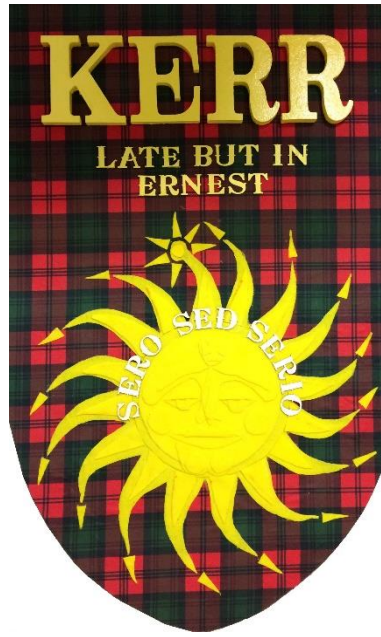


THE TEVIOTDALE HERALD



Vol 10 Issue 2 - November 2018

The official newsletter

of

CLAN KERR/CARR

Of the United States and North America

Suite 2, 679 Silver Creek Drive

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Official US Clan Kerr Website: www.clankerr.org - or - www.clancarr.org

Editor's Note: A portion of this newsletter is dedicated to the Chief of Clan Kerr who will visit the United States as the honored guest of our Clan for the 43rd Scottish Highland Games in Central Florida, from January 18-20, 2019

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

All Kerrs and those of its Septs

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

The President's Message

With just over a month remaining before the forthcoming Scottish Highland Games in Orlando, Florida to be held on January 19-20, 2019, Clan Kerr of the United States is looking forward to hosting our Clan's Chief who will also be the Guest of Honor for the Games. Lord Lothian, also known as the Honorable Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr, will attend a formal Scottish dinner the night before the Games, and then officially open the Games at noon on Saturday, January 19th. The City of Winter Springs where the Games are held, and Seminole County, will also declare the 19th of January as "Scottish Highland Games Day" with Clan Kerr as the honored Clan for the 2019 Games. Our Chief has also decided to further honor the upcoming Games by bringing his nephew, James Michael Ralph Kerr, who is the present Kerr Chief's heir apparent, and will replace our current Chief at some point in the future, as the 14th Marquis of Lothian.

At the moment, over sixty clans have registered for the forthcoming Highland Games, along with ten associations, and a record number of exhibitors and food vendors. Attendance at the Games, based on the growing record of recent years, is expected to pass last year's 27,000. Clan Kerr has also been in contact with Kerrs, Carrs and its Septs from across the United States, many who will be coming from as far away as Texas, Colorado, Washington State and Canada.

As the Honored Clan for the Games we have arranged to have a large tent at the Clan Village entrance, at which all clan members and guests are invited to spend time, enjoy snacks and refreshments, and for the not-so-feint-hearted, small drams of "Aqua Vitae" ... for medicinal purposes only!

All interested in attending the forthcoming January Games are referred to www.flascot.com or www.clankerr.org for additional information.



Bob Miller

Clan Kerr President for North America

The Most Honorable Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr Chief of Clan Kerr

The 13th Marquis of Lothian was born on July 7, 1945 to a Catholic family in London. He is the elder son and second child of the 12th Marquis of Lothian who died in 2004. He was educated both in Switzerland and England and is a 1966 graduate of Oxford University with a BA degree in History. In 1968, he received a Bachelor of Law from the University of Edinburgh and was called to the Scottish Bar in 1970. He became the Queen's Counsel in 1996. He inherited the Marquis title in 2004. The Kerr Clan, of which the Honorable Michael Kerr is currently the 13th Marquis, is a line dating back to 1701. The 318 year history of the Kerr Marquis' has been one of important service in the military, public and diplomatic services.

The current Kerr Chief is among the most respected elected members of the governments of Scotland and England, having served repeatedly in both Houses of Parliament and House of Lords. He has also held numerous important government briefs such as constitutional affairs, undersecretary and then chairman of the Conservative Party. First elected to Parliament in 1974, for the next seventeen years he held numerous ministerial positions under the governments of both Margaret Thatcher and John Major between 1979 to 1996. For four years during this period he also held the difficult brief of Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, and was then promoted to Minister of State for Northern Ireland. In recent years he has also held numerous appointed briefs in important shadow government assignments: in intelligence, Home Affairs, Housing, Environment and Security. He is currently the only Marquis serving in the House of Lords. In 2010, he was also made a Life-Peer (a title which cannot be inherited) in the House of Lords, as the Barron Kerr of Monteviot, of Monteviot in Roxburghshire in Scotland. Other committees he has served on were that of Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and non-proliferation, the Global Strategy Forum, Le Cercle (a foreign policy think tank)

His strongest supporters publicly insist he is one of Scotland's and England's most famous politicians who has served as a critical 'balance wheel' for the perpetuation of good government for all the people. One observer stated that if opponents were in doubt, they should ask Aristotle (the famous Greek Philosopher and Scientist) about Michael Kerr's superb contributions to superb government. Michael, in his own words, has repeatedly reminded England's and Scotland's leaders that the greatest objective of public service is good stewardship, which he insists must strive to leave a better place than the one they were publicly elected to.

He is married to Lady Jane Fitzalan-Howard, the 4th daughter of the 16th Duke of Norfolk. They have three daughters and two grandchildren. He is a country music fan, plays the guitar, and is Knight in the Templar Order of Saint John and the Order of Saint Lazarus. His home is at Monteviot House near Jedburg. His Lordship will be accompanied on his January 2019 visit to Florida by his nephew, James Michael Andrew Kerr, who at age thirty, is the heir apparent as the next Chief of Clan Kerr.

For Clan Kerr Members Information
The Marquis of Lothian's Lineage
from 1869 to today

10th Marquis of Lothian

Phillip Henry Kerr

b. 1869 d. 1940

11th Marquis of Lothian

Andrew William Kerr

b. 1877 d. 1929

12th Marquis of Lothian

Peter Francis Water Kerr

b. 1922 d. 2004

The present 13th Marquis of Lothian

Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr

b. 1945 - _____

The Heir apparent

14th Marquis of Lothian

James Michael Ralph Kerr

b. 1989 - _____

Famous Kerr Clan Residences and Castles

Scottish history indicates that over the centuries the Kerrs mainly resided in the Teviot and Tweed River Valleys, just north of the border with England. This borderland area is now known as Roxburghshire. In the last five-hundred years, the Kerrs of Roxburghshire have built a significant number of residences and fortifications in the area. Some of these are still intact and others in ruins ... both from the passage of time, or wars and conflicts that have plagued the borderlands for centuries.

Today, in fact, there are two prominent rival Kerr family branches, which have developed over the last several hundred years: the Kerrs of Cessford and the Kerrs of Ferniehirst. The two branch leaders have been powerful rivals, which have often fought one another. From the Kerrs of Cessford emerged the Duke of Roxburghshire, a title given as a reward for his service to the British Crown that helped unite England and Scotland. From the Kerrs of Ferniehirst emerged Robert Kerr, the Marquis of Lothian in 1701.

The following are the three of the most prominent Clan Kerr landmarks

Cessford Castle: Built in 1450 by the Mobray family, the castle was occupied for 190



years as the most formidable stronghold in the Borderlands. Its ownership was then transferred to the Kerrs from Clan Douglass for help rendered against the British. Cessford Castle was completely destroyed in 1640 after a long British siege by England's Lord of Surrey, who observed the castle might never have been captured had its Kerr defenders been more

numerous. The castle has been in ruin since 1640.

Ferniehirst Castle: Was erected by Sir Thomas Kerr in 1598, on an earlier fortification dating back to 1476. In the centuries since 1767, the existing castle's structures have belonged to the Lairds of Ferniehirst: a colorful line of Borderland leaders whose legends appear frequently in Scottish history in area battles, wars, skirmishes, banditry, and political intrigues. Today the castle is the residence of Lord and Lady Lothian.



Monteviot House: Is located three miles north of Jedburgh overlooking the Teviot River. Today it is the official residence of Michael Kerr, the Earl of Ancram, and his wife, Lady Jane who is a Countess. Monteviot House is built around a small 18th century farm house, and a number of additions were made in 1830, 1938, 1960, and more recently has created a complex of individual buildings. Monteviot House itself now has seven separate living quarters at which guests can stay when visiting the Kerrs.

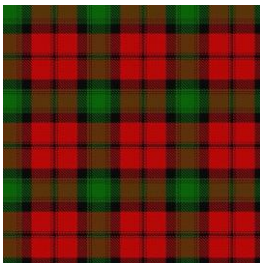


Your Kerr Tartan ... When was it created?

Before 1840, none of the Border Clans, of which there are maybe ten today (depending on who is counting,) had tartans. All wore only a coarse kind of two or three color cloak, also known as a “*pladden*.” The *pladden* defined its wearer with poverty and landless status. Tartans also did not exist further north into the Highlands where no self-respecting Highlander would wear the ‘*pladden*,’ let alone a kilt. In the early 1800s wool manufacturers saw a new market in tartans and by 1815 started the Highland Society of London, which had begun emphasizing tartan designs ... most of which had no authority. The Society’s first book on tartans appeared in 1831.



Contrary to what Mel Gibson fantasizes about regarding Highlanders and others along the border, tartans remained virtually unrecognized before the 1850s. The Kerr tartan design was first recorded in England’s “*Vestiarum Scoticum*,” in 1842, and within two decades, amidst the Victorian-era’s mania for individuality, tartan designs for Kilts and *pladdens* exploded. By the 1880s no self-respecting middle-to-upper-class Scotsman was without his or her respective kilted Clan Tartan and flash.



Clan Chiefs and Chieftains

There is a serious difference between these two titles in Scotland. A Clan “Chief” represents the entire clan and its various Septs, many of whom are or could be Chiefs in their own right. But this second group of “Chiefs” today is “Chieftains,” because at some point they have given allegiance to the Clan Chief, in effect making themselves Chieftains of their respective sub-families of the Clan. In Clan Kerr for instance, there are not only eligible Kerr chieftains and sub-chieftains, but also chieftains among the various Septs of Kerr, of which there are 12. For those wishing to understand how one becomes a chief ... the following are the key Gaelic terms defining how it has traditionally come down to those presently in Scotland:

- **Daoin-Uaisle:** Are the senior gentlemen and educated leaders of the clan.
- **Dighreachd:** Who not only establishes the Chief’s rule of his clan area, but also that he is the owner and protector of his lands and domain.
- **Duthcas:** Was the fundamental right of clansmen to settle within their clan areas and find protection there.
- **Tanist:** Tanistry is the ancient law of Celtic succession in which a Clan heir was chosen from a group of individuals with hereditary inheritance claims to that name. Existing chiefs usually also chose their successors from those most likely to succeed as chiefs.
- **Toiseach:** Was usually the eldest Tanist from which the current leader/Chief emerged.

Kerrs and the Clan System

The definition of “children” in Gaelic is “clan,” or more accurately, it is also translated as “family.” Among the Scots of Scotland in the 13th century the word “clan” began to become widely accepted as a social group whose core was comprised of a group of sub-families with a common ancestry who then sought protection from a group leader. The sub-groups, now known as “Septs” were under the protection of the group leader. Many of these Septs were tenants and vassals of the Chief, and over the centuries have moved from Clan to Clan as needed to ensure their survival.

Celtic tradition included a strong element of descent through loyalty to the mother’s line, which facilitated the acceptance into the clan of these Septs who had suitable skills and capabilities, especially those of a military nature. This interrelated brotherhood arrangement among families gradually established associations far above rank and privilege, which over the centuries has created the rich pageantry of a common ancestry.

The Clan names, which are in use today, have come down to us from the foundations of the royal dynasties of the Picts, the Scots and the Vikings of the Highlands, as well as the noble families of the Britons, Flemish, Normans, Angles and Saxons of the Lowlands and Borders.

Clan Kerr's Membership Update



This has been a good year for Clan Kerr of the United States and North America. Our membership continues to grow at a healthy rate. The steady growth of attendance at Games and Festivals of all types is significant and indicates a growing curiosity among, not only millennials, but the X-Generation as well.

An analysis of our 2017 membership indicated that 91 percent of our members resided in 22 American states, while an update as of the late 2018 suggests 95% of them now reside in 23 states. There have been significant new membership additions in North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Arizona, California and Canada, which has been very encouraging. From the www.clankerr.org website, members will also learn that 48% of our members are Kerrs, 10% are Carrs, while the balance bear names of the various

Kerr spelling variations and others interested in their genealogy.

Our Mission and Membership

Clan Kerr of the U.S. & North America, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to fostering the growth of all things related to the Kerr name, the Clan, its Septs, and U.S. and International venues for the exchange of cultural and historical information about the Clan.

Membership in Clan Kerr of the U.S. & North America is open to all Americans and foreigners with an interest in their Kerr Clan or Scottish history and genealogy. Our bylaws allow all members in good standing to be elected to serve in leadership positions on the Clan Board of Directors and to the Officer positions. All applicants are welcome, and those elected do not need to be a Kerr through birth, marriage, or adoption.

Visit: www.clankerr.org

Volunteers... We want You!



Bob Shepard at Elizabeth Celtic Festival in Colorado with the Claus Clan

Increasingly, Clan Kerr is being informed of its members attending Highland Games across the United States, where they note the absence of Kerr/Carr Tents.

Everyone is encouraged to look into contacting Game organizers in their area and enquire about the cost of setting up Clan Tents.

Most large Games in North America provide tents along with a table and chairs for less than \$100.00. Included with the cost of tent, most Games also include free entry tickets for two people for the Game days. Entry fees for most Games run between \$15.00 to \$20.00 dollars per person per day. Usually, for \$100-\$120 you not only get a tent, but also 2 tickets to the Games.

Clan Kerr/Carr of the United States is always looking for interested volunteers to represent Clan Kerr at North American Games and Festivals. Those interested please contact (www.clankerr.org) so we can help you get set up with tents, banners and Kerr paraphernalia. The cost is minimal and it's all about your heritage, meeting lots of interesting people, and always ... having a good time!



America's 2018 Highland and Celtic Games

Our 2018 spring newsletter listed sixteen Games which Clan Kerr hoped to attend. Many of these Games were attended by Kerr's of both the Clan Kerr and Kerr Family Association of North America. Of the 106+ other Scottish and Celtic Games held in North America in 2018, non-members of Clan Kerr/Carr, and its Septs, are known to have attended over a third of these. So far during 2018, our membership has grown by 27.

From Your Clan Genealogist

“Tempus Fugit” ... Time Flies!
... so find your family history before it is lost!

Some eighty requests have been received in the last year by members enquiring about various aspects of their name and Clan genealogy. What so many fail to do, unfortunately, is speak to their older family members and record the information obtained: grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and so forth. Advice??? DO THAT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!



Many of our recent enquiries have spanned the globe from Canada, to New Zealand, and Spain. Each is replied to with information available and guidance to a host of new sources today which were unthinkable only ten years ago. As a frustrated amateur genealogist, I am listing just fifteen of these electronic repositories for our members' information, and others searching for their long-lost relatives:

1. Daughters & Sons of the American Revolution
2. Ellis Island immigration records
3. New York Public Library
4. City, county and state public libraries
5. Local, county, city, and state records
6. United States Census records
7. My Heritage Super Search
8. Ancestors Research Online
9. Kerr Family Association of North Carolina
10. Cemetery records
11. Historical Societies at all levels
12. Library of Congress
13. National Archives at College Park, Maryland
14. The Odom Library in Moultrie, Georgia
15. Newspaper historical records

The New Border Reivers Heritage Society

Reiver: reiving: to rob; to plunder; to deprive one: *archaic:* to carry or tear away.

Clan Kerr is proud to announce that it is a financial supporter of the new Border Reiver Heritage Society, just established here in Florida in 2018. The Society's purpose is to promote not only the heritage of those of Border Reiver descendants, but also to help create a database of DNA markers for Borderland and Highland Clans. This data-base will enable many to establish their Scottish heritage through this DNA record. The new Society's email is CBSelfiger@borderreiverheritage.com.



For the three-hundred years, between the reign of Robert the Bruce and the arrival of James the First, the border areas did not know who to trust. These border areas, also known as the Dumfries and Galloway, existed in a time of perennial murder, sheep-stealing, slaughter, and homestead burnings. Lawlessness was so rampant that families, nobles, and commoners alike did not know who their friends were.

Even the language of the era was a dialect of Gaelic and Pictish, then known then as “Geordie.” Some Geordie speakers even remained unbaptized so they could strike with impunity unhallowed blows against others who were baptized. These Reivers were an assortment of Brythonic Celts, Irish immigrants, Angles, Saxons, Frisians, Norse Vikings, and the left-overs from the Roman-era frontier border forts. The era of King James the First largely ended the Reiver Borderlands problem, but not completely until the arrival of the 19th century.

The Kerr Reivers

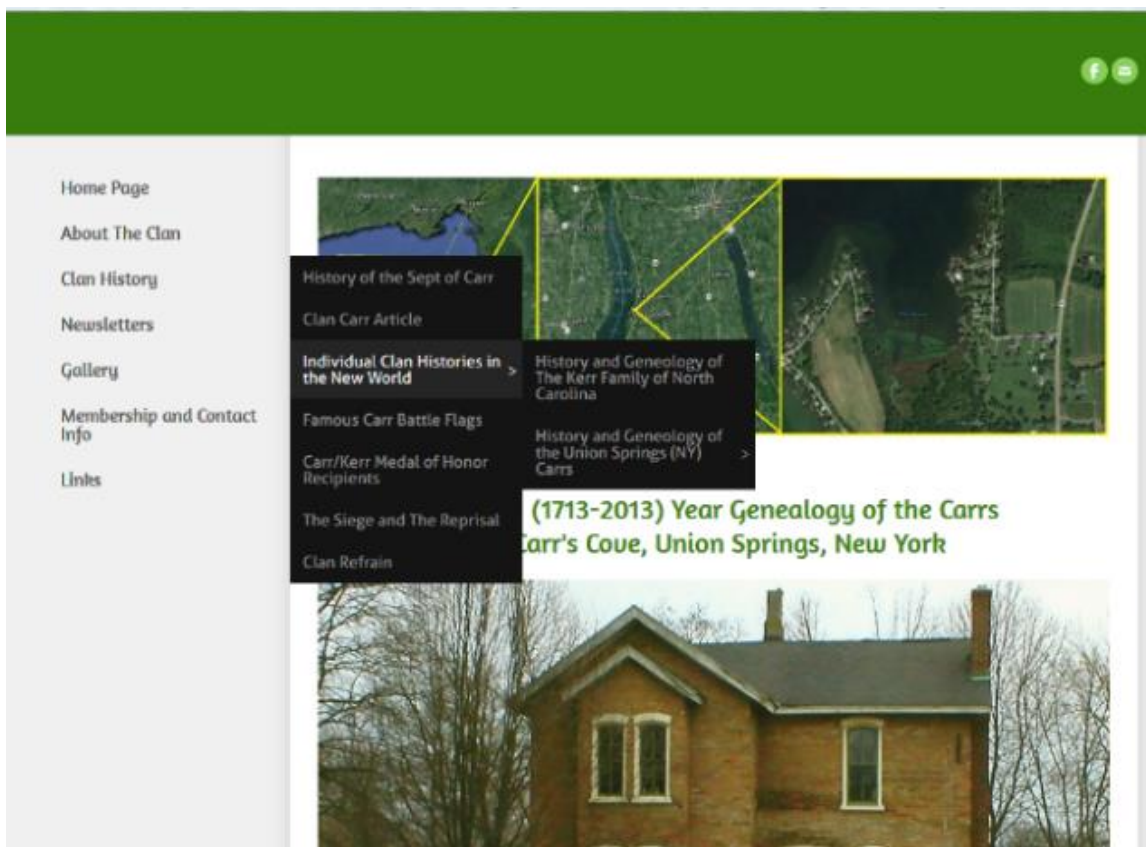
Until recent decades, the Kerr's origins were believed to have been those who accompanied the Anglo-Saxon invasion of England in 1066, defeated England's King Harald at the Battle of Hastings, and eventually worked their way north towards Scotland. This may no longer be the Borderland Kerr's starting point. New research suggests the Kerr origins were, in fact, Norwegian Norsemen called "Kjarr" from an area around Bergen in Norway, who also came ashore south of Edinburgh around 1066. Variations of the Kjarr – Karr - Kerr names also appeared in Borderland area documents just after 1066. These Norse Kjarr's (pronounced Sharr in Norwegian) further supports a Norse/Viking origin for the Borderland Kerrs. New DNA research among the Kerrs of Scotland, and here in the United States, may finally resolve the debate. Clan Kerr will follow these developments closely and continue to report on this interesting new development.



[The Webmaster's Corner](#)

In this newsletter the Clan genealogist had a bit to say with interesting news about the Border Reiver Society, the Skunk Works and suggested repositories to research. So, I thought I would continue along with this theme with my comments.

One of the main goals of the website is to serve as a store for posterity for all of the historical information about the Kerrs, Carrs and the Septs of North America. This section of the website serves as a data repository to store ancestral, historical and genealogical information as well as family trees of Kerrs in North America for all to share. If you have your information on another website, links can be used to reference your information.



Right now, there are only two group histories in there. One is for the Carrs (Karr) of Union Springs, New York, where their ancestors came to the New World in 1720 directly from Teviotdale. A son traversed across New England to Albany, New York, at the start of the American Revolution and joined the New York 1st Infantry to fight for the freedom of our new nation. In the picture above, if you follow the link for the Carrs of Union Springs New York you will see that the genealogy documented in there was in relation to a DAR application for one Margaret Gannon Carr Miller.

Another history is represented by a link to the Kerr Family Association in North Carolina. They have extensive genealogical information, and as one of the goals of the website is to share this information for researching your Clan roots. We have a link in there so that all Kerrs, Carrs and septs can get to the Kerr Family Association website for sharing genealogical information.

So, I hope you are seeing how we can assist your ancestral research with the kind of information we can keep on the site and make it available regarding any of our ancestries. Hopefully, we will be able to find a connection and connect two branches of the Kerrs in the New World to expand our understanding of our relationships. It is also expected that we will document information in this section that comes from the Border Reivers Society and their genealogical work with DNA.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to me! I would be happy to add your information and ancestor to our nascent collection. We have plenty of space and are involved in sharing Clan history for the long term!

Slàinte mhòr!

Robert G. “Bob” Shepard, Jr., MBA, KCTJ
Clan Webmaster
Email: ClanKerr@bobandbon.com



MISCELLANEOUS

North American Scottish Games Scheduled for 2019

At the moment there are some 120 Scottish Festivals and Games scheduled throughout next year. Most of them, scheduled during the winter months, are in the southeastern and southwestern states. The rest are across the northern states in the spring, summer and fall months. A listing of Scottish Highland Games for 2019 will be on www.clankerr.org website in early 2019. Be advised that Games and Festivals take place in three different categories:

- Scottish Games & Festivals are those in which over 50% of the entertainment is Scottish.
- Celtic Festivals have mixed Celtic, Irish and Scottish music and entertainment.
- Irish Festivals contain over 50% Irish entertainment.

For 2019 dates, locations and details for Games and Festivals for all fifty states, detailed information is available by state and month at: “Celtic Festivals USA” and “Association of Scottish Games and Festivals.”

New Research from the Clan Kerr Historian’s “Skunk Works”

CLANKERRUS.com, as a part of its comprehensive genealogical studies, has initiated discussions with language researchers exploring the origins of words and names. This had revealed abstracts from The American Oriental Research Society explorations into the origins of language/name associations. Many of these date back into the pre-Norman and pre-Roman occupation of England in 64 BC and 1066 AD. Some early results are noteworthy and some of us involved are fascinated about where this research might lead!

One development, for instance, is an ancient biblical Hattic language from Central Turkey. Its word Krr (Hattic had no vowels) is today translated into English as “dignity.” Language experts on Hattic are debating the pronunciation of Krr in Hattic which they argue was pronounced “Kare” or “Carer.” Other examples are now also surfacing regarding the curious appearance of other Scottish names and ancient places between Eastern Europe and the Mideast. Just a few of these others are Kir, Kirr, and Keros and might suggest the Kerr/Carr name roots towards the dawn of civilization. Clan Kerr’s genealogical “Skunk Works,” is actively following this exciting new research.

And then there is the pronunciation of the word Kerr, which many insist probably had its origins from the “Kjarr” who arrived in 1066 with the Norman invasion. But... did you know that the Norwegian pronunciation of the word Kjarr, is **Sharr!**

Did the Kerrs help birth Scotland's Whiskey industry?

Recent research indicates that the Crusaders brought back the art of distillation from the Holy Land to Europe in the 12th Century. In 1128, Hugh de Payens, the leader of the Knights Templars who had recently returned to Paris from years of Templar service in the Holy Land, then visited Scotland's King David I, and was granted lands in West Lothian at Balantrodach, which is near the present town of "Temple." Balantrodach, or the "Town of Warriors," became the Templars' military headquarters in Scotland for 184 years, until the Order was closed by England's King in 1312. At Balantrodach, only a few miles from town of Temple and the Kerr's Borderland Castles, history strongly suggests it was the Knights Templar who first introduced the art of whiskey distillation in Scotland's Lothian area towards the end of the Crusades. At the battle of Bannockburn on June 23 and 24 of 1314, a number of Knights Templar, on heavy horses, are alleged to have appeared and turned the battle in Scotland's favor, and then disappeared.



Many centuries later in the 17th and 18th centuries, did illegal, home-operated distilleries begin appearing in large numbers in the remote areas of the Scottish Highlands. Governmental excise men patrolled Scotland at night, looking for the tell-tale smoke from illegal night distillation operations for "moonshine" in an era in which whiskey was hidden under church altars and even in coffins. Even in later years most of Scotland's whiskey production was still illegal.

Today, according to Scotland's records, some 126 distillers exist using various ingredients. Of these 126, 10 are in the Border Lowlands, 33 around the Highlands, and an incredible 50 in and around the Inverness area, which was once the most remote area in Scotland and today has surrendered itself completely to the production of "Aqua Vitae"!

America's Official Tartan Day

Tartan Day in the United States derives from U.S. Senate Resolution #155, passed in March of 1998, to recognize the contribution of over 6 million American-Scotsmen. Tartan Day is April 6th each year, the date on which Scotland's first Declaration of Independence was signed in 1320 with the Treaty of Arbroath.

Know your Scottish Games Athletics

As President of Clan Kerr, the questions most often asked by new members not already familiar with Highland Games, are regarding the Games' athletics? Aside from "Shinty," which is not played at Highland Games, five athletic events usually take place at Highland Games. Kerr's attending such Games should understand the five, which are: the Stone of Strength, the Hammer, the Weight Throw, the Sheaf Toss and the Caber.



The Stone of Strength: A 16-28 pound stone ball is thrown from the shoulder (similar to "shot-put"). The longest of three efforts is the judged throw. Contestants stand within a circle and are not allowed to touch its perimeter.

The Hammer: A 16-23 pound weight is on a stick. Standing within a circle, the contestant is not allowed to move his feet while swinging the weighted stick around his head. The longest throw of three tries is judged.

The Weight Throw: Standing within a circle, the contestant holds the chained weight, and spinning around like a discus thrower, strives for the highest throw over a bar. This bar continues to be raised in height until only one contestant remains. Each contestant get three throws for each height.

The Sheaf Toss: Using a tines pitchfork, each contestant gets three tries to throw a 16 pound straw-backed burlap bag over a bar, which continues to be raised until only one contestant remains.

The Caber: A log, usually 19 feet long and weighing about 100-130 pounds, is held by each contestant at the small end of the pole. With a short run he/she throws the pole trying to up-end its large end. When it hits the ground, at a perfect 90 degree angle, it then is flipped forward end-over-end, until it lands. Caber falls that do not fall completely forward on landing get points relative to the face of a big clock.

"Slainte mhor a h-uile la a chi's nach thaic."

"Great health to you every day that I see you and every day that I don't."

Robert S. Miller

Clan Kerr President for North America