The Story of the Fultz Family

Johann Andreas Fultz is believed to be the first member of the Fultz family to settle here. He arrived on board the Speedwell in 1751. Passenger records list Johann as having no dependents. Some mystery still exists as to what happened to Ephrosina Scharen, his first wife, and his son Florent. A plausible scenario has Ephrosina dying after childbirth, or perhaps she did come to Nova Scotia after Johann's arrival and died shortly after.

Johann disappeared from public records until 1758. Rather than follow his fellow foreign Protestants in the settling of Lunenburg in 1753, he appears to have settled in Louisbourg, a Catholic stronghold at the time, just as the fortress falls in 1758. Records show that Johann was married with two children. Elizabeth, his wife, and the children, Lawrence and Anthony most likely settled along the Mira River.
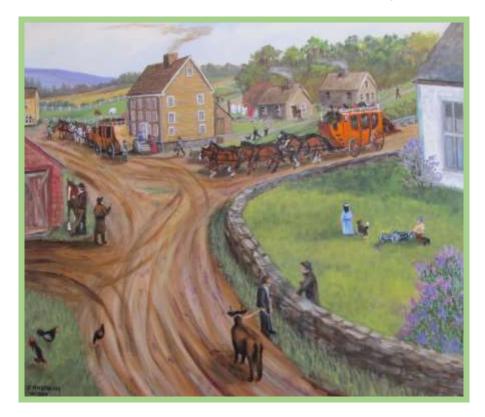
A land grant was registered to Johann Fultz in Sackville in 1773 in the amount of 500 acres, which stretched from the Windsor Road to Beaver Pond in Windsor Junction today. It would be through later grants and purchases that would see the Fultz family throughout the Sackville Valley. Johann died in 1801.

The Fultz family identified themselves to be farmers, but in actuality they led diverse and interesting lives, being credits to their trades. Some members of the family worked as blacksmiths, wheelwrights and ironworkers.

The Fultz women were always active community-minded residents. Elizabeth Fultz watched out the windows of the family homestead the rounding up of Acadians for deportation at the "old red house," which was opposite the Fultz property. She too understood their pain and suffering, as they shared a common religious bond. Another family member by the name of Frau Fultz was often seen carrying samples of her cooking to the French prisoners.

William Fultz, the son of Anthony Fultz, began operating the famous Twelve Mile House by 1814. The two-and-a-half story wooden structure
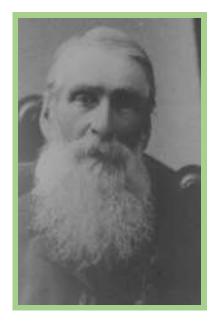
housed a forty-foot long by twenty-foot wide ballroom. The inn was a distance from Halifax, but close enough for sleighing parties and summer vacation. Once the stagecoach line ran through Sackville, the inn was a bustle with visitors. Joseph Howe, the father of responsible government and the Earl of Dalhousie, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia from 1816 to 1820, frequented the establishment. It burned to the ground in 1890.

The above art, painted by Jean Watson, depicts Fultz Corner, where the stagecoaches ran alongside a traditional stopping place, the Twelve Mile House. The white house on the right was Bennett and Mary's Fultz's property, which later became the home of the Fultz House Museum.

William Beresford Fultz bought the property opposite the inn in 1856. By 1858 Bennett Daniel Fultz (pictured below with his wife, Mary Fultz) purchased the property from his cousin. A twenty-by-twenty house was built by 1865; as his family grew, the house expanded in size to accommodate his wife, Mary, and their eight kids, Winifred, Annie, Jane,

Mary, Francis, George, Herman and Thomas. Bennett, with his brother George, operated a carriage shop on the property.

It was with great sadness that Bennett died in 1910. Until her death in 1928, Mary operated a post office from the kitchen window of her small house. The house stayed in the family until the death of their daughter Jane Emily Fultz in the 1940's.

Above is a water colour painted by Jane Emily Fultz showing the Sackville River as she remembered it while living in Montreal in the

early 1900s. It shows the moon over the area where the Little Sackville River flows into the Sackville River. Emily had attended the Truro Normal School and later resided in Montreal.

Photo of the painting courtesy of Darryl Spidell.