

District ETRICK

Tartan Designer Unknown

Date c. 1900

The Ettrick valley, formerly in the county of Selkirk, now forms part of the Ettrick and Lauderdale District Council in the Borders Region, established in 1975 under a local government act. Ettrick Forest covers a large area and was a favorite hunting ground for the Royal House of Stewart. Sheep raising, encouraged particularly by James V, led to virtually the complete destruction of the old forest of birch and oak, and the area today is mainly pastoral although in recent years many young plantations have been established. It is a sparsely populated area of uplands with 'laws', 'rigs' and 'knowes' rising to 2000 feet and above. One of the highest hills is Ettrick Pen, 2270 feet, the western slopes of which drain into the Ettrick Water, which eventually flows into the river Tweed near Selkirk. In Ettrick churchyard are buried Thomas Boston, exponent of Calvinism theology; James Hogg, the 'Ettrick Shepherd', poet and novelist; and Tibbie Shiel, who kept the famous inn at St. Mary's Loch.

The precise circumstances relating to the design of the Ettrick tartan are not known, but it was included in Book 4 of Wilsons of Bannockburn, Pattern Collections, dated c. 1900. It is a very simple design in black and red.

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

This clan information sheet has been prepared by
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