

District BUCHAN

Gaelic Name

Buchan

Tartan Designer unknown

Date c. 1790 (or earlier)

Buchan is the northeast tip of central Scotland. It has generally been free from foreign incursions and alarms but has a long history of local feuds and forays. It is a land devoted to fishing and farming.

The Buchan district tartan is one of the oldest named setts. It is asymmetric and rather complex. Originally, it appears to have been a district tartan for the Glenorchy area in the West. The earliest sample, on loan to the Scottish Tartans Society, is a nineteenth-century cushion cover made of vegetable-dyed material woven by hand in about 1790. The same pattern is to be found in the Collection of the Highland Society of London, now in the care of the National Museum of Scotland. Dating from about 1816, the sample is labeled 'MacIntyre and Glenorchy', the MacIntyres being a prominent family in the Glenorchy area. In *The Clans of the Highlands of Scotland* (1850) Thomas Smibert depicts a slightly different and extended set, which is named 'Cumming and Glenorchy', also taken from the Highland Society Collection.

In about 1965, the Buchan family adopted the set on account of their long association with the Cummings which began with the second marriage, c.1210, of Margaret, the daughter of King Edgar, to William Coymen, sheriff of Forfar. By her first marriage she was the Countess of Buchan. The present chief of the Buchans is Captain David Buchan of Auchmacoy, the earldom having now passed to the Erskines. The name Buchan, though a family name, is territorial in origin, probably deriving from Gaelic *bo-chain* ('cow tribute'). It is therefore, an interesting tribute to the family of Buchan that the former Glenorchy district tartan is now accepted as the Buchan district tartan.

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

Visit our website at www.scotsoflou.com

BUCAN DISTRICT



Prepared by
The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.
PO Box 32248
Louisville, KY 40232-2248

Visit our website at www.scotsoflou.com