

Strenuous efforts had been inaugurated by Governors and Council immediately after removal of the Acadiens, to induce farmers and others from the Mother Country and her Colonies of New England, to settle in the Province, particularly on the vacated French lands. To facilitate this commendable policy, an Order-in-Council dated August 17, 1759, divided the Peninsula into the five Counties of Annapolis, Queen's, Lunenburg, Halifax and King's. The first named comprised the present Counties of Annapolis and Digby. No English then resided within latter boundaries; neither has the author discovered any trace of other residents at the remote period, except native Indians.

As several of the earliest British settlers in Digby and Sandy Cove removed thither from the modern County of Annapolis, a brief *resumé* of the New England settlement there concludes this Introduction.

In the year 1756, Mr. Henry Evans emigrated from Carnarvon, Wales, to Boston, Massachusetts. Being an Architect and Contractor, he soon entered into an Agreement to erect numerous Dwellings and Stores in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which were freely advertised in his adopted City. Next year, 1757, Mr. Evans visited Halifax in performance of his contracts. Shortly after his arrival, seeing offers by Government to immigrants, this enterprising gentleman sought an interview with Major Charles Lawrence, Governor of the Colony, concerning prospective location of farmers from the American Colonies on lands lately occupied by banished Acadiens. This was so pleasant and assuring, that several like conversations soon followed. Returning to his home, South End, Boston, in autumn of 1758. Mr. Evans enlisted the deep sympathies and cordial co-operation of many wealthy and progressive farmers in Massachusetts, with some of New Hampshire and possibly other Provinces. Henry Evans, Michael Bent, and Ebenezer Felch, Esquires, were appointed a Committee to proceed to Nova Scotia, select a Township and obtain a Grant from the Crown. Accordingly, these parties left Boston in a vessel commanded by Captain Doubleday, June 13th, 1759, called at Cape Ann next morning, and in the evening sailed for Halifax, arriving nine days thereafter, amid enjoyment of health and buoyant spirits—having had a pleasant and rapid voyage. They soon waited upon the Governor, being accorded a gracious reception and the utmost encouragement. Three other committees on similar errands were present on this occasion. His Excellency despatched a man-of-war to convey Messrs. Evans, Bent and Felch to Annapolis for the purpose of viewing