



SCOTLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA

400th ANNIVERSARY OF BARONETS OF NOVA SCOTIA Events - 30 June and 1 July 2025



400th Anniversary – The year 2025 is the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Baronets of Nova Scotia. A series of events, organised by Kirk of the Holy Rude, the Standing Council of the Baronetage, and the University of Stirling, will reflect on this and the early attempts to colonise Nova Scotia.

History – In 1621 King James VI granted Sir William Alexander of Menstrie, a Royal Charter of the Lands of Nova Scotia. Sir William sent out ships in 1622 and 1623 to plant a colony in Nova Scotia, which were unsuccessful, leaving Sir William in debt. In 1625 the King founded the Baronets of Nova Scotia. Each Baronet paid 1000 marks ‘for his past charges’ and 2000 marks to pay for future colonisation (£166-13-4d sterling), being granted 16,000 acres in Nova Scotia. A further ship was sent out in 1629, establishing a colony at Port Royal, which was closed in 1632, when Nova Scotia was ceded to the French by the Treaty of St Germaine.

Monday 30 June 2025 – Conference at University of Stirling



The Conference examines the connections between Scotland and Nova Scotia over the centuries. The provisional programme is:

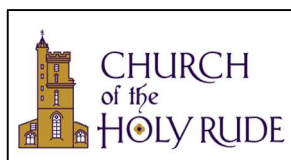
- The Baronets of Nova Scotia’s involvement with the 1622/3 and 1629 attempts to colonize Nova Scotia
- The 17th Century Nova Scotia colonial enterprise in the context of attempts to colonize the Americas.
- 18th & 19th century migrations to Nova Scotia
- Indigenous Peoples, displacement and dislocation in and around Nova Scotia
- Fishing and trade with maritime connections to North America

Monday 30 June 2025 evening – Reception in Stirling Castle



The Standing Council of the Baronetage is hosting an evening reception in Stirling Castle marking the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the Baronets of Nova Scotia.

Tuesday 1 July 2025 (am) – Church Service, Kirk of the Holy Rude



The Kirk of the Holy Rude, Stirling are holding a service to commemorate Sir William Alexander of Menstrie, Earl of Stirling, who is buried in the Kirk yard and his connections with Nova Scotia. There will be a lunch nearby after the service.

Tuesday 1 July 2025 (pm) – Visit to Menstrie Castle, Baronets Room

The Baronet’s room displays the coats of arms of the early Baronets’ of Nova Scotia.

[NB: The Programmes etc. may change]