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FALMOUTH - A NEW
ENGLAND TOWNSHIP
IN NOVA SCOTIA
1760 - 1965

BY

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ILLUSTRATED BY CHARLES PAYZANT



WINDSOR, ONTARIO

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CHRONOLOGY - PISIQUID AND FALMOUTH DISTRICT

- 1604 Minas Basin and the Pisiquid River visited by the Father of New France, Samuel de Champlain.
- 1632 Three-hundred settlers from France establish a colony at Port-Royal on the Bay of Fundy.
- 1685 Acadian French settlers establish homes along the shores of the Pisiquid River and at Mines (Grand-Pre).
- 1698 Acadian parish of L'Assomption founded at Pisiquid by a Jesuit missionary named Louis de Thury.
- 1710 A great fire destroyed the entire forest between the Gaspereau and the Pisiquid Rivers.
- 1713 Acadie (Nova Scotia) became British territory under the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht.
- 1714 The French census returns for 1714 identified the Pisiquid district for the first time and reported a total of 337 persons in that district.
- 1722 The Bishop of Quebec divided the Pisiquid district into two parishes - one on the east side of the river - L'Assomption and the other on the west side (Saint-Famille) (Falmouth side).
- 1749 Founding of Halifax, Nova Scotia by English colonists.
- 1750 Captain Gorham's skirmish with Indians at Dugat's (Old Acadian) Bridge at Saint Croix. Gorham's Rangers were volunteer troops from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They were stationed at Fort Edward at different times between 1750 and 1761. Governor Cornwallis at Halifax sent Swiss visitors to Pisiquid to view the country in order to encourage the Swiss to settle in Nova Scotia.
- 6 Sept. 1755 Proclamation of the Expulsion of the Acadians from their ancestral lands announced to Acadians of the Pisiquid district at a special gathering held at Fort Edward (Windsor, N.S.).
- 6 May 1756 Louis Payzant, Huguenot settler at Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County, N.S. was massacred by Indians. His wife and family were carried off to Quebec and held until the fall of that city.
- 10 Aug. 1756 Beginning of the Seven Years War between England and France.
- 16 Aug. 1756 War declared at Pisiquid.
- 23 Sept. 1756 Open hostility of French and Indians towards British forces and settlements. Acadian Church and the priest's dwelling burned at Foret village on the Falmouth side of the river.
- 12 Oct. 1758 Governor Lawrence's proclamation of free lands in Nova Scotia published in the Boston Gazette.
- 21 Jul. 1759 First Falmouth grant became ineffective due to delay in the arrival of settlers for the Minas Townships.
- 1759 Fall of the City of Quebec.
- Nov. 1759 A violent hurricane caused the Fundy tides to rise 6 to 10 feet higher than usual. Many of the Acadian dykes were washed away and great damage was done to the marsh lands.
- May 1760 The first New England settlers arrive in the Pisiquid district.
- 9 June 1760 First Township meeting held at Newport, Nova Scotia.
- 10 June 1760 First Township meeting held at Falmouth, Nova Scotia.
- June 1761 10 acres laid out for a Grist Mill and Dam.
- 21 Jul. 1761 The official date of the Falmouth Township Grant.
- 28 Jul. 1761 Wignal Cole commissioned a Captain-Lieutenant in the King's County Militia.

- 9 Jan. 1762 Chief Surveyor's report on Falmouth: 80 families settled with a total of 350 persons. The inhabitants have imported large numbers of cattle and have cut hay sufficient for supporting them but a great drought during the past summer has "blasted most of their corn."
- 18 May 1762 Sessions of the Peace issued regulations concerning "bake burning" of fallow land. This rule was necessary to protect the woodlands from fires. At the same time a regulation was issued against "stone horses" going at large.
- 31 May 1762 Henry D. Denson commissioned a Lieutenant-Colonel in the King's County Militia.
- 17 Aug. 1762 A resident of the county was convicted of petty larceny and given "39 stripes" by the County Constables.
- 1763 End of the Seven Years War.
- May 1763 Malachy Caigan of Cornwallis opened a tavern at Falmouth.
- Feb. 1764 Two Pounds for livestock were built near the Town Plot and one at the Village on Farm Lot 65 near the County Road. The brand for the Falmouth Township was "F".
- 1764 Windsor set off as a separate township. Influential politicians and military personnel of Halifax were granted lands in the Fort Edward district but their lands were mainly operated by tenant farmers who had come to Nova Scotia with the Ulster-Irish migration.
- 23 Mar. 1765 Falmouth residents signed a petition addressed to Governor Montague Wilmot requesting that the Acadians at Fort Edward be permitted to "remain with us the ensuing summer and to continue to receive the allowance of provisions". The request was granted and the Acadians remained in the county until 1768.
- 6 June 1765 Jacob Brown of Falmouth granted a license to operate a ferry across the Avon River. The ferry had previously been granted to the late James Wilson.
- 1766 Samuel Woodworth granted a tavern license for his House of Public Entertainment at Half Way River (Mount Denson-Hantsport). Good harvests in all the Minas Townships.
- Oct. 1766 George Faesch appointed Justice of the Peace.
- Oct. 1767 John Jasper Driliot charged with "feloniously stealing a ewe lamb from the common flock at Falmouth valued at 10 shillings - against the peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity". The lamb was owned by the Reverend Joseph Bennett.
- 1768 William Sental was operating the tavern at Falmouth.
- 1768 A bridge was proposed for the eastern most fork of the Avon River.
- About 1770 Captain James Cook, the navigator, visited Governor DesBarres at Castle Frederick (Upper Falmouth).
- 1772 The official partition of the Township of Falmouth was made by the Supreme Court. The Township plan is believed to have been drawn up in accordance with this partition.
- 26 May 1772 Falmouth residents assessed for £ 7/10 shillings for the services of Edward Yorke as representative for Falmouth at the Legislative Assembly at Halifax.
- 1775 A Light Infantry Company was formed at Falmouth, Newport and Windsor.

RETURN OF STATE OF FALMOUTH 1770

Name	M	B	W	G	English	Scots	Irish	Amer.	German Acad.	Grist Mills	Wheat
Wm. Aline	3	-	2	2	2	7	7	7	1	1	25
Stephen Akin	2	2	1	2	2	7	4	4			-
Malachy Caigan	1	2	1	1	1	4	4	4			-
Tamerlain Campbell	1	-	1	2	4	7	7	7			50
Constant Church	1	1	1	4	1	6	6	6			17
Wm. Church	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1			-
Wignal Cole	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
John Davison	1	4	2	1	1	8	8	8		1	20
Timothy Davison	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4			13
Henry Denny Denson	8	6	5	3	3	16	16	16			250
J. F. D. DesBarres	42	5	13	33	14	7	7	7	17	10	290
George Faesch	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	70
Terence Fitzpatrick	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benj. Gerrish	-	1	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Levi Irish	2	1	1	1	1	10	10	10			12
Joseph Jess	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4			15
Chr'r Knight	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2			12
John Loveless	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	6			-
Henry Lyon	2	1	1	1	4	4	4	4			10
Edw. Manchester	1	2	1	1	4	4	4	4			-
Peter Manning	1	5	3	1	5	13	13	13			12
Jonathan Marsters	5	2	1	5	-	-	-	-			35
Abel Michener	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	60
Jacob Muller	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	20
Jeremiah Northup	3	2	2	2	2	5	5	5			17
John Potter	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3		1	80
David Shaw	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	12			-
Wm. Shey	2	4	2	4	1	2	2	2			-
John Simpson	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	8			10
Ichabod Stoddard	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	3			10
George Stuart	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	12			12
Jonathan Vickery	1	3	1	1	1	5	5	5			6
James Wilson	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	7			60
Joseph Willson	1	3	2	1	1	8	8	8			100
Thos. Woodworth	2	1	3	2	2	9	9	9			60
Edward Yorke	2	4	2	2	1						

Legend: M - Men, W - Women, B - Boys, G - Girls

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Nov. 1775

All grown men in the Minas townships were required to take the oath of allegiance to the British Crown.

1776

There was great anxiety throughout the Minas Townships caused by raids by American privateers and the threat of invasions by the American forces.

The Castle Frederick mansion house built in 1776.

4 June 1776

At the Sessions of the Peace a regulation was made prohibiting boards, three years old and upward, from running at large between June and December.

6 June 1776

Jacob Brown operated the ferry between Windsor and Falmouth.

4 July 1776

Signing of the American Declaration of Independence.

16 July 1776

Jeremiah Northup appointed Justice of the Peace.

17 Mar 1777

Abel Mitchener appointed Justice of the Peace.

June 1777

Falmouth residents: Jonathan Marsters, William Simpson and Edward Yorke appointed to inspect all droves or flocks of sheep before crossing the Avon River. The rate of 1 penny per head was to be paid to the Falmouth inspector. Drovers were required to carry certificates with details of ear marks and numbers of the sheep sold to the drover. Milner in "The Basin of Minas" states that drovers travelled across the country from Amherst to Parrsboro where they boarded their cattle or sheep on "The Packet" which crossed the Bay to Windsor. From Windsor the herds were driven to the Halifax market.

24 Aug. 1779

Captain Joseph Northup sold a negro slave named Mintur to John Palmer for the sum of £100.

6 Apr. 1779

Henry Aline (1747-1784), son of William Aline one of the Falmouth grantees, was ordained by the New Light Congregational Church of Falmouth as an "Itinerant or Travelling Pastor and Teacher to Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

1780

A Falmouth legend says that Captain Thomas Young built a vessel in the vicinity of Aline Bridge. Falmouth residents called the vessel the "Ark". It was hauled to the salt water by approximately forty oxen.

1780

Five negro slaves sold by the estate of Henry Denny Denson.

2 Jul. 1781

Falmouth, Newport and Windsor split off from Kings County to form the County of Hants.

6 Mar. 1783

The 84th Regiment of Highlanders stationed at Fort Edward.

1783

John Simpson of Falmouth advertised in the Halifax paper that he had garden seeds for sale at Mr. Hall's store located near the Market House at Halifax. Mr. Simpson claimed that the seeds were grown in the Province and he listed the following seeds for sale: carrot, cucumber, cress, onion, beans, sweet fennel, radish, lettuce, leek, sweet william, mustard, catnip, turnip, cabbage and parsley.

1784

Reverend Henry Aline died at North Hampton, N.H. while on a speaking tour.

1785

The first four wheeled wagon was brought to Falmouth by a Mr. Benedict of Annapolis. The event caused great excitement at Falmouth.

1786

In the summer of 1786, a whale appeared in the Avon River. When the tides receded the whale was found on mud flats in the area of the Falmouth Great Dyke. The whale measured thirty feet in length and yielded a great quantity of oil.

30 Nov. 1787

Peter Shey was appointed High Sheriff of Hants County.