April is
Scottish-American Heritage Month

- Scots led the fight for American independence
- *The Declaration of Independence* was based on the *Declaration of Arbroath* (1320)
- Scots established the structure of the American government (Based on the Scottish Presbyterian Church organizational model)
- Scots established many school systems, universities and libraries
- Scots brought their inventions and spirit from Scotland to share with everyone

A few people to learn about:

- John Witherspoon: Native Scot signer of the *Declaration of Independence*
- Many U.S. Presidents: 32 to date
- Francis Scott Key: Wrote the *Star Spangled Banner*
- Allan Pinkerton: Operated a ‘freedom train’ for slaves
- Sam Houston: Won Texas for America
- Thomas Edison: 1,000 inventions
- Andrew Carnegie: Started libraries all over America
- Many, many more...

Further reading:

- *How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe’s Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It* by Arthur Herman
- *The Mark of the Scots: Their Astonishing Contributions to History, Science, Democracy, Literature and the Arts* by Duncan Bruce
- *Scottish Firsts: A Celebration of Innovation and Achievement* by Elspeth Wills
- *Great Scots! How the Scots Created Canada* by Matthew Shaw

Tartan Day: April 6

Freedom!