

Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival ^[1]

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Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival

by Wiley J. Williams, 2006

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The Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival, held in [Fayetteville](#) ^[6] on 19-24 Nov. 1939, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Scottish Highlanders in the Cape Fear Valley as well as the 150th anniversary of North Carolina's ratification of the [U.S. Constitution](#) ^[7], the cession of the western lands that became Tennessee, and the chartering of the [University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill](#) ^[8]. Dignitaries including [Governor Clyde R. Hoey](#) ^[9] spoke at the festival, but its lasting legacy was that playwright [Paul Green](#) ^[10] wrote *The Highland Call*, ^[11] the second of his outdoor "symphonic dramas," for the occasion. The play dealt with the Scottish settlement in the Cape Fear Valley and was a blend of history, music, spectacle, and social commentary. A second Scottish festival was held from 14 Oct. to 2 Nov. 1940, but despite ongoing interest in [Cumberland County](#) ^[12]'s Scottish heritage, the festival did not remain an annual event, being overshadowed by similar festivals elsewhere in the state.

References:

Emily Ann Colandson, *Scottish Highland Games in America* (1986).

John A. Oates, *The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear*(3rd ed., 1981).

Additional Resources:

The Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival, City Auditorium, Fayetteville, N.C., Souvenir Program, Second Autumn Season, October 14-November 2, 1940: http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cape_Fear_Valley_Scottish_Festival_C.html?id=y17FMAAACAAJ ^[13]

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Authors:

[Williams, Wiley J.](#) ^[18]

Origin - location:

[Fayetteville](#) ^[19]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[20]

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[11] <http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/10904.html>

[12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/cumberland>

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