

CLAN BLAIR SOCIETY

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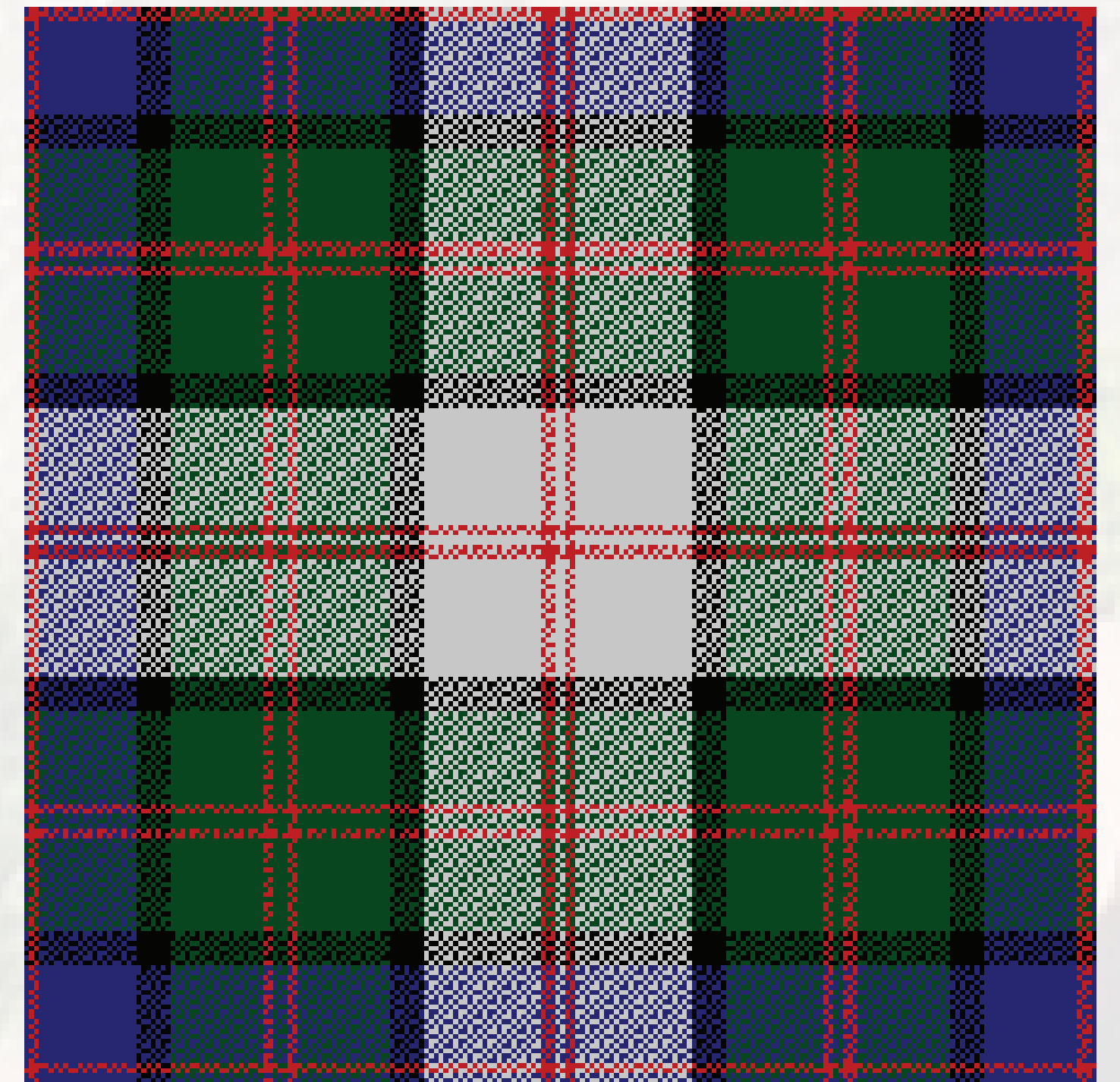
The Blair Name

"Blair" is the genitive of a gaelic word, "Blar" meaning field or battle field. It is used for places and surnames, one of the earliest known for the former being the Barony of Blair in Ayrshire granted by King William in mid-12th century.

Two Blair Families, Two Cities, 12th Century...

Two families of Blairs long competed for Chiefship of the Blair Family, until King James VI declared in 1658 that "The eldest male of either of the two Families would have precedency over the younger to the Chieftainship". The significance of this could suggest that members of these two family groups had frequent interchange and recognized kinship. However, there is no evidence of any marital exchanges. Given the propensity for Blair to Blair marriages, these appear to take place between cadets of the same main families but not between the Ayrshire and Perthshire families. That and the complete difference in their arms points to separate origins.

Blair Tartans



Ancient Tartan

Tartans with the prefix 'Ancient' are not necessarily older. Colours are chosen to have a closer link to the historical colours of Tartans produced with the natural dyes available. The colours are pastel-like, creating a softer feel, and giving the look of material that is worn beyond its years.

Modern Tartan

As with 'Ancient' Tartans, the name 'Modern' relates to the colours used in the Tartan, not the date of the design. Ancient and Modern designs tend to share the same set, the change is in the colour palette used. While 'Modern' Tartans use stronger, darker colours.

Dress Tartan

It is often easy to identify Dress Tartans with the abundance of white or yellow thread used to make up the design. These designs are most popular with Highland Dancing Kilts, though they can also be worn to give a brighter looking Tartan Kilt.