

Shippegan. Meantime, however, as was usually the case along the North Shore, an English settlement had also been formed. The English came here, as was usually the case elsewhere, chiefly to take advantage of the possibilities of profitable business among the French farmers and fishermen. The very earliest English-speaking settler was William Witzel, of Dutch ancestry but an English man-of-warsman, who had served in the American Revolution. He is supposed to have settled at Shippegan Village, where he was a grantee, soon after 1800. About the same time there settled near him John Topham, who later became a founder of Upper Pokemouche as I have traced in the article upon that place. Witzel married one of Topham's daughters. The two men were in partnership in a very extensive timber business which lasted until about 1812, when the firm failed, as all lumber firms did sooner or later in those days. It may here occur to any reader who is only partially acquainted with the conditions at Shippegan that it was a remarkable place to be the center of a timber trade, since it has no visible source of supply. But the timber in old times, as is well known, came from Pokemouche, which was rich in pine, but Pokemouche had no port or place of export of its own, so that it was towed in rafts along shore to Shippegan for shipment. This fact brought about a close connection between Shippegan and Pokemouche, and when the Witzel firm failed, Topham, with another son-in-law, Duke, naturally went to settle at Pokemouche and they became the founders of the upper village as I have already related in my paper on that place. Another early English resident was Alexander Cowell, who has left no descendants. Another very early resident of Shippegan, and a grantee, was an Irishman, Patrick Boulger, who was here, as a document shows, in 1804, and apparently