

Trading

Although the Acadians were remarkably self-sufficient there were some things they could not make or grow themselves, and for these needs they established trading links with New England and with other French settlements. Molasses, cooking pots, broad axes, clay pipes, gunpowder, fabrics, and rum came from New England. Through Louisbourg they obtained cottons, thread, lace, firearms and religious items from France. The Acadians were fond of smoking (both men and women smoked): their clay pipes came mostly from England, although at times they did fashion their own, using local red clay. In return for these items, the Acadians traded grain from their fertile reclaimed marshlands, cattle well-fed on salt-marsh hay and furs they had obtained from trapping and trade with the Micmac. The objects illustrated in this painting represent artifacts recovered from Acadian archaeological sites or listed in the inventories of ships that actually traded with the Acadians.



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