

Theology at Paisley, Scotland. In 1826 he was licensed to preach by the Southern Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and in 1831 was ordained as a "Missionary to the Colonies." The Rev. Alexander Clarke (the late Dr. Clarke of Amherst), had been laboring for some years in the same field, and to his aid Mr. Sommerville was sent.

After preaching for a time in Chepody, New Brunswick and in other sections of that Province where Covenanters were to be found, Mr. Sommerville was asked in 1832 to minister to a congregation in Horton, Kings County, whose pastor, the Rev. George Struthers, was absent and not expected to return. A meeting of Presbytery was held in Amherst, the papers approved, and in May, 1833, Mr. Sommerville removed to Horton and began a pastorate which closed only with his death, forty-five years later. The church at Grand Pre, begun in 1812 and completed in 1820, and now frequently pointed out to confiding tourists as a relic of Acadian times, was the scene of his labors.

The early religious history of that section of the Province in which Mr. Sommerville labored is full of interest, but can only be briefly touched on here. After the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, the territory which they had occupied was granted to emigrants from the New England colonies, descendants of the grand old Puritans by whom those colonies had been settled a century before. The descendants of these grantees are to-day the leading families in the Cornwallis and Annapolis valleys, and nowhere in America can Puritan blood be found purer or closer to type.

The early settlers were mostly Congregationalists. In fact, by whatever name they might be known, they could not well be other in practice. When a congregation is scattered over a territory a hundred miles in extent, with but one pastor and he debarred by lack of means and facilities from meeting, either socially or in church courts, with other pastors of his denomination, the government of that congregation will for the time be conducted on independent lines. The Presbyterian form of church government in its entirety would seem to be impossible under the circumstances attending the early settlement of Western Nova Scotia.

That piety and religious zeal were characteristics of the