

District MOFFAT

Tartan Designer Unknown

Date Probably 1920-1940

Moffat Water, rising on the steep hills of Dumfriesshire, runs in almost a straight southwest line to the River Annan. Three miles above the juncture is the small resort town of Moffat, just off the main Glasgow to Carlisle road. The Moffat district was for centuries, part of the domain of the Douglases and laer, of the Johnstons who resided a short way southwest of the present village at Lochwood.

Moffat today is one of the loveliest villages of Scotland with a large central square lined with shops and hotels. Just beyond the village one can find straths, glens and mountains that rival the best of Highland scenery. This traditional pastoral land is filled with songs and stories of early cattle drovers and reivers. Just above Moffat, is the 'Devil's Beef Tub', a natural cul-de-sac which was traditionally the holding place for stolen cattle. Some miles to the south is the birthplace of King Robert the Bruce at Lochmagen.

The origin of the Moffat district tartan is unclear. It was possibly designed as a family tartan during the interwar years in the first half of this century. It was first noted by John MacGregor Hastie and seems to be based on the center portion of the Murray of Tullibardine sett, though in somewhat different proportions of the red and green. When Major Francis Moffat of that Ilk M.C. was recognized as Chief of the Name and House of Moffat, by the Lord Lyon in 1983 (after the family had been without a chief for 420 years), a family tartan of different design and based on the Douglas was introduced to commemorate early family connections.

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

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