



September 2025, Issue 8 - 2025

SCOTTISH HERITAGE USA'S EDUCATIONAL LEGACY LIVES ON

It began with Scottish Heritage USA underwriting student exchanges between the National Trust for Scotland's Threave Gardens in Scotland and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania in 1974, which continued for several decades. That legacy endured during the ensuing years with the provision of scholarships for students here in North America to participate in summer educational programs that have enriched successive generation's abilities and talent development in Scottish music, dance and language.

Most recently, the Scottish Heritage USA scholarship program, supported by a ten percent allocation of each member's donations to our dedicated scholarship fund, has focused on supporting students with financial need in attending either one or two weeks of summer academies in Pipe and Drum, Scottish Fiddling and Highland Dance. With The School of Scottish Arts taking a one-year hiatus in 2025, this summer's scholarships were awarded to the Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling and to the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming. The schools screen and qualify the students for these scholarships. Two were awarded to the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming to Ilsa Dillahey from Charleston, SC and Jason Oldham from Boone, NC. Jason noted in his letter of appreciation that "my goal is to join the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders, so going to bagpipe camp helped me get much closer to my goal."

The Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling student Sydney Vaughn from Purcellville, Virginia and Elaine Mejia from Faison, North Carolina received their program certificates this summer after completing their camp. The school's 10-time National Scottish Fiddling Champion, recording artist, composer, educator and Director John Turner is featured in the photo below of Sydney Vaughn accepting her certificate from Scottish Heritage USA. To the right is scholarship winner Elaine Mejia performing during the graduation event this summer.

Thank you to all our members who contributed to sustaining our youth scholarship program.



Sydney Vaughn receives her program certificate from Director John Turner.



Elaine Mejia (second from left) performs at the Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling.



*Planning a trip to Scotland on your own in 2025? Be sure to renew your membership with Scottish Heritage USA **at least 2 months ahead** of your travel dates to ensure there's time to process both your Scottish Heritage USA and National Trust for Scotland cards and separate guidebook with parking pass mailing.*

Message from the President

I hope everyone has had a good summer and survived the heat. Our time at Grandfather Mountain was a great success with the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Cultural Village event which SHUSA has been sponsoring for many years and providing speakers from the National Trust for Scotland. Our guest, Chris Waddell, curator of the Robert Burns Museum in Scotland was tasked with explaining what a Burns Night was all about. This included the piping in of the haggis by one of our favorite pipers Sam Johnson, accompanied by member Jenn Begley (aka *The Haggis Wench*) for a ceremonial address given with great gusto by Chris. The audience was invited to sample haggis at the Scottish Heritage USA tent. We will be represented at several games in the Fall including Scotland County, Laurinburg NC and Stone Mountain GA in October and represented by Camilla Hellman at games in the Northeast including those held at the Loon Mountain resort. We hope to share some interesting developments in our next newsletter. Thanks for all your support.



Scottish Heritage USA President Peter McC Wilson IV

Pelms

Welcome to our New and Renewing Members

RENEWALS

Edward & Gail Graham - Dallas, GA
Robert Premont & Heidi Bell - East Longmeadow, MA
Daniel & Sara Jane Pate - Southern Pines, NC
William & Carol Repperger - St. Louis, MO
Michael & Jacqueline Trotter - Warner Robins, GA
James & Margaret Pickens - Silver Spring, MD
James Graham - Raleigh, NC
Susan McInnis - Cary, NC
Valerie Nieman - Reidsville, NC
Janice Shimaitis - Rockford, IL
Diana Smith - Jasper, GA

NEW

Janice Splawn - Houston, TX
Donald & Peggy Durbin - Hialeah, FL
John & Caris Hahn - Albemarle, NC
Nathan & Virginia Kring - Milledgeville, GA
DouglasLuccio & Erica St. Cin - Alexandria, VA
Joshua & Hailey MacDonald - Danvers, MA
Moore County Historical Association - Southern Pines, NC
Gary & Ivanna Croghan - Rochester, MN
Eugene & Sherry Ferguson - Lexington, KY
Martha & Ben Hill - Todd, NC
Alistair & Susan McPherson - Bothell, WA
Byron & Gina Veech - Princeton, IL
Carissa Duran - Salado, TX
Kathleen Jans-Duffy - Seneca Falls, NY
Julie Jones - Greenville, NC
Mary Meares - Daytona Beach, FL
Jill Smithson - La Plata, MD



Cock-a-leekie Soup

As Autumn approaches, enjoy this recipe from Scottish Heritage USA's *Pipin' Hot* cookbook.

Ingredients:

1 chicken
1 bay leaf
1 lb. leeks (slit, cleaned and cut into 1-inch pieces)
10 C. chicken stock
2 TBS long grain rice
4 oz. dried prunes (soaked overnight)
Salt and pepper

Put the chicken and giblets into a large pan with the stock. Add the bay leaf, leeks and plenty of seasoning. Bring the soup to a boil and skim the surface. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 2 to 3 hours, or until the bird is tender. Remove the bird, giblets and bay leaf and skim off any fat. Add the rice and drained prunes and simmer soup for an additional 30 minutes. Adjust the seasoning. Serves 6 to 8.

—Tom Ashby, Property Manager Haddo House, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



Photo by Scottish Scran

Further Afield

Scottish Heritage USA members Dennis and Libby Lee sent us a number of gorgeous images from their spring trip to Scotland completed during the first two weeks of May. They report that they experienced “unbelievably sunny weather” and it shows in their trip photos. According to Libby, “While we were there we made it to Crarae Gardens and Culzean Castle. We had been to both properties in the past, but we enjoyed returning and seeing the upgrades made since our last visits. The tea rooms at National Trust properties are always worth a visit, and we made a day out of seeing both properties.” Libby went on the share: “We really appreciate all the membership benefits of belonging to Scottish Heritage USA, including Scotland Magazine and the NTS membership as well as the great service whenever I have a question. Thanks for all you do!” *All of us here at Scottish Heritage would like to add that we appreciate your ongoing support, Libby. It's truly our many members like Libby that make Scottish Heritage USA such a wonderful, vibrant organization.*



Dennis & Libby Lee at Crarae Woodland Garden in Argyll, Scotland.



JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



Scottish athlete competes at the 2024 Scotland County Highland Games

Scotland County Highland Games - Laurinburg, NC October 3-5, 2025

The Scotland County Highland Games, founded in 2008, are the only Scottish Games and Gathering located within the old Highland Scottish settlement of the Upper Cape Fear and Pee Dee regions of the Carolinas. This region was home to the largest settlement of Highland Scots in all of North America until well into the 19th century. The surnames and some place names found within the surrounding 10 counties of North Carolina and the neighboring counties of South Carolina bear testimony to the size and scope of this significant historic settlement and its legacy. If you're planning to attend, stop by the Scottish Heritage USA tent and say hello!

Sept 13: Shaw House Heritage Fair with the Moore County Historical Association in Southern Pines, NC.
9 am – 4 pm.

www.moorehistory.com

Oct 3-5: Scotland County Highland Games In Laurinburg, NC

www.carolina-highlandgames.com

Oct 17-19: Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival, Stone Mountain, GA.

www.smhg.org

November 22: St. Andrew's Dinner by Scottish Gourmet USA to benefit Scottish Heritage USA at The Wyndham Garden, Greensboro, NC. 6:00 - 9:30pm. Details and tickets at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/piedmont-st-andrews-dinner>

2026 Events:

May 2: Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival, Savannah, GA

www.savannahscottishgames.com

July 9-12: Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Grandfather Mtn, NC. Visit our tents in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland. Special activities by Scottish Heritage USA include music and speakers at the Scottish Cultural Village, gift basket raffles, speakers and music, free Saturday deli lunch at the tent for members, and a special gift for new and renewing members.

www.gmhg.org

2026 Online Scottish Heritage Auction: Look for details to come! If you're interested in donating an item to our auction fundraiser, please email Administrator Susie Thomas at SBThomas@scottishheritageusa.org

Look for Scottish Heritage USA represented by the American Scottish Foundation at these Highland Games:

New Hampshire Highland Games
September 19-21
Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln, NH
nhscot.org

Litchfield Hills Highland Games
September 28
Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT
limerock.com

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