



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

"In the thistle's shadow, violets grow stronger."

Press Release #329

New Brunswick Celebrates Tartan Day April 6th, 2004

Wherever they went throughout history, Scots have adapted very well to their new countries, but seldom forgot their heritage. If anything, these expatriates have held onto their cultural traditions more enthusiastically than Scots living in Scotland.

In 1993, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick issued what is known as the "Tartan Day Proclamation" in recognition of the major role Scottish emigrants have played, and will continue to play in the development of the Canadian and New Brunswick identity. As a result, April 6th was declared Tartan Day in the Province of New Brunswick.

The impact of Scots on the development of Canada and its Provinces is remarkable. If we accept the claim that Prince Henry Sinclair sailed from the Orkney Islands and landed in what is now Nova Scotia in 1398, or that Scottish sailors accompanied the early Vikings who landed in Newfoundland in 1010, the influence of Scots may be greater than previously imagined.

Scotland's documented history with colonization of New Brunswick began in 1621 when King James I granted all lands between the St. Croix and Cape Breton to Scottish poet and nobleman Sir William Alexander whom quickly went about developing our region into a Scottish colony. Renamed "Nova Scotia" or "New Scotland," the St. Croix was renamed the "Tweed", and the St. John River became the "Clyde." The southern peninsular area was renamed "Caledonia" and the northern region (modern New Brunswick) was the barony of "Alexandria." In 1629, the capital, Charlesfort, was constructed at the junction of the Annapolis and Allain Rivers, current site of Fort Anne National Historic Site. Sadly, the colony was vacated when New Scotland was ceded back to France for political reasons in 1631.

In the latter 1700's and early 1800's, successive waves of Scottish immigrants established themselves in New Brunswick. Many were Loyalists fleeing persecution in the new republic to the south. Others came for the King's Bounty. Rural farming communities such as Glassville

(Carleton County) and Kincardine and Lerwick (Victoria County) were settled by hundreds of hopeful Scots with the promise of free land in New Brunswick.

After the turn of the nineteenth-century, as Scotland continued to industrialize, many Scots found themselves here, taking advantage of the New Brunswick's burgeoning lumber and timber trades. With dreams for a better life for themselves and their children, they brought with them their strong values, culture and undying work ethic. Towns and villages across the province speak to their arrival such as Dalhousie, Balmoral, Rothesay, Ben Lomond and many more.

Today in the Province of New Brunswick, one of every five residents (20%) are proud to make a claim to Scottish heritage. Each year, cultural events such as Saint Andrew's Day (November 30th) and Robert Burns Day (January 25th) are celebrated by hundreds loyal New Brunswick Scots. In addition, our Province rivals all comers with several excellent annual Scottish Festivals and Highland Games such as the Gathering of the Scots Festival (May) in Perth-Andover, the New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival (July) in Fredericton and the Miramichi Scottish Festival (August) in Miramichi City.

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association encourages all NB Scots to "make a statement" this Tartan Day. Dust off those kilts and pin on your tartan as a showing of your proud Scottish heritage!

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