



SCOTTISH CLANS & NAMING PATTERNS

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Clans

Clan comes from the Gaelic word “clanna,” meaning children, descendants, offspring, family, stock.

What were the fines? A fine was a family kin-group

- Derbhfine
- Gilfine

Clan Organization

Structure

Clan Chief – Head of the clan.

Tanist/Tainistear – The heir to the chief, typically the direct male heir.

Chieftains – Leaders of the various septs, branches, houses of the clan.

The Captain – Acts as war chief to the clan.

‘Daoin-Uaisle’ – The gentlemen, landed or titled individuals within the clan.

The general body of the clan

Native Men and Broken Men

- Native Men – Those related to the chief and to each other by blood.
- Broken Men – Individuals or groups from other clans who sought and obtained protection of the clan.

Fosterage and Manrent

- Fosterage – The practice of leading family taking and raising other clan members’ children.
- Manrent – A bond contracted by lesser families to be protected by the more powerful families/clans.

Origins of Scotland’s Clans

The Scoti or Scots of Dalriata

The Vikings

Gaelic Influence on Scotland

- Culture
- Government
- Clan system vs. feudalism

Sasanach Perceptions of the Highlanders

The highlanders were a mystery to the rest of Britain's population.

Highland Customs and Cultures

- The Fiery Cross
- The Harp and Bagpipes
- The Claymore

The Battle of Culloden and Death of the Highland Clans

- Culloden Moor, outside of Inverness, on 16 April 1746
- The Act of Proscription of 1746

Rebirth of Clans and Tartans

Clan Organizations and Records

Clan Buchanan	Online – Archive.org
Clan Cameron	Achnacarry, Scotland
Clan Campbell	Online – Ancestry.com & Online – clan genealogies
Clan Chattan	Online – Clan-Chattan
Clan Chisholm	Highland Archive
Clan Ferguson	Online – Archive.org
Clan Fraser	National Records of Scotland
Clan Gregor	National Records of Scotland
Clan Gordon	National Records of Scotland
Clan Hamilton	National Library of Scotland
Clan MacBean	Highland Archive
Clan MacGregor	National Records of Scotland
Clan MacLachlan	National Library of Scotland
Clan MacLean	National Library of Scotland & National Records of Scotland
Clan MacRae	Online – Archive.org
Clan Matheson	Online & modern genealogies
Clan Stuart of Bute	MountStuart, Isle of Bute
Clan Sutherland	National Records of Scotland

The Wearin' O' The Tartan

- Tartan comes from the French word, "tartaine."
- Tartan-like dress worn by the Celts

The Tartan

- féileadh bhreacain (plaid of tartan)
- féileadh beag (little plaid)

Tartans Today

There are now thousands of tartan setts. Folklore suggests that every color and line in every pattern is endowed with deep historical significance. That is not the case.

Types of Tartans

Clan Tartans – patterns for general use by clanspeople.

Dress Tartans – were originally worn by the ladies of the clan who preferred to wear lighter colored patterns.

Mourning Tartans – worn for funerals and mourning.

Hunting Tartans – worn for outdoor activities like hunting and sports and have muted colors and browns, etc.

Chiefs' Tartans – the personal tartans of the clan chief and his immediate family.

District Tartans – probably the oldest of the tartans and are from what the other tartans may have developed.

Scottish Naming Patterns

Ancestral Scottish Naming Pattern

The 1st son was named for his father's father

The 2nd son was named for his mother's father

The 3rd son was named for his father's father's father

The 4th son was named for his mother's mother's father

The 5th son was named for his father's mother's father

The 6th son was named for his mother's father's father

The 7th through 10th sons were named for their father's
4 great-grandfathers

The 11th through 14th sons were named for their mother's
4 great-grandfathers

The 1st daughter was named for her mother's mother

The 2nd daughter was named for her father's mother

The 3rd daughter was named for her mother's father's mother

The 4th daughter was named for her father's father's mother

The 5th daughter was named for her mother's mother's mother

The 6th daughter was named for her father's mother's mother

The 7th through 10th daughters were named for their mother's
4 great-grandmothers

The 11th through 14th daughters were named for their father's 4 great-grandmothers

Parental Scottish Naming Pattern

The 1st son was named for his father's father

The 2nd son was named for his mother's father

The 3rd son was named for his father

The 4th son was named for his father's eldest brother

The 5th son was named for his father's next eldest brother

The 1st daughter was named for her mother's mother

The 2nd daughter was named for her father's mother

The 3rd daughter was named for her mother

The 4th daughter was named for her mother's eldest sister

The 5th daughter was named for her mother's next eldest sister

Forename Variants

Examples of changing or abbreviated names:

Alexander: Alec, Alex, Eck, Sandy, Sander, Xander

Elizabeth: Elisabeth, Eliza, Betty, Betsy, Beth, Bessie, Elspeth, Elsbeth, Elsie, Lizzie

Euphemia: Euphan, Eupham, Effy

George: Dod

James: Jamie, Jimmy, Jim

Katherine: Kate, Katie, Kath, Kathy

Anglicizing Gaelic Names and Interchangeable Names

Scottish vs. English Names:

Andrea = Andrew

Caitriona = Katherine

Domhnall = Donald

Frang = Francis

Grizel = Griselda

Hamish = James

Ian = John

Seòras = George

Jane or Jean or Janet or Jessie

Agnes or Nancy

Donald or Daniel

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