

is still visible, where stood the barracks for the soldiers. A force varying in strength from thirty to fifty men, drawn from the garrison of Louisburg was usually stationed at Port Lajoie; although the Governors had often complained of the unprotected condition of the place, and of the easy conquest it offered to any marauder daring enough to assault it.

The usual landing place was at the mouth of the streamlet, which still threads its way down the valley, half concealed in luxuriant herbage. A bridge for foot passengers was thrown across it, from which a road bending a little from the sea ran up the acclivity to the Government buildings.

These buildings consisted of a dwelling and offices for the Commandant, quarters for the soldiers and subalterns, a decaying structure which served as a chapel, a vaulted powder magazine, a bake house, a forge, three store-houses, one for clothing and dry-goods, the other for flour and provisions, and a third for molasses. There was also a residence for the doctor whose nearest neighbor was the Recollet Cure, Father Felix. These buildings were constructed not of logs, but with posts and boards. When new they were neat and comfortable, but the frosts and heats of seven years had sadly impaired their beauty, and destroyed their comfort. They were erected by the unfortunate company of St. Pierre, and were now crumbling to decay. De Pensens writing to the minister in October, 1728 says "It will be impossible to live longer on the Island of St. John, if your Excellency does not order the erection of new dwellings. Those left here by the Count St. Pierre, are so completely rotten, that the soldiers and myself run, every moment, the risk of being crushed under their ruins. It would excite your pity, did you see the manner in which we are lodged." No pity was excited, for the pathetic appeal failed to arrest the attention of those, who at Versailles, shaped the policy of France, not for the well-being and benefit of the people, but to suit the vanity and caprice of Madame Pompadour. De Pensens had therefore to patch up the crumbling tenements as best he