

within a range of many miles from this spot. Two barns indeed were still standing, a fact which is perpetuated in the title of "Old Barns" so long applied to the part of Truro where the buildings stood. This name, with its historic value, remained till some restless innovator arose in the settlement and succeeded in burying it under the new tangled title of "Clifton."

After the expulsion of the Acadian French, many of these people who had escaped to the woods, or had returned from exile, were found to be hovering around their old homes—a circumstance which occasioned much alarm to the Local Government of the day.

At this time Cape Breton belonged to France, and the Governors of the Island were constantly plotting against the peace of Nova Scotia, using the Acadians and the Indians as their instruments. The route lay between Tatamagouche and the upper waters of the Bay. A short portage between the sources of the Waugh River and of the Chaganois, as it was called, was all that impeded the passage of canoes between Cape Breton and the Bay of Fundy. By this route, and by the Shubenacadie Lakes, an expedition was projected against Halifax, when that town was only a few years in existence, which, if it had been as vigorously carried out as it was ingeniously planned, might have had a disastrous effect upon the infant colony.

The alarm felt by the Local Government appears to have extended to England and to have given rise to the policy, then adopted, of having the vacant lands settled by a race of Protestants who had no injuries to avenge, and who might be counted on as loyal subjects of the Crown. Very considerable sums of money were expended by the Imperial Government in this service. Special inducements were offered to immigrants, such as transport to the Province, grants of cleared lands, and aid in the first years of settlement. In this way in the year 1760 were settled Granville and Cornwallis, Annapolis, Horton

and Falmouth. Early in 1761 Newport was settled, and in the latter part of the month of May of that year a body of immigrants landed in this Township, and another in Onslow. The intervening lands between Newport and Truro on one side of the Bay and between Onslow and Economy on the other, were left for subsequent years.

The first settlers at Truro consisted of 53 families, comprising in all 120 souls. They had come originally from the north of Ireland, having first immigrated to New Hampshire. After a short stay there, hearing of the inducements to settle in this Province, they agreed to come on to Truro, under the guidance of Colonel McNutt, who, for several years, was extensively engaged in carrying out the projects of the British Government for settling the Province. The immigrants had with them 117 head of cattle, their farming implements and household utensils, together with seed-corn and potatoes. Government supplied the transport. The voyage from New England was tedious. The ships were detained by contrary winds and it was well on to the end of May before they arrived at this place.

We can have no difficulty in picturing to ourselves the scene presented to the eyes of the new comers. The dykes built by the Acadians were broken. The tide had resumed its sway over the muddy expanse which extended westwardly from the Lower Ford, so called. One vast sheet of dreary mud flats reached from the intervals of the Salmon and North Rivers all the way down to Savage's Island. Above, to the east, all was wilderness. The lovely meadows, which now form so fine a feature of the scenery on North and Salmon Rivers, were then covered with the virgin forest, of which a few elms only now survive. From either side of the Bay, the flats on the opposite shore were skirted by a forest which extended away as far as the eye could reach, till the tops of the trees on the hills were outlined on the sky. The flats were unsightly objects, but they furnished