

newspaper writers who perpetuate the wrong, forgetting that many of their readers may be descendants of Hessian soldiers who are thus maligned. Both the Loyalists and the Hessians, however, are receiving fairer treatment from the later historians of the United States.

The troops of Hesse, Brunswick and Waldeck, employed by the British government, were mercenaries, it is true, in the sense that their rulers or their home governments received money for their services in America; but the individual soldiers were not mercenaries in so disgraceful a sense as were those New Brunswickers who for the sake of pay or bounty joined the armies of the northern states in the war of the southern rebellion. Many of the Germans were not soldiers from choice: none of them had any choice about coming to America when they were ordered to do so. The German officers, without exception, were gentlemen by birth and education, comparing favorably with the very best in the British or Colonial service; the soldiers, if not better than the British, were under better control.¹

At the close of the Revolutionary War, disbanded German soldiers obtained grants of land in Nova Scotia. In the township of Clements, between Annapolis and Digby, the shore lots were granted chiefly to Dutch-speaking Loyalists from New Jersey and Long Island. Back of these were parallel lines, two miles apart, settled by the Germans, and still known respectively as the Waldeck Line and the Hessian Line. These old soldiers proved to be good settlers, and seem to have been highly esteemed by their Dutch and English neighbors.

The old church at Moose River was built in part by the contributions of these people. It stood like a beacon on the hill, a gathering place for two generations of their descendants; and kindly thoughts of them come with the memory of its weather beaten walls. It is said to have been originally Lutheran. If so, after a time it was handed over to the Church of England; but the Hessians and Waldeckers were still regular attendants, meeting to sing their German hymns before the English service began. Their lusty chorals became weaker as time passed on; and the pathetic group of singers grew smaller, as one after another dropped out under the weight of years, until at last, two only were left to sing together. These two old men, far away from fatherland, lifting up their broken voices and their

¹Many recent writers might be cited in support of this. For an extended discussion of the subject, see Mellick's "Story of an Old Farm," and Lowell's "Hessians in the Revolutionary War."