

Any historical sketch of the Isthmus would be incomplete that did not refer to the marvellous advances made by the Acadians in trade, industry, education, social position and political influence, in all of which, they have within half a century secured at least an equality with their Anglo-Saxon neighbors. These splendid results are largely the work of two men—Father La France and Father Le Febvre, who inspired by a noble ambition to uplift their people, spent their lives in their service. Father La France was the pioneer in education and he was succeeded by Father Lefebvre. The fine educational establishments at St. Joseph's, Memramcook, have been most potent in moulding and developing the later generations of Acadians.

Charles Dixon, the ancestor of the Dixon family of Sackville, was born at Yarm, Yorkshire in 1720. He was a paper maker by trade. In 1761, he married Susannah Coates. In 1772, he was induced by Governor Franklin's proposals to come to Nova Scotia and embarked in the Duke of York with 62 other settlers. After a six weeks passage they arrived at Halifax and on 21st May at Fort Cumberland, where his family was housed in the barracks. He records that his first impressions were gloomy as everybody owning land wanted to sell and leave the country, but on examination of the Isthmus he became pleased with its prospects and purchased a farm (Dixon's Island) Sackville from Daniel Hawkins for £260, Hawkins returning to the United States. Mr. Dixon became a prominent man, being a Justice of the Peace, Collector of Customs, Member of the Assembly and Judge of the Inferior Court.

Commodore Ayer—son of Elijah Ayer one of the original settlers ran a schooner between Westcock and Eastport. He lived at Westcock, but removed to Eastport and did some privateering from there during the war of 1812. On one occasion he appeared in the Tantramar river in an armed schooner and sacked the Dixon homestead. This was supposed to wipe off an old feud that survived the Eddy war, when it was alleged that a party of loyalists fired the Eddy house at Middle Sackville