

District TYNESIDE (ENGLISH)

Tartan Designer Unknown

Date 1914

Tyneside is an area steeped in the conflicts of yesteryear. The River Tyne and its tributaries drain much of northern England. The South Tyne flows northward from the Pennine Hills. The North Tyne rises in the Cheviot Hills on the Scottish border to pass through the line of Hadrian's Wall. This Roman fortification, still extant in many places, was commenced after Hadrian's visit in AD 122 and stretched from the Solway Firth in the west to the estuary of the Tyne in the east, being finally abandoned in 383. After the Romans had departed, the Tyneside area was to form part of the ancient kingdom of Northumbria which encompassed, at its zenith, what is now southeast Scotland and northeast England, from the Forth to the Humber.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a modern manufacturing and university city, is an important crossing place on the Tyne, being the site of the Roman settlement of Pons Aelii. Here, too, the conquering Normans built the stronghold from which Newcastle derived its name. From the city to the sea, lies the industrial urban complex of Gateshead, i.e. Gateshead, Wallsend (the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall), Jarrow and Tyne-mouth.

The Tyneside tartan is not a district tartan in the sense that it was locally woven. At the beginning of the First World War in 1914, Lord Kitchener authorized the raising of a battalion, to be known as the Tyneside Scottish. The War Office would not agree to the wearing of tartan or the kilt by the rank and file, but permission to do so was given to the pipers of the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers. The Pattern is a color change based on the Black Watch (42nd) or Government sett, with tan replacing the usual black. In recent years, the sett has come to be regarded as a suitable district tartan for those connected with Tyneside. Such a change of use is not unique since much the same happened in the case of Sutherland district tartan.

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

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