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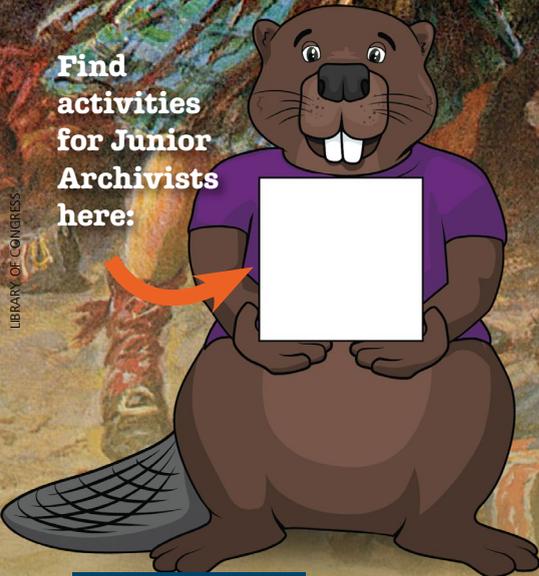
YORK

# archives Jr!

WINTER 2026



Find activities for Junior Archivists here:



## The Black Watch in New York

The "Am Freiceadan Duch" or Black Watch at Ticonderoga by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, 1895-1913

CM 2000.25.2, CHAPMAN MUSEUM

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Society of Colonial Wars  
In the State of New York

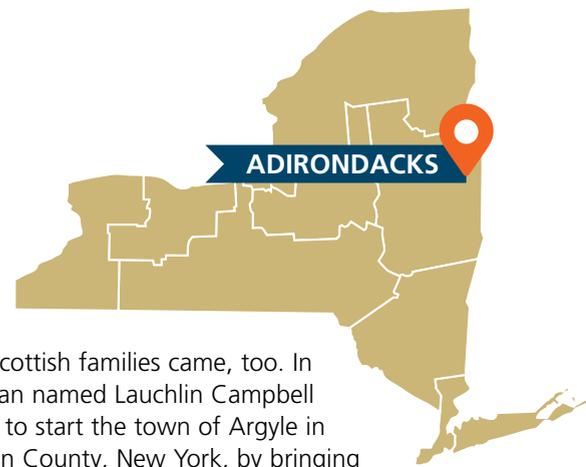
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ConsidertheSourceNY.org



# From the Highlands to the Adirondacks



In the 1700s, a series of rebellions broke out across Scotland. In response to these uprisings, the British government made rules to stop Highland traditions. In 1725, the Black Watch was created to help keep peace in the Highlands. Because they worked for the British Army, they were able to keep their kilts, bagpipes, and language. This helped protect their culture.

In 1756, the Black Watch came to North America to fight in the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War). They were sent to New York, where they fought in the battle at Fort Carillon (later renamed Ticonderoga) in 1758. Even though many soldiers were hurt or killed, the Black Watch showed great bravery.

After the war ended in 1763, the British government gave land in New York to many soldiers instead of money. From 1764 to 1775, around 100 Black Watch veterans were given land in the Champlain Valley, near the Adirondack Mountains. Some of them built homes and farms in places like Crown Point. Others sold their land or were pushed off by squatters. During the Revolution, some of the Black Watch had their land taken away because the Patriots thought they were loyal to England.

Other Scottish families came, too. In 1737, a man named Lauchlin Campbell attempted to start the town of Argyle in Washington County, New York, by bringing over families from Scotland. Because the government took a long time to grant ownership of the land, Lauchlin died before a land grant was issued to his children in 1763 and the other families in 1764. In 1773, another leader named William Johnson invited about 400 Highlanders to settle in the Mohawk Valley, where they could live freely and practice their traditions again. These Scottish settlers brought their traditions with them. They wore kilts, played bagpipes, and held Highland games, which included music, dancing, and sports like tossing heavy logs called cabers. They also kept speaking Gaelic and passed down stories from Scotland.

Even today, you can find towns in the Adirondacks with Scottish names. For example:

- Argyle is named after the Scottish region of Argyll.
- Dundee and Inverness are names that come from places in Scotland.
- Glens Falls includes the word "glen," which means "valley" in Scottish Gaelic.
- Loch Sheldrake uses "loch," the Scottish word for "lake".

Today, people in New York still celebrate Scottish culture. There are parades, festivals, and Highland games all over the state. Thanks to the Black Watch and other Scottish settlers, their traditions are still alive and enjoyed by many people.



## Gnaw on This

- Bagpipes were once called "instruments of war," but in New York, they became part of celebrations.
- The first Highland games in the US were held in New York in 1836 and included tug-of-war, dancing, and tossing big logs called cabers.
- In 1859, New York created the 79th Infantry Regiment, a group of soldiers who wore kilts in parades to honor their Scottish heritage—even though they wore regular uniforms in battle.
- Highland games are still held across New York today—from Long Island to the Finger Lakes—celebrating Scottish culture with music, dancing, and sports.
- About 200,000 people in New York State claim Scottish heritage.

## Community Connections

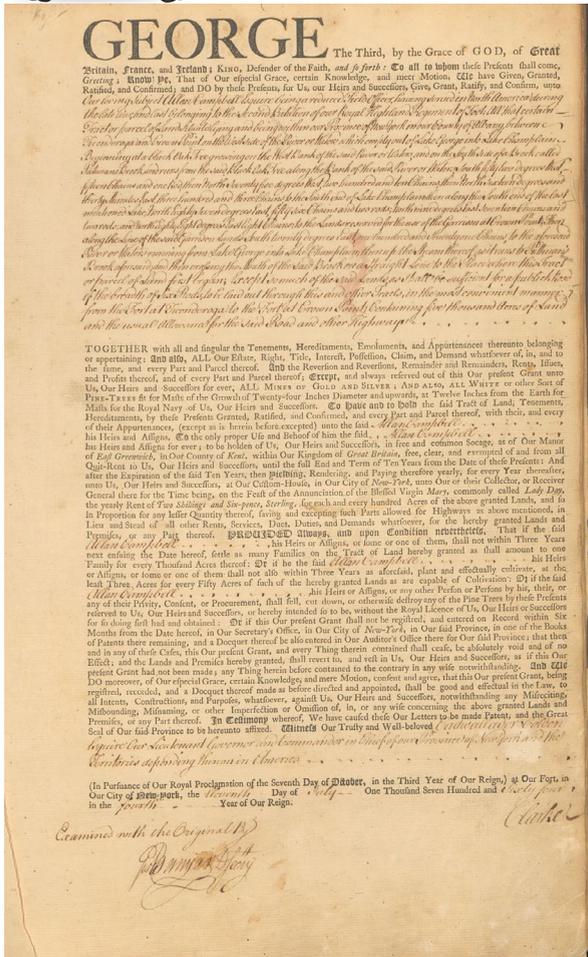


- **Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York**, New York City. Founded in 1756, the Society is the first organization to help Scots in need in New York. [standrewsny.org](http://standrewsny.org)
- **New York Caledonian Club**, New York City. Begun in 1856, the club welcome Scots, Scottish Americans, and people who are interested in celebrating Scottish culture and heritage. [nycaledonian.org](http://nycaledonian.org)
- **The Black Watch Historic Marker**, Glens Falls. [hmdb.org/m.asp?m=9561](http://hmdb.org/m.asp?m=9561)



# Take a Closer Look

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_



Source: New York State Archives

Archie loves to explore different types of documents. The document to the left is a land patent, an official document issued by a government to grant ownership of a parcel of land. It can tell us who gave the land and who received the land and why. This is just one of many land patents issued to members of the Black Watch. You can take a closer look at it on ConsidertheSourceNY.org: [considerthesourceny.org/document/land-patent-allen-campbell](http://considerthesourceny.org/document/land-patent-allen-campbell)

Below is a partial transcript from this document, which was written in 1764. Spelling and capitalization rules were not the same then as they are now, so some of the writing may look incorrect to you.

GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth: To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greetings; Know Ye, That of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, We have Given, Granted, Ratified, and Confirmed; and DO by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, Give, Grant, Ratify and Confirm, unto *Our loving subject Allan Campbell Esquire being a reduced Field Officer, having served in North America during the late War; and last belonging to the Second Batalion of our Royal Highland Regiment of Foot; All that certain Tract or parcel of Land Situate lying and being within our Province of New York in our County of Albany, between Ticonderoga and Crown Point, on the West side of the River or Waters which empty out of Lake George into Lake Champlain...*

**Directions:** In the transcribed text above, underline the information about the location of the land in yellow.

From what Archie learned in this land patent, he can start to look for other documents that might give him even more information. For example, if he wanted to learn more about the service of the person who was granted the land he could research information about his military unit.

Today, Archie wants to learn more about where the land was that the person was granted. He was able to find a map from 1779 at the Library of Congress. It shows the land patents. You can see that map here: [considerthesourceny.org/document/chorographical-map-province-new-york-north-america-divided-counties-manors-patents-and-townships-exhibiting-likewise-all-private](http://considerthesourceny.org/document/chorographical-map-province-new-york-north-america-divided-counties-manors-patents-and-townships-exhibiting-likewise-all-private)

Take a closer look at the map. Using the information from the transcript above, can you find the land this person was granted?

Archie was able to learn quite a bit from this document. Now it's your turn. Use the transcript to help you answer the questions below.

1. Who granted the land?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who received the land?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did this person receive the land?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What group did this person serve in?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Learning Activity

When people immigrate to the US, they often settle together to share their common heritage and culture. If you look at the map Archie found in the “Take a Closer Look” section, you will see that much of the land near Allan Campbell was also granted to other Scots. We can infer this because many of the family names (surnames or last names) are known to be from Scotland. Scots settled in other areas of New York State as well.

Immigrants often start organizations to help others who arrive from their country. The Saint Andrew’s Society of the State of New York is one of these organizations. It began in 1756. To learn more about this organization, check out their website: [standrewsny.org/page/WhoWeAre](http://standrewsny.org/page/WhoWeAre)



Use the information from the website to complete the table below. Under each heading, fill in what the organization offers.

Charity	Fellowship	Scholarship

Organizations like the Saint Andrew’s Society want to help keep Scottish culture alive. One way the Society does this is through the New York City Tartan Day Parade, where those of Scottish ancestry wear tartans and share dance, music, and other parts of their culture. Tartans are considered by many to be a part of Scottish identity.

A tartan is a patterned fabric made of intersecting horizontal and vertical lines of different colors. Another name for this type of pattern is plaid. Certain patterns have come to represent family clans, regions, or organizations.

This is the Black Watch tartan. The members of the Black Watch wear this tartan to represent themselves.



Using colors and a piece of paper, create your own tartan pattern using horizontal and vertical lines that are perpendicular and parallel to each other to create a pattern. Choose colors that you feel represent you and your family. On the back, explain your design.