

I'm not a bot



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[Scots] call a plaid, over their heads and shoulders", and commented that a Scotsman even of the lower class was "clad like a gentleman" because the habit in this time was to spend extraordinarily on clothing.[24] A habit that seems to have gone back to the late 16th century.[24] A Thomas Kirk of Yorkshire commented on trews, plaids, and possibly kilts of "plaid colour" in 1677.[24] More material by Kirk was printed in the 1891 *Early Travellers in Scotland* edited by Peter Hume Brown, recording "plaid wear" in the form of belted plaids, trews, and hose.[24] A poem by William Cleland in 1678 had Scottish officers in trews and shoulder plaids, and soldiers in belted plaids.[246] In 1699, Highland dress, a plaid which existed in three versions" by John Michael Wright, showing a very complicated tartan of brown, black, and two hues of red.[248] It is dated to 1683 and is of Munro. Munro's son John Murray, Marquess of Eglinton, [249] In 1688, William Sacheverell, lieutenant governor of the Isle of Man, wrote of the tartan plaids of the women of Mull in the Inner Hebrides as "much finer, the colours more lively, and the squares larger than the men's ... This serves them for a veil, and covers both head and body," [251] In the 1691 poem The Grained, [252] James Philip of Almericehouse described the 1689 Battle of Killiecrankie in terms that seem to suggest that some clan militias had uniform tartan liveries, and some historians have interpreted it thus.[253][254] It is not until the early 18th century that regional uniformity in tartan, sufficient to identify the area of origin, is reported to have occurred.[159] Martin Martin, in A Description of the Western Islands of Scotland, published in 1703, wrote, after describing trews and belted plaids, "of divers Colours ... agreeable to the nicest Fancy", that tartans could be used to distinguish the inhabitants of different places.[aj] Martin did not mention anything like the use of a special pattern by each family. In 1709, the Independent Highland Companies were wearing everyday Highland dress, not uniforms of a particular tartan, to better blend in with civilians and detect Jacobite treachery.[224] In 1713, the Royal Company of Archers (a royal bodyguard unit first formed in 1676)[257] became the first unit in service to the British crown who adopted a particular tartan as a part of their formal uniform. The militiamen of Clan Grant may have been all in green-and-red tartan (details unspecified) as early as 1703-04.[258][173] and wearing a uniform tartan livery by 1715.[259] It is not a surviving pattern, and modern Grant tartans are of much later date.[260] For details on early uniform tartans, see Regimental tartan as a Pre-regimental military use." An account of the Highland men in 1711 had it that they all wore "the same plaid" [261] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [262] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [263] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [264] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [265] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [266] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [267] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [268] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [269] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [270] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [271] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [272] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [273] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [274] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [275] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [276] and that the Highlanders "all wore the same plaid" [277] 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according to her instructions. She won her case and the naughty weaver was punished. With the evolution of chemical dies, weavers were able to introduce patterns including more vivid and varied colours. As clans grew and branched through birth, death or marriage, the newer clans evolved tartans of their own by adding an overstripe onto the basic pattern of the parent clan. One of the earliest references to the use of tartans by royals was by the treasurer to King James III, who in 1471 purchased a length of cloth for the king and queen. King James V wore tartan whilst hunting in the Highlands in 1538, and King Charles II wore a ribbon of tartan on his coat at his marriage in 1662. It is known that through the 16th and 17th centuries, tartan was exported from the Highlands to the south at prices fixed in order to prevent overcharging, the prices being determined by the number and shades of colour in the cloth. Clan MacDonald Tartan and Clan Campbell Tartan It was after the Battle of Culloden in 1746 that the government in London attempted to purge the Highlands of all unlawful elements by seeking to crush the rebellious clan system. An Act of Parliament was passed which made the carrying of weapons and the wearing of tartan a penal offence. The Act was rigorously enforced. So much so it seems that by the time the Act was repealed in 1785, Highlanders had lost all enthusiasm for their tartan garb, content to wear the same type of dress as other Scots. By 1785, tartan was a thing of the past, many of the weavers had died and with them the details of the old patterns were lost as their wooden pattern sticks had rotted away. Fragments of the old tartans had also rotted and perished leaving little evidence for future generations. The great tartan revival started in 1822, when George IV visited Edinburgh and suggested that people attending the official functions should wear their respective tartans. The loss of the original patterns meant it was necessary for many 'original' tartans to be reinvented by the tailors of the day. Today the confusion of the past has gained some semblance of order as tartans now require registration in the Registers at Lyon Court. Several variations of one tartan may be worn and these tend to take their name from the purpose for which they were intended. Clan tartans - for general use by the clans people. Dress tartans - originally worn by the women of the clan, generally with a white background and lighter-coloured patterns. Mourning tartans - generally of black and white. Hunting tartans - dark in colour and worn for sport, especially suitable when a clan possessed a brightly coloured tartan, making it unsuitable for hunting. Chiefs' tartans - for the personal use of the chief and his immediate family. Tartan has now gained international popularity with people selecting and sporting a design of his or her fancy. A word of warning however, the Royal tartan is for the exclusive use of the royal family and woe betide anyone who dares to break with this tradition! The tradition isn't ancient at all. Many people today are somewhat obsessed with plaid patterns. The first plaid fabrics were made by intricately weaving together threads that had been dyed different colors. These early plaids were often made of wool, and were worn in particular by men of the Highlands of Scotland, having no need of pants because they didn't have a culture of riding horses. The earliest known tartan from Europe dates from around the 3rd century AD and was found in Falkirk, Scotland. The faded specimen took the form of a scrap of plaid fabric plugging a jar of coins- clearly a high status person was associated with this fabric. But, what of the clan associations with tartan? As it turns out, this storied fabric traditionally had little to do with which clan a person belonged to. Via/ Unsplash When talking about tartan it's not uncommon to hear people discussing the clan affiliations with different patterns and colors of plaid. While these associations are firmly in place now, the idea that they are based on a long history of clan delineation is actually a myth. While tartan does have a long history, in the old days clans were not identified by their tartan. They generally wore the tartans that were available to them, that were proper to their class, and that appealed to the person choosing the fabric. Often made of wool, these warm swaths of fabric (long lengths of which were called plaids) were used in shawls, kilts, other garments and became a symbol of Highlander rebellions. Via/ Library of Congress Under British rule, the Dress Act of 1746 made it illegal to wear tartan (more specifically "highland clothes" were prohibited), as a way to crush the Highlanders sense of independence. The law was repealed in 1782 along with the proclamation to Highlanders that. "You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander." But, by that time the tartans of yore were largely out of fashion. Instead of relying on traditional tartan patterns, cloth manufacturers took the chance to capitalize on the no-longer-contraband plaids by creating a whole new set of patterns. The firm of William Wilson & Sons of Bannockburn began to mass produce tartans in the late 1700s, and helped to standardize certain patterns. At first they were given numbers to identify each one, but this soon changed to using clan names instead. And, thus a tradition was born. In the 15th century it was recorded that different colors of tartan were not worn to differentiate the clans, but to denote status within a clan. Chiefs were said to wear brighter colors (presumably made from costlier dyes) and those below them wore brown tartans (made from cheaper dyes). Illustration of the tartan of the Duke of Sussex printed in The Scottish Gaels (1831). Via/ Flickr According to the Scottish Tartans Museum in the early 1800s when the Highland Society of London wrote to various clan leaders asking what their tartans were, many had to ask around to their clansmen to see if any particular tartans had been favored in the past. And, in some cases they simply chose a pattern then and there as there had been no precursor. For the visit of King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822, clan leaders were asked to appear in their formal tartans, something many clans still did not yet have. The 1831 book, The Scottish Gaels, sought to immortalize Scottish customs and outlined the exact quantities of colors needed for each clan's special tartan, something which would have been unthinkable only a few decades before since clans had no special tartans at that time. Via/ Library of Congress During her reign Queen Victoria fell in love with Scotland, and after buying Balmoral Castle, Prince Albert kitted out the Highland estate with carpets and fabrics of tartan. Queen Victoria herself was fond of wearing tartan fabric and made it a la modefor women's clothing to embrace the patterns as well. The queen even had her own tartans made up, such as the Balmoral Tartan which was created in 1861 and a variation of the Stuart tartan with a red stripe added. The royal tartans are reserved for the royal family and variations of Queen Victoria's tartans are still being made for the royals in the modern era. A variation of the 19th century royal Balmoral tartan created exclusively for royal use in 1970. Via/ Scottish Register of Tartans The influence of the royals on the usage of tartan cannot be understated, and soon tartans were incorporated into formal attire for the upper classes of Ireland, Scotland, and England. Tartans have also become quite the fashion statement, having been associated with dandies, punks, and even haute couture fashion over the years. While tartans serve important functions today the truth is that these brilliant fabrics have only been associated with clan identity for about 200 years. Subscribe to Dusty Old Thing Is This the Most Beautiful Gas Station in the World?Connie Francis Gained Popularity Again Just Before She Passed AwayWhat Dating Was Like in the 1950sIn 1963 Jimmy Page Wanted to Become an Artist8 Features of Acadian-Style HousesHow Many Colors of Depression Glass Are There?How Anne Boleyn Got Dressed in the MorningThings We Miss About Summers with GrandmaMichelle Yeoh Got a Surprise When Was Asked to Star in a Bond FilmWhat Sleeper Sofas Looked in the Old DaysHow Butter Became an Everyday StapleThe Surprising Prices of Great Depression Secondhand StoresSKM: below-content placeholderWhizzco for DOT Travellers to Scotland over the past several hundred years have noted the Tartan worn by its inhabitants. These records refer to it as 'mottled', 'marled' and 'sundrie coloured', but perhaps the best description comes from the Gaelic word breacan, meaning chequered. For it is that description which best defines a tartan... a check-like arrangement of a tartan pattern, or the 'sett', which is repeated over and over again until the desired length of cloth is produced. For several centuries, tartan remained part of the everyday garb of the Highlander. Whilst tartan was worn in other parts of Scotland, it was in the Highlands that its development continued and so it became synonymous with the symbol of clan kinship. Tartan was used to make the items of clothing which are today considered traditional Scottish dress, including the philabeg, or kilt, and of course the trews. These would be worn with shoes of untanned hide and the cuaran, a knee length boot also made from hide which was shaped to the leg and kept in place by thongs. A hat, or bonnet of knitted wool sporting a badge of the clan, usually a plant of flower, would sit proudly on the head of the clansman. The highly ornamented leather sporran worn in front of the kilt served as a purse completed the ensemble. The women of the clan wore a curraichd of linen over their heads which fastened under their chin. The tonnag was a small square of tartan worn over the shoulders, and the araisaid was a long self-coloured or tartan garment, which reached from the head to the ankles, pleated all round and fastened at the breast with a brooch and at the waist by a belt. Early tartans were simple checks of perhaps only two or three colours. The colours were extracted mainly from dye-producing plants, roots, berries and trees local to a specific geographic area. These simple checks or tartans were worn by the people of the district where they were made, and as such became the area or clan tartan. It is said that the weavers took great pain to give exact patterns of tartan by identifying each colour of every thread upon a piece of wood known as a maide dalbh, or pattern stick. An account from 1572 records how a housewife gave coloured wool to a weaver to make into cloth. In suing him before the magistrate she accused him of making the cloth to his 'awin fasoun', or own fashion, and not according to her instructions. She won her case and the naughty weaver was punished. With the evolution of chemical dies, weavers were able to introduce more elaborate patterns including more vivid and varied colours. As clans grew and branched through birth, death or marriage, the newer clans evolved tartans of their own by adding an overstripe onto the basic pattern of the parent clan. One of the earliest references to the use of tartans by royals was by the treasurer to King James III, who in 1471 purchased a length of cloth for the king and queen. King James V wore tartan whilst hunting in the Highlands in 1538, and King Charles II wore a ribbon of tartan on his coat at his marriage in 1662. 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Hunting tartans - dark in colour and worn for sport, especially suitable when a clan possessed a brightly coloured tartan, making it unsuitable for hunting. Chiefs' tartans - for the personal use of the chief and his immediate family. Tartan has now gained international popularity with people selecting and sporting a design of his or her fancy. A word of warning however, the Royal tartan is for the exclusive use of the royal family and woe betide anyone who dares to break with this tradition! A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W YHELP & ADVICE Not all Scottish names are Clan names or have a clan connection. Traditionally Clans really only operated in the North-West of Scotland. Other areas such as the Borders had large powerful families that have come to be known as clans for the sake of convenience. With the revival of interest in Scotland's clan traditions many more names are either recognised as clans or connected to clan in some way. Knowing that your branch of the name dates back to specific Clan lands in Scotland during Clan times can be near impossible. With the advancements of DNA testing and sharing of information you may be lucky and find a cluster of ancestors from the specific area of Scotland. Uncovering the story. So lets start... Firstly look through the A-Z and see if your surname is there. It's simple if your surname is a single Clan name but you may find: There may be a close match. If so please see 'Spelling Differences' below. You name may be connected to a Clan as in a Sept. So a family name. How do you know if this is fact? Spelling Differences Spelling Differences among names are usually trivial no matter how much pride a person has in a particular version. Most of our ancestors were illiterate until recently, especially if they were Gaelic speakers. Most Gaels were not taught to read or write their own language. In contrast with English, Gaelic speakers place more emphasis on the spoken language than on the written form. This means that Gaelic spelling is constantly being modified to match the spoken form. Irish in 1948 and Scottish Gaelic in 1982. However, there are constant revisions and up-dates. In addition, Gaelic speakers did not need nor use family names until they began to interact with the English speaking culture. The Gaelic naming system is quite different and either shows a person's lineage or some personal attribute. "Donald of the race of Donald". "Donald, Son of John", and "Donny Little" all might be the same person. Land holders were known by the name of their holdings — "Locheil", "Corriemony", "Keppoch". Most persons first had their names written for them by others — ministers, school masters, government officials or ship captains. These people wrote as they heard the name., often differently from one time to the next. In modern spellings one can find the second part of the surname capitalised or in lower case, "MacDonald" and "Macdonald". This style was adopted in the nineteenth century to distinguish between a person who was actually the son of a man named Donald (Mac Donald) or one of the general clan surname (Macdonald). This soon lost its meaning. More than one choice? This is quite common, people often have connections with a combination of clans. Can't find a Scottish Connection - What to do next Try your Mother's maiden name, if not try looking further back at the surnames in your family's history. My ancestors are Scottish but their surname isn't in the list? This is quite common and we touch on this at the top of the page. Many Scottish names are 'occupational' such as 'Cooper' and can pop up in all areas in Scotland so would not have the same territorial connection of a clan. In the 19th century there was a fashion to connect many Scots names with clans as 'Septs', sometimes the evidence is vague at best. I can't find a Clan - what can I do? If you have traced back your ancestry to Scotland, wearing the district tartan of the area you family lived could mean more to you than just a general tartan.

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