

Our Scottish American Heritage

The influence of Scottish ancestry is woven deeply into the fabric of America. Many of the founding fathers of our country were of Scottish ancestry. The Scots as well as the Irish fled political oppression, poverty, and starvation to come to the new world of America. From within these ranks of impoverished immigrants came some of America's most innovative industrialists, teachers, inventors, naturalists and artists. The people of Scotland continue today to enrich our American culture.

The Scottish American Heritage Exhibit on display in the Lobby of the Oviatt Library coincides with "National Tartan Day" April 6th, as designated by the US Congress and the California State Assembly. In the exhibit you will find copies of the State and Federal Bills on display, as well as an authorized copy of the Declaration of Arbroath from the Arbroath Society in Scotland. Many historians feel that the Declaration of Arbroath was the template used for our Declaration of Independence.

There are artifacts from Scotland on display, including some pictures on loan from the RMS Queen Mary Foundation. When she started sailing in the 1930s the RMS Queen Mary was the largest export from Scotland; today Scotland's largest exports are tartan plaid and Scotch whiskey. The exhibition features a full dress kilt in the "Clan California" Tartan. Come learn about this distinctive tartan.

You are cordially invited to come and learn about our Scottish American Heritage in the Lobby of the Oviatt Library until April 9th. Please come and join in the celebration of Scottish American Heritage and National Tartan Day On April 4th 2008 on the Oviatt Lawn Starting at 11:00 a.m.

