

## **Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Wiley J. Williams, 2006

See also: [Highland Scots](#); <sup>[2]</sup>[Argyll Colony](#) <sup>[3]</sup>; [Scottish Settlers](#) <sup>[4]</sup>; [Highland Games](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

The Cape Fear Valley Scottish Festival, held in [Fayetteville](#) <sup>[6]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, the cession of the western lands that became Tennessee, and the chartering of the [University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. Dignitaries including [Governor Clyde R. Hoey](#) <sup>[9]</sup> spoke at the festival, but its lasting legacy was that playwright [Paul Green](#) <sup>[10]</sup> wrote *The Highland Call*, <sup>[11]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[12]</sup>'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](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cape_Fear_Valley_Scottish_Festival_C.html?id=y17FMAAACAAJ) <sup>[13]</sup>

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[UNC Press](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

### **Authors:**

[Williams, Wiley J.](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

### **Origin - location:**

[Fayetteville](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

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

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

[13] [http://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Cape\\_Fear\\_Valley\\_Scottish\\_Festival\\_C.html?id=y17FMAAACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cape_Fear_Valley_Scottish_Festival_C.html?id=y17FMAAACAAJ)

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