



## Daughters of the Diaspora Bursary Series 2024

### The Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary

**A bursary to encourage New Brunswick youth to educate their minds, be of service to their community, and passionately follow their dreams.**

*We are working against the loss of our cultural memory; against the consequences of institutional oppression; against indiscriminate and flagrant appropriation; and against the courts of public opinion that question our authenticity, maturity, and motives in the revolutionary act of clarifying and owning our own past. --- Michael W. Twitty, The Cooking Gene, page 404.*

First and foremost, the Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary is offered to commemorate the short and (seemingly) tragic life of **Miss Elizabeth “Betty” Middleton**. Secondly, this bursary strives to reduce the economic burden of young and studious New Brunswick citizens pursuing their higher academic and/or technical aspirations.

One of many New Brunswick black women whose modest biography has been negatively and systemically impacted by the toxic intersection of race, poverty, caste and gender, the existence of Elizabeth Middleton and her ancestors has been expunged from the overall settler narrative of New Brunswick. The Daughters of the Diaspora Bursary Series initiative is but one attempt to remedy this fact.

Born January 19, 1936 in Saint John, **Elizabeth Middleton** was a child resident of the South End and lived on Prince William Street in her late teens. After the untimely death of her mother and the inability of her father to take care of her, Elizabeth and a few of her younger siblings became wards of the state for the first time. They were refused admission into Saint John’s Protestant Orphanage and were later sent to Nova Scotia where they became wards of the **Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children**. This situation replicated itself for many of New Brunswick’s poor, black/mixed-raced, neglected and orphaned children. The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children operated from 1921 to 2015, initially as an institution for Black children who were not welcome in mainstream orphanages. Many residents of “the Colored Home” experienced neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse. According to one former resident of the black

orphanage, “Betty was a happy, fun-loving young girl before she went in. I guess she wasn’t as strong as some of us.”



According to her younger sister, at age 18, Elizabeth Middleton aged out of the childcare system and was returned to Saint John. Shortly after that she was admitted to the Provincial Hospital where she would remain until her death at age 25.

Ironically, sometimes with loss there is opportunity. This bursary is part of a reclamation project to find, preserve, revive, and share our history “from the bottom up”. In a world where “cult of celebrity” continues to be the norm, it is important that we, as a people, highlight lesser-known to unknown members of New Brunswick’s historically Black citizenry. History is not just nostalgia. It is infinitely much more important than that. The preceding biography is also part of a series of old and newer narratives of forgotten girls and women of African-New Brunswick descent that will hopefully encourage others to go back and retrieve our past and make it available today to kith and kin as a source of inspiration.

## The Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary

**Value:** One (1) \$500 award is available.

**Deadline:** Nominations must be received no later than July 31, 2024.

### Who is eligible?

This bursary is available to any person of African-New Brunswick descent and/or any person (regardless of race) who can demonstrate a proven interest in the history of Black people in the

province of New Brunswick, as well as an involvement in, and dedication to the ideals of inclusion, equity, and social justice.

The applicant must be between the age of 17 and 25 and beginning or continuing their undergraduate studies or technical training in the upcoming school year.

**No individual can nominate himself/herself/themselves for the award.** A knowledgeable individual, school, youth group, community group, sports organization, etc., must nominate someone for this award.

### **What is the selection criteria?**

Applicants will be judged on the basis of their athletic accomplishments, community involvement (especially with respect to civil and human rights), as well as scholastic achievement in the previous 24 months.

### **How often is this bursary awarded?**

The goal is to award the **Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary** annually. However, the donor reserves the right to distribute this bursary on a more or less frequent basis as funding permits.

**Note: This award is not renewable.**

### **How do you apply?**

Please download the nomination form below and complete each section. Email a completed copy of the **Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary** Fund Nomination Form to Mr. Kenneth Scott at [bubbasquirt23b@gmail.com](mailto:bubbasquirt23b@gmail.com)

The subject line must include the nominee's last name, first name and the name of the bursary.

For additional information, please contact:

Mr. Kenneth Scott

Tel.1-647-200-3671    Email: [bubbasquirt23b@gmail.com](mailto:bubbasquirt23b@gmail.com)



# Daughters of the Diaspora Bursary Series 2024

## Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary Nomination Form

Name of the person you are nominating for this Award:

Age of the applicant:

Applicant's Address:

Applicant's Telephone #:

Applicant's Email Address:

School or institution the applicant currently attends:

School or institution the applicant plans to attend in September 2024:

Has the applicant's acceptance for September 2024 at this school/institution been confirmed?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

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Address:

Telephone #:

Email Address:

Job Title and affiliation:

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this nomination, I confirm that the information contained in this nomination form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I also agree to allow Kenneth Scott to use my name for reporting purposes on various community websites and social media platforms, if deemed necessary/appropriate.

q Yes e-signature \_\_\_\_\_

q No I do not accept the above request. e-signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include any additional information you would like the Elizabeth Middleton Memorial Bursary group to consider about the applicant.**

**“Pay it Forward!”**



## Daughters of the Diaspora Bursary Series 2024

### The Geraldine Brewster-Scott Memorial Bursary

A bursary to encourage New Brunswick youth to educate their minds, be of service to their community, and passionately follow their dreams.

**“Oppressed labouring women in Barbados, from slavery times to the present, have long exhibited much confidence and optimism in their present efforts at betterment.**

-Hilary Mc.D. Beckles, *Natural Rebels*, 2000, pg. viii-ix.



© Kenneth Scott

**Geraldine Araminta Brewster-Scott (July 21, 1884-December 20, 1940)**

**When my great-grandmother, Geraldine Araminta Brewster, departed her native Barbados 112 years ago and first set foot on New Brunswick soil, she was devoid of expensive material possessions. During those times, what technical or intellectual skills she may have possessed went unutilized during her perpetual employment as a domestic servant in white Saint John households. That said, I have no doubt she possessed an inner-strength, as well as a sense of determination and perseverance that was characteristic of her Bajan woman peers. Geraldine was a mother of three Canadian-born children, a one-time resident of Union Alley, and a member of both the St. Phillips A.M.E. and Trinity Churches. One of Geraldine’s favourite sayings was, “Education is no burden to carry.”**

**She recognized the potential and the power of education to transform lives and circumstances. For passing this belief down to her children, and her children's children's children, I am forever grateful.**

**-Kenneth Scott, Saint John native son**

The **Geraldine Brewster-Scott Memorial Bursary** is created to honour an amazing woman and to celebrate her life story. This bursary is part of a reclamation project to find, preserve, revive, and share our history "from the bottom up". In a world where "cult of celebrity" continues to be the norm, it is important that we, as a people, highlight and pay homage to lesser-known and/or unknown members of New Brunswick's historically Black citizenry.

History is not just nostalgia. For many people of African-descent, history is infinitely much more important than that. The accompanying thoughts and poem are shared to model an example of the rich diversity that existed in the lives and experiences of forgotten girls and women of African-New Brunswick descent. Hopefully, you are encouraged to go back and retrieve your past/our past and make it available today to kith and kin as a source of pride, inspiration, and connection to this province, this country and beyond.

**Bim's Rebel \***

\*Bim- a synonym for "Barbados" affectionately used by its inhabitants

**This quest for a truer identity  
begats more questions,  
and strain.  
Laboriously piecing together a lineage  
no one saw fit to explain.**

**Confronting colonial-era systems  
who conspire not to remember.  
Exacerbated by unpredictable cycles  
of family secrets that remain.**

**So who exactly are you?  
There is some knowledge that I've gained.  
Like... progeny of stolen Africans,  
whips, and dehumanized in chains.**

**We've been told you were born impoverished,  
near Bim's baneful cane.  
Across an unknown,  
indifferent ocean  
to the "prosperous white north" you came.**

**Quitting a way of life  
that denied basic dignities,  
A place unequivocally inhumane,**



you're my symbol of Black agency.

Tell me, adventurous young spirit,  
who left all that you knew,  
my heroic ebony refugee,  
was it all worth it?  
You persevered.

I'm so indebted to you.  
When was the moment you realized  
Canadian dreams don't always come true?  
Like so many "others",  
this land of big dreams and promises  
turned its back on you.

Please know that I relish the challenge  
to share your life and your legacy,  
Head held high  
An open mind,  
I'll share what you mean to me.

There is still much about you to learn  
and much to ascertain.  
'Cause as deep questions  
get answered,  
more questions will surely remain.

© Kenneth Scott, 2016.

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Yes

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If no, please explain:

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Address:

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I also agree to allow Kenneth Scott to use my name for reporting purposes on various community websites and social media platforms, if deemed necessary/appropriate.

Yes          Signature \_\_\_\_\_

No. I do not accept the above request.          Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any additional information you would like the **Geraldine Brewster-Scott Memorial Bursary** group to consider about the applicant you are recommending.

“Pay it Forward!”