

He seems to have been more than any other the one who irritated the English into ordering the expatriation of the French.

It was on Tuesday the second day of September, 1755, on the afternoon tide that three vessels were seen coming up the Bay. They passed up the other side from here, one at least anchoring in sight, right abreast of Masstown, then known as Cobequid Village. On the door of the Village church, a building one hundred feet by forty, that must have been clearly in sight from here, there was posted the notice signed by John Winslow, "To the inhabitants of the Village of Cobequid, and the surrounding shores, as well ancient as young men and lads" ordering them all to repair to the church next day, Wednesday, Sept. 3rd., at 3 p. m. to hear what he had to say to them. From this side the ringing of the large bell of Father Gerard's Church would be easily heard, and perhaps also the accompanying drum beating of the English Soldiery that day.

We need not attempt a depicting of what happened at that Wednesday evening's forcefully protracted meeting, or of the heartrending scenes of Thursday, Sept. 5th.

Before September's first Sunday, that sad year, desolation reigned in every French settlement, and home on these shores. Those of our immediate surroundings were put on ship-board at Selma, those of Noel from their own shores.

Some few of the Habitants escaped. It is stated that about 250 buildings were destroyed along the Shubenacadie River. Such figures though probably include the Bay shores on this side. The church which stood on what is still known as the Mass House farm at Shubenacadie was not destroyed. The Indians and French rallied to save it, successfully attacking the English and killing or wounding some thirty of them, drove the rest to their boats. The church bell, one which could be heard betimes, legend says the whole length of the river, was, a companion legend says put into the lake near by for safe keeping.

The first English grants to lands in the Shubenacadie country were dated 1763. These of Henry and Francis Ellis, of a family name ever since at home on the river, bore the date of 1765. The Grants of the Salters, Malachy and Montague, bore the date of