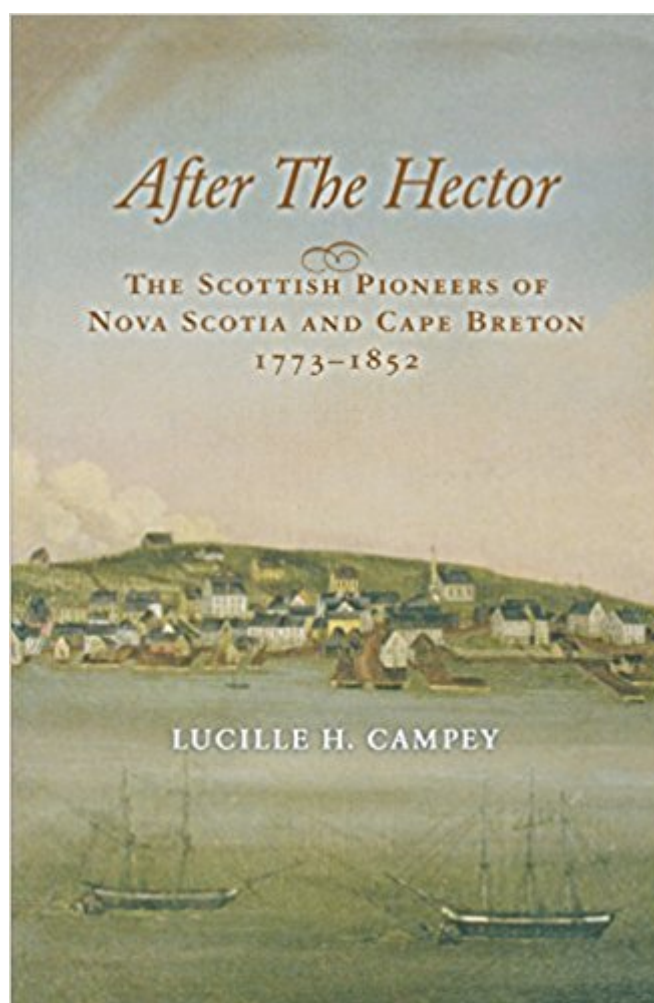


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After The Hector: The Scottish Pioneers Of Nova Scotia And Cape Breton, 1773-1852



Synopsis

This is the first fully documented and detailed account, produced in recent times, of one of the greatest early migrations of Scots to North America. The arrival of the Hector in 1773, with nearly 200 Scottish passengers, sparked a huge influx of Scots to Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Thousands of Scots, mainly from the Highlands and Islands, streamed into the province during the late 1700s and the first half of the nineteenth century. Lucille Campey traces the process of emigration and explains why Scots chose their different settlement locations in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Much detailed information has been distilled to provide new insights on how, why and when the province came to acquire its distinctive Scottish communities. Challenging the widely held assumption that this was primarily a flight from poverty, After the Hector reveals how Scots were being influenced by positive factors, such as the opportunity for greater freedoms and better livelihoods. The suffering and turmoil of the later Highland Clearances have cast a long shadow over earlier events, creating a false impression that all emigration had been forced on people. Hard facts show that most emigration was voluntary, self-financed and pursued by people expecting to improve their economic prospects. A combination of push and pull factors brought Scots to Nova Scotia, laying down a rich and deep seam of Scottish culture that continues to flourish. Extensively documented with all known passenger lists and details of over three hundred ship crossings, this book tells their story. "The saga of the Scots who found a home away from home in Nova Scotia, told in a straightforward, unembellished, no-nonsense style with some surprises along the way. This book contains much of vital interest to historians and genealogists." - Professor Edward J. Cowan, University of Glasgow "A well-written, crisp narrative that provides a useful outline of the known Scottish settlements up to the middle of the 19th century avoid[s] the sentimental victim & scapegoat approach to the topic and instead has provided an account of the attractions and mechanisms of settlement." - Professor Michael Vance, St. Mary's University, Halifax

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Customer Reviews

Most of the information can be found elsewhere. I would have preferred more of a separation between the events/people in Pictou County and those on Cape Breton. While chapter headings are clear, the contents of each chapter is too much of a blend between the two settlements. Also found that sometimes the research presented led the author rather than the other way around. I disagree completely with the author's reasoning as to why the early immigrants left Scotland, but that is just my opinion. However, the end materials were well presented, particularly the data on the ships used to carry the immigrants. And I do very much appreciate the efforts of the author to find and include that data - almost all of it NOT found elsewhere.

Offers some very useful new insights to the story of Highlander emigration to Cape Breton and elsewhere in Nova Scotia. But it is annoyingly redundant; it badly needs an editor's hand to clean up the text. Still, it's worth reading for those investigating C.B. Genealogy.

Much of my family is "Scotch" (as my grandmother would say) and comes from Pictou County, NS, so finding a book that describes the early immigration experience was a delight. It's well written and describes the Pictou and Cape Breton experience, explaining some of what I've observed (such as the development of Catholic and Presbyterian sub-regions) and the conditions on both sides of the Atlantic. I'm glad to recommend it.

I will admit that I haven't finished the book. I visited Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island and bought the Kindle version for background. It was more involved than I was willing to tolerate for vacation

reading, but that's my own failing. I'm sure that if I were doing research on the topic of emigration to NS, or genealogical research on families in the province, I would find this an invaluable resource. In that case, I'd probably want to have the hard copy version.

This work reads well, though it gives due attention to the abundant number of specifics that include people, places, and causes. Fascinating reading.

This book offers a detailed report on the 351 crossings of Scottish boats bringing some 20 or more thousands of their people to a sort of entrepreneurs promised 200000 acres of land in Nova Scotia's Pictou area which eventually became Pictou County of fame. The crossings of the sea in ridiculously small boats crowded with families, of various size, single people and children, hundreds and more passengers per boat which reached Pictou, Halifax, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island. Deaths during crossings were by the hundreds due to epidemics of smallpox etc. There was also a home based religious connotation/quasi rivalry involving Catholics and Protestants. The promoters of the immigration movement which lasted some 60 years were inevitably dishonest to some extent and the phenomenon is described in the readings. This is a relatively most informative book about the saga of a people who had to move out of their home country as the outcome of a long standing rift between the English and the Scots where the former had emerge as, in fact, lords of the Scottish lands, and forced the original tenants to leave their properties, The book describes Canada's landing regions as quite unbefitting for family living due to harsh climate and forested lands barely adaptable to crops activities. This book very effectively shows a picture of tragic hardships encountered by an extremely valiant and hardy Scottish People, who surmounted, the problems in spite of numerous deaths of children and adults while faced with extreme medical, physical and financial dangers. It is a proud fact that they so quickly became a going concern as a remarkable and special Canadian people. A superb book of little known historical value to the academic realm on North America.

Book seems little more than a summary or synthesis of ship manifests and land titles. Very dry book. What of the lives of the people during this period? I would not recommend this book on Nova Scotia history.

This book continues the useful information in Dr. Campey's earlier book on PEI Immigrants. I haven't read it yet, but I know it will provide lots of useful information

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