



The Teviotdale Herald

The official newsletter of

CLAN KERR/CARR

of the United States and North America, Inc.

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******* SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT *******

**Clan Kerr of the United States
has been informed
that the Chieftain of Scotland's Clan Kerr
will attend the
2019 Scottish Highland Games of
Central Florida
January 19th & 20th, 2019**

The Chieftain of Clan Kerr in Scotland has graciously accepted an invitation from the Association of the Scottish Highland Games of Central Florida to attend the mid-January 2019 Games in Winter Springs, Florida. Because of his visit, Clan Kerr/Carr of the United States and North America will be the **HONORED CLAN** for these Games on January 19th and 20th, 2019. Our Chieftain, the honorable Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr, also holds the title of Marquess of Lothian. In addition to his duties as the Chief of Clan Kerr, he has for many years, also been a distinguished Member of the House of Lords in England's Parliament. In this political arena he has held many important posts in the Conservative Party, with sensitive Parliamentary briefs in various aspects of defense, intelligence, budget, and state operations.

The President's Message



Recent years have seen an unusual widespread resurrection of interest in Scottish and Irish heritage, especially in the United States. In the last several decades close-knit North American ethnic communities, once so prevalent everywhere, have gradually declined with the spread of suburbia and the interest in one's past beginning to atrophy. The electronic age has now exponentially re-kindled this interest. The number of annual one, two and three day Scottish Games have also expanded in recent decades reflecting this renewed interest. The emergence of a thriving new Celtic cultural explosion has also become apparent as the internet continues to expand with every home's access and ability to examine their heritage on their iPads. Many of the earlier clan-related functions, such as keeping members updated on events through paper newsletters, have also been replaced with email updates. The one improvement noticed everywhere at public Highland/Celtic events these days is the public's warm interaction and appreciation concerning all things Scottish. Clan Kerr/Carr is honored to be among the leading clans spreading the word about Scottish heritage.

Honorable Robert S. Miller, Lt. Col., USAF (retired), GMTJ
Clan Kerr/Carr President and CEO for the United States & North America

A Unique Kerr Clan Honor Guard Presentation



For a decade now, Clan Kerr/Carr has proudly displayed two Revolutionary War flags belonging to the Carr family. These were captured by British troops from a small band of Revolutionaries at the July 8th, 1780 Battle of Fort Anne in Upstate New York. This year the Scottish Highland Games Committee of Central Florida took note of the flags and requested that Clan Kerr/Carr use these two Revolutionary flags in the Closing Ceremony of the Games on Sunday, January 14th, 2018. The Committee also recommended the use of the Kerr/Carr Clan President's personal American flag, which has seen world-wide foreign service in various military assignments since 1948. The flag itself was given to Robert Miller, Sr. by the Commander of the USS Aircraft Carrier Coral Sea during a 1948 port call to Istanbul, Turkey. The Honor Guard for the Presentation of the Colors included the American flag, flanked by the two Revolutionary war flags.

To commemorate the history of Scotland with the Knights Templar, the honor guard also consisted of two Templars attired in period costume, carrying large Templar broadswords.

In addition, a member of Clan Sinclair, the builders and current benefactors of the historic Templar church, Rosslyn Chapel, carried the Royal Banner of Scotland.

During the ceremony many around the field commented on the sudden appearance of several Bald Eagles which circled overhead briefly during the Presentation of the Colors, before moving on.



The Honored Clan for 2019 at Central Florida!



All Kerrs should note on their calendars to plan to attend the Scottish Highland Games of Central Florida on Saturday, January 19th and/or Sunday, January 20th, 2019, to meet their Chief, Lord Lothian, and celebrate the rise of Clan Kerr/Carr in the United States and North America.

The Best Highland Games Featured for the Second Half of 2018

For all aficionados of all things and celebrations Scottish, the annual Central Florida Scottish Highland Games each January are one of the best Games on the East Coast. The weather is always fantastic, the overall atmosphere of the Games themselves, and the crowds of some 25,000 visitors make Central Florida one of the outstanding venues for celebrating Scottish culture and heritage.



Later in the year, there are two other Games on the East Coast that are worthy of note! Clan Kerr/Carr representatives are also present at each of these Games and look forward to sharing more than a few wee drams with you if you can attend.

The Grandfather Mountain Games of North Carolina, are a mid-July annual pilgrimage worth making. Nestled amongst the crags and meadows below the mist-covered glens around Grandfather Mountain, the location in the midst of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is “God’s Country” for its similarity to the Scottish Highlands. A close third for excellence are Georgia’s Stone Mountain Games. Located just east of Atlanta, Stone Mountain State Park is filled with the sounds of bagpipes, fiddles and harps in the latter part of October.

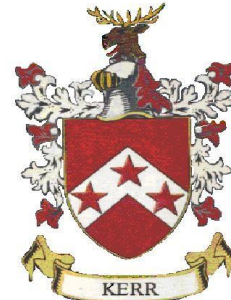


Scottish Games List for 2018

Clan Kerr/Carr of the United States is interested in all Kerrs, and name variants, interested in representing the Clan at North American Games in 2018 and beyond. The total number of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals already scheduled for 2018 in the United States now exceeds 160, in forty American states from coast to coast between January to December 2018. If any of you are interested in representing the Clan at one or more of these games, please contact one of the clan leaders and we will endeavor to provide whatever guidance and information possible to get you involved.

The following is a list of the twenty Games, at which Clan Kerr/Carr hopes to either have membership present, or in which it can be arranged for new clan members to participate. More details about these and other Games can be found by internet enquiries made to these Games locations and dates, or by searching for Highland Games in the states where you live.

April 20-22	Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC
May 5	Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA
May 19	Finger Lakes Celtic Festival, Shortsville, NY
May 27-28	Gallabrae Scottish Games, Greenville, SC
June 15-17	Pikes Peak Celtic Festival, Colorado Springs, CO
July 12-15	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Blowing Rock, NC
July 21-22	Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Elizabeth, CO
Aug 4-5	Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Edgewater, CO
August 11	Central New York Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, Liverpool, NY
August 25	Quechee Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Quechee, VT
Sept 1-2	Capital District Scottish Games, Albany, NY <i>(Kevin Kerr attending)</i>
Sept 6-9	Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO
Sept 6-9	Edinboro Highland Games, Edinboro, PA
Oct 20-21	Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain, GA
Nov 18	Dunedin Celtic Music & Craft Beer Festival, Dunedin, FL
Jan 2018	Mt. Dora Scottish Festival, Mt. Dora, FL
Jan 19/20	Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Winter Springs, FL



The Kerr Genealogy, 1066 to 1750. (Part 1)

If you are trying to trace your Kerr heritage, the following may or may not help. The Kerr's are reported to have initially been of Anglo-Norman origin, and arrived in the United Kingdom in 1066 with William the Conqueror. Over the next 350 years they pursued their legacy in the south of England, before finally arriving in the Roxburghe area of the Scottish Borderlands in the 14th Century. Because there were then, and still are, so many Kerr's, Ker, and Carr variants of the name, most clansmen today choose to believe the original meaning of the word was derived from the Celtic word for "strength." However, widespread disagreement and debate continues.

The Kerr's of Cessford in the Borderlands' area first appeared in the 1400s, when they became known as the "Wardens of the Marches." Many of them became prominent in Borderland conflicts, of which there were many. In the centuries that followed, as British kings continued to press their interests for new lands, wealth, and subjects, the Borderland Kerr's were always in the thick of it. Those who cooperated with England's royalty, through marriage or other arrangements, prospered while those who did not usually were not prosperous. In the mid-16th Century, Sir William Drummond became the Earl of Roxburghe and he assumed the name of Ker. Several inheritors to his title followed and failed because they had no male children, so the Kerr line of succession for a while became purely political, passing from one interested party to another. Finally, one of these parties, a certain Robert who was the 2nd Earl of Ancrum, followed but he too had no male issue, and so his title passed through his daughter to her husband, a man called William Kerr. William then became the 1st Earl of Ancrum and then went on to become the 3rd Earl of Lothian in 1631. William's son, Robert, then became the 4th Earl of Ancrum and was then promoted to the Marquessate of Lothian in 1701.

In the early 1700s, the bloody *Jacobite Rebellion* had erupted across Scotland. England's Anglican Church doctrine was pushing out Scotland's Presbyterian Church by force. Scots were outraged, and for a half a century a series of armed conflicts ensued, all of which the Scots lost to English armies sent from London. Following the final Jacobite military defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, England's Parliamentary "*Acts of Proscription*" followed. These decrees outlawed Scottish customs, heritage, clan dress, and law. Scots resisting them, if not killed outright, got six months in prison, while some 56,000 second offenders were shipped as prisoners to British colonies in North America, where upon arrival they were sold at auction to become indentured servants to the American colonial landowners. The 'Borderland Kerrs' future in Scotland at this time had obviously become very uncertain, and the trickle of emigration became a river.

Confused about what happened next? Read more in the next edition of the *Teviotdale Herald*.

The Bonniest Scottish Knees



You be the Judge!

Clan Kerr/Carr won second place at a St. Andrew's Society's "Bonniest Scottish Knees" contest at one of their Pub Nights in Orlando. Attended by some sixty kilted males, ten of them dared to step forward to expose their knees to the hungry eyes of the bonnie lasses, who for years had always secretly wondered whose might be the best.

The winner was determined in a secret vote as those attending watched contestants strut their stuff with raised kilts. Some kilts were raised too high to the gasps from the lassies, and for others at the pub not high enough, even for the eldest present! The winner surprised everyone! The decision was to be made by tickets placed in each contestants jar. Unbeknownst to all, one lassie stuffed her lad's jar – assuring him of the victory. A man with spindly legs ... a bad case of blue veins ... and the most knobby knees ever seen emerged victorious. A count of tickets in the other nine jars gave Bob Miller of Clan Kerr/Carr second place. All of the money in the jars went to scholarships supported by St. Andrew's Society of Central Florida.



The Best Haggis is now in Florida

At a recent pub night at Fiddler's Pub in Winter Park, seven local clans competed for the honor of making the best Haggis in the New World. Heretofore, local clans and clan events had always been under the belief that making a good Haggis was a lost art, known to only a few in Scotland. Hundreds at the event (all American-born Scots and Celts) were amazed at the new reality. At the appointed hour, the producers of seven Haggis from various local Clans, presented their creations to the hungry audience. They were all in covered, heated transporters and placed steaming on shiny plates along a large shelf on the back wall of the pub. After repeated wee-drams, and all eyes feasting on the various Haggis creations with their ensuing odors, a long line of people greedily came forward with their plates and forks to judge the contestants' creations. Amazingly, no one could believe the different sizes and shapes of the seven Haggis. Some were large, some small, some plump and moist, others lean and dry. Two reeked with good Single Malt, while only one was encased in sheep's intestines, which are virtually impossible to obtain here in the United States.

All were found to be excellent and extremely tasty and pleasing to the palate. None experienced the usual rejections found at many Burns' Night Suppers. The vote for the best was close, with only two extra votes giving Donald Hamilton, and his brother-in law, Rick Clinton, ("The Florida Chow Boys") first prize. Second place went to Clan Kerr/Carr whose efforts ran a close second. The other Haggis all received honorable mention and a round of applause. Regrettably, the Hamiltons and Kerrs now consider their Haggis ingredients to be a closely-held New World secret.

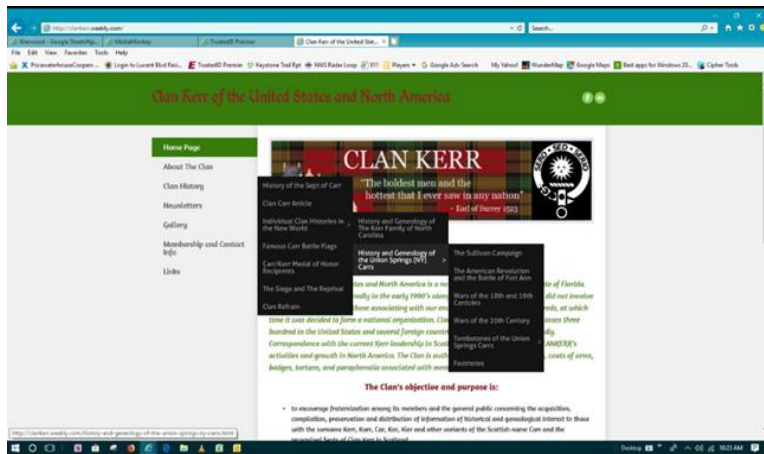
A Prayer for the hungry

Who blessed the loaves and fishes,
Look doon upon these two bitty dishes,
And tho' the tatties are but sma',
Lord, make them plenty for us.
But if our stomachs they do fill
'Twill be another miracle.

Welcome to the first column about the website for Clan Kerr/Carr! This will be a regular part of the Clan newsletter. Hopefully, the column and the social media tools highlighted here will foster improved communications within the Clan and make it easy to share and access historical information about the various branches of the Clan. The initial column describes the two methods we have for publicizing the Clan and its activities. The Clan Website and the Clan Facebook Page serve two distinct purposes for keeping members informed about the Clan.

The Clan Website

The Clan Website is the electronic home of Clan Kerr/Carr of North America, Inc., the official organization representing the Kerr name, and 35 septs recorded in "The Sept Families of the Kerr Name in Scotland." The Website is a repository of all formal and historical documentation about the Clan in North America.



The Clan owns the domains “clankerr.org” and “clancarr.org”! Update your bookmarks to use the domain name of your choice! You can also find us at “clankerrus.com” and “clankerr.us.”

There are a couple of key sections to point out as you peruse the website, such as **Clan History** and **About the Clan**. Take your mouse and move it over the menu on the left-hand side. Various topics will pop up, along with topical submenus. Feel free to go into the many menu choices on the Website!

I would like to specifically point out the **Individual Clan Histories in the New World** menu choice in the example. The Clan Kerr Leadership is setting this section aside to begin documenting histories of the various Kerr families in America, which can become a database for members or for the public interested in genealogy. The Website is structured so as to include the history and ancestral documents from your branch of the Clan! Feel free to contact me at the email address or phone number below if you are thinking of using the website to document your history!

Regarding the **Gallery** in the website, I am asking everyone who has photos of Games you have attended to reach out to me so I can add them to the website!

The Clan Facebook Page

The Clan Facebook Page has been established to take full advantage of social media to expand interest in the Clan activities. The Facebook Page does not replace the Clan Website. As a matter of fact, the Clan Facebook Page is set up with the purpose of publicizing Clan activities and guiding interest in the Clan to the Website for more detailed information.

The Facebook Page will contain information such as the Clan schedule of events, links to register with the Clan on the Website, and photos of recent events. Future enhancements will include a chat-room-style blog, for discussing the Clan and its histories and a photo gallery for all members to post their photos from their participation in Clan events.

That should get you going! We will be updating both the Website and the Facebook Page in the near future! Keep an eye out for them and read the next issue of The Teviotdale Herald for more information!

Sláinte Mhòr!

Robert G. "Bob" Shepard, Jr., MBA, KCTJ

Clan Kerr/Carr Webmaster

Email: ClanKerr@bobandbon.com

Is Kerr a “Family” or a “Clan”?



The question came up again last month between two Kerrs, shivering in the knee-deep snow on the quadrangle at the University of Edinboro in Pennsylvania. They were arguing the merits of “families” and “clans” in our Scottish heritage, and which the Kerrs should be? For a while I thought they must have had a few too many “wee-drams” when their argument suddenly drifted into shouts about the town of Edinboro’s correct spelling: should it have been Edinburgh, Edinborough or Edinboro? As I passed them their debate was back to the “Clan vs. Family” argument?

So there I was passing nearby, and getting on about my business, when one of these Kerrs grabbed me by the arm and demanded to know how the local town fathers could not only have ignorantly misspelled its name, but couldn’t answer the question: was Clan Kerr/Carr a Clan or a Family? Not wishing to get involved as the snow continued to deepen, I left and called the Tourist Information Office in Scotland. The nice lady there informed me that the leader of the Kerrs was a “Chieftain.” She said, “all Kerrs were Clan members, but only a few Kerrs actually lived in the Chieftain’s home, with him as his “Family.” I rested the argument!



Scotland's Military Kilted Units

One thing that can be said of all those who have served Scotland's military for so many centuries, is that they supported the rule of law, fought against tyranny, and rejected others occupying their lands. So, who were these military men who also shed their blood for the man with the pen?



Historically, seven Kilted Regiments of the Scottish Division served since 1673, or the last 345 years. They have done so around the world in some 240 campaigns, in places like Waterloo, Morocco, Culloden, the Indian Frontier, Egypt, Burma, Chitral, Khartoum and Peking. Only three of these Regiments were from the Borderlands or the area just to its north. These three were The Royal Highland Fusiliers, the King's own Scottish Borderers, and the Royal Scots. The other Regiments were the Queen's own Highlanders, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Black Watch, and the Gordon Highlanders.

The oldest of all these Regiments are the King's Own Scottish Borderers and are manned almost completely of men from the Borderland areas. This regiment was created in 1689 to defend the City of Edinburgh, and has fought with distinction in hundreds of British Empire battles around the world during the last three hundred years. The King's Own Scottish Borderers Regiment has also served with distinction in Korea, Palestine, Hong Kong, Malaya, Aden, Borneo, Northern Ireland and twice in Berlin. Today the Regiment's headquarters in Scotland is at Berwick-on-Tweed.

A famous man once proudly summarized the King's Own Scottish Borderers honorable service with:

*"This I must say for Scotland,
here I sit and govern it
with my pen. I write and
it's done, and by a
clerk of the Council.
So I govern Scotland now,
which others could not do
by the sword."*



A New Border Reivers Society

Carol Beattie Selbiger, a professional degreed genealogist from Boston University, who has been studying Scotland's Borderland families and their DNA genealogy for many years, is now founding a new non-Profit corporation in Florida in 2018. Selbiger is a twenty year resident in Melbourne, Florida, and with Scottish family roots in the Borderlands herself, she is now dedicated to tracing our various Borderland Clans' DNA, by seeking common DNA markers among our thirty-one border clans: beginning with the Armstrongs through the Pringles. Her mission is to preserve the heritage of our Border Reiver ancestors not only in Scotland but



here in the United States. Ms. Selbiger states that most border area clans. now in the United States. are not aware of their Reiver heritage and that, in fact, her DNA results, when finally available at some point in the future, will clearly show that more than a few of us are actually much more closely related to many border clans' DNA chains, while others will reflect origins further afield in Scottish History.

Clan Kerr/Carr's Webmaster, Bob (Carr) Shepard, met with Ms. Selbiger at the recent January 2018 Central Florida Games, and agreed Clan Kerr/Carr, as one of the larger border clans in Florida, would encourage others border clans to provide whatever help possible to this new endeavor. More details will be forthcoming on this on our clankerr.org website.

Who are the Caledonians?

Caledonians were an ancient Roman-era appendix title for those north of Hadrian's Wall. Today it is a romantic name for Scotland, similar to the Hibernians of Ireland and Cambrians of Wales. The Roman Empire's Tacitus, Ptolemy, and Pliny the Elder referred to this place as one of violent unruly Pictish tribes, of which the Romans believed the largest was the Caledonii. Roman-era maps reflect the border area tribes with names like Brigantes, Otadini, Novantai, and Demonie, while only around the Highlands' Loch Ness (with its legends of dragons) appeared the Caledonii. Those in the Borderland areas above Hadrian's wall, oddly enough were then called Brigantes by the Romans.

A historical footnote: Roman armies, according to Ptolemy, had initially occupied parts of Ireland and forced huge numbers of Irish Hibernians to leave Scotia (Ireland's first name used by the Romans), and flee to northern Scotland ...which then became Scotia or Scotland.

The Kerr Family Museum is located at ground level in a vaulted chamber next to the Chapel.

On display are artefacts from this family's long and distinguished past.

These include a beautiful, old family tree, clan tartans, period weaponry and family photographs.



A Reincarnation of Australia's Clans?

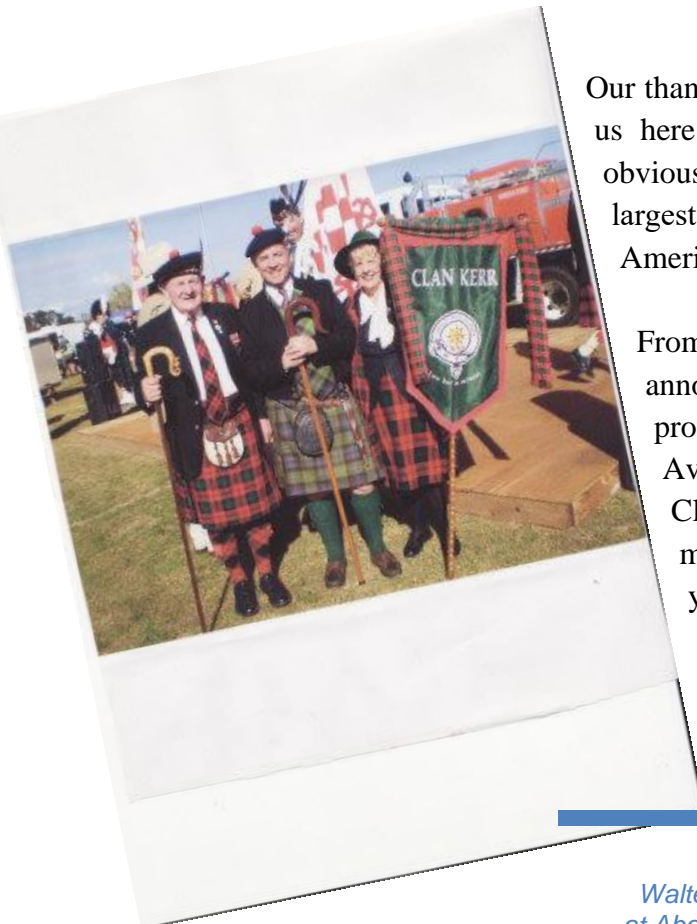
Current editions of the *Scottish Banner Newspaper* have shown an amazing growth of advertising for Scottish clans and societies in Australia.

Page 20-22 of the latest February 2018 edition shows sixteen clans in Australia and three in Canada. The United States, on the other hand, totals seventy clans and associations.

The Kerrs Down Under

Our thanks to the Clan Kerr/Carr in Australia for keeping in touch with us here in the United States. Looking around today's world it is obvious, that beyond the British Isles, only two countries have the largest and most thriving Kerr Clans in today's world; they are North America and Australia.

From the Australian Kerrs we were pleased to note the announcement that Bill and Janine Kerr in New South Wales proudly announced the recent birth of their great-grand daughter, Avery William Kerr, who was just born in Vancouver, Canada. Clan Kerr/Carr of North America will make her an honorary member for life. We look forward to her joining us in a few years. Photographs in their 2017 newsletter also shows Wally Kerr, their High Commissioner showing a right bonnie thigh beneath his kilt, which some of our lasses think was very becoming. Based on Wally's challenge ... our lassies demanded another American Bonniest Knee contest in 2018.



*Pictured:
Walter Kerr, Lord Simpell & Margaret Kerr
at Aberdeen in the Hunter Valley in Australia
May 7, 2008*



How old is America's Saint Andrews Society?

Answer: A year short of 170

The St. Andrew's Society was founded on December 16, 1849, in the mansion house in Detroit, Michigan, with the objective of providing relief to the indigent and unfortunate among us. The Society immediately decided to celebrate two things. First Robert Burns, as Scotland's immortal Bard and to celebrate this each January 25th, and secondly to encourage the turning over of one day each summer for the conduct of Scottish Games and music.

Trivia

Kerr, Carr and Kar



The 1992 edition of the Seminole County's 320 page, paper phone directory's Alphabetical name index came across my desk yesterday.

Found among some old papers destined for the trash pile, I decided to see how many names and addresses had then existed for those with the surname Kerr/Carr or Kar in Central Florida? The total was 38 (19 Kerrs, 14 Carrs and 5 Karrs).

The question now is: Does anyone knows what the total of these three names might be in Florida today?

Anyone out there listening?

**The Kerr/Carr Clan cordially invites membership applications
from all Sept variants of the names
Kerr, Carr, Karr, Ciar, Care, Carre**

The Clan accepts membership for all persons interested in Scottish/Celtic heritage, exploring family trees, conducting genealogy studies, tracing lost relatives, and those conducting research relevant to DAR and SAR.
Those interested in participating in Scottish and Celtic Highland Games in North America
are most welcome to join.

**Membership applications can be submitted at www.clankerr.org or by filling out the form below
with your name, mailing address, e-mail address and social media contacts.**

Feel free to pass this request to a friend or family member!

MEMBERSHIP OR INFORMATION REQUEST		
E-mail to: maggiesredheads@hotmail.com or		
Mail to: Margo Miller CLAN KERR/CARR SECRETARY/REGISTRAR 679 Silver Creek Drive Winter Springs, Florida 32708-3142		
First Name:		Last Name:
Clan Connection: (Kerr, Carr, etc.):		
Email Address		Phone(s):
Address Line 1:		
Address Line 2:		Country:
City:	State:	ZIP/Postal Code:
Comments and/or Suggestions:		