

## **The Waldeck Settlement in Nova Scotia**

By Brian McConnell, UE

Nova Scotia's only monument to any group of Germans who settled in the province is located in a rural area of Annapolis County. On the corner of the Purdy Road and the Waldeck Line Road, a few kilometres East of Bear River, is located a Cairn which marks the Waldeck Line Road and remembers the men of the Waldeck Regiment who fought in the American Revolution on the side of the British and afterwards came to Nova Scotia to settle.

The Cairn was erected as a community project and sits in front of a building which was originally the West Waldeck School, a one room school, that later became the Waldeck Community Center.(1) It is now owned privately. A plaque mounted on the side of the Cairn reads:

**“THE WALDECK LINE”**

**SETTLED IN 1783 BY A MERCENARY REGIMENT  
FROM PROVINCIAL WALDECK GERMANY, ENGAGED BY  
BRITAIN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.  
LAND GRANTED BY GOVERNOR PARR OF NOVA SCOTIA**



**Waldeck Line Cairn**

After fighting the Rebels in the War of American Independence, men of the Waldeck Regiment were given lands in Annapolis County. Sir Guy Carleton, the British Commander in New York, arranged for each man who had served to receive land. The Waldeck Regiment was one of several Regiments made up from men of several German principalities which agreed in return for a financial arrangement to go to North America and support the British. Over 30,000 Germans fought in the conflict, although fewer than 1,500 were from Waldeck. The largest number were natives of Hesse and others were from Anhalt - Zerbst, Brunswick and Ansbach - Bayreuth.

Sir Guy Carleton requested that Governor John Parr of Nova Scotia find lands for 26 soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Waldeck Regiment who departed New York on July 30, 1783. Captain Christian de Molitor, representing a group of approximately 100 privates and officers from various other German Regiments, on August 3, 1783, requested passage to Annapolis Royal and permission to settle with the former soldiers of the Waldeck Regiment.

A settlement block of 11,050 acres was authorized by Governor Parr in the Township of Clements, Annapolis County, on the eastern side of the Bear River. After the Waldeckers were settled, Carleton became aware that they were in experiencing hardship and came to their assistance. On October 28, 1783, writing to Brigadier - General Henry Fox who commanded the British forces in Nova Scotia, he noted:

**“Governor Parr mentions that twenty - three Waldeckers fixed near Annapolis are destitute of clothing; if you find them in distress, and likely to suffer from the severity of the winter, you will order a suit of provincial clothing to be given to each of them....I have directed that such corps as settle in a body should be considered as entitled to the same utensils and necessaries as the British American corps placed on the River St. John’s.” (2)**





The Waldeck Settlement did not last very long. Within 15 years of their arrival most of the Waldeckers had departed from the area. The reasons for this included the isolation of the area and poor quality of the land for farming. Some left for Upper Canada, others the United States, and a few managed to find more suitable land in the area. An exception who remained was Dr. Frederick L. Bohme who practiced medicine there for over 30 years. By his Will he left a bell and silver service of communion plates to the Old St. Edward's Loyalist Church at Clementsport where he was buried in the cemetery as pictured below. His gravestone reads:

*" In  
Mem ory of  
FREDERICK L. BOHME  
who departed this life  
Oct. 19, 1831  
In the 80 year of his age*

*Rea der consider how poor a span  
And how uncertain is the life of man  
And while you read the state of me  
Think on the glass that runs for thee"*



**Gravestone of Dr. Frederick L. Bohme**

Notes:

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(1) See List of Schools in the Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Education, 1950, as accessed April 22, 2020, at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/directory-of-public-schools/Directory%20of%20Schools%201950.pdf>

(2) Sutherland, Maxwell, “ A Case History of a Settlement” as accessed on April 21, 2020 see: [https://dalspace.library.dal.ca/bitstream/handle/10222/62624/dalrev\\_vol41\\_iss1\\_pp65\\_74.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://dalspace.library.dal.ca/bitstream/handle/10222/62624/dalrev_vol41_iss1_pp65_74.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

(3) Muster Roll at Bear River, Nova Scotia on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 1784.

(4) Deed dated April 1, 1790 and recorded April 9, 1803 in Book 12 at Page 357 in the Registry of Deeds for Annapolis County, Nova Scotia.