

# THE CLAY PIPER

## First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

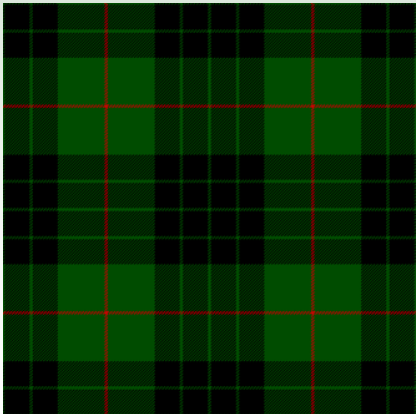
Volume 6, Issue 4

[www.firstcoasthighlanders.com](http://www.firstcoasthighlanders.com)

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Feb. 2022

First Coast Highlanders Pipes and Drums welcomes Clan Gunn, the Honor Clan, to the 2022 North East Florida Scottish Highland Games. We are honored to lead Clan Gunn into the arena this year at the opening ceremony. The tune we will play is *The Sound of the Gunns*. If you are in the grandstands, show your support for Clan Gunn.



**Clan Gunn** “*Na Guinnich*.” (If you are Gaelic), is a Highland Scottish clan associated with lands in northeastern Scotland. Clan Gunn is one of the oldest Scottish Clans, being descended from the Norse Jarls of Orkney and the Pictish Mormaers of Caithness. That’s right they come from the Viking era.

The traditional origin of the Clan Gunn is that the progenitor of the clan was one *Gunni* who came to Caithness at the end of the 12th century when his wife, Ragnhild, inherited the estates from her brother, Harald Maddadsson who was the Earl of Orkney. His wife descended from St Ragnvald, who was the founder of the St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, Orkney. *Gunni*, whose name meant *war*, was allegedly descended from Viking adventurers and his grandfather was *Sweyn* who was killed in a raid on Dublin in 1171. The Gunns are of Gaelic origin. Further information on the Norse origins of Clan Gunn can be found in an article written by Michael James Gunn,

quoting Sir Robert Gordon “Alexander Gun of Kilearnan and Navidale, 4th Mackeamish”, from him he learned that Mackeamish’s family *are called Clan-Gun from one called Gun, whom they allege to have been the king of Denmark his son, and came many days ago from Denmark, and settled himself in Catteynes*. The significance of this statement is made clear when it is remembered that, in Sir Robert Gordon’s time, the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway were united under the Danish crown. However, the ancient Gaelic synarchies described the Gunns as Lochlannaich, or Norwegians, not Danes, because at the time of their forbear’s arrival in Orkney and Caithness Norway was a separate kingdom and not united with Denmark until the Union of Kalmar in 1391. If you would like to know more about Clan Gunn or think you are a descendent please check out their Clan Gunn Society of North America website <https://www.clangunn.us/index.html> Stop by the clan booth and see if you might be a Gunn.



### First Coast Highlanders - AGM 2022

First Coast Highlanders conducted their Annual General Meeting on January 6, 2022. An election of officers was conducted. Pipe Major Appreciation award presented to Art Tenney. President Scott Young presented Steven Romeo with a Member Recognition certificate and plaque for his dedicated 11 years with First Coast Highlanders. Good snacks, refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

### Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2022

<b>President:</b>	Scott Young
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Lynch
<b>Secretary:</b>	James Roberts
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Will Wheeler
<b>Member at Large:</b>	Steven Romeo
<b>Quartermaster:</b>	Robert Arthurs
<b>Band Business Mgr.:</b>	Art Tenney

### 2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23 (Sunday) - 10:30 AM—**Kirkin of the Tartan**—Saint Simons Presbyterian Church—St. Simons Island, GA

January 30 (Sunday) - 10:30 AM—**Kirkin of the Tartan**—1st Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Downtown Jacksonville

February 19 (Saturday) - All Day—**Mount Dora Scottish Festival**—Mt Dora, FL

February 20 (Sunday) - 10:00 AM—**Kirkin of the Tartan**—Saint Giles Presbyterian Church—Orange Park, FL

February 26 (Saturday) - ALL DAY—**NE Florida Scottish Games & Festival**—Clay County Fair Grounds—Green Cove Springs, FL

March 12 & 13 (Sat. / Sun.) - ALL DAY—**St Augustine Celtic Festival**—St Francis Field, St. Augustine, FL

March 17 (Thursday) - 1:00 to 5:00 PM—**St Patrick's Day Celebration**—Meehan's Irish Pub— St Augustine FL

March 17 (Thursday) - 5:00 PM—**St Joe / Patty Day**—St Joseph Catholic Church—Ponte Vedra, FL

March 26 (Saturday) - ALL DAY—**Military Vehicle Association Show**—Military Museum , Green Cove Springs, FL

April 9 ( Saturday) - All Day—**Old Fashion Farmers Day**—Penney Farms— Penney Farms / Green Cove Springs, FL

May 29 (Sunday) - 10:30 AM—**Memorial Day Church Service**—Turning Point at Calvary Church—St. Augustine, FL



## What is a Clan?

The word 'clan' derives from the Gaelic word 'clann' or 'clanna' for children and describes a close-knit group of relatives. However, you didn't need to be related to the clan chief to be considered a part of the clan. Anyone who pledged their allegiance to the chief could use the clan's name as their own, and this included those who worked for the clan or needed protection. When surnames came into use in the 16th and 17th centuries, many took their clan leader's name as their own. Clans were generally associated with a geographical area of Scotland, for example, the **Armstrong Clan** originated in the Borders, the **MacGregors** in Argyll, and **Clan Campbell** ruled the roost across much of the Scottish Highlands. Clans often had ancestral castles too, such as Clan Murray's Duffus Castle in Blair Atholl.

Today, Scottish clans are celebrated across the world, with many descendants making the pilgrimage to Scotland to discover their roots and ancestral home. Clans names, tartans and crests are recorded by Lord Lyon for official recognition.

## Authority of the Clans

Most clans had a clan chief who acted as head of the community and controlled every aspect of clan life, from deciding who could get married to judging legal matters. Everyone who swore allegiance to the clan chief was considered part of the clan, whether related by blood or not to the chief.

The clan chief was trusted to protect the territory of the clan, their dùthchas (heritage) and all those within it. If a clan gave their oathbreach (estate) to the clan leader, the chief became the owner of the land as recognized by the Crown. Land was passed on through heritable succession – when one clan chief died it was passed on to the next male in line. Anyone who lived on the clan's estate had to pay their dues, and the payments were collected by the taxmen, which were then passed on to the clan nobility.

In addition to the clan chief, the clan nobility and leading gentry were individuals with responsibilities and influence within the clan system. For example, certain people in the leading gentry were responsible for bringing up the children of the clan.

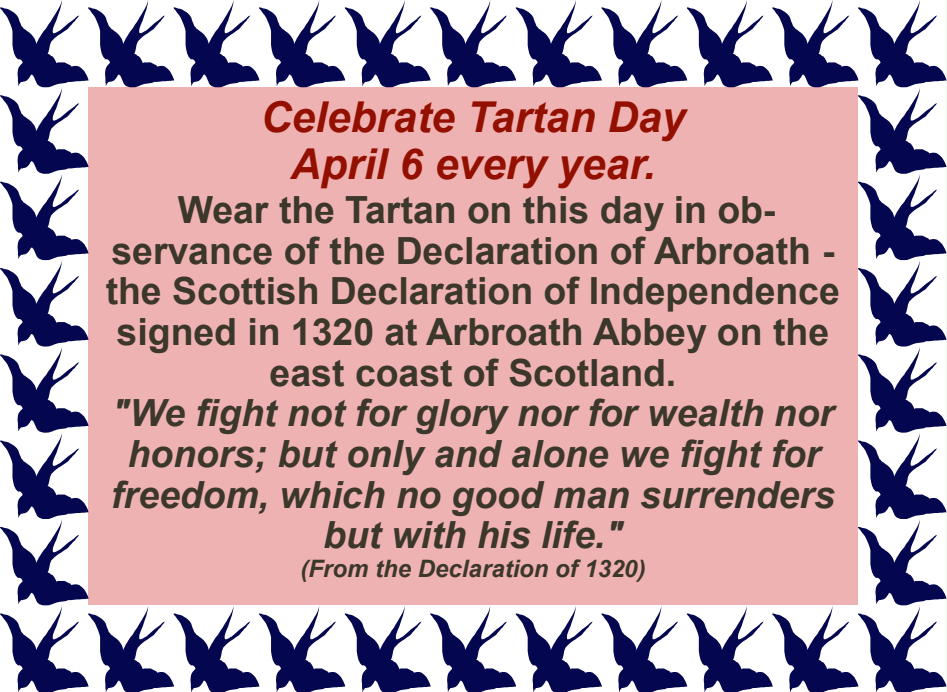
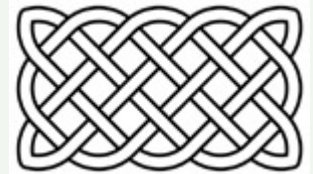
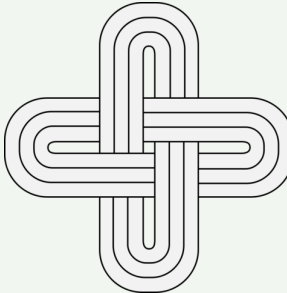
Within the clan, a chief would encourage members to marry each other to keep the bloodline pure. However, marriages were also used between neighboring clans to forge alliances, and there were often commercial gains involved in a union, such as the exchange of livestock or land.



## How Did Clans Originate?

It is believed clans started to emerge in Scotland around 1100AD and were originally the descendants of kings – if not of demigods from Irish mythology. For example, Clan Campbell claimed they had descended from Diarmid O'Dyna, a popular demigod character in Irish myth and legend, while the first head of Clan Donald was said to be a descendant of Conn, the King of Ulster.

As well as kinship and a sense of identity and belonging, being part of a clan was an important part of survival throughout the troubled centuries that would follow. The constant battle for land and resources, like livestock, between clans was often ferocious. Add to this Norse invasions, English attacks, and the Jacobite uprisings, and it was no surprise that Scotland's people sought safety in numbers.



**Celebrate Tartan Day  
April 6 every year.**

**Wear the Tartan on this day in observance of the Declaration of Arbroath - the Scottish Declaration of Independence signed in 1320 at Arbroath Abbey on the east coast of Scotland.**

***"We fight not for glory nor for wealth nor honors; but only and alone we fight for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life."***

***(From the Declaration of 1320)***



# Scottish History—The Battle of Culloden

It's the most recognizable of Scottish symbols, but one dark day in April 1746 nearly wiped tartan out completely. The Battle of Culloden saw the climax of the doomed Jacobite rebellion, led by "Bonnie Prince Charlie" Stewart against the British government. Despite success in battles at Prestonpans and Falkirk, by the time they grouped near Inverness the exhausted Jacobite army was struggling with cold, hunger and low spirits. In contrast, the British troops were well fed and rested - even holding a party in honor of the Duke of Cumberland's 25th birthday the night before the battle. A



planned surprise raid on the British troops during the party failed as many soldiers abandoned the mission to search for food, while darkness and rough terrain hindered the rest.

Aware of the challenges facing the Jacobite soldiers, on the morning of April 16th General Lord George Murray made a last-ditch attempt to convince Prince Charles that the moor would be highly advantageous to Cumberland's troops. He argued that the flat open ground would leave the Jacobite's open to heavy artillery fire, which proved to be exactly what happened.

When the battle commenced, the Jacobite army was forced to charge after British cannons decimated their lines with rounds of grapeshot. Boggy ground and the overall lie of the land left them at the mercy of the British,

and the Highlanders who did make it to the government lines found themselves outnumbered in brutal hand to hand combat. The battle was over in under an hour. In that time around 1250 Jacobites were killed on the battlefield with a similar number wounded and nearly 400 prisoners taken. In contrast, the government troops lost only 50 men. The aftermath of the battle proved to be just as devastating for the Jacobites as those who had survived were either captured or executed. Those who managed to escape were ruthlessly hunted as the government tried, and ultimately succeeded, to bring Scotland in line culturally and politically with the rest of the country.

Subsequently, Culloden was the end of the already declining Highlander way of life. The British government banned the wearing of tartan and stripped the clan chiefs of their estates and legal powers. Bonnie Prince Charlie was forced to flee to France via Skye disguised as a woman to avoid being caught by the British government, a trip that inspired the famous Skye Boat Song.

The battlefield on Culloden Moor has been preserved in the face of increasing modernization of the surrounding area, by the National Trust for Scotland. A memorial cairn has been built on the site, and simple headstones have been placed to mark the locations of the clan graves. Visitors are free to walk amongst the gravestones looking for the place their own clansmen lie or tracing the lines where the Jacobites and government troops lined up before the last battle ever fought on British soil.

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## Local —Scottish Society of Jacksonville

If you are a Scot or of Scottish heritage and interested in participating in the local area Scottish events, stop by the Scottish Society's booth at the games. They are a non-profit society with a mission to educate and



share Scottish culture, heritage, and history with our community. They strive to promote Scottish events in our local communities and serve our local communities in beneficial ways, which includes promoting Kirkins, evensongs, Scottish music and dance, highland games, as well as other events and community engagements which

promote our local communities, American heritage, and military families.

If you miss them at the games you can contact them on their website at <https://jaxsaintandrews.org/> or send them an email

[jacksonvillestandrews@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonvillestandrews@gmail.com)



# SPONSORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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FOR \$25 YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB, and receive the newsletter by email.

*For more information about hiring a piper or the band, or becoming a sponsor, call Art Tenney at (904) 368-8177.*

Please complete the coupon below and mail with your check to the **First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091.**

We are registered under s.496 405, Florida Statutes, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, registration number CH36692, expiration date

June 15, 2022, and we are a 501 C (3) non-profit charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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