

The Loyalist migration of 1783 commenced a new epoch in the history of British North America. It opened up new districts, made additions of population to the older settlements and gave new colonies to the Empire. Nova Scotia was divided into two provinces, one of which retained the old name, which had been given to it in King James' day, and the other recalled the New Brunswick-Lunenburg or Hanoverian line, which had given kings to England. Cape Breton—for the name of Isle Royale disappeared with the fall of Louisbourg—also received a simple system of local government separate from Nova Scotia. Canada was divided into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada. The great proportion of this valuable migration reached and remained in the Acadian Provinces.

In the summer of 1784, Colonel Morse, under the instructions of the government, mustered the Loyalists and disbanded troops who had come into the Province of Nova Scotia, which then included New Brunswick since the Peace. In all there were 28,347 persons, who were found chiefly at Shelburne, Annapolis Royal, Digby, Passamaquoddy, River St. John, Chedebucto, now Guysboro County, Cumberland, and the neighborhood of Halifax. In fact, the present Province of New Brunswick obtained by far the greater proportion of the migration. Many of the Loyalists were scattered in Nova Scotia among the "old inhabitants," chiefly pre-Loyalists, as well as in the islands of Cape Breton and St. John, now Prince Edward. The actual number who came to the Maritime Provinces may be fixed at 35,000 at the least, and these figures are based on the fact that there were 3,000 negroes included in the total of 28,347 persons mustered in 1784. Morse's figures also include 647 disbanded troops, like Hessians and others, who were not Loyalists, but they do not comprise as many people of that class who went to Cape Breton. In view of these facts, there is no doubt that 25,347 may be fairly considered the number of Loyalists who actually settled in the Maritime Provinces. These people have increased to 519,116, if we consider that they have doubled every 25 years since 1783—a standard of increase even less than that of the whole population of Canada from 1790 until 1891. At the same rate of increase the 10,000 in the Upper Provinces would increase to 210,000. Thus the whole Loyalist stock in the Dominion would be 730,000 in round numbers in 1891, or about 1-7th, which, with the stationary population of the Maritime section, would be about the proportion at the present time. And in giving these figures I may add that the exodus of people from the Maritime Provinces and other sections to the United States would very little affect the total number of actual descendants of the Loyalists now in the Dominion. In the first place, the ingrained antagonism of the Loyalists to the United States would materially restrict any return movement on their part. Other considerations affecting them would be, (1) that the Loyalists were