

SETTLEMENT OF SHEDIAC.

The first English settler in Shediac was William Hanington. His father was a member of the Fishmonger's Guild, London. He landed in Halifax, in 1783—the year after peace was proclaimed between Britain and her revolted colonies. He had purchased for two shillings an acre a tract of 5,000 acres abutting on Shediac harbor that had been granted in 1768 to Joseph Williams and others. After a tramp through the unbroken forests he arrived at his future home in March, 1784.

For a London man, the prospect must have seemed hopeless but Mr. Hanington's vigor and self-reliance were equal to the emergencies. He was the first English settler in the Gulf Shore between Pictou and Miramichi. When he arrived he found neighbors in two French settlers at Shediac and two more on the shore had made clearings and put up log cabins. It was then twenty years since the expulsion and twenty since the ordinance against them had been repealed. These settlers belonged to the Gaudet and Gallant families. The next English settlers were Samuel Cornwall, John Atkinson and Bowen Smith—all early in the 19th century.

John Welling, a Loyalist, not satisfied with his situation at St. John, found his way to P. E. Island, settling in 1798 on what is since known as Welling's Point, near Summerside.

His wife was Elizabeth Darby. Mr. Hanington married her sister Mary. Tradition makes the affair rather a romantic one. He was driving along the road with his ox cart, and he espied in the barnyard of a nearby homestead, a young woman feeding chickens. It was a case of love at first sight. The exigencies of pioneer life did not permit any prolonged dallying. He was a man of action. He proposed and was accepted on the spot. He claimed her at once and succeeded in overcoming her reluctance and objections. She mounted the cart with him, wended their way to a justice of the peace, parsons being scarce, where the ceremony was performed. His son Hon. Daniel, represented