In *For the People* James Cameron charts the institutional development of St Francis Xavier University from 1853 to 1970, illustrating how the college has become an integral part of the region's history and culture through its tradition of service to the people of eastern Nova Scotia on both the mainland and Cape Breton Island. Basing his research on documentary and oral sources, Cameron describes the early nineteenth-century migration of the Highland Catholic Scots, the settlement and development of their communities, and the founding of St.F.X. as a means of religious, economic, and social advancement in eastern Nova Scotia.

Among broad developments in administration, faculty, students, curriculum, finances, and facilities which Cameron examines, the formation of the Extension Department, Xavier Junior College (now University College of Cape Breton), and the Coady International Institute stand out as pivotal events in the history of St.F.X. and demonstrate its attunement to the changing needs of its constituency. The move to broaden the curriculum by including extension education and the promotion of various forms of economic cooperation to stimulate development in regional and international communities exemplify the unifying theme “for the people” at St.F.X.’s foundational core.

*For the People* presents an engaging account of the fascinating personalities who administered and staffed the institution, its successes and failures during the nineteenth century, and its expansion and progress in the twentieth century. The title of this institutional biography appropriately captures the spirit of St.F.X. and its commitment to community service.

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FOR THE PEOPLE

A History of St Francis Xavier University

JAMES D. CAMERON

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to all members of the
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