

This was the last important event in which Fort Nashwaak figured. In the following year the Treaty of Ryswick ended the war between France and England, and in the autumn of 1698 Fort Nashwaak was abandoned and its garrison removed to old Fort LaTour at the mouth of the St. John.

THE EARLY POSTAL SERVICE IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

BY LT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK.

Shortly before the close of the war of the American Revolution, General Haldimand, having become convinced of the necessity of securing an overland communication from Quebec to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, caused a trail or footpath to be cut through the wilderness from Kamouraska to Lake Temiscouata, and thence along the Madawaska and St. John rivers to the scattered settlements on the Bay of Fundy. In the summer of 1787, Hugh Finlay, who had been Deputy Postmaster General for Massachusetts before the revolt of that province, was sent by Lord Dorchester, who had succeeded Haldimand as Governor-General, to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to make arrangements for the conveyance of a monthly mail to and from Halifax by this route, as the communication during the winter between Quebec and England, by way of New York, was not considered altogether safe. On October 3rd, Dorchester informed Lord Sydney that Finlay had returned and reported that he had made satisfactory arrangements with the Deputy Postmaster Generals in those provinces for the employment of "foot-messengers" carrying letters. Six mails a year, it was estimated, would pay the expense of the overland route, and as each province advocated the advantages of its own port, he suggested that the mails from England should be sent alternately to Halifax and St. John, until experience should demonstrate which of these ports should be selected as the best. He advised, however, that the New York route should be also used until passable roads for horse-travel could be cut through the woods, and, "to prevent disagreements," recommended that the post-offices should be placed under control of a single official to be known as the Deputy