

many of whom had been in possession a number of years. They, in general, appeared to be an inoffensive people, but few, if any, have a legal title to their lands.

About a dozen of these families lived near the mouth of the Keswick stream, on the east side of the River St. John, within the bounds of a tract of land assigned to a Loyalist corps called the Prince of Wales American Volunteers.¹ All of these went afterwards to Madawaska. There were two other French settlements a few miles above St. Anne's, one near the Indian village of Aukpaque and another called the Upper Settlement—a few miles above. There was possibly another small settlement on the lower part of St. Anne's plain, which at the time the Loyalists arrived was called Mercure's plantation.²

Major Studholm expressly commends the services rendered the British during the American Revolution by the Mercures as couriers, and by several members of the Martin and Cîre families.

About the year 1768 a small French settlement was formed at Hammond River, on the Kennebecasis, in which were included families bearing the names of Tibideau, Violet, Robicheau, Goodin, Blanchard, LeBlanc and Doucett. These Acadians traded with the English settlers, and were employed by them in the year 1769 in dykeing the large marsh east of the present city of St. John.

From these little colonies of fugitive Acadians many of the founders of the Madawaska settlement trace their origin.

AN OLD TIME CONFLAGRATION.³

In the autumn of 1784, about one year after the landing of those Loyalists who came in the month of October, 1783, the first of the series of great conflagrations with which St. John and the Province of New Brunswick have from time to time been visited, took place. In its results it was as unfortunate to a large number of the inhabi-

¹ The names of the French settlers, as given on an old plan in the Crown Land Office, are Paul Muzeroll, Mathura Muzeroll, Francis Aubere, Pierre Pinette, Francis Goodin, Baptiste Diegle, Baptiste Vienaux, Louis Lajeune, Joseph Roi, Alexis Tibbidoe, Pierre Muzeroll, Maturin Gôtreau.

² See Canadian Archives for 1891, p. 28.

³ We are indebted to W.M. Jordan, Esq., and a relative of his for the facts here given.