

A Bit of Clan Gunn History:

Our ancestors were mixed in origin, the earliest known inhabitants of the area were the Picts, later mixed with Celts, Scots, Teutons, Normans, Norse and others. Practically without exception, the Highland Clans' chiefly lines claim descent from the Norse Vikings. Clan Gunn is no exception. The surname Gunn derives from Gun, Gunnar, or Gunni (depending upon the interpretation of the historian) who was a grandson of Sweyn, the Pirate of Freswick, whose family ruled the earldoms of Orkney and Caithness during the 9th, 10th and 11th centuries. The modern lineage and sept families stem from George Gunn, the Crouner of Caithness, born in the first decade of the 15th century and slain with several of his clansmen at the Chapel of St. Tears, near Ackergill, in July, 1478.

Clans have existed in many parts of the world, but it was in the Highlands of Scotland that the clan system developed most fully as a way of life. History tells us that clans fought amongst each other over matters of territory and pride. However, differences were put aside in a heartbeat to fight an enemy. And games or gatherings of the clans throughout the Highlands and islands of Scotland provided a chance for young Highlanders to choose their spouses and thus insure good will among the clans as well as participating in athletic competitions. During these gatherings, men, women and children would also share food and drink, tell stories, trade and barter for goods, play music and dance. The games

and gatherings of today are probably much like those of yesteryear. The clan system ended with the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlanders on the moors of Culloden, near Inverness, on April 16, 1746. Following this defeat, the English abolished the Clan system and until 1782 all weapons were forbidden to the Highlander, as were the tartans, clan dress, clan symbols and paraphernalia, clan music, Highland dancing, and gatherings. Even the bagpipe was forbidden as it was, and is today, considered an instrument of war.

In the early to mid 1800s, a program known as the "Clearances" was carried out with the stated object of "clearing the Highlanders from the land to make it fit for the raising of sheep". It was this program that was largely responsible for the scattering of the Highlanders to the far reaches of the world.

When King George IV toured Scotland in the 1820s (he was the first monarch to visit Scotland in 175 years), he and his court were adorned in full Highland regalia. Tartans blossomed everywhere, the Clans were revitalized and Clan societies were organized in an attempt to re-establish family ties.

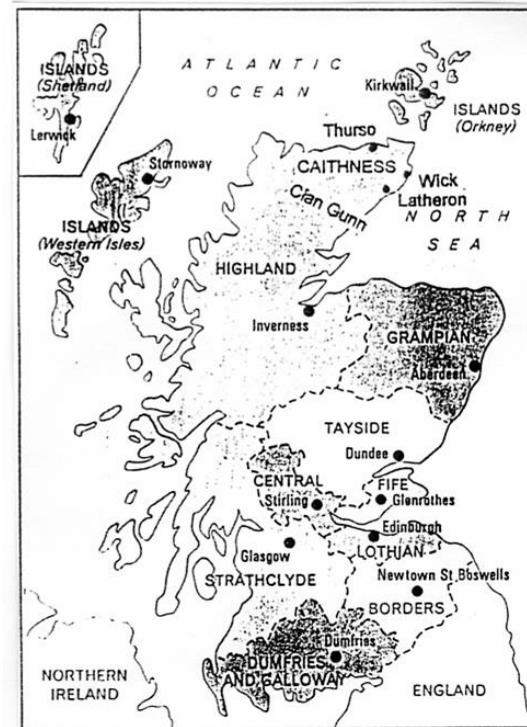
The first Clan Gunn Society was founded in 1821 but drifted into the doldrums for the next century and a quarter. About 40 years ago the Clan Gunn Society was reactivated in Scotland and the United Kingdom. In 1969, in North Carolina, the Clan Gunn Society of North America was organized with membership open to all Gunns residing in North America.

For additional membership information and a membership application, contact:

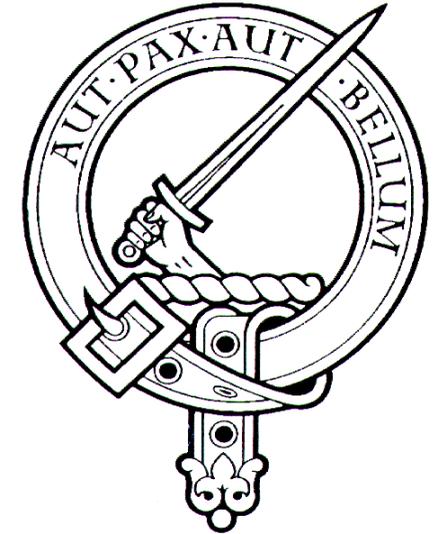
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An Introduction to the **CLAN GUNN SOCIETY** of North America



The Clansman's Badge

The Clan Motto:
AUT PAX AUT BELLUM
(Either Peace or War)

Septs of Clan Gunn:

Allisteron	MacCorkill	Mann
Corner	MacCorkle	Manson
Crownar	MacCullie	Maness
Crowner	MacDade	Manus
Cruiner	MacDhaidh	More
Cruner	MacEnrick	Neilson
Eanrig	MacGeorge	Nelson
Enrick	MacHamish	Robeson
Galdie	Maclan	Robinson
Gallie	Mackames	Robison
Ganson	Mackeamis	Rorieson
Gauldie	Mackeamish	Sandison
Gaunson	Mackean	Swan
George	Mackendrick	Swann
Georgeson	MacMains	Swanney
Henderson	MacManus	Swanson
Inrig	MacNeill	Thomson
Jameson	MacOmish	Tomson
Jamieson	MacRob	Will
Jamison	MacRory	Williamson
Johnson	MacSheoras	Wills
Kean	MacWilliam	Wilson
Keene	Magnus	Wylie
MacAllister	Magnusson	Wyllie
MacChurner	Main	
MacComas	Mains	

What is a Sept?

A sept can be either a small clan whose lands neighbored those of a larger, stronger clan, a clan who had lost their chief, or the families created by descendants of the chief. In the case of Clan Gunn, the sons of the Crouner (first chief) were James, William, and Robert, thus Jamison and its variations, etc. The clansmen of a sept looked to, and aligned themselves, with a larger clan for protection.

What is a Clan?

The Gaelic word 'clan' means children, and the central idea of clanship is kinship. A clan is a family and, at least figuratively, the father is the chief. Although many of a clan may be related by blood, the family was extended to all those who acknowledged the authority of the chief and accepted his protection.

Clan Gunn

Iain Alexander Gunn of Gunn, formerly of Banniskirk, is the Chief of Clan Gunn following a decision by the Lord Lyon in September, 2015. Under the guidance of Iain and his wife, Bunty, the Clan Gunn Society acquired a Clan Heritage Centre at Latheron, Caithness, which provides a place to gather memorabilia with Clan significance, house Clan genealogical records and provide a focal point to be considered the ancestral home of the Clan.

It is the center around which the triennial International Gathering of Clan Gunn takes place.

The Clan Gunn Society of North America

This society was organized in 1969 and includes the USA and all provinces of Canada, except Nova Scotia, which has its own society. The Society is divided into 20 branches, each headed by a commissioner. The national Society is headed by a president who holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at one of the established highland games/gatherings in North America. A

quarterly newsletter, THE GUNN SALUTE, offers articles of interest on Scotland, items on Clan history, traditions and heritage, clan members and branch activities, genealogy record updates, and announces upcoming events. Most branches also publish a branch newsletter. Membership in the Clan Gunn Society of North America is a prerequisite to partake of branch activities.

Membership is open to those persons of Scottish descent who bear, by birthright, descent (paternal or maternal), marriage, or legal adoption, the surname of Gunn or of one of the Septs of Clan Gunn. Membership includes a spouse and all minor (under age 18) children. Dues are paid annually on the membership anniversary date.

Membership entitles one to utilize the services of the national or regional genealogists to research their ancestry. Each membership is also entitled to one vote in the annual election of officers via a mail-in ballot sent to each member 45 days before the AGM.

Clan Gunn has four different registered tartans and members are urged to wear the tartan at all Scottish functions as well as on special family occasions. The Wilson and Henderson septs have a registered tartan which they are privileged to wear. When you wear your tartan, wear it proudly!

Juniper is the accepted plant badge. Clan Gunn has its own bagpipe music, "Failte non Guinneach", which translates from the Gaelic as "The Gunn's Salute."

The Clan Banner consists of a blue field with white cross (similar to St. Andrew's banner), with the Clansman's badge emblazoned at the center of the white cross.



The Clan Banner

The Objectives of the Clan Gunn Society of North America:

- 1- to promote the spirit of kinship among our members;
- 2- to educate members in the traditions of our common heritage;
- 3- to preserve memorabilia representative of our members and their achievements by providing a central repository; and
- 4- to engender pride of our Scottish heritage