

“The Scots of Pictou: Our Scots.”

During the years 1773 to 1803, Pictou was inhabited by Scottish Highlanders that were adamant on reviving the Scottish way of life that was taken away from them after the loss of the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Scotland was separated into two sections, the Highlands and the Lowlands. According to the list of passengers from the ship Hector that came in 1773, it can be stated that the Scots that immigrated to Pictou were all Highlanders, all hailing from in and around Inverness. Pictou became the home of many brave and vigorous clansmen that fought for Scottish independence such as Fraser, MacDonald, MacKay, MacKenzie, MacLeod, MacLean, and Sutherland as well as several others.

Before these Highlanders boarded the Ship Hector, they were promised farmable land, open fields for homes, and supplies for settlement. They were unfortunately disappointed when they arrived to meet a land of virgin forest. The Scots were unphased by this, the ones who decided to stay that is. Around sixty of the original 189 Scots that came on the Hector left Pictou and moved further inland to the Truro and Halifax areas.

The Scots that had stayed adjusted to the tasks ahead of them and began preparing the land for farms and their homes soon after arrival. Farmers and Sawyers is what came of most of the Scots of Pictou and stayed that way until the mid-1830s.

When the town of Pictou was becoming an established town, more occupations were developed. According to general census reports of the 1830s, the descendants of the first Scots brought to Pictou Shoemakers, Tailors, Blacksmiths, Wrights, Merchants and many more. The young Frasers and MacLeods went on to be Tailors and Shoemakers; The MacDonalds and Sutherlands became Merchants, Shipwrights, and Wrights, and the MacLeans, MacKays, and MacKenzies stayed farmers.