

EARLY HISTORY OF WINDSOR.

ABOUT the year 1703, the country lying around the hill now known as Fort Edward, and extending along the banks of the river Avon and St. Croix, was settled by a number of French Acadian families, who had come from the settlement "Les Mines," which occupied the lands where the village of Horton now stands.

They cultivated the rich marsh lands in this vicinity, keeping back the waters of the Avon and St. Croix, which flooded them at high tides, by throwing up strong running dykes. These marsh lands, together with their cattle, horses, sheep and swine, constituted the chief source of their wealth. They derived but little profit from the wooded uplands which lay to the south and east of Fort Edward; and, therefore, almost totally neglected them.

To the portion of country settled they gave the name of "Piguit," an Indian word, meaning "the junction of waters," or "flowing square into the sea."

In the year 1714, according to the French census, Piguit had a population of 337 persons; and, again, in 1731 the same district contained 150 families, or about 900 persons, showing, conclusively, the comparatively rapid growth of the centre and the prosperity of the people.

The Acadian French and the Indians were, from the first, very friendly toward each other, and for many years the peace of the country, and good-will entertained between them, remained unbroken. All this had its beneficent effect upon the thrifty French farmers of Piguit. Having nothing to fear from the Indians, they naturally devoted the greater part of their time to the improvement of the soil, which resulted in the wealth and prosperity of the settlement.

During the years between 1731 and 1748, the growth of Piziquid was phenomenally rapid, having, at the latter date, a