

April 2021



Dear Club Members,

The time period we're travelling today is one in which my internal timeline and understanding is somewhat sketchy... That's partly why I love doing the research for this club. It pushes me to understand more. My school history education covered the Romans, Vikings, Tudors, English Civil War, Victorians, World War I and II, and the Russian Revolution and rise of Communism. As a result I have gaping great holes in anything that happened after the restitution of the monarchy... but before the crowning of Queen Victoria.

So I have had to work hard this month, and have enjoyed every minute. April 15th, 1746 is the date of the Battle of Culloden. This battle marked an end to many of the traditions of highland life, and the beginning of the attacks on Highland and clan life that eventually led to the Highland Clearances.

Culloden (*Blàr Chùil Lodair* in Scottish Gaelic) is 3 miles East of Inverness (*Inbhir Nis*). It was the final battle of the Jacobite Rising of 1745.

As with so many wars the route cause to this one was religion.

James II of England and VII of Scotland was the son of Charles I (the one whose head was chopped off at the end of the English Civil War), and brother to Charles II (the one who was put back on the throne after the experiment with the country being a Republic, who had no legitimate children). He was Catholic, openly so, despite the country being Protestant. Parliament was Protestant, and they refused to pass laws that James wanted regarding religious tolerance towards Catholics. For a long time he was viewed as a satisfactory caretaker, because his daughter Mary was Protestant, as was her husband William of Orange. However in 1688 he finally had a legitimate son, and this threatened to establish a Catholic dynasty. Leading political figures in England invited William of Orange to invade and assume the throne, he did so on 5 November 1688, and by Christmas James was in exile in France.

This son (another James) becomes the focal point of the Jacobite revolution (Jacob comes from the latin for James). In 1715 his supporters attempt to reclaim the throne for the House of Stuart, with uprisings in Scotland and Cornwall. He lands in Scotland, but spends just one winter at Scone Palace near Perth, before returning to France, where he was no longer welcome. James and his court then settled in Rome until he died in 1766.

Whilst in Rome James married and had 2 sons. The oldest of the them was called Charles Edward Stuart, though today we know him by the name Bonnie Prince Charlie. This is the Stuart who fought the Battle of Culloden, the last pitched battle fought on British soil. The Jacobite forces and their French allies were heavily defeated. Charles managed to escape, and fled to Skye with the help of Flora MacDonald. He then fled to France, and spent the rest of his life in exile. He died in 1788 in Rome with no legitimate children. The Jacobite cause was at an end.

The leader of the troops that defeated the Jacobites was William, Duke of Cumberland. Third son of George II. His German grandfather had ended up on the British throne after the death of Mary and Anne (both daughters of James II). Both died childless, and the only remaining legitimate line of Protestant succession was via the granddaughter of James I. William became known as The Butcher. After the battle he ordered that any Jacobite surviving was to be killed.

The British Army then went on a mission to “pacify” the Highlands. All those who were thought to be Jacobites were killed, regardless of whether they had fought. Entire settlements were killed, and livestock confiscated. Women were imprisoned and many inhabitants were put on boats for trial in London. The conditions were such that most died on the way.

Most of the reprisals took the form of trying to remove the power of the Clans. Disarming acts were passed in Parliament, requiring Highlanders to hand over their weapons. The wearing of tartan was made illegal. Though most of this legislation was repealed by the end of the century.

I’ve taken your inspiration this month from that banned tartan. Not the romanticised tartan of the Victorians. Their love of classification, and aniline dyes took the traditional tartan and transformed it in to something that would have been unrecognisable by the clans of the early 1700’s. Instead the tartan as it would have been. Local cloth, woven by local weavers using locally sourced natural dyes in broad stripes and checks. Clan tartan patterns are not thought to have been a thing, and certainly not something that would have identified a person that was a member of one clan or another.

Happy Spinning

Katie

Further Reading/ Watching-

Battle of Culloden-

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/myths-facts-battle-of-culloden-jacobites-bonnie-prince-charlie-stuarts/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAoyWOMLpUk>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden>

<https://www.wildernessscotland.com/blog/what-actually-happened-at-the-battle-of-culloden/>

Bonnie Prince Charlie-

<https://www.jacobitetrail.co.uk/bonnie-prince-charlie>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-40258979>

<https://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/see-and-do/history/bonnie-prince-charlie-trail>

Highland Clearances-

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Highland-Clearances/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/scotland\\_clearances\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/scotland_clearances_01.shtml)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxwxvcw/articles/zr7pmfr>

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usscotfax/history/clearances.html>

<http://www.tartansauthority.com/resources/the-highland-clearances/>

What is tartan?

[https://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org/content.aspx?](https://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=170857&module_id=290899)

[page\\_id=22&club\\_id=170857&module\\_id=290899](https://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=170857&module_id=290899)

<https://albanach.org/early-history-of-the-kilt-e0c5b0101b5>

<https://usakilts.com/blog/the-oldest-tartans.html>

Fibre Content- In case your parcel is missing the label

75% Shetland

25% Cheviot