



## Press Release

EDITOR: This is the press release announcing the winner of the “Who Was The First Scot in New Brunswick contest”.

### Who Was The First Scot in New Brunswick?

(Fredericton, NB – December 11, 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? The New Brunswick Scottish Portal Project launched the contest “Who Was the First Scot in New Brunswick?” on January 24, 2013 asking the help of the general public to answer that question. The contest ran from Robert Burns Day (January 25<sup>th</sup>) to Saint Andrew’s Day (November 30<sup>th</sup>). The person or persons who provided proof of an individual or family who moved from Scotland to New Brunswick prior to 1765 would receive either a \$500 contest prize or a tablet. On January 24<sup>th</sup> 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, was held at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

The Scottish 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 the Scottish settlement and experience in New Brunswick and has been in development for more than two years.

One of its major features will be a searchable database of the 1851 and 1861 census, focusing on Scottish-born immigrants to the province. Other highlights include searchable land grants and teachers’ 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.

The advisory committee for the project received three entries for the contest from around New Brunswick. However the winner clearly was the submission received from Chris Robbins of Hanwell, New Brunswick. Mr. Robbins submitted documentation proving that Andrew Forrester, a Scottish military officer connected with the settlement of New Scotland (1629-1632), located at Port Royal, came to the mouth of the Saint John River in 1632 capturing the French Fort there. Ever so briefly, Andrew Forrester was in what would become New Brunswick in 1632. With that entry from Mr. Robbins, William Davidson has been de-throned and Andrew Forrester now wears the crown as the first Scot to come to New Brunswick. To learn more about Scottish Portal project please visit [www.nbsots.com](http://www.nbsots.com)

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The New Brunswick Scottish Portal Project is a committee of the New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association. The committee is overseen by an advisory Board consisting of representatives from around the province. To learn more about the New Brunswick Scottish Portal Project please visit [www.nbscots.com](http://www.nbscots.com)