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THE FIRST COURTS AND EARLY  
JUDGES OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

READ BEFORE THE NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
NOVEMBER 25, 1874.

BY J. W. LAWRENCE, PRESIDENT.

IN organizing the Historical Society to-night, our object is to supply one of New Brunswick's wants. At the preliminary meeting, held a few weeks ago, you delegated to me authority to fix the time for organization. I should have called you together before, but my desire was to have an historic day for that event. The 22nd of this month—the anniversary of the formation of the Government of this Province—is the one I should have preferred. Its falling on a Sunday necessitated the adoption of another day. I have, therefore, chosen this, the 25th November, one of the Red Letter days in the New Brunswick calendar, for on it, ninety years ago, our Supreme Court of Judicature was established.

The paper before me I offer as the first contribution to our Historical Literature. To ourselves it may possess little that is new; but to those of a generation hence it may be otherwise, for historic papers, often like the works of the old masters or ancient coins, grow in value with age.

The Province of New Brunswick at one time was the County of Sunbury, Nova Scotia. It had two members—Charles Morris, jr., Deputy Surveyor General, and James Simonds, of Portland Point. Mr. Morris must have been a gentleman of much influence in his day, for in 1761 he represented Kings in the second Parliament of Nova Scotia, and to the third was again returned for the same