



*Wormwood*

Acadians brought plants from France and cultivated them along with certain native ones. Some of the more common trees now found about the old homesites are Lombardy Poplar, Black Cherry, Beaked Hazelnut, Choke-cherry, French Willow and English Oak. At least seven types of apple trees were introduced by the Acadians. Among the commonly grown flowers, shrubs and herbs were Motherwort, Sweet Brier and Bouncing Bet. The shrub, Daphne, was also introduced. It persists today and has not spread far from the Acadian settlements. Look for it growing wild south of Grand Pre, in the White Rock area and in Pereau. They also introduced the Red Fly Honeysuckle. It is common in Kings County, occurring at New Minas, Grand Pre, and at the site of a tidal mill on Elderkin Brook in Kentville. Hyssop, a herb

brought here by the Acadians, is found today in Nova Scotia only in an outwash pasture of Curry Brook near Wallbrook. Other plants common today in Kings County that were first introduced by the Acadians include Wormwood, Chicory, Slender Vetch, Caraway, Hops and Tansy. Initially, these plants were used for medicinal and culinary purposes.

The Pereau settlement, named after the governor, Francis-Marie Perrot, extended as far north as Blomidon, and had an estimated population of 50 persons. Fishing was likely the major occupation since the land around the river shows no signs of dyking. Possible dwelling sites have been found west of the cemetery in Upper Pereau, and cornerstones of what is believed to be an early Acadian house are present along the Border Brook Trail in Blomidon Park.

The Acadian population along Habitant Creek numbered about 75, but no remains of Acadian cellars or dykes have been found. A large population also prospered along the Canard River where seven sites, including a blacksmith shop, have been found. There were also orchards and cellars at Upper Dyke but these have now been destroyed by farming. There may have been an Acadian windmill on the higher ground along Church Street.

The New Minas area was settled in 1720 by settlers from Grand Pre. The tidal marsh was extremely rich and soon the settlement was large