

# District ARGYLL

Gaelic Name

**Earraghaidheal**

Tartan Designer unknown

Date 1819 (probably earlier)

Argyll the 'high land of the Gael', is part of Scotland that points like the fingers of a hand south across the sea to Ireland. Only twelve miles separate the Mull of Kintyre and the coast of Ulster. Around the fifth century, the Gaels moved east to Carrick and Galloway and north to Argyll where they founded the Kingdom of Dalriada. Expanding north and east through Argyll, the Scots assimilated the earlier Picts and brought their language and culture to all of the north of 'Scotland. Argyll is a land of green peninsulas, high mountains, fertile valleys and majestic lochs. Argyll is often identified with the Campbells, whose chief is the Duke of Argyll.

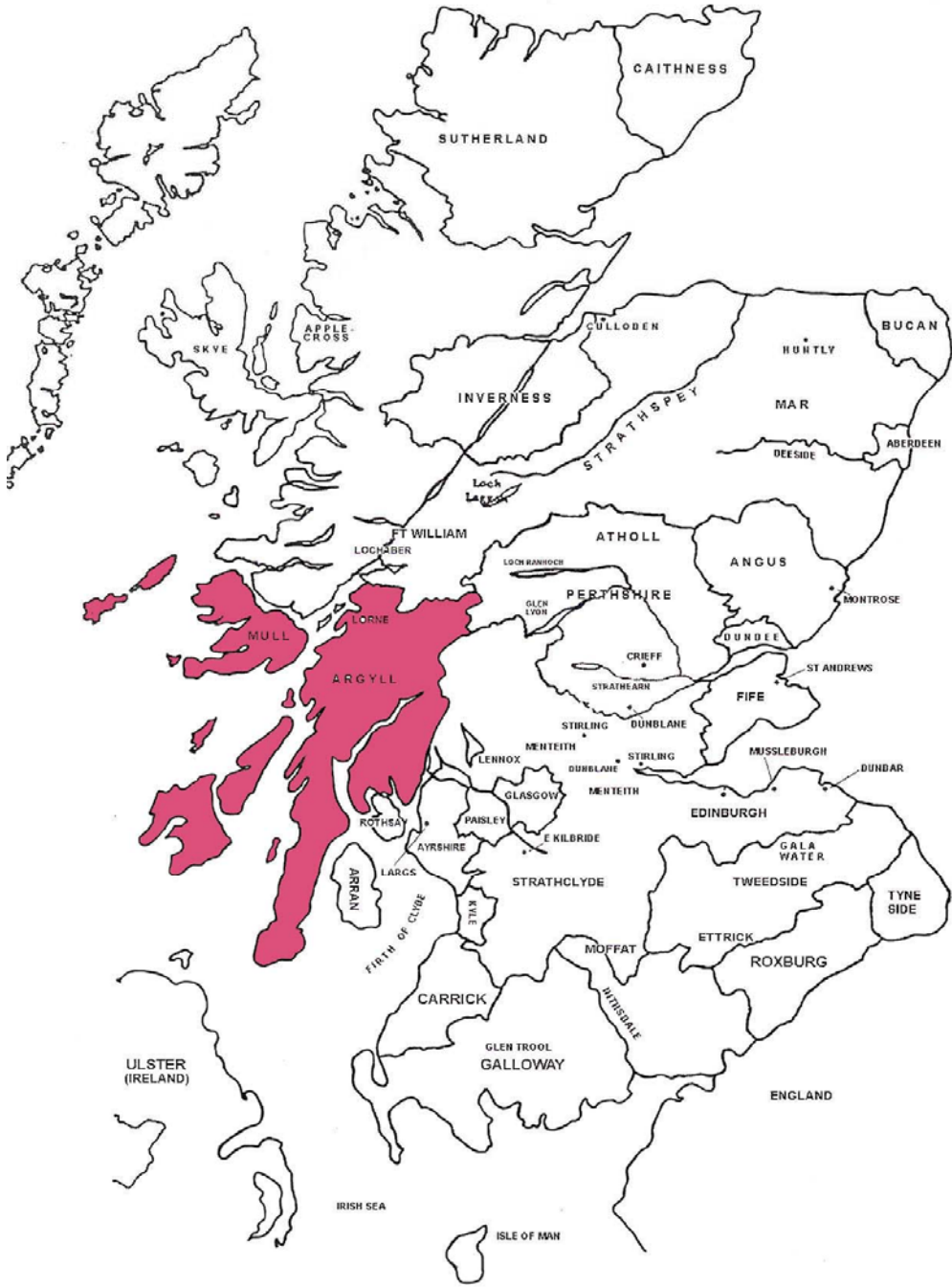
The first record of the Argyll district tartan is in the 1819 Key Patern Book of Wilsons of Bannockburn when it is referred to as 'No. 230 or Argyll'. Among this firm's accounts for 1798 there is an 'Arbyll tartan' mentioned and, though one cannot be certain, this may well have been the same sett. W & S Smith were the first to illustrate this tartan in their 1850 publication in which it is called 'Cawdor Campbell'. They give the Earl of Cawdor as their source and it is reasonable to conclude that the pattern was worn by the 91<sup>st</sup> Arbyllshire Highlanders as 'Cambell' between 1865-81. As a consequence it became identified with the County of Arbyll, from the inhabitants of which the regiment was raised. In W. & A.K. Johnston's *The Tartans of the Clans and Septs of Scotland* in the text to 'Dunblane', the Campbell of Cawdor tartan is called 'Argyll District tartan'. This sett has a feeling of being a truly old one, since it is similar to several patterns from other parts of the west coast and islands.

*Taken from "District Tartans of Scotland", by Gordon Teall & Philip Smith, Shephard-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd.*

This clan information sheet has been prepared by  
The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.  
PO Box 32248  
Louisville, KY 40232-2248

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# ARGYLL-BUTE DISTRICT



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