

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com

June 2025 — Alba Gu Brath — Scotland Forever

The Highland Society of Harford County was incorporated for the preservation of the spirit, lore, poetry, art, dress, welfare, and history of the Scottish people dedicated to the promotion of these traditions among those of Scottish ancestry within Harford County and its environs.



Our June 14 Gathering

Annual HSHC Picnic

Lee Ann & Steve Anderson's house
1104 Fox Den Road
Bel Air MD 21014

**Bring sides, desserts & beverages
\$10 to cover meats & such**

12:00 noon

Please RSVP to John, Yea or Nay
jfpolk@comcast.net

Summer Schedule

More details on page 5.

July 15, Tuesday -

Axe Throwing at the Hatchet House -

arrive before 7:00 pm. **Dinner before** at The All American Steakhouse at 6:00 pm

July 20, Sunday -

Charlie Zahm singing Celtic and Early American Folk Music. Tad Marks on fiddle, Steve Hobson on guitar! --
Harford Highlanders open at 5:30 pm.

Bring a lawn chair.

6:00 PM - Jerusalem Mill and Village

In case of rain it will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran at 12022 Jerusalem Road.

August 3, Sunday -

Tour of Donaldson Brown Center

12:00 noon to 4:00 PM

Lunch and visit to Bainbridge Naval Museum in Port Deposit.

August 19, Tuesday

Ironbirds baseball game in Aberdeen

Gates open at 6:30 PM with the first pitch at 7:05 PM.

August 22-23 - Friday & Saturday

Harford County Celtic Festival

5:00-9:00 PM - Saturday

11:00 AM-9:00 PM - Sunday



Welcome
New
Member
Samuel May

Anyone wishing to contribute an article, news, a joke or humorous anecdote or other contributions, news, suggestions for articles send them to:

sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com or abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

Our May Gathering



Laird's Letter



Greetings Fellow Highlanders –

Summer is upon us, our time of special activities in lieu of regular monthly meetings. We have a packed schedule with a variety of events to suit all comers. The full list and details are posted separately in SUMMER FUN, elsewhere in this Sporrán. You will receive separate notices for each of these as they come up. I will mention just the next one, coming very soon –

SHSC Summer Picnic – 14 June. Food, fun, fellowship at Steve and Lee Ann Anderson's lovely home. on Flag Day, Saturday, 14 June. It will be potluck with Steve and Lee Ann providing the meat dishes, rolls and condiments. Do not miss this. Others to bring side dishes and dessert items. BYOB. Please RSVP to me if you have not already done so.

We were happy to induct Sam May as a new member of our esteemed society last month. He follows his wife Melissa, who was inducted in May. Melissa's father sadly passed away last month in Aberdeen, Scotland. We wish her our heartfelt condolences and prayers at this time.

Special thanks to Dave Ray for his lively and informative talk at our May meeting about Scottish colonies in the new world and the fateful attempt to forge a pathway from Atlantic to Pacific across Panama. And thanks also, to all, for the special potluck taco feast that we enjoyed.

And thanks, as always, to SJ and Andrea for their long, hard work in publishing the Sporrán, month after month. A great product. I am always in awe of the depth and variety of its contents and presentation. We are blessed.

We welcome your suggestions for new activities and especially encourage you to take a lead in organizing whatever it may be. We are an organization of members, not just officers. We also encourage you to attend events like the Harford County Celtic Festival, 22-23 August, and the Covenanter Scottish Games, 6 September, stop by our booth, or help man it. It, and our website, are best ways for attracting new members.

Alba gu bràth
John Polk
Laird, HSHC

Treasurer's Report

Dr. John Polk

Period: 1 – 31 May 2025

OLD BALANCE	\$4166.02
Expenses:	
Bank fee	\$3.00
Registration fee, Fair Hill Games	\$60.00
Venue fee, Mount Felix	\$300.00
Income:	
Meeting proceeds	\$370.00
Raffle proceeds	\$50.00
Donation	\$55.00
Dues Collected	\$30.00
NEW BALANCE	\$4308.02



compiled by Dr. Andrea Bowden

National Flag Day is Saturday, June 14, 2025. Though not a federal holiday, Flag Day is annual observance for all Americans. Each year, all Americans are urged to display the US flag outside their homes and businesses. In observance, the flag is flown from all public buildings, speeches are made in public places, and ceremonies take place in towns or cities.

There were few public ceremonies that honored the flag until June 14, 1877, when it was flown from every government building for the centennial of the flag's adoption. After that, many citizens and organizations advocated the adoption of a national day of commemoration for the flag. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson unofficially declared June 14 as Flag Day.

Coincidentally, Wilson also proclaimed "The Star-Spangled Banner" the U.S. national anthem that same year. Nonetheless, Congress did not designate the song as the national anthem until 1931, and only in 1949 did President Harry Truman sign the legislation that made June 14 of each year Flag Day.

AMERICAN FLAG ETIQUETTE

Display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

When placed on a single staff or lanyard, place the U.S. Flag above all other flags.

When placed on a podium the



flag should be placed on the speaker's right or the staging area. Other flags should be placed to the left.

When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way -- with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Place your hand over your heart (or salute) when saying the Pledge to the flag.

Don't let the flag touch the ground.

Don't fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

Fold the flag in the traditional triangle.

Don't use the flag as clothing, as a cover or decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.

Don't store the flag where it can get dirty.

Don't draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

If a flag is torn, dirty or marked, it must be burned and the ashes buried. It is customary to recite the Pledge to the Flag as the flag is burned.



SUMMER FUN WITH HSHC

More Details from the first page.

FIRST FRIDAYS IN HAVRE DE GRACE on Washington Street 5:00-8:00 PM June 6, August 1 and October 3, 2025. Promote HSHC at the booth and enjoy a cool street festival. Contact John Polk.

ANNUAL HSHC PICNIC POTLUCK Saturday June 14 at the home of Lee Ann and Steve Anderson 12:00 noon-4:00 PM. Meat provided - just bring a picnic side & beverage. Let John Polk know if you are attending.

AXE THROWING Tuesday, July 15 - Meet at Route 22 Hatchet House before 7pm. \$25/hour <https://route22hatchet-house.com/> -- The All American Steakhouse is next door. Let's gather there at 6:00 PM for dinner or drinks. <https://theallamericansteakhouse.com/> Contact David Ray.

CHARLIE ZAHM CONCERT Saturday July 20, 6:00 PM at Jerusalem Mills. Come at 5:30 PM to hear the **Harford Highlanders Scottish Pipe Band**. 2813 Jerusalem Road Kingsville MD
Bring a lawn/camp chair. Admission \$15, 60+ \$10 <https://jerusalemmill.org/> Contact Steve Anderson.

TOUR OF DONALDSON BROWN CENTER, LUNCH, and VISIT TO BAINBRIDGE NAVAL MUSEUM Sunday, August 3, 12:00 Noon-4:00 PM in Port Deposit. 200 Mt Ararat Farm Road, Port Deposit, MD <https://donaldsonbrown.com/> <https://sites.google.com/view/usntcbainbridgemuseum/home> Contact John Polk.

IRONBIRDS BASEBALL GAME vs. Brooklyn Cyclones Tuesday, August 19 - 6:30 PM at Cal Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen. Group rate \$15. Ample free parking. Contact Kallie Lyons.

HARFORD COUNTY CELTIC FESTIVAL Friday, August 22 - 5:00-9:00pm. Saturday, August 23 - 11:00 am-9:00 pm. Enjoy a local festival and donate two hours to the HSHC booth. Site: Friendship Park, Abingdon, MD <https://www.google.com/search?q=harford+county+celtic+festival+2025> Contact John Polk.

CONTACT E-MAILS

Steve Anderson - sanderson18thc@gmail.com

Kallie Lyons - kallie67@comcast.net

John Polk - jfpolk@comcast.net

David Ray - mrdrayman67@gmail.com

MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

Dr. Andrea Bowden



May 20, 2025

On the occasion of the HSHC last meeting in the State Theater in Harve de Grace, a MEXICAN FIESTA Potluck dinner was held with the Board of Directors providing the entrees and members providing fixins', sides and desserts.

The meeting was called to order by John Polk of Clan Pollock and Laird at 7:15 PM. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ray Buchanan, Clan Buchanan, gave the toast to King Charles III. David Ray of Clan McRay gave the toast to the the President of the United States. Nancy Plummer of Clan Forsythe gave the toast to Scotland by reading the traditional toast. John recognized birthdays: Steve Anderson and potential new member Alicia Velez. The oldest daughter and son-in-law of Kallie and Mark Lyons marked their 15th wedding anniversary. Steve Anderson called for healing for Former President Joe Biden.

John reminded the groups that this is the 250 Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration in which a committee of citizens in North Carolina declared independence from Great Britian on May 20, 1775, after word reached them about the battle at Concord. Thomas Polk was one of the original 28 signers of the Declaration. We toasted the anniversary. SJ Anderson of Clan Anderson offered grace.

After a delicious dinner of Mexican foods, John Polk introduced David Ray who gave a fascinating account of the little-known attempts at Scottish colonization in the new world. While some people were familiar with the 1629 Nova Scotia colony, few realized that there were colonies attempted in 1680 in South Carolina, 1683 in New Jersey, and 1684 in Georgia. Everyone was surprized to learn that in 1698 the Scots raised 66 million in today's dollars for a colony in the Darien province in the isthmus of Panama to move goods from the Pacific to the Atlantic. This colony was poorly planned, mismanaged, and doomed from the start. Many lives and fortunes were lost. Overall, it was colossal failure, nearly bankrupted Scotland and made it very politically weak. These conditions led to three Jacobite rebellions, defeat of Catholic Scots loyal to Prince Charlie and the eventual union with England in 1707.

After the presentation, John reconvened the meeting. He inducted Samuel May into HSHC by dubbing him with an authentic Mexican carved cane. Coincidentally, Sam won the 50/50 drawing of \$55, which he donated to HSHC. So HSHC realized \$105.

John reminded members of the annual HSHC picnic to be held Saturday, June 14 at the home of Lee Ann and Steve Anderson. Meats will be provided. Members are to bring sides, salads, desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$10.

July 20 is the annual Charlie Zahn concert at Jerusalem Mill and Village, Kingsville MD, at 6:00 PM. Please bring a camp chair. John announced the Sunday, August 3 Tour of Donaldson Brown Center, lunch, and visit to Bainbridge Naval Museum in Port Deposit 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. He reminded folks of the August 22 -23 Harford County Celtic Festival - Friday, Aug 22 - 5:00 PM-9:00 PM and Saturday, August 23 - 11:00 AM-5:00 PM.

Kallie Lyons discussed plans for the IRONBIRDS baseball game in Aberdeen on August 19 was the preferred date by poll of the members. Gates open at 6:30 PM with the first pitch at 7:05 PM. David Ray took a straw poll of interest in another Axe Throwing event. Based on responses, he will investigate and provide details. Dinner at a nearby steak house is probable.

John again thanked people for their creative potluck Mexican dishes.

The group bid ADIOS at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Bowden, Secretary

Reminder: Please send your recipes from the May 20th Mexican Fiesta to Andrea Bowden. If you purchased a product, just indicate where you got it.
abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

SCOTS IN PANAMA – A SUMMARY

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

At the Highland Society of Harford County Gathering May 20, 2025, David Ray did an excellent presentation of little-known Scottish attempts to establish colonies in the Americas. Most of us learned about English colonists in Virginia, the Puritans in New England, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, and the English Calvert family who founded Maryland as a sanctuary for Roman Catholics. We learned from David that Scots made multiple attempts to establish colonies in North America and even Central America.

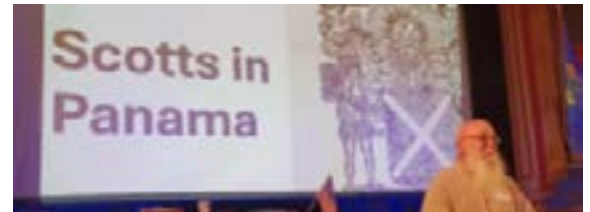
The best-known colony with substantial Scottish colonists was Nova Scotia (New Scotland) on the eastern coast of Canada. The French colony of Acadia (1605) encompassed New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The French and English vied for control of the area. By 1621, the French ceded the area to the British Crown -King James I (James VI of Scotland) and granted William Alexander a charter for Nova Scotia. In the next 100 years control see-sawed between French and British. French Acadians were exiled and emigrated to Louisiana. Ultimately Nova Scotia remained loyal to the crown and sided with the English during the American revolution. The present Nova Scotia was established in 1848. Today, 30% of the population has Scottish heritage, English 29%, 21% Irish, 16% French, 5% Indigenous. Fun fact- John Cabot, the explorer credited with exploring coastal North America was Italian and his real name was

In 1693 Charles II granted land to Scots in Perth Amboy, in the New Jersey Colony. Eventually the settlement was absorbed into the larger English population of New Jersey. In 1680 John Cochrane negotiated a deal to purchase land from the colony of Georgia for a settlement of Scottish Covenanters, who were Scots who opposed the king's attempt to impose an episcopal church government and new liturgy in Scotland. Another small colony was attempted in what is now South Carolina. Both of these Scottish settlements were absorbed into the English colonies.

In 1695 the Scottish Parliament established the Company of Scotland for Trading to Africa and the Indies. Wil-



William Patterson, 1658-1719, Scottish entrepreneur who promoted the failed Darien Scheme in Panama.



liam Patterson, Clan MacLaren, was a Scottish entrepreneur who emigrated to the Bahamas at age 17. He learned bookkeeping then banking and was successful working for various businesses, ships, and traders. As a founder of the Bank of Scotland, he conceived the idea of the Darien Colony, a Scottish colony in the area of the Isthmus of Panama. In 1694 he began promoting the scheme and raising funds, promising great wealth from moving goods from the Pacific to the Atlantic across a narrow strip of land. He raised 500,000 pounds - \$66 million today, from investors large and small.

The first group of 1,200 Scottish colonists to Panama were a group of 300 young men, 60 military officers and a variety of skilled tradesmen and farmers. Their provisions and materials were ill suited to the tropical climate- from clothing to seed for crops. The topography was alien, diseases such as malaria and yellow fever were rampant, and the colonists lacked skills to make a life in a new environment. Four hundred colonists died in the first months. Native people gave them fruit, but the Spanish traders in the area refused to deal with them. There was no navigable river from the Pacific to the Atlantic- just impenetrable jungle- so establishing a trade route was impossible. Within a year, the surviving colonists returned to Scotland.

In 1699 second group of 1,300 colonists from Scotland sailed for Darien, not knowing the fate of the first group. They arrived to find the settlement abandoned, the Spanish much more hostile. The colonists were equally inept and ill equipped. Many were captured and wound up as indentured servants of the Spanish, others died of disease, while others perished in the jungles. Only about 300 ever made it back to Scotland.

The failure of the Darien Scheme was both a financial and political disaster. It highlighted the vulnerability of Scotland in the face of English wealth and power. It fueled the move to unite with England. By 1707 Scotland and England were joined in one political entity. This spawned three Jacobite rebellions. Jacobites were Catholics loyal to Bonnie Prince Charlie and opposed to dominance by the Protestant English. Their defeat at Culloden in 1746 marked the end of large scale Scottish resistance.

The tale of the Darien Scheme was totally new to most members of HSHC. Melissa May, a new member of HSHC and native of Scotland said that the William Patterson and the Panama fiasco is regarded as an embarrassing page of Scottish history. Thanks to David Ray, 1st Aide to the Laird of HSHC, for enlightening us!

A DARIEN SCHEME THAT WORKED

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

The May 20th presentation about the failed Scottish Darien Scheme in the 1600s in Panama presented by David Ray made me recall a true, modern story of a successful project in the Darien Province of Panama.

First, a bit of history. When I arrived at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland as a freshman in the fall of 1965 I met Sarita Martinelli, one of my roommates. Sarita was barely 15 years old and was from a very wealthy family in Panama. She had lived in Baltimore until age 7 while her father was in the diplomatic service, so her English was good. She had attended elementary school on the CND campus

By October we discovered that she had been stashing dirty clothes in her closet because she didn't know how to run a washing machine! At Christmas she bought full sets of clothing for her family maid, gardener, horse groom, and doorkeeper – plus their families. Sarita was a biology major as I was, so we became good friends over long hours in the lab. After graduation, she married her long-time friend, Rodrigo Delaguardia, an engineer, and returned to Panama.

Over the years I kept in touch with Sarita and her family. Rather than living a life of luxury on the family county estate and in her condo in Panama City, Sarita devoted her time, energy and money to helping those in need. I was able to see some of what she had done during a visit to Panama in March of 2018. I was on an Un-Cruise eco-adventure that included crossing the Panama Canal and exploring both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. It entailed treks in the jungle, study of tropical plants, sighting of animals, snorkeling shallows and even swimming with whale sharks. (The size of a school bus, they eat only plankton, thank heavens.)



I was able to spend several days with Sarita and Rodrigo in Panama City. Sarita first showed me a chapel that she had restored in a very poor area of the city. She then took me to a special open market building that she had constructed so

that the Guna people could sell their wares. It was filled with colorful handmade goods and was bustling with activity. This market allowed the people to be self-sufficient economically and enabled them to afford medical care.

Famous for their molas – intricate layered appliques, weaving and carving, the Guna are a distinct ethnic group of about 50,000 that lives mostly in the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama and in a few communities near Panama City. The Guna have their own language, religion, customs, and social organization, which is matrilinear and very democratic. They recognize a third sex- a person who does not conform to traditional male or female roles and accept them. Because of the small size of the community and intermarriage, albinism is common, and individuals are said to have special powers endowed by the moon.



Back at her condo, Sarita told me about her work in the Darien Province of Panama, a remote area near the border with Columbia. The only gap in Pan-American highway (actually network of roads) that stretches from Alaska to Argentina is in the rugged rainforest area of Darien. Home to several indigenous groups, the Darien Province has few schools, hospitals, or opportunities for the people to live beyond subsistence farming and trapping.

The Archbishop of Panama asked Sarita and Rodrigo to spearhead (and be the major funder for) a project to construct a vocational high school with dormitories and clinic in a village in Darien. Over an eight-year period from 2009- 2017 a high school was established to train young people in silva culture (growing native trees), agriculture (growing nutritious food), animal husbandry (raising pigs and chickens), aquaculture (raising fish), beekeeping, construction using native

materials, and medical services- using both traditional and modern techniques. The project was extremely successful and transformed a large area of Darien so that villagers could have a stable economy and not fall prey to drug dealers who bribed young people to carry drugs from Columbia northward. Photos show the children, “New Land” graduates, and managed forest with the message A Million Thanks! The other photo shows the dormitories and a classroom building.



Photos show the modern chicken raising and pig raising operations.



Left photo -Sarita (bottom right) receiving congratulations from the people in Darien.
Right photo- fiesta in honor of Sarita and Rodriego.



Dr. Mary Lou Yam presented the Notre Dame award to Sarita.

Sarita and Rodrego Delaguardia received significant recognition in Panama for their charitable work. I nominated her for an award and in 2019 Sarita (right) received the Service to Society Award from the University of Notre Dame of Maryland, her alma mater.

WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

compiled by
Dr. Andrea Bowden

CANADIANS WELCOME KING CHARLES from Yahoo News

King Charles and Queen Camilla made a whirlwind trip to Canada. King Charles III was given an enthusiastic welcome on Monday, May 26th by Canadians who turned out in droves to see their monarch on his historic visit to open parliament, as part of the pushback against US President Donald Trump's annexation threats. The 76-year-old king, who is Canada's head of state as part of the Commonwealth, was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Mark Carney, who has invited him to give an address opening Canada's new legislature on Tuesday. "This historic honor matches the weight of our times," Carney said.



BEAR SHOCKS VETS AFTER GOING INTO REMISSION FROM CANCER from Good News Network



A popular bear in the Edinburgh Zoo was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given just days to live, but she's stunned experts by going into remission after taking medicine drenched in honey. The bleak diagnosis for the 13-year-old sun bear named 'Babu' was announced publicly to her supporters, while zookeepers tried to keep her comfortable in her final days. Living in the wild, sun bears typically live around 10-25 years, but in captivity they can live up to 30 years, so Babu has possibly another decade in front of her adoring fans.

SCOTLAND'S NEWEST DRIVING ROUTE IS IMPRESSIVE and POPULAR from The Scotsman

The South West Coastal 300 (SWC300), which ventures through Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire, is Scotland's latest driving route. It takes in sandy beaches, dramatic coastlines, rolling countryside, pretty villages and a sense of the undiscovered. The 300 km loop starts and finishes in Dumfries and reaches the most southerly point in Scotland at Mull of Galloway.



Drivers will also head to Wanlockhead, the highest village in the country, in the Lowther Hills. Places such as Culzean Castle, the book village of Wigtown and the charming, colorful, Portpatrick are found on the way. The route comes following the overwhelming popularity of the North Coast 500 through the Highlands, which generates at least £22m a year for the local economy.

LONG-FORGOTTEN SCOTTISH GAELIC WORDS REDISCOVERED AS LANGUAGE FUNDING ANNOUNCED from The Daily Record

An online dictionary has rediscovered lost Gaelic phrases and words. The meanings of the long-forgotten expressions have also been revealed. Faclair na Gàidhlig seeks to provide a better understanding of Gaelic's history and culture. Translating to 'the Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic', it is the first dictionary of the language that seeks to detail the origins and meanings of every known Gaelic word. According to the Scottish Government, compilers predict that the dictionary will contain more than 100,000 entries. It is one of 12 projects set to benefit from new government funding. As part of the initiative, researchers have investigated historical manuscripts that date back to the 12th century.

More information can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Scottish Recipe of the Month

PIG PICKIN' CAKE

contributed by Andea Bowden



This was a staple that my mother, Esther Bowden, brought to picnics in Western Maryland. Supposedly this cake was served at pig roasts-hence the name. The cake is very

Ingredients for cake

- 1 box Butter Cake Mix (Duncan Hines)
- 4 eggs
- ¼ cup oil
- 1 8 oz can mandarin oranges (with juice)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Use mixer on medium to combine all cake ingredients.
- Mix about 4 minutes.
- Grease and flour 2 round cake pans.
- Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes.
- Cool and remove cakes from pans.
- Make icing when cakes are fully cooled.



Ingredients for Icing

- 1 8 oz container Cool Whip*
- 1 20 oz can crushed pineapple (with juice)
- 1 4 oz box instant vanilla pudding

Directions

- Use mixer on medium to combine Cool Whip, pineapple, and pudding.
- Spread on cake one.
- Put cake two on top of cake one and ice it. Ice sides of cake.
- You can top with mandarin orange slices and chopped walnuts.
- Refrigerate at least an hour before serving.
- Refrigerate left over cake.

*If you are not a fan of Cool Whip, you can make Stabilized Whipped Cream.

Ingredients

- 4 ounces cream cheese (at room temperature for at least an hour)
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Directions

- Beat creamed cheese, powdered sugar and vanilla with mixer until creamy.
- In a separate bowl, beat whipping cream into soft peaks.
- Add cream cheese mixture little by little, folding it in and then whipping it.
- The result should have a creamy texture.