



SCOTTISH HERITAGE USA, INC.

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*Scottish Heritage USA:
Enhancing the bonds of
ancestral and national
character between the peoples
of Scotland and North America
by furthering the exchange of
ideas and connections between
our two countries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc. Awards \$18,300.00 In grant funds to Five recipients in 2017

1. The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) \$6,800.00 for two projects:

A. Falkland Palace-Beekeeping interpretation \$3,800.00

The Falkland Palace in Fife is a masterpiece of 16th century Scottish architecture with a rich and fascinating history. Built by James IV and James V, the palace followed the rise and fall of the Stuart dynasty and was a favored hunting lodge of Mary, Queen of Scots.

The Palace has historic links with John Gedde, the first beekeeper to keep bees in wooden hives instead of straw "skeps". The National Trust has recently purchased hives and equipment to introduce a black bee colony in the palace gardens. Scottish Heritage USA has granted funds for the National Trust to begin a stimulating interpretation on beekeeping, Gedde's life and his connection with Falkland Palace.

A viewing hive will allow visitors to see bees safely at close quarters, incorporated into an array of interpretive ideas showing pollination and life cycles. With the bee population in alarming decline, this project will inform visitors of the role and plight of honey bees and the importance of pollination for many crops.

B. And Busses for Bairns \$3,000.00

To ensure young people living in Scotland have an opportunity to learn about their heritage "Busses for Bairns" provides transportation for schools to bring students to the various educational opportunities offered by the National Trust for Scotland. Trust properties offer limitless chances to all sectors of education and activities and can be tailored to match the requirements of each group. The countryside properties combined with NTS's Countryside Ranger Service allow schools to move the classroom outdoors and students learn about environmental education, climate change and many other topics. Similarly, the castles and houses in the care of the Trust are steeped in rich history and provide excellent opportunities to bring textbooks to life through the many interactive activities offered by the Trust.

2. The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center \$4,000.00 to complete the renovation and upgrading the first floor of the Museum to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Museum is a non-profit operated entirely by volunteers and is the only museum outside of Scotland dedicated to the history and traditions of the tartan and highland dress. Exhibits include artifacts from Neolithic, Roman and Celtic migration, and Medieval and Renaissance eras

It was founded by The Scottish Tartans Society (STS) which was established in Scotland in 1963, to create and maintain the Register of All Publicly Known Tartans, encourage research into Highland Dress and to provide a design service for new tartans. Originally established in Highlands, NC in 1988. The museum has been in Franklin since 1994.

The museum gallery features kilts dating back to c. 1800, and tartan specimens c. 1725. Over 500 tartan samples are on display, including tartans for clans, families, districts, and other organizations. The computer database, courtesy of the Scottish Tartans Authority, contains thousands of unique tartan designs, both historic and modern.

3. **MacFarlane's Company (A Scottish Historical Re-enactment Troupe) received \$1,500.00** for its annual volunteer trip to Scotland where they will be participating in the Culloden Archeology and History Lecture Series. They will also be laying a wreath on behalf of Scottish Heritage USA at the Culloden 270th Commemoration Ceremony and doing Living History talks to the public. The group will appear at the Highland Folk Village and participating in the National Trust's Glenfinnan Monument for Living History demonstration. They will also be visiting primary schools in North Ballachulish, Glencoe Village and Ballachulish with Living History presentations and presenting books to the schools as part of their Book Donation Program.

The group will appear at Stirling Castle to present Living History in the Great Hall and will visit children in hospitals near Glasgow and Aberdeen.

4. **The Cultural Village at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC \$1,500.00**

The Scottish Cultural Village provides educational and entertaining presentations by experts who are eager to share their knowledge. Every thirty (30) minutes a new presentation is given to the audience that touches upon an interesting facet of Scottish life. Talks and demonstrations include the following and many more:

Men's Great Kilt "So you're going to wear the great kilt, here's how!" Mysteries of the great kilt are revealed through a wee chat and an entertaining demonstration. Learn why it looks fantastic on all men!

Women's 18th Century Clothing "What's that up her petticoat?" Come see the scandalous Scottish striptease with a very proper lass from the 1750's. Learn about underpinnings to outerwear and how to wear it appropriately.

Blue Ridge Brass / Pipes & Drum The group will be the featured performers at a luncheon concert. They will be presented by Ed Miller, premier Scottish Folk Singer. He will introduce the various musical selections with a brief history and explain why the songs are relevant today.

Scotsman on the Mountain The famed conservationist and Scotland-born John Muir visited Grandfather Mountain in September of 1898. "I couldn't hold it in and began to jump about and sing and glory in it all," stated Muir. What was Muir so excited about? Join Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation naturalist Amy Renfranz to learn more

The Darien Venture A Scottish Tragedy? Darien, a jungle-clad province on the Panamanian isthmus, played a key role in the formation of Britain. The Company of Scotland's attempt to establish a trading post and colony in the late 17th century incurred massive debts that would become intrinsic to the negotiation of the Act of Union between England and Scotland in 1707. Learn why Darien is synonymous with disaster; often mentioned but never explored; the fate of its inhabitants obscured by infamy and the rainforest.

The Viking Invasion of Scotland Viking depredations had been recorded in the British Isles since the late 8th century and Scandinavian settlement on Scotland's western seaboard may have begun before the turn

of the 9th century. Claims to this region by Norwegian kings date to the turn of the 12th century when the King of Norway established himself in the Hebrides and the Isle of Mann.

Captain Kidd Captain William Kidd was a Scottish sailor who was tried and executed for piracy after returning from a voyage to the Indian Ocean. Some modern historians deem his piratical reputation unjust, as there is evidence that Kidd acted only as a privateer. Kidd's fame springs largely from the sensational circumstances of his questioning before the English Parliament and the ensuing trial.

5. Blue-Ridge Brass, Pipes & Drums \$4,500.00

Blue-Ridge Brass exists to promote the musical arts and preservation of Celtic heritage to the public through the education, practice, promotion, and performance of Scottish traditional and contemporary music. All members are volunteers and receive no monetary compensation for their work.

The band intends to produce an audio CD of traditional and contemporary Celtic music with a successful completion of the recording producing a marketable product. The proceeds will be used in the band's scholarship program for beginning pipers.

Scottish Heritage will partially fund the \$8,000.00 project with \$4,500.00.

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