

at Sheet Harbour and the Tusket River near Yarmouth. But the earliest settlements, those of the Acadians, were on the marshlands. Other early Nova Scotian settlements tended to be chosen for their harbours, in order to exploit the fishery, for defence, or to service surrounding agricultural lands -- Halifax, Lunenburg, Digby, Annapolis and Canso, to name a few. The marshlands, resettled by New Englanders following the expulsion of the Acadians, and the port communities each supported life-styles different from the timber rivers of New Brunswick.

Settlement patterns were both the cause and the result of ways to make a living. The effects of work in the woods had been reported or dramatized by local writers as early as 1821.⁴⁸ As in Thomas McCulloch's *The Stepsure Letters*, "those who cleared land, developed their farms and lived on them were [considered] the real producers; those who tried to make quicker incomes by trading"⁴⁹ or working in the woods were criticized. Many reports stressed the neglect of agriculture.⁵⁰ Heavy drinking and dissipation were reported by moralists of the period, who concentrated on the intemperance of the lumbermen, but glossed over the 35 to 40 per cent interest charged by the merchants for outfitting them on credit by a system of "open accounts."⁵¹ The detrimental effects of lumbering on the moral and physical well-being of the lumbermen and the lure of quick money from "a stick of timber" have been detailed by many writers.⁵²

"Excessive drinking became a serious social problem in Nova Scotia after 1794." Since "every 'class of society' habitually used rum" and any wedding, funeral, barn raising or similar occasion was "used as an excuse for consumption," many individual families, especially the wives, were exposed to extra hardship and

48 Graeme Wynn, "'Deplorably Dark and Demoralized Lumberers'? Rhetoric and Reality in Early Nineteenth-Century New Brunswick," *Journal of Forest History*, 24, no. 4 (October 1980), 182, quoting from Thomas McCulloch, *The Stepsure Letters* (Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1960).

49 Thomas McCulloch, *The Stepsure Letters*, introduction by H. Northrup Frye (Toronto, 1960), pp. iii-v.

50 A.R.M. Lower, *Settlement and the Forest Frontier in Eastern Canada* (Toronto, 1936), pp. 31-37.

51 Samuel Delbert Clark, *The Social Development of Canada, An Introductory Study with Select Documents* (Toronto, 1942), p. 154. MacNutt, "Politics of the Timber Trade," p. 125.

52 See for example, S.D. Clark, *Social Development of Canada*, p. 111; Alexander Munro, *New Brunswick with a Brief Outline of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island* (Halifax, 1855), p. 313.