



# CLANN TARTAN

## COLONEL GAFFNEY'S REGIMENT



*A Non-profit Scottish Living History Group*

[www.clanntartan.org](http://www.clanntartan.org)

**Y**ou're in Scotland. The year is 1630, and Gustavus Adolphus is conscripting Highland lads to fight in his war against Germany. The ensuing bloody years will become known as the Thirty Years War, and 20,000 - 30,000 Highland Scots will fight in this lengthy conflict. Military camps are springing up all over Scotland, and one Colonel Gaffney establishes a regimental camp of Scots mercenaries. This camp becomes his base of operations for the recruitment and training of Scottish soldiers to be shipped overseas to fight - and possibly lose their lives - for the Swedish king.

We are a non-profit cultural, educational, historical, recreational and social group founded in 1987 and based in Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Minnesota. We are dedicated to making history of use to the public and in the lives at our members through education and social activities.

**LIVING HISTORY** is a large part of our effort. Clann Tartan appears and performs at many historically based events, providing historical interactions that not only please crowds, but educate people on the important roots of our country's Scottish forebears.

We are a "portable historic site" that portrays the recruiting camp of a military unit, Colonel Gaffney's Regiment, and the sutlers, suppliers and campfollowers of a 17th century army. Our regiment is a detailed recreation of a Scottish mercenary army that fought throughout Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries

### Why Scottish History of this Period?

We represent Scottish history and culture before the failed rebellions against the English. After the 1745 rebellion and the Battle of Culloden Moor, the Succession Acts, the transportation of prisoners to the colonies, destroyed much of the ancient clann system and the cultural repression and devastation invoked by the English. Wearing the kilt and even playing the bagpipes was outlawed for nearly 40 years as a means of breaking

the spirit of the rebellious Scots. The Highland lairds, no longer needing private armies, lost their sense of responsibility for the clansmen, driving them off their land so that it could be used for grazing sheep. Scottish culture became "fashionable" during the 19th century, and as a result, much of Scottish history and lore is in fact merely Victorian fabrication and romanticism as encouraged by the likes of Sir Walter Scott. Tartans were redesigned and ascribed to specific clans because the old patterns and dying techniques had been forgotten. Today, devotion is given to tartan patterns that would have been unrecognized by any clansman at Culloden.

Much was lost, and a culture was nearly destroyed. We, the members of **CLANN TARTAN**, dispel the myths and misconceptions of Scottish history and accurately recreate a slice of lost history and culture, thereby preserving it in the hearts of all who share the experience with us.

### Why Mercenaries?

During the 16th and 17th centuries, tens of thousands of Scots fought as mercenaries all across Europe. You could say that at the time, Scotland's largest export commodity was fighting men. During the 30 Years War (1618-1648), 20-30,000 Highland Scots fought for Gustavus Adolphus in Sweden.

This represents an estimated 3-5% of the population of Scotland above the Tweed river at that time, not including Scots who fought on the other side. The effect of losing up to 5%, possibly more, of a population that was living at or around subsistence level had to be enormous. To quote one historian regarding a recruiter in Scotland, "by 1628, MacKay had so emptied Scotland of men that future sources of supplies were restricted to the Highlands and Islands."

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Do I have to be Scottish?

No! Although most Clann Tartan members have some Scottish heritage.

#### Do I have to perform?

No, there is no performance requirement. We are as much a social group as we are a reenactment group. We welcome anyone who wishes to learn more about history and what we do to recreate it. We meet on a regular basis to learn about dance, music, sword and weapons handling and much more! Check out the Events Center to find out when the next event is planned!

#### Are there auditions?

No, but a some performing skills or an ability to talk to people does help a little if you plan to appear with us. It's difficult to teach Living History without holding the public's attention. We DO have requirements regarding historical clothing and equipment. You'll need to get a copy of the Clann Tartan manual and start learning some of the history of the period.

#### What if I don't want to portray a soldier?

That's OK! One of the differences between Clann Tartan and other reenactment groups is that we encourage our members to portray the local Scottish people, or camp followers, who supply and outfit the regimental camp. However, members are expected to have at least a cursory working knowledge of all aspects of our reenactment so you will be able to interpret the events of our camp for visitors

#### Will I get paid?

No, we are a non-profit organization. We do, whenever possible, obtain payments for our appearances to cover the expenses. All money earned by Clann Tartan goes into our group resources. Clann Tartan does feed it's members at events, reimburses for group expenses and pays mileage if you carpool or transport corporate equipment. We do encourage members to learn or practice period crafts which

may be demonstrated and sold to the public, both as a way to earn money and add to our overall experience.

**Must I pay dues?**

Yes. Annual dues are \$12 (\$16 Canadian) for both Active and Associate memberships. The dues are used to help cover the cost of the monthly newsletter. All Active members are required to purchase a copy of the Clann Tartan Manual for \$16. This expense is to cover printing costs only.

**Is it expensive to get started?**

Some reenactment groups can cost up to \$1,000 to buy uniforms and equipment. To participate with us all you need is proper clothing. The basics can cost as little as \$100, and the price can go down from there with a little bargain hunting, or your own sewing. We are a very friendly group, and often for your first event or two you can find someone willing to loan you clothing that will get you started.

**Where do you get your clothing?**

Most of our period clothing we produce ourselves, and there are several patterns available from our Clann library. Many members are willing to teach their craft, or sell or barter for items you need. Senior members usually have items for sale that they have out-grown or replaced.

**Are children/minors allowed to join?**

Yes, the members of Clann Tartan are very much like an extended family. And while we portray a military camp, the camp followers would have had children running about, helping with chores etc. Teens are welcome to join as an Active member with parental

permission. Many schools also give credit to the older children when they participate in our demonstrations

**Where do you meet?**

There are meetings of one form or another almost every week in members' homes, community centers and public parks. Clann Tartan members also meet socially for dining and socializing on a regular basis. Be sure to check the events center for any scheduled events.

**Must I do a lot of studying?**

We realize that not everybody has time to study the intricacies of history, so almost everything you'll need to know is in our Clann Manual. Many topics are covered at our social gatherings as well. Our members have written articles in our newsletter, and produced cookbooks and musical books, as well as compiled a library on our period of reenactment.

For more questions and answers visit our website at [www.clanntartan.org](http://www.clanntartan.org).

**Clann Tartan's Philosophy**

We keep the **living history experience** as accessible as possible for participants as well as the public. The idea is to blur the line between participant and observer, providing a high quality educational experience, as well as help recruit new members. This is achieved through hands-on crafts, dance, music and even dressing a patron in period clothing!

Members have the opportunity to experience all aspects of what we do from firing a matchlock musket to spinning wool, from cooking a period

meal over an open fire pit to hauling water and washing pots and pans.

For new members, we try to minimize costs as much as possible through;

**Flexibility in clothing requirements.**

Not all members need military uniforms, and a great kilt is simple.

**Clann-owned equipment.** No need to purchase tent or musket.

**Meals provided at events.** You don't have to purchase food or cooking items.

**Join Us!**

Our "family" needs a wide variety of talents. You need not be a historian, actor or military buff. To create an accurate portrayal of the past we need craftspeople, dancers, musicians, soldiers, and more to recreate all aspects of life.

But mostly, we need *anyone who has a love of things Scottish*. To start as a member of Clann Tartan requires a mere \$12 per year (\$16 in Canadian).

There are two kinds of membership:

*Active:* If you wish to participate in most activities of Clann Tartan, and attend our public appearances.

*Associate:* If you are unable to attend activities on a regular basis, or simply wish to participate on an occasional or social level.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Clann Tartan, just complete the form on this page, enclose your first year dues, and mail to;

**Clann Tartan Membership**

PMB #423  
3208 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

If you have further questions, contact Jaimie Zaugg at 651-917-9718 or Don Chesney at 218-721-4501.

Clann Tartan is a non-profit organization (section 501c.3)

**Yes! I would like to join Clann Tartan!**

I have enclosed \$12 (\$16 Canadian)

I plan to be an; Active Member \_\_\_\_ ~or~ Associate Member \_\_\_\_

Please send my newsletter to me via US Mail \_\_\_\_ ~or~ Email \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Clann Tartan Membership, PMB #423, 3208 W. Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55416