

Determined to Prosper

The History of Sussex & Studholm Agricultural Society No. 21

In the spring of 1841 a group of farmers from the Sussex, New Brunswick area met to discuss better ways to improve farming and encourage agricultural developments in their community.

People who envisioned a rural society characterized by a strong social hierarchy and a farm sector governed by efficiency and industry. Their plan was to improve farming both in the Sussex area and throughout New Brunswick.

From this meeting Sussex & Studholm Agricultural Society no. 21 was born with the goal to "encourage agricultural development through innovative farming techniques, advances in agricultural sciences, provide members with purebred livestock, hold fairs and plowing matches and reward exceptional performance in farming practices."

Author David L. Bent has captured their story, as well as that of rural life in New Brunswick and Canada in a delightful read. You'll learn about the Society's successes and frustrations, and follow their story from their beginning during the mid 19th century until today.

But first and foremost, *Determined to Prosper* is the history of the oldest Agricultural Society in the world. The story of people who throughout the last 170 years have worked together determined to own and control their destiny.

The Atlantic Co-operator

David Bent is a PhD. Candidate in Canadian history at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. His field of study is rural and agricultural history in Nova Scotia from the late nineteenth to the mid twentieth century. He has received a Bachelor of Arts, with honours, from Acadia University in 2002, and a Masters of Arts in History from the University of New Brunswick in 2004. Originally from Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, he comes from a long line of farmers and co-op members.



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- David L. Bent

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The story of Sussex Co-op, the oldest Agricultural Society in the world.



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