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Description: William Allen's essay about Norridgewock and Father Rasle (1657-1724)

## Norridgewock.

This place derives its name from an Indian word signify ing "smooth water between falls"; as it is situated on the Kennebeck between Madison and Scowhegan falls... It is considered one of the most beautiful places in the State, the scenery around is truly delightful, The broad "still-breasted" Kennebeck wending its way course to the bay where 'the bright waters meet," now expanding its smooth surface where the banks are low and rich intervales, on rushing with more impetuosity where its stream is confined by steep banks and the channel interrupted with rocks- the gently sloping hills covered with a heavy growth of timber of exhibiting patches of cultivated ground and the village on the banks of the river ornamented with trees and surrounded by the green hills all conspire to render the peace truly beautiful. The appearance of the village as you approach it is very pleasant. The road winds along the bank of the Kennebeck. On the opposite side of the river, the highlands in some places approach the stream with bold and rugged banks covered with trees and tangled shrubbery, in other places they retire in gentle slopes and exhibit proofs of cultivation. The spire of the village church just peers above the green trees clustered around it as if to guard it from profaner eyes you first come upon the burying ground, and surely a [torn] beautiful place could not be selected for the resting [torn] of the dead; all is silent and still and still around, The [torn] glides by in its noiseless course, and the trees that serve yard, sigh their mournful requiem over the dead. consists of about forty houses, meeting House, Court H[torn]

The prover fac street extending through willage is straight, und is lined on wither side witharow of fine elms - There is but very little business currieds on in this place; as the brade which it formarte had it now discreted to other placed about is wiles above the village on the river is Innin Old Proced, This is a smooth and Summer intervale of povite The would of Sandy Kines - It was here Hat the Abennymins a priverful budion tribe had placed their envantements Oley satted the name of their village Nanransonack - In the odeage of this brave people, were considered the most warlite and intelligent of the Indiand lived Gather State. Here had this devoted eatherie made himself a home in the solitade of the facest, and remained with them for thirty score years; from AB 1683 to 1720), We have acquired a come plete knowledge of their language and outtours, and be his elequence he obtained an actorishing influence over their minds , He possepect a perfect command over their affections, was regarded as their Spiritual director run loved as their father; - I shapel was built and dedicated to the Hole Virgin, in which they were artembas morning and vening to low their devotions - Booty Indian you the clothen in our places officiated in the solomon ceremonics of their mark, which was conducted with all the some of callier tion. Whe becour of their real was kept constantly slive e spleadown of their celebrations, and pomp of their prosep-Chatter Rice accompanied them in all their evand sampathised with their in all their privation, in fluence he encintained over their minds the entirely fin the interest of the Boweh of course

The principal street extending through the village is straight, and is lined on either side with a row of fine elms— There is but very little business carried on in this place; as the trade which it formerly had is now diverted to other places-

About six miles above the village on the river is Indian Old Point, This is a smooth and sunny intervale opposite the mouth of Sandy River - It was here that the Abenaquis a powerful Indian tribe had placed their encampment. They called the name of their village. Nanransouack. In the village of this brave people who were considered the most warlike and intelligent of the Indians lived Father R^alle Here had this devoted catholic made himself a home in the solitude of the forest, and remained with them for thirty seven years, (from A.D. 1683 to 1720.). He had acquired a complete knowledge of their language and customs, and by his eloquence he obtained an astonishing influence over their minds. He possessed a perfect command over their affections, was regarded as their Spiritual director and loved as their father, - A chapel was built and dedicated to the Holy Virgin, in which they were assembled morning and evening to pay their devotions. Forty Indian youths clothed in surplices officiated in the solemn ceremonies of their worship, which was conducted with all the pomp of catholic [torn]otion. The fervour of their zeal was kept constantly alive [torn] splendour of their celebrations, and pomp of their process-

Father R^alle accompanied them in all their ex-[torn]s and sympathised with them in all their privations, [torn]nfluence he maintained over their minds, they [torn] entirely in the interest of the French, of course