

# District PAISLEY

Gaelic Name

**Paislig**

Tartan Designer Allan C. Drennan

Date 1952

Paisley, a manufacturing center only seven miles from Glasgow, is more famous for its shawls than for tartan. Paisley began as a village round a monastery founded in 1163 by Walter Fitzallan, progenitor of the royal line of the Stewart family. In 1488 it became a burgh. Nearby, is Eldersie, the traditional birthplace of William Wallace. King Robert III was buried in Paisley Abbey in 1406.

The name comes ultimately from Latin *Basilica* a church, possibly through an old Welsh form.

The town became a textile center specializing in linen and silk gauze in the early 1700s. In 1812, the production of cotton thread began and Paisley became one of the world's leading thread manufacturing centers. The original Paisley shawls, inspired by contact with India, are now collector's items. Alexander Wilson, famed early American ornithologist, was a son of Paisley.

The attractive Paisley tartan was designed by Allan D. Drennan, who was the sub manager of the sporting Department of Anchor Mills, Paisley in 1952, when it won him first prize in its class at the Kelso Highland Show. He regarded it as having 'a motif of the Clan Donald'. Though created as a district tartan, the Paisley sett has been adopted by many people bearing that name, and the Paisley & Allied Families Society, which regards it as a means of 'generating a family identity'.

*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](http://www.scotsoflou.com)

# PAISLEY DISTRICT



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

Visit our website at [www.scotsoflou.com](http://www.scotsoflou.com)