unfortunate expedition, and served in the latter part of the campaign, went to India in 1799 and took part in the Mysore war. Distinguished himself greatly in India, was knocked down by a ball at the battle of Malvallah, but re-