

he settled at Le Bocage, Little River, and the tradition that he had settled here shortly after the expulsion in 1755, but was later driven off by the English (of course MacKenzie's raid) thus receives confirmation. Then for many years we have no record of the settlers at Caraquet, though no doubt they were slowly taking up lands there, but in 1779, as a manuscript deposition of one Raphael Dorval informs us, Charles Poirier and Alexis Landry were residents of Caraquet, and Dorval had himself spent the preceding winter there. This deposition shows that the Micmac Indians considered themselves justified by the outbreak of the American war to plunder the settlers; and, although no record of the fact exists, I have no doubt that Caraquet, like all the other settlements in the Bay Chaleur, suffered severely in the year 1776 by the attacks of American privateers, which plundered and burnt everything they found, and which the exposed Caraquet could hardly have escaped. These attacks must have given a great check to the growth of the settlement until British war vessels rid the Gulf of these legalized pirates. Thereafter Caraquet must have gained settlers rapidly, for in 1784 no less than thirty-four families received grants of land there. With these grants we find ourselves for the first time upon firm ground in our history, and from that year to the present can trace it without a break.

But before entering upon this important part of the subject there is one matter I wish to make plain. I could never have gathered the information that follows had I not received the skilled and cheerful aid of several persons who know Caraquet vastly better than I could ever hope to do. One of these was M. Placide Gaudet, of Ottawa, whose knowledge of Acadian history and genealogy is unmatched; he has given me several of the documents mentioned in the preceding pages and some of the facts which follow. Another is M. J. E. Lantaigne, of Caraquet, a descend-