

# District STRATHSPEY

Gaelic Name

**Srath Spe**

Tartan Designer Unknown

Date c. 1793

Strathspey, the village of the River Spey, is one of the loveliest and the most fertile areas of the Highlands. Rising in a tiny loch, the Spey flows east through the grassland of Badenoch to Kingussie (*Cinn a'Ghuithsaich*--head of the fir forest). Here Strathspey proper begins at the Forest of Rothiemurchus, one of the last original forests of Britain. Strathspey is a major producer of malt whisky and the Spey, flowing directly to the sea with no major falls, is famous for its salmon fishing.

From Craigellachie, the cliff above Aviemore to Craigellachie, the village twenty-five miles down river, Strathspey was the home of Clan Grant. Grantown-on-Spey was planned in 1776 by Sir James Grant of Grant (whose family, after 1811, acquired the title of Earl of Seafield). Parts of Castle Grant date from the 1400s but most of the structure was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Strathspey tartan is taken from the back of a waistcoat supposedly worn by an officer of the Strathspey Fencibles Regiment which was raised by General James Grant of Ballindalloch (1793-1799). The waistcoat was exhibited at the Highland Exhibition in Inverness in 1930, having been lent by Col. J. Grant Smith of Grantown-on-Spey. Instead of the number of black lines being two or four respectively on alternate blue squares, there are three on every such square.

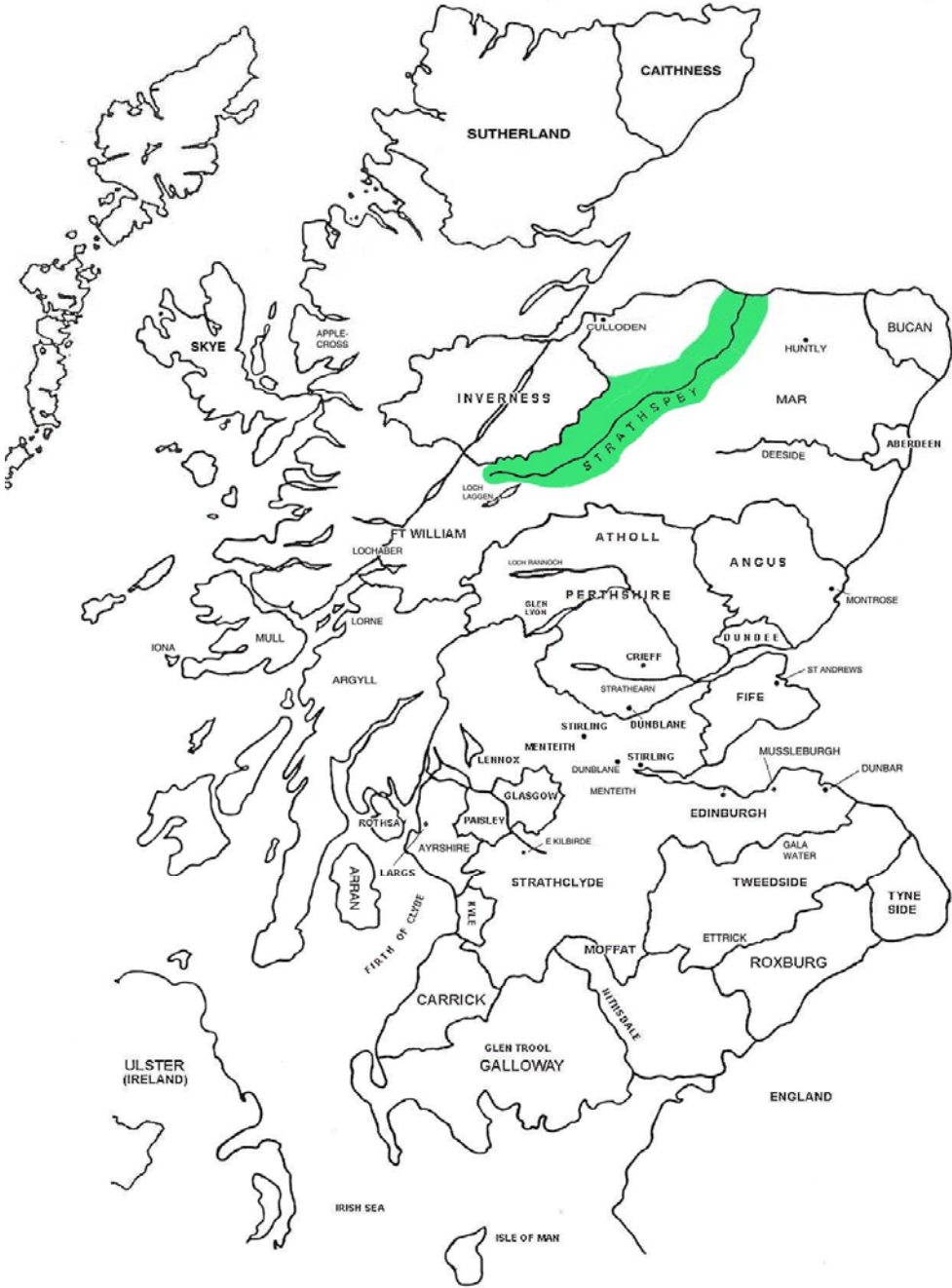
In 1984, the Strathspey district tartan was recommended to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society as being suitable for wear by dancers with no clear affiliation of their own

*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)

# STRATHSPEY 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)