



The Lion & Thistle



Scottish Heritage USA Opens New Grants for Cultural Heritage Non-profits

April 2026 Issue #4



Scottish Heritage USA is pleased to announce the opening of a new grant application and review process for our investments in supporting Scottish cultural and heritage programs, with a special emphasis on supporting US and Canadian based programs. This program is in addition to our ongoing support for The National Trust for Scotland USA Foundation and Scottish Cultural Village at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

“Our Committee evaluated best practices for non-profit grants in formulating the new application and rubric for scoring applicants for the awards,” according to Betty Johnson, Chair of Scottish Heritage USA’s Grants and Scholarship Committee. Qualified applicants can apply for up to \$2500 maximum in funding for this year’s grant cycle.

“We are encouraging all applicants to apply online, and **the deadline for submission is May 15, 2026.** We are no longer accepting “free form” applications, so non-profits interested in applying should go online early, review the questions and scoring criteria, and submit accordingly,” noted Scottish Heritage USA Executive Director Susie Thomas. The Committee will review the applications, score them, and make recommendations for final approval by the board of directors in July for grant distribution in August.

[CLICK HERE to APPLY for a GRANT](#)

The Making of a Scottish Chief

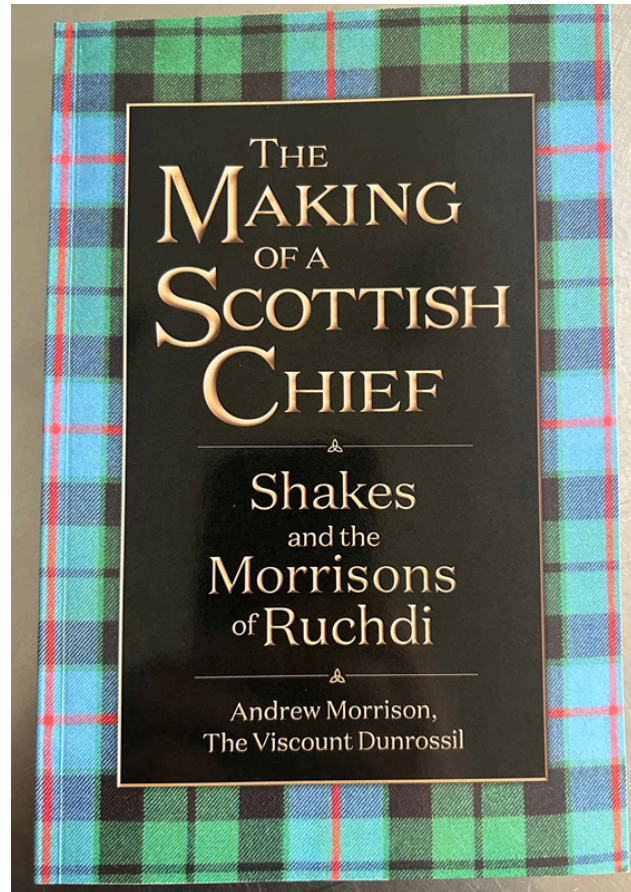
"...an expert in Scottish Culture." - *The Times*, London

Scottish Heritage USA Board Director and Patron Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil, has just released his new book *The Making of a Scottish Chief: Shakes and the Morrisons of Ruchdi*, that reveals how his own clan, the Morrisons, found a chief again after a gap of some 350 years – as his grandfather was preparing to retire from his role as Speaker in the British Parliament.

We concur with reviewers that *The Making of a Scottish Chief* is a must-have for anyone with even a hint of Scotland in their ancestry – it is insightful, informative, and laced with delightful anecdotes and images reflecting a rich and fascinating history. Lord Dunrossil is the Vice Chairman (vice convenor) of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and 2024 recipient of the National Tartan Day Award in the US.

Morrison will be a featured speaker at our Scottish Cultural Village at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games this July. **You will have a special opportunity to meet the author at a book signing at our Scottish Heritage USA tent there on**

Saturday, July 11 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. The book is available at all good online booksellers, select retail shops and by the publisher at www.elmgrovepublishing.com.



Spotlight on

Clan Hamilton Society

This month, we feature a brief history of one of Scottish Heritage USA's long time Clan members and group of supporters, the Clan Hamilton Society, provided by Clan historian Henry Lloyd Hamilton, FSA Scot.

In 1323, Walter FitzGilbert de Hamilton was knighted by Robert the Bruce. The Hamilton lands, from Haddingtonshire in the east to the Isle of Arran in the west, eventually stretched across Scotland's mid-section like a giant belt. The 1st Lord Hamilton married the daughter of King James II.

For the next two centuries, the next in line to the Scottish throne was a Hamilton. A Hamilton served as Regent during the minority of Mary, Queen of Scots. When Mary was overthrown and imprisoned in Lochleven Castle, the Hamiltons assisted in her escape. In 1599, the 4th Lord Hamilton was made Marquess of Hamilton.



In 1603, when King James went to England to assume the English crown, the Marquess of Hamilton was appointed to oversee Scotland on the King's behalf. In 1643, the 3rd Marquess was made Duke of Hamilton. The Dukedom of Hamilton is the oldest continuous dukedom in Scotland. The current Duke is Alexander, 16th Duke of Hamilton.

Hamiltons emigrated around the world, the most famous becoming a founding father of what would become the United States. Hamiltons came to North America through ports in Atlantic Canada, Boston, NY, and Philadelphia. Many settled in Ohio. They blazed trails, set up shops along the Appalachia, served in the military, and now seek to explore their roots. *Find out more at www.clanhamilton.org.*

Oatmeal Dinner Rolls

These fluffy rolls go perfect with any meal.

Ingredients:

2 cups water
1 cup quick-cooking oats
3 TBS butter
1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
1/3rd cup warm water
1/3rd cup packed brown sugar
1 TBS sugar
1 and 1/2 tsp salt
4 3/4 to 5 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

Directions:

1. In a large saucepan, bring water to a boil; add oats and butter. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Remove from the heat; cool to lukewarm.
2. In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add the oat mixture, sugars, salt and 4 cups flour; beat until smooth. Add enough remaining flour to form soft dough.
3. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic (6-8 minutes.) Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled (about 1 hour.)
4. Punch dough down; allow to rest for 10 minutes. Shape into 18 balls. Place in 2 greased 9-inch round baking pans. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes.
5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees; bake rolls until golden brown, 20-25 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks.



Recipe and photo from Taste of Home.

**Scottish Tartans Museum: Preserving
Scotland's Story in the Blue Ridge**



Since opening its doors on May 2, 1988, the Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center has stood as a unique guardian of tartan history in the United States. First established in Highlands, North Carolina as a satellite of the Scottish Tartans Society's museum in Comrie, Scotland, the institution moved to Franklin, NC in 1994 and ultimately became the world's only museum dedicated solely to tartan after the parent museum closed in the late 1990s.

Today, visitors explore more than 5,000 years of Scottish history—from Neolithic settlements to the eras of Wallace, Bruce, and the Stewart dynasty. Thanks to the generous exhibit support of Scottish Heritage USA, the Museum has been able to enhance and update its galleries, including the display of rare textiles such as an 1840 Kingussie-style kilt and an early 18th-century tartan fragment. The popular Space Tartans Display, featuring tartans carried into orbit by astronauts Alan Bean and Jerry Ross, continues to inspire guests of all ages. Beyond its walls, the Museum serves thousands at Highland Games across the Southeast, offering surname research and tartan identification. With more than 13,000 visitors in 2021 and a thriving gift shop displaying Scottish and Appalachian craftsmanship, the Museum remains a vital cultural anchor—celebrating heritage, educating the public, and strengthening the Scottish American story.

[Visit the Museum online](#)

48th ANNUAL

SAVANNAH SCOTTISH GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

MAY 2, 2026

Bynuh's Field at Historic Bethesda Academy, on the beautiful banks of the internationally-famous Moon River Savannah, GA USA

Entertainment Lineup

- ▶ Seven Nations ▶ Colin Grant-Adams
- ▶ Swamptooth ▶ Lochlann

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
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Daniel Ravenel 

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