

was poorly suited for agriculture. The inhabitants gradually deserted the place; and, in a few years, the population was reduced to three hundred. The late George John Furnace Burnham Thomson, a grandson of the Loyalist, has related, in a letter to the author, that his grandfather "built a mansion at Shelburne, tired of it, and returned to Digby."

It is certain that he didn't remain long at Shelburne, for his name appears on the muster roll, or census, of the Loyalists at Digby, taken May 24th, 1784. According to which, the family then consisted of one man, one woman, two children over ten years of age and two children under ten years of age—six in all.

The Book of Proceedings of the Board of Agents for locating Loyalists in Digby, states that Lots Nos. 15 and 16 in Block R on Montagu Row were allotted to Alexander John Thomson, and that there was a house on Lot No. 15 in 1785. And it is recorded in the Crown Lands office, Halifax, that he received grants of farm lots No. 6, of 150 acres, and No. 8 of 140 acres in Block C of Digby Township; and also of water lots near Digby. Besides these grants it is stated that he was offered a large tract of land, extending from Digby Gut to a point beyond Annapolis; but neglected to take out the necessary papers to obtain it.

He did not long inhabit his town house, for, in 1785, he and Thomas Ellis, a cooper, purchased from Patrick McMasters and Daniel McMasters, Lots XVI and XVII, Hoare Grant, Clements Township. These lots are situated at Smith's Cove, opposite Digby, on the southern side of Annapolis Basin, and about a mile distant from Digby. Alexander John Thomson built a house on Lot XVII, where he and his wife lived for the remainder of their lives; and Ellis built a house on Lot XVI. Both houses were near the shore, and about twenty-eight or thirty rods apart. The cellar of the