

Further north is the brook of Pereau.* In spite of the assertion that Pereau had housed some 50 Acadians, I could find no tradition of French occupation among the oldest inhabitants. There had been no dykes until recently, and the tide had come up above the church. The upper stretch of the brook was promising though dykeless, a treeless pasture with massive stretches of Canada thistle. The brook entered at the north side and swung around the head of the pasture under the slope of an overlooking escarpment. The obvious places for houses were beside the brook. At the northwest,

the roadside shrubs changed abruptly to choke-cherry, native hawthorn and hazel. No cellar could be found but, where the brook met the road, there was a rubble of stone which might have come from a cellar or might have been part of the road construction. The southward escarpment was lined with spruce except at one place where again hawthorn, choke-cherry and wild black cherry alone remained. Behind it was a slightly sunken rectangle, 20 x 15 feet, rather large for a poor Acadian house, so perhaps a more recent shed.

Two such houses, if they were houses, would account for less than one-third of 50 inhabitants. Perhaps the term "Pereau" may have covered the area as far as Whitewaters at the foot of Blomidon. Most of the coves along this shore show French willows, caraway and sometimes comfrey, which suggests fishing families or shipbuilders, though nothing is certain.

extracts from pages 38 & 39

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a historical, archeological and botanical survey
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December 1975