

Halifax about 1768. Supplementing this account it may be of interest to quote from a letter written to a friend in Boston by one of the inhabitants of the town of Halifax, about 1765.

"It is now divided into three towns—Halifax, Irish-town (South suburbs) and Dutchtown (North suburbs). The whole may contain about 1000 houses, great and small, many of which are employed as barracks, hospitals for the army and navy and other public uses. The inhabitants may be about 3000, one-third of which are Irish, and many of them Roman Catholics, about one-fourth Germans and Dutch (the most industrious and useful settlers among us,) and the rest English, with a very small number of Scotch. We have upwards of 100 licensed houses, and perhaps as many more which retail spirituous liquors without license, so that the business of one half of the town is to sell rum, and the other half to drink it. You may, from this single circumstance, judge of our morals, and naturally infer that we are not enthusiasts in religion. Though our present fortifications have cost large sums of money, at least the Government has given and is charged with immense sums (how much of it has been misapplied I will not take upon myself to say), yet I would now imagine that two ships of the line would destroy the whole settlement; but that will not be the case when the Citadel is completed, as it overlooks the town, commands the harbor, and is too high for ships to reach or make any impression on it."

At this period there were eight streets running through the centre of the town, only two of which reached its southern and three its northern extremity. These were intersected by fifteen others. The town and suburbs were upwards of two miles in length and its general width about half a mile. The houses were mostly wood. The population was composed of discharged soldiers and sailors, many of whom were illiterate.

Hollis St. was very different from what it is today, it was a street of residences. On George St. opposite the Royal Bank was the town pump. Where the Provincial building now is there was a wooden building two stories, five windows on top, four at bottom with doors in middle; this was Government House. On the site of the Eastern Trust Building was Mather's Church, afterwards called St. Matthew's. A few