

ped 32,000 tons of timber and 587,000 feet of deals and boards and over 1,000 spars. Mr. Palmer stated: "When I was in St. John in 1808, it was then a big town. Water Street, Prince William Street and the Market Square were all built up solid. No vacant lots. Stores and warehouses lined both South and North markets wharves. The Pagans were the largest West India merchants. The Black firm owned six large vessels. They were known as mast ships, as carrying masts was their principal business. Hanford & Gilbert were also prominent merchants. Munson Jarvis in the South Wharf had a large establishment. Donald Cruikshank and John Robertson were large shippers. Ship chandlery business was then an extensive line as vessels had to be outfitted.

Col. Wanton was the port collector. Mrs. Thompson kept the leading hotel. It was situated next to the Coffee House Corner. It was very select. Strangers had to have credentials. The rum business was universal. It was in stock in all stores as well as in taverns. Everybody drank—hardly without exception, as it was cheap, though a section of the Wesleyan folks had become total abstainers. It was a part of the program at weddings, funerals, barn-raising, country frolics and muster gatherings. The best families took out licenses and sold it. It was laid in the fall by traders the same as sugar, salt, molasses and flour. The country at that date had not recovered from the excesses and dissipation of the Seven Years war.

STONE AND COPPER

Deposits of copper being found in the sandstone formation at Squirreltown, three miles back of Dorchester about 1855, they were worked by an American Company, but not paying were abandoned. Later when the world war created a demand for copper, work was resumed, but later also abandoned. Building stone and grindstone, both of superior quality, are found in the ridge between the Memramcook and Petitcodiac rivers and were worked extensively for the American markets, before high duties imposed at Washington prevented their export.

Reminiscences

The Palmers

John Palmer came of good stock. His father held a Commission in the British service, was a loyalist, and was amongst the thousands of those who preferred banishment in a northern wilderness with all its toils and perils to their homes under an alien flag. Who can tell how much the pluck and enterprise, the spirit of patriotism and domestic virtue that mark the character of our people does not exist by the law of heredity and descent from the Roman spirit of these political exiles that made our shores their home? The dust of Gideon Palmer, the common ancestor of the Palmer family of this County, reposes in the old Dorchester graveyard, his history being briefly recorded on a headstone: "Gideon Palmer late a Lieutenant in Delancy's Corps. Died Oct. 6, 1924, aged 75 years."