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I was asked, as a museum curator, to give an outside view of some future directions for Planter Studies.

1. I would suggest that one future direction in which to look would be across the Atlantic Ocean. My voice has already told you that I am not a native Nova Scotian. Yet I can assure you that I am of Planter stock — but my Plantation is located where England tried out its early experiments in colonization — Ireland — and the plantation to which I refer is the Plantation of Ulster.

Within the wide context of English plantation policies in the early part of the seventeenth century consider this — that the Plantation of Ulster occurred after the sudden departure of the two leading native princes, the Earl of Tyrone and the Earl of Tyroconnell — on 3 September 1607; the event known as the “Flight of the Earls.” With them departed the Gaelic civilization of Ulster. The estates of these fugitive Earls were of vast extent. These abandoned lands were declared to be forfeited to the Crown and the colonization of the territory by English and Scottish settlers — the Plantation of Ulster — began.¹

There are parallels in this plantation and the circumstances of the Planters of Nova Scotia. Documentation of the Ulster plantation exists in the form of period maps, population census and schemes of plantation.² As well as written records, these English and Scottish Planters left an architectural legacy of town-plans, “Planter’s Gothic” churches and farm houses, as evidence of their material history. These, and the units of settlement called townlands, the primary unit of land division, merit a comparative study with the Planters of Nova Scotia.

2. A second future direction for Planter Studies would be to look downward, below the ground. I would suggest that an archaeological excavation of a Planter site should be considered. In 1983 the Nova Scotia Museum sponsored an excavation of two Acadian pre-Expulsion houses at Belleisle, Annapolis County; the excavated specimens of building materials and artifacts from this site have considerably extended our study and interpretation of Acadian culture.

An archaeological field survey of Planter sites could lead to the excavation of domestic sites. The artifacts obtained, compared with other

1 See Sir Arthur Chichester, original version of his “Notes of Remembrances Concerning the Plantation of Ulster,” MSS.N2.2. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. In *Analecta Hibernica*, No.8, Paper presented by T.W. Moody.

2 Gilbert Camblin, *The Town of Ulster* (Belfast, 1951), 117-119.

sites and combined with the documentary history, could provide a more complete history of the Planters.

3. A third direction for future study would be to look for surviving artifacts, above ground, of the Planter period. We have heard much in this conference of the written sources of information about the settlement and their agricultural methods. But there is further evidence, in the study of the vernacular architecture and artifacts associated with Planter families.

One of the earliest collections of historic artifacts formed in Canada was made in the 1860s by a Planter descendant. She was the eldest daughter of Thomas Chandler Haliburton and her interest was to find what she described as "Specimens of China Brought to the Colonies by Early Settlers." As the daughter and the wife of a Judge, Mrs. Weldon was socially well-placed to approach descendants of early settlers, like herself, to ask them for "specimens" for her collection. She visited over 200 such families and formed a collection of over 400 items which she later gave to King's College, Windsor. This collection, and her manuscript notes listing the families, have survived for over 100 years in the King's College Library.

In New England, I searched to see if a similar collection of specimens of New England settlers' effects had ever been collected from old established families — and indeed it had. Like Mrs. Weldon's this collection had been presented in the 1880s to Princeton University, where it was used for teaching purposes in the 1890s. From a vault were brought for my inspection, the notes of provenance, written by William Cowper Prime, in the period 1858-1880 when he formed this collection.

A study of such surviving artifacts with histories of ownership, along with material yielded from archaeological sites, would combine to increase our knowledge of the material culture and conditions of life of the Planters.

Finally, a word about the word "Planters." Literally, a plantation refers to the placing of plants, particularly young trees. Figuratively, the term was used in the early seventeenth century to refer to the settlement and colonization of North America and forfeited lands of Ulster. When was the term Planters used in Nova Scotia?³

3 Debra McNabb, personal correspondence, courtesy of Elizabeth Mancke indicates that the term "Planters" occurs in the Minutes of the Executive Council, 18 April 1759. Public Archives of Nova Scotia, RG 1, Vol. 188.