

The next English settler was Samuel Cornwall, who bought 400 acres at two shillings an acre in April, 1803. In July of the same year, he was followed by John Atkinson, who purchased 400 acres at the same figure.

Mr. Hanington opened the first store in Shediac, carried on a varied mercantile business for years, dealing in fish, furs and lumber, the latter being squared pine, which he obtained in Cocagne and Buctouche as well as in Shediac. He shipped the furs and lumber to England and the fish to Halifax and the West Indies. He owned a schooner which was managed by Captain McDougal, of Shemogue, who brought from Halifax English goods and West Indian products, chiefly sugar, molasses and rum.

Until near the end of the first quarter of the 19th century there was only a rough trail to The Bend, Dorchester and Sackville, and there were very few people in these districts. Travelling was difficult, the roads being merely trails through the woods. It was not until 1816 that the Legislature decided to embark on an extensive system of road-making. The first road through Shediac was made by Mr. Welling, who was the surveyor. The first stage coach route between Moncton, Shediac and Chatham was established in the thirties. By 1846 one was in operation between Saint John and Dorchester. In the winter of 1850 John Harshman drove from Shediac to Halifax, and in 1853 Mariner Ayre, who later settled in Shediac, drove from Buctouche to Maine. In the early years wheat was taken in boats to Bedeque, P.E.I., to be ground. The first grist-mill in the Shediac district was built at Grandigue by Marang Gallant, near the site of the present church. Later Charles Boudreau erected one at Barachois (since known as the Dickey Mill). The first saw-mill was built by Samuel Cornwall on the Mugridge property at the brook now known as Scott's, though the late Hon. Daniel Hanington claimed that Joseph Hanington built the first on the South branch of the Shediac river known afterwards as the Marcus Bateman mill.

In the early part of the 19th century several settlers arrived from England and located chiefly at the Shediac end of the roads to The Bend and Dorchester; among these were the Batemans, Elliots, Sowerbys, Hodgsons, Lightfoots and others. They were an intelligent and hard-working people and in many instances their properties are today in possession of their descendants.

A few years later a number of Irish folk took up lands near Shediac, among whom were the Connors, Hennigars and Donovans. The Cape district also increased, a considerable number of the settlers having come from the United States. There were a number of stores and taverns and the wonder is how they all managed to exist. Rum was the favorite beverage and it was freely sold, as some of the old Day Books, which have survived, indicate.

About 1807 Bowen Smith, a Loyalist, belonging to an old New England family, arrived and bought land from John Atkinson. His wife was Ruth Lyon, whom he had married at Kingston, N. B., in 1792. He died at Shediac in 1836 having been the father of four sons