

which has some features in common with Acadia; a country of marshes from which the sea was kept out by artificial dykes. This fact had a considerable influence on the settlement of Acadia, for the French dealt with the marsh lands of Port Royal in the same manner as they had treated similar marshes in France, and they depended upon them almost entirely for their sustenance. The marsh lands of Acadia were so extensive that they were much more than sufficient to maintain the population for more than a century, and for that reason the Acadians cleared a very limited area of forest land during their long occupation of the country. Acadia therefore remained a land of "forest primeval" until the English began to settle it, about the year 1760.

The sixty families of French who came out under de Razilly and Charnisay were the true founders of the Acadian people; for although other persons came from time to time to the little colony, there was no immigration of whole families, and only four women are known to have come to Acadia after the period of the original immigration, already mentioned. Therefore, although new names appear from time to time in the lists of Acadian settlers, they were merely those of individuals, such as discharged soldiers and transient working men, who had concluded to settle in the country and whose wives belonged to the original Acadian stock. This has given a unity to the Acadian people such as is hardly to be found in any other community, and has caused them to differ very materially, in appearance and otherwise, from the French Canadians of the province of Quebec.

The first census of Acadia of which we have any record was taken in the year 1671, when there were found to be seventy-five families, numbering four hundred and forty-one persons. The largest settlement was at Port Royal, where there were sixty-eight families, numbering three hundred and sixty-three persons. The manner in which these Acadians lived is very clearly shown by the details of this census. They depended largely upon their cattle and sheep. Of the former they possessed eight hundred and sixty-six, or almost two for every man, woman and child in the colony, and of the latter four hundred and seven. They had four hundred and twenty-nine acres of land under cultivation, and had harvested that year four thousand three hundred bushels of grain. It is evident that this statement of land under cultivation could only have referred to the land actually tilled in that particular year, and did not include the land upon which