

GUIDE TO

FORT ANNE

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL N.S.

CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS

HISTORIC SITES

1922

58

Guide to Fort Anne

Annapolis Royal
Nova Scotia

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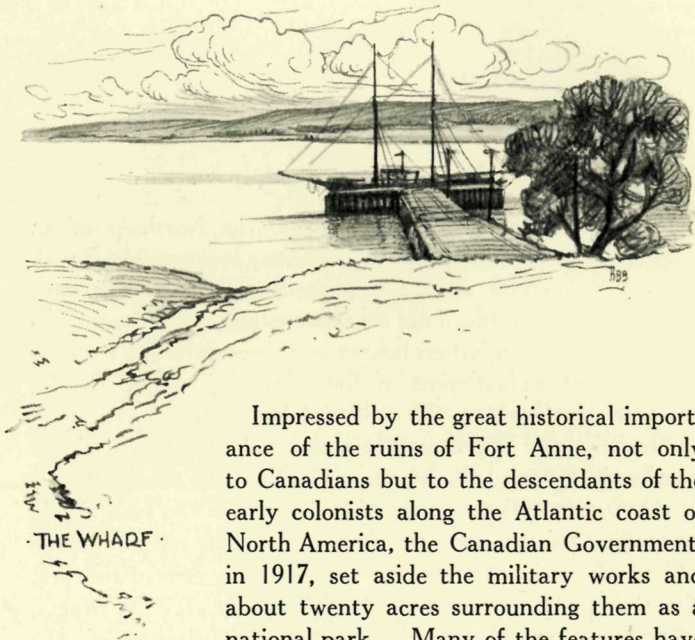
H. S. No. 4.

A WISE nation preserves its records, gathers up its muniments, decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead, repairs its great structures, and fosters national pride and love of country, by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past.—JOSEPH HOWE.

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F all the historic sites on the North American continent that at Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, is undoubtedly one of the most notable, if not the most notable. Before the Pilgrim fathers landed at Plymouth Rock a thriving village stood on the shores of the bay of Fundy, the first ships built on the continent had unfolded their sails to the winds of the broad Atlantic, and the waters of the nearby river turned the wheels of the first mill constructed in North America; the pioneers of agriculture in the New World had reaped the first harvests of cereal and roots taken from the soil of Canada, while the surrounding hills echoed the first notes of poetic song heard in British America. De Monts, Champlain and Poutrincourt, the early founders of the colony, had passed on to other spheres when the Mayflower landed its precious cargo on the Massachusetts coast, but in later years it was from this colony that Nicholson was to draw support in the action that resulted in the final taking of Port Royal. Vetch, Mascarene, Howe and others followed Nicholson, and their names are indelibly interwoven in the early history of Nova Scotia. Port Royal, too, saw the departure of the Acadians in the Expulsion of 1755, the event so strikingly pictured in Longfellow's *Evangeline*.



THE WHARF

Impressed by the great historical importance of the ruins of Fort Anne, not only to Canadians but to the descendants of the early colonists along the Atlantic coast of North America, the Canadian Government, in 1917, set aside the military works and about twenty acres surrounding them as a national park. Many of the features have been restored while others have been added so that the park is one of the most interesting spots in the East. Thousands visit it each season and the numbers are growing every year.

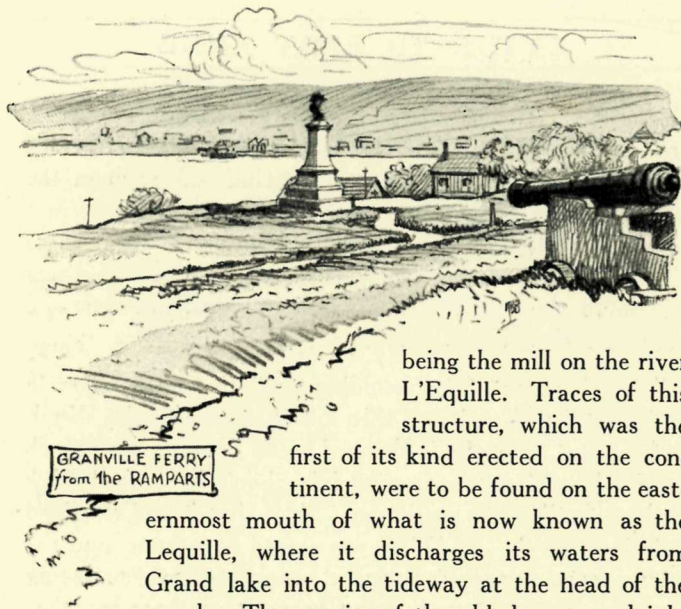
The fort and its surrounding works date back to 1604 when de Monts, Champlain and kindred brave spirits were sent out from France to found a colony in the New World. Just a little over one hundred and twelve years after

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Christopher Columbus landed in the West Indies the intrepid French explorers entered the bay of Fundy and later founded the first white settlement north of the Gulf of Mexico on the Granville shore of the bay. The exact location of the first fort and colony is in doubt and few historians agree as to where it stood. However, it is generally conceded that it was a little to the east of Goat island, on what was later the site of the Scotch fort, 1621-31.

From the time of its founding until the capitulation in 1710, Port Royal, as it was then known, experienced a chequered career. Six times it changed hands between the French and the English before General Nicholson's forces from New England finally took possession. Since then it has remained under British rule. In 1713 it was named Fort Anne and the nearby town, Annapolis Royal, in honour of the then reigning sovereign, Queen Anne. Some years later the guns that manned the ramparts were taken to England and were afterwards replaced by pieces from the battery used at Digby Gut in the war of 1812-14.

The first blood spilt in the long and bitter struggle for the possession of Port Royal and Acadia took place in 1613 when Captain Argall headed an expedition from Jamestown, Virginia, the seat of the first English colony in the New World, against the French settlement. The labour of nearly ten years was put to the flames, the only building left standing



being the mill on the river L'Equille. Traces of this structure, which was the first of its kind erected on the continent, were to be found on the easternmost mouth of what is now known as the Lequille, where it discharges its waters from Grand lake into the tideway at the head of the marsh. The remains of the old dam were plainly visible a few rods down the stream from Dargie's mills.

Following the disaster of 1613 many of the inhabitants returned and rebuilt their homes and continued to inhabit the country until the arrival of the Scotch settlers sent out by Sir William Alexander in 1621. The newcomers took possession of the Granville shore and rebuilt the French fort. The Acadians, thinking it unsafe to remain at Port Royal, moved to Cape Sable where they built a temporary house of defence known as Fort St. Louis. The fort erected by

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Alexander's colonists, which is commonly called the Scotch fort, was situated four miles in a direct line from the site of the second French fort and guarded the northern or main channel.

Ten years later King Charles I revoked the grant given to Alexander with instructions "to demolish the fort that was builded there by your son and to remove all the people, goods, ordnance, ammunition, cattle and other things belonging to the colony." Seventy families were in the first British settlement and it is learned that all but one family of seventy settlers perished on the shores of the basin of Port Royal from scurvy, sickness, and attacks by Indians during the following winter. In 1632 Acadia passed back into the hands of the French.

The second fort of Port Royal was erected by Charles de Menou, Seigneur D'Aulnay de Charnisay, in 1633 or 1634. D'Aulnay came to Acadia with Isaac de Razilli, the new Governor, as Lieutenant Governor, while Charles Amador de la Tour was named in a like capacity. After the death of Razilli, D'Aulnay razed the fort and moved some forty colonists from Laheve, the seat of Razilli's government, to Port Royal, founding a settlement on the present site of Annapolis Royal. Differences soon arose between the two lieutenant governors and open war followed, la Tour being banished from the province, only to return as governor on D'Aulnay's death in 1651.

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Major Robert Sedgewick headed an expedition from New England in 1654 and captured Port Royal. However, in 1667 the Treaty of Breda again placed the country under French rule. In 1680, Port Royal had again to succumb to British arms. No particulars are available as no fighting occurred but it is certain that the continuance of this English occupation did not last long for LaVallière is styled by Frontenac in 1682 as "Commandant of Port Royal." The year 1690 witnessed the capture of the old fort for the fourth time, Sir William Phipps effecting it at the head of an expedition fitted out at Boston. Piratical craft pillaged the town a few months later. Returning to Port Royal in the fall of the same year, Villebon, the French Governor, found the British flag still flying but no soldiers around. He later took possession of the country in the name of the King of France.

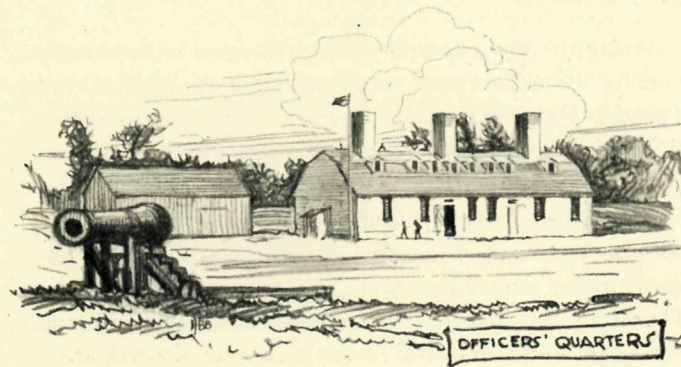
Two unsuccessful attacks were made by New England forces in 1704 and 1707, respectively, but the final action in 1710 resulted in the passing of Port Royal and Acadia into British hands, but not as before, to pass from their rule by treaty or conquest.

Fort Anne Park includes portions of the French fort that was completed in 1705 with the additions made by the British forces after its capture five years later. The third and last fortification erected during the French occupation was nearly square, the earthworks measuring 250 feet across

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the quadrangle, with bastions projecting approximately towards the cardinal points. The Western bastion was round, while the other three were square on the Vauban plan. In the middle of the curtain on the landward side is a covered masonry sally port. This was the main entrance where the surrender of 1710 took place and through which the evacuating troops left the fort. Three of the curtains were confronted by a ravelin. Outside of this was an extensive moat which came within fifty or one hundred feet of the water while beyond were breastworks for riflemen.

Only traces of these works remain but the Officers' Quarters, erected on the site of the old French barracks by the British, are still standing. The powder magazines in the Bastion de



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Berry and the Bastion de Burgogne have also withstood the ravages of age, although half buried in the embankment. The ancient blockhouse, which stood on the Bastion Dauphin, supplanting the bakehouse and smith's forge which occupied that position at the time of its capture, and the storehouse in the Bastion du Roy have all disappeared.

Fort Anne Park is situated at the entrance to the Annapolis Valley amid scenes of the greatest natural beauty which, united with its historic interest, make it exceedingly attractive to the summer tourist. Every historic spot in the grounds unmarked by ruins, is noted for the benefit of visitors by small sign posts set out each season. Following the main pathway through the Park practically every point of interest may be viewed.

Among the first things of interest observed on entering the Park is the shaft raised to the memory of Lieut.-General Timothé Pierre du Guast, Sieur de Monts, the pioneer of civilization in the New World. This monument, set as though de Monts were there himself to receive the visitors, was placed by the Canadian Government in 1904, the tercentenary of the discovery and exploration of the Annapolis river and of the founding of the first white settlement in North America. The motto thereon reads, "Genus Immortale Manet, Multosque Per Annos"—the immortal line in sure succession reigns.



Before reaching de Monts' monument, the visitor passes between two old field guns used in the 1885 Rebellion, Louis Riel's last effort to found a half-breed republic in the Northwest.

Fifty yards farther along the path the visitor reaches a sundial of New Hampshire granite erected in 1918 in memory of George Vaughn, who served as a volunteer under General Nicholson in the expedition for the reduction of Port Royal in the ninth year of the reign of Queen Anne, 1710, and who was afterwards, 1715-17, Lieut.-Governor of his native colony of New Hampshire. The motto on the dial proper is the Scotch proverb, "Time tries a'."

Following the path for a short distance, we reach a point from which the visitor may look down over the embankment on the ruins of the second fort of Port Royal, built about

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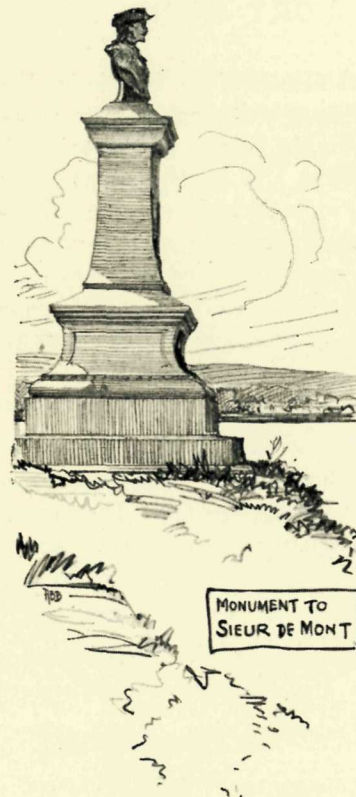
1633 by D'Aulnay, and demolished sixty years later to make way for the more extensive defences, the ruins of which still remain. The rock and timber foundations of the bastions of D'Aulnay's fort may still be seen.

Retracing our steps and crossing the bridge leading to the inner fort, having hitherto been outside the ramparts, we begin the tour of the more interesting historic features. On the left is the Bastion Dauphin, which at the time of the fort's capture contained a bakehouse, smith's forge and a platform for cannon. After the evacuation of 1710 the bakehouse and forge were removed to make way for a square oak timber blockhouse, capable of holding sixty men, for the defence of the bridge. In turn, the blockhouse was replaced by the present bandstand.

The well on the right was sunk by the French and was their main source of fresh water supply during a siege.

Proceeding on our way, the first building encountered on the left, marked "Artillery Shed," was erected by a local volunteer artillery company about one hundred and twenty-five years ago.

The prominent building adjoining is the "Officers' Quarters," built about 1798 by order and largely under the personal supervision of the late Duke of Kent, the present reigning sovereign's great grandfather, when he was Commander-in-



are open during the week from 9-30 a.m. until noon, and from 2-30 to 4-30 in the afternoon. On Sunday the building is open to visitors from 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Chief of the British forces in North America with headquarters at Halifax. It is a quaint building with three tall chimneys and thirty fireplaces and stands on the site of the earlier French barracks.

The building is being used for administrative purposes by the honorary superintendent of Fort Anne Park. A rapidly growing collection of curios and objects of historic interest in connection with Fort Anne is kept in one of the rooms and is open to visitors on week days from 2-30 to 4-30 p.m., and on holidays and Sunday afternoons by appointment, free of charge. The other parts of the "Officers' Quarters"

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Many of the features and buildings of the fort during the French occupation and at the time of its capture have disappeared, the only remnants being the powder magazines which occupied the Bastions de Berry and de Bourgogne. The former is at the extreme right, while the latter is at the furthest end of the Park. Both of these are open to visitors from 9-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. every day and may be freely entered and examined. The arch that still supports the bomb-proof roof of the Bastion de Berry was built of Caen stone, brought from France in 1708. The original French door is also still to be seen, supported by one French and one British hinge.

The French guns, taken with the fort in 1710, were transported to England twenty years after the fall. The cannon now seen in position on the ramparts are British and bear the monogram of George III. They belonged to a battery established at Digby Gut during the war of 1812-14.

Further particulars may be obtained from the honorary superintendent, who is always glad to see visitors and answer questions.

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Other historical features in Annapolis Royal:—

Memorial tablets on the Royal Bank building and gateposts of the Lighthouse lot.

The King's Prayerbook and memorial tablets in St. Luke's Church.

Memorial of the first baptism in Canada and other objects of interest in St. Thomas' Church. There is on exhibition in the library of the church, the room to the left of the entrance, the book from which Mass was said for the Acadians before and at the time of the Expulsion. A scrapbook gives particulars of the objects of interest in the church, including the old Missal. The doors of this church are always open.



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PRINTED AT
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
OTTAWA, CANADA