

5. Samuel Dennison,

of a retired Naval Surgeon, settled at Newport at about the beginning of the nineteenth century. He had an extensive practice, and was highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities. He seems to have been a very good surgeon. He read a paper on "Placenta Praevia" at the first meeting of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia. This is the first record we have of a paper on a strictly professional subject being presented at an assembly of medical men in Nova Scotia. Dr. Dennison died at about 1856.

Two of his sons became physicians, and also practised at Newport. They were Drs. William Dennison and James Dennison.

The district of East Hants was settled by Loyalists and disbanded soldiers, and there is no account of any medical men in this district before 1800.

CUMBERLAND.

Prior to 1784, settlement in this county was confined to the fertile territory about the isthmus of Chignecio. Here we found that Michael Head began his professional career in Nova Scotia, and that his successor was Dr. Parker Clark, whose memory is preserved in the "Courts of Justice."

The Loyalists settled in great numbers in different sections of the county.

Dr. Rufus Smith

came with the Loyalists in 1784, and deserves notice by reason of his connection with a prominent Halifax family. A native of New York, he settled as a physician in Westmoreland, and was several times elected a member of the New Brunswick House of Assembly. His daughter, Fannie, married Martin Gay Black (eldest son of Rev. William Black), and the father of Dr. Rufus Smith Black, so well-known in Halifax during the latter half of the 19th century.

Dr. Rufus Smith died in 1844.

Dr. Elijah Purdy

was the eldest son of Colonel Henry Purdy, a staunch Loyalist who came with his family to Cumberland and settled at Fort Lawrence.