



SCOTTISH CLAN ORGANIZATION with Loarn Robertson

In Scotland, the clan (children) was known to exist around the *10th century* and in the north clansmen were mostly *Gaelic speakers*. Some clans had chiefs & others were without a chief – known as *armigerous clans* (having heraldic arms). Today clans are officially registered with The Lord Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh.

Clans were initially organized around the *lands held by a chief* and made up of clan families – some with the chief's name, others who were known as *'broken men'* (those without a clan), *tenants* of clan lands & even *septs* (clan affiliates) from other clans. Official clan names and associated tartans did not become commonplace until the *19th century*.

The chief held an hereditary title but owned no property early on. Important clan members included *'the tainistear'* (chief's heir), *'chieftains'* (clan family leaders), *'the fine'* (leading families), *'tacksman'* (clan land managers), & *'buannachann'* (warrior elite).

On the demise of a clan chief, heads of families (Chieftains) had the opportunity to elect (thru the *Rule of Tanistry*) a new male chief from within the chief's family, but later it was usual for the chief's son to assume the title.

If a *'Crann Tara'* (fiery cross) was sent out to martial the clan from across clan lands, the chief would march with the following retinue:

Chief's Personal Bodyguard

The Chief

Piper
(hereditary clan
piper)

Seanachaidh
(clan bard)



Gillie
(bearer of chief's sword/shield)

Bladaire
(chief's spokesman)

Chieftains & Clansmen

SCOTIA