

Surveyors" who roamed the province's woodlands two centuries ago marking tall and sturdy pines destined to become masts and spars for Britain's warships and commercial vessels.

History

Micmac Indians and their ancestors have lived in Nova Scotia since very ancient times. There is evidence, also, that Europeans landed on the coast of Nova Scotia long before John Cabot's voyage of discovery in 1497. Though the history of European settlement in the province dates from that voyage, Basques and Norsemen are known to have visited Canada much earlier.

During the sixteenth century, both the French and Spanish tried to establish colonies in Nova Scotia but neither succeeded. In 1603, Henry IV of France and Navarre granted Sieur de Monts a licence to colonize "Acadia" between the 40th and 46th parallels. De Monts recruited 70 adventurers and prospective colonists, among them geographer Samuel de Champlain. The expedition sailed from France in 1604 and landed at the Bay of Fundy where Champlain founded the settlement of Port Royal in 1606. That winter Champlain organized a social club to lift morale among the Port Royal colonists — the "Order of Good Cheer". When de Mont's monopoly was revoked in 1607, the expedition returned to France. The French were after furs and they quickly focused their attention on

the richer fur supplies of the St. Lawrence, which became the centre of the French Empire in America.

In 1610 Port Royal was once again occupied by the French, but three years later a group led by Samuel Argall from Britain's New England colony attacked the settlement and burned it. In 1621, the land was granted by James VI of Scotland to Sir William Alexander, who renamed Acadia "Nova Scotia". Small parties of Scots settled there in 1622 and 1623, but Port Royal was returned to France in 1632 and most of the settlers returned to Europe. By 1635 the French Governor of Acadia had begun a new Port Royal (8 km from the former post), which changed hands several times until 1710 when Colonel Francis Nicholson forced its capitulation and renamed it Annapolis Royal in honour of Queen Anne. Under the Treaty of Utrecht signed in 1713, France conceded mainland Nova Scotia to the British but Cape Breton and other islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence remained under French control. The heart of French power on the Atlantic Coast was then the great fortress of Louisbourg, which dominated the approaches to the St. Lawrence River and effectively dominated the northern approaches to North America. The British built the port of Halifax in 1749 to counter this power and established a settlement there to prevent the possibility of France's regaining Acadia. It