

# District GALLOWAY

Tartan Designer John Hannay

Date 1950

Galloway is an ancient division of southwest Scotland, broadly co-extensive with the former counties of Wigtown and Kirkcudbright. These counties, together with Dumfriesshire and parts of Southern Ayrshire were absorbed into the Dumfries and Galloway Region in 1975. Galloway was to the early Gaelic speaker the land of the 'Gall' or foreigner', where the old Welsh-like British language was spoken. The name Galloway persisted as the Gaelic people came across from Ireland and replaced the earlier inhabitants. The Rinn of Ballouay and the coast of Ulster are only 18 miles apart. The two areas shared a mutual language and culture for centuries and today are directly linked by a ferry service from Stranraer. Galloway is a pastoral land, still lonely and uncultivated in many areas. The 'Galloway' Hills', often called the 'Galloway Highlands' are a favorite haunt for the visitor seeking beauty and solitude.

The Galloway district tartan was designed in 1950 by John Hannay, a chiropodist, living in London. In contemporary correspondence, Mr. Hannay stated that the Galloway 'everyday' tartan was 'in four shades of green with yellow and red stripe' (sic). As woven on his behalf, however, by Dree Mills Ltd. Of Newton-Stewart, Wigtownshire, only two shades of green were used. In some samples received by the Scottish Tartans Society, the yellow line has been replaced by a white one, possibly because it was originally intended to be a primrose shade.

Mr. Hannay, at the same time designed the Galloway dress tartan. This is a color change of the 'everyday' tartan together with a modification of the proportions of each color in the sett.

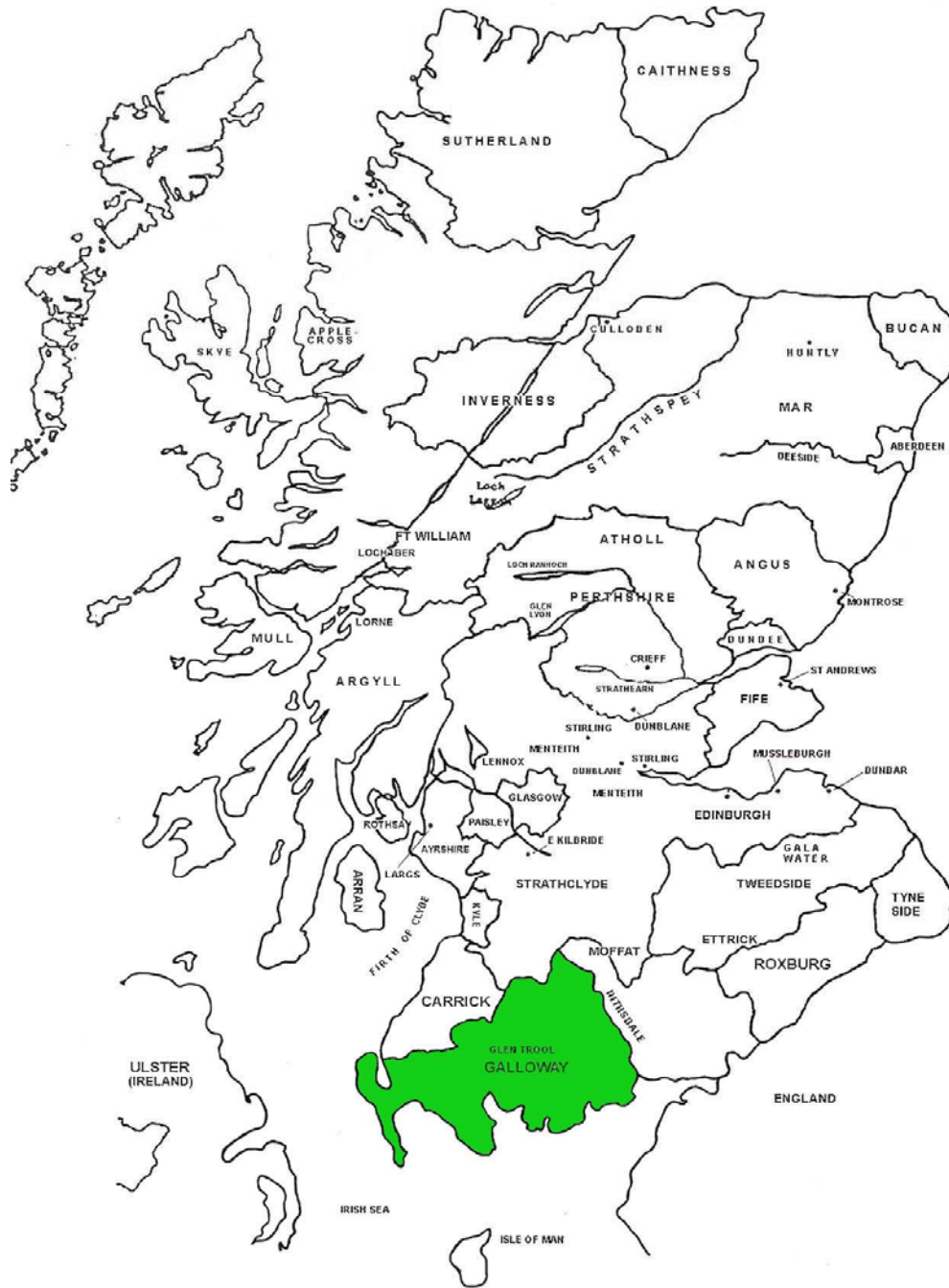
Galloway is also a surname borne by a number of families, who sometimes choose to wear the Galloway tartans.

*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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