

NEW BRUNSWICK
SCOTTISH WEB PORTAL



EDITOR: PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH CONTEST WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2013 AT THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK AT 2 - 2:30 PM.

COSTUMED MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATIONS WILL BE PRESENT FOR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY.

Who Was The First Scot in New Brunswick?

(Fredericton, NB - January 21, 2013) - The pioneering Scottish lumberman, shipbuilder and politician, William Davidson, was barely 25 years old when he settled near Miramichi in 1765. Davidson is generally credited with being the first Scot to settle in New Brunswick, but was there a Scot who came before him? If you know the answer and think you can prove it, you could win a \$500 contest prize or an IPAD2 being offered by the New Brunswick Scottish Web Portal.

A press conference to announce the details of the contest and featuring the great-great-great-great-grandson of William Davidson, Mr. Brad Sturgeon of Fredericton, will be held at 2 pm, Thursday, January 24, 2013 at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

The Scottish Web Portal is an initiative of several Scottish cultural organizations in partnership with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. The Portal will be a virtual showcase of all things Scottish in New Brunswick and has been in development for more than two years.

One of its major features will be a searchable 1851 and 1861 census, focussing on Scottish born immigrants to the province. Other highlights include searchable land grants and teacher's petitions, passenger lists, family and community histories as well as publications, oral history interviews, and membership lists from the various Scottish organizations dating back to the settlement of the province in the late 1700s.

Dan Taylor of New Maryland is chair of the Web Portal Committee. He says the mystery of who was the first Scottish person to settle in New Brunswick is one that has never been fully addressed by historians, probably because Davidson's impact on the Miramichi area has been so well documented and because Scots often self-identified as "British".

"The archival evidence is indisputable that Davidson was the first Scot to settle in Miramichi," Taylor says "but it is hard to believe that no other Scottish-born person made his or her way to this area before 1765. Even the Irish are known to have been in Acadia as early as 1608," he says.

Knowing the Scottish propensity to exploration and discovery, Taylor says the Committee feels certain that somewhere out there is a family member, genealogist, historian or researcher who can help solve the mystery of the first Scot to settle in New Brunswick.

Contest details are available on the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association website at www.nbscots.ca The contest runs from Robbie Burns Day, January 25, 2013 through to St. Andrews Day, November 30, 2013. The winner will be announced on December 13, 2013.

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