

THE TEVIOTDALE HERALD

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The Kerr/Carr Clan Official Newsletter



AMERICA'S HONORED CLAN KERR FOR 2019

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Official U.S. Clan Kerr Website: www.clankerr.org

Your President's Message



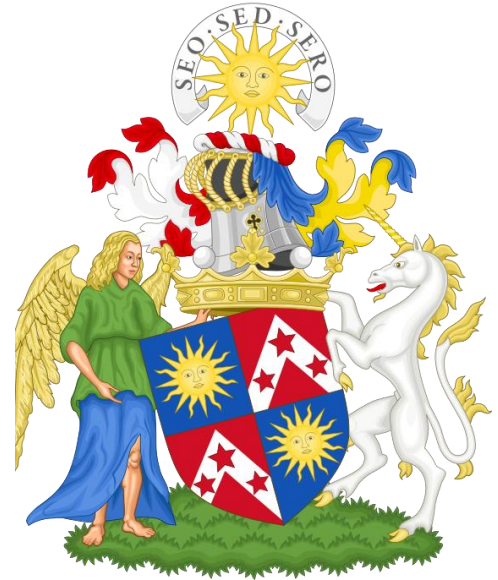
The highlight of our Clan's activities in early 2019 was the five-day visit of our Clan's Chief to Central Florida from January 24th through the 28th. Lord Lothian, also known as the Honorable Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr, had accepted our invitation to attend our January 2019 Games early last year, and was hosted by our Clan for their three-day visit to attend the 43 Annual Scottish Highland Games in the Orlando area. Our Chief was accompanied by his nephew, James Michael Ralph Kerr, who prefers to be called "Johnnie." It is rumored that he is to be the Chief's heir apparent in Scotland, the 14th Marquis of Lothian.

Their Lordships were met at the Orlando International Airport by Clan Kerr officers Robert Miller and Bob Shepard on the Thursday prior to the Games. Friday evening they were hosted by our Clan at the Whiskey Tasting event, which preceded a formal Sponsor's Banquet for some 260 guests, at which Lord Lothian was the guest speaker.

Lord Lothian officially declared the Games open, as some 40 Clan Kerr members led the "Parade of the Tartans," past Lord Lothian on the reviewing stand. At the head of the Kerr Clan was Johnnie Kerr, with Bob Miller our Clan President, both of whom took a salute from Johnnie's uncle as the Kerrs passed in review. Saturday evening their Lordships were hosted by Clan Kerr members at a private dinner in a local restaurant.

Sunday morning his Lordship attended the Kirkin of the Tartans and then opened the Sunday Games at noon. The highlight of the day for Lord Lothian was a Knights Templar award given to him in recognition of his decades of work helping Christianity in the Holy Land. Lord Lothian is a leader of the Knights of Saint Lazarus in the Holy Land, while Clan Kerr President, Bob Miller, is a U.S Knights Templar leader and the Mentor for their humanitarian work in the Holy Land.

Sunday evening, and most of Monday, was spent in discussions between Clan Kerr members, Lord Lothian and his nephew at the Altamonte Hilton Hotel. Our honored guests arrived back at Orlando International Airport in time for their evening flight back to London.



**Lord Lothian, Scotland's Kerr Chief,
at the invitation of Clan Kerr of the United States
attended America's 2019 Scottish Highland Games
in Florida.**



**Lord Lothian's thanks
to all Clan Kerr/Carr
members:**

**"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
do not!"**



WELCOME to our new members!

Clan Kerr has signed up 44 new members through the end of 2018, while our total membership reached 374, members who residents of 40 American States, including Hawaii. An amazing 61% of our members' names are either Kerr or Carr, while most of the others have Kerrs and Carrs in their family line and are interested in their heritage.



The Genealogists' Corner

Requests for help and assistance continue to flow in from members. The electronic age has opened “Pandora’s Box” for research and fostering an incredible rise in “Where (and when) did I come from”? The DNA age has further exploded this curiosity.

Once again, I counsel that you remember the following:

1. Living relatives are an incredible source of information. Visit them while they are still with you, take notes and collect records, if possible.
2. The internet is an incredible source of information, but be careful. Most information is honestly reported, but some may be questionable and lead down dead alleys.
3. While DNA is helpful, it is only a part of your story. It provides the “where,” but not the interesting details, which most of us so desperately want to find out about our lineage.

Some Clan Members fascinating family Research Discoveries

1. **Ms. More from Canada** has found decorated Kerr/Carr relatives from the Revolutionary War era, in the Battles of Snowshoes and that of Fort Ticonderoga in New York. With Sinclair, Livingston, and Montieth relatives in her lineage. going back to Kerr/Care roots of 1629, informed us that among her possible ancestry is one Captain Robert Carr. This Carr owned and sailed ships around the world from Glasgow and made initial tea deliveries from the Orient to England. He was later captured by Algerian Barbary Pirates in 1757. To avoid a slave life in pirate galleys, Carr converted to Islam, took the name Omar, and was placed in command of an Algerian 16-cannon Xebec warship, which was a three-masted, square-rigged vessel. This information is now being verified in Carr/Kerr records in Scotland ... and maybe Algeria?



2. **Ms. Bergman from Oregon** informed us that she discovered her link to Jane Carr of Rhode Island, who is the daughter of Thomas Carr of Jamestown, Rhode Island circa 1696. Ms. Bergman’s discovery indicates Jane Carr was her 6th great grandmother and the great granddaughter of Caleb and Mercy Carr. Her research will pursue her links back into Scotland from Ireland.

3. **Ms. Reed from Arizona** has traced her direct Kerr line back 519 years, through 27 generations, to Sir John Kerr in Scotland (1500-1559). Clan Kerr is now working to help develop a link arrangement through which other Kerr/Carr members, like Ms. Reed, can interface with valuable historical records.

A Brief DNA Primer

Tracing your DNA will provide your ethnic groups and geographic origins, and confirm (or not) your basic beliefs about where you came from. To date some 110 million DNA tests have been done world-wide, while over 10 billion historical records and archives are available. These involve over 3.4 billion people, speaking over 50 languages. But beware! DNA is but the tip of the iceberg! For those with serious enquiries it is but the first chapter of many learning about your ancestry and family tree. The most interesting case I saw was a formidable old Scottish lady, whose DNA results indicated ... not Scotland ... but that 90% of her lineage was Cherokee Indian.

Clan Kerr's 2019 Annual Meeting

Clan Kerr/Carr of the United States and North America convened its 2019 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, January 5th, 2019. The meeting had been properly announced electronically by emails in early November, with reminders in early December 2019. A quorum of Directors were present. Highlights of the meeting involved the appointment of additional Directors and seven new Associate Directors in the United States. Total membership at December 31, 2018 was 330 members.

Tell your Friends about Clan Kerr/Carr

What's in it for them, they ask? Are they:

- Looking for ancestors or cousins?
- Curious about their heritage?
- Interested in meeting others who share their name?
- or ... just wanting to have fun at a local Scottish Highland Games?

If so ... refer them to www.clankerr.org





Be a Kerr Clan “Convener”

“Conveners” are the appointed representatives and the faces of our Kerr Clan organization at North American Scottish Highland Games and Celtic events. Conveners represent Clan Kerr in their states of residence, and often times, in adjacent states as needed. Become a www.clankerr.org Convener and get involved!

What is a Convener? Someone who is interested in their Scottish history and the Kerr background and enjoys attending social events, meeting people, and having a good time at Highland and/or Celtic Games.

A Convener’s Responsibilities? Conveners set-up Clan Kerr tents at Games, greet visitors, inform them about the Clan’s purpose and interests. The convener provides information regarding membership.

What does the Convener need? Conveners are responsible to provide the tent on the field, tables, chairs, and display accessories, normally required to “dress up” a clan tent. This could include flags, coverlets, signs, brochures and information from various areas of the Clan Kerr website at www.clankerr.org.

What does Clan Kerr provide? www.clankerr.org will past newsletters, brochures, and membership forms. Depending on availability and advance warning ... one-time lay-ins of tartan materials for table coverings or to use in making banners, signs and brochures are available.

And Convener costs? Most Highland Games charge Clan registration fees (also referred to a Clan Sponsorships) of about \$100.00 to \$130.00 for a one-to-two day event. The fee usually includes a tent, a table, 2 chairs, and two entry tickets. The registration fees are born by the Convener. Many Conveners find that the cost of sponsoring a clan tent at Games is not much more than the general admission charge for two people at the gate, and usually also includes free parking at the Games site.

A New Clan Tent Convener’s Survival Kit

- Learn all you can from the internet and other sources about Clan Kerr and the Scottish Clan system.
- Download and print out all clan-related information and keep it in a three ring binder or on clip boards.
- Assemble an assortment of inexpensive Scottish related gear that you can assemble yourself from the internet, and store it in plastic tubs which you can keep in storage at home in between Games.

- Try to look as authentic and Scottish as possible. This will probably be a work in progress and could take a year or two to gather display items of interest for the tent. A lot can be learned by studying other Scottish Clan tents while attending Games.
- Don't be shy! Talk to people passing the tent and invite them to sit with you.
- Ask about their backgrounds and be willing to listen to their interests and not just your own.
- Be willing to help neighboring clan tents with setting up and offer to watch their tents if they want to wander around and shop or watch events. This creates goodwill and friends you will meet over the years to come.



From the Kerr Skunk Works



The Knights Templar Is it in your Kerr heritage???

In the year 1128, historical records of the Borderlands of Scotland indicate that noteworthy men with the name Kerr were already in evidence in government and the society of the time in the Lothian areas around today's Edinburgh. That same year, Hugh de Payens, the leader of the new Knights Templars in Jerusalem, and cousin of Saint Bernard de Clairvaux, arrived at Edinburgh for a meeting with Scotland's King David the First.

The year 1128 was auspicious for both Scotland's King David, and the Knights Templar. Only 58 years earlier the Normans had conquered England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Only 25 years earlier, a Norman army had conquered Jerusalem, starting their 150 year occupation of the Holy Land. The above 1128 meeting between the two men was auspicious as it resulted in the award of Scottish lands in the mid-Lothian, area south-west of Edinburgh, for a new Knights Templar headquarters to be located at Balantrodach. The area, then as now, was known as Lothian and also Temple Church. The word Balantrodach means the "Place of the Warriors."

179 years after 1128, in October of 1307, as the Templar Order was being shut down in France, Templar ships transported Knights and their possessions from Europe to Balantrodach, starting the myth of lost treasures still being sought today across Scotland and elsewhere. Only a few years later history reports heavily armed mounted Knights changing the course of Scottish history at the Battle of Bannockburn. The Knights Templar eventually joined Scotland's Knights of Saint John and others joined the Hospitaliers.



During the almost 200 years that the Knights Templars' Balantradach headquarters existed on the banks of the Esk river some 15 miles from Edinburgh, in the midst of the Kerr/Carr Borderland area, it is certain that scores of Kerrs/Carrs served in Templar armies sent to the Holy Land during four crusades. Who some of these might be is now being researched by Clan Kerr/Carr of the United States and will be reported on as details become available.

Quo Vadis”?

Scotland's Kerrs

Are the Kerrs slowly dying out in Scotland?

Many members have recently asked about how many Kerrs/Carrs there currently are in Scotland. In our Fall 2018 edition of *The Teviotdale Herald* we discussed the whereabouts of 134,213 Kerrs/Carrs, now reported to exist worldwide in 14 countries. We found that the largest Kerr/Carr populations were in America with 53,480, while Scotland's were numbered at only 10,803. Their locations in Scotland are reported to be mainly in the four Borderland counties of Midlothian, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Ayrshire. Scotland's total population today is reported to be 5,404,700, a quarter of whom reside in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. The rest reside in over 50 small towns with populations of fifteen to fifty thousand. Given the size of the Borderland area and that so few Kerr's exist there, does this suggest their decline?

The fact that less than only 1 in 12 of today's Kerrs/Carrs in the world reside in Scotland, is probably the result of a long history of wars and social upheavals in Scotland, and in particular the Borderlands area. Had the Jacobite Rebellion of the 1700's, the "Clearances" a century later, followed by two centuries of forced military service to the British Crown, was devastating to our Clan's population. Four centuries of conflict and social upheaval forced the evictions of a million Kerrs who were rudely told to pack up and get out.

Particularly problematic for the Borderland Kerrs/Carrs were the "Clearances," instigated by wealthy landowners who forced tenant farmers to get off their land so landowners could raise sheep. For those few who managed to stay, their final indignity came in the 1750s with English demands that Scotland form large military units to defend Britain's Empire around the world.

In an earlier *Teviotdale Herald* edition, we discussed the four famous Scottish “Borderland” regiments that served the British Crown. These regiments fought and died in 56 bloody British Empire campaigns around the world. 18 of them were in India and the Far East, 24 more in Europe and Africa, and finally 14 in North America.

Scotland’s population today, like that of the rest of Europe, is still in decline. The impact on the Borderlands is unclear. In 2017, deaths in Scotland surpassed births by 31,700. This decline was only offset with the arrival of some 8,800 new immigrants from England, and another 22,900 from elsewhere in the world, few of whom were Kerrs/Carrs. ***Now you know!***



The Kerr/Carr Saga of the Scots-Irish in America

A member recently provided the following explanation for our name confusion for the Kerrs and Carrs world-wide. In Colonial America the term “Scots-Irish” indicated an Irishman of Scottish descent, and that this descent could be only a few, or many, years in Ireland depending on when hundreds of thousands of Scotsmen named Kerr were forced to leave Scotland on short notice. Most of them initially went to Ireland, where many of their names were Anglicized to “Carr” in the years before they eventually immigrated to the American colonies. This member pointed out that we Kerrs/Carrs doing research through Ireland need to be patient while pursuing our family connections between Ireland and Scotland since these records may no longer be available there or here.



Reports on some Recent Highland Games

**Are you going to a local Highland Games near you?
Send your pictures to www.clankerr.org**

The Jacksonville (North Florida) Highland Games

Representatives of Clan Kerr attended this year's Games in North Florida, but without their own tent. February 23rd started out warm while the afternoon temperatures eventually rose into the high eighties. As luck would have it, when the rains did come they arrived after dark not ruining the day for some 40 Clans and Societies, along with maybe 4,000 spectators who attended the Games. Attendance this year was lower than the last few years.

St. Augustine (Florida) Games

Several members of Clan Kerr attended the March 9th & 10th 419th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Day in Saint Augustine, Florida. 13 clans attended the 9th annual Celtic Festival including Kerrs. The Clan parade through the streets of the old town was lined with thousands of spectators.

The Ormond Beach (Florida) Celtic Games

On April 13th, 2019, members of Clan Kerr/Carr will man an unusual "umbrella tent" at the Ormond Beach Scottish Festival. Organizers required a "fire-retardant," 10x10 tent and ours didn't meet the fire code (even though the tents were in the middle of a large open field with lots of space between tents). Umbrellas don't have to be fire-retardant!!! The Kerrs/Carrs are nothing if they are not inventive! We look forward to seeing our Kerr/Carr tartan at this Festival!



Webmaster's Corner

In this newsletter there is plenty of interesting news about Lord Lothian's visit to the Central Florida Games where Clan Kerr was the honored Clan. I hope you read the Clan President's remarks about the wonderful weekend we had with Lord Lothian. The other fellow in the trousers with the Kerr Modern tartan is His Lordship's nephew, Johnnie Kerr. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet the future of the Clan

in Scotland. 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 photos of any and all Clan gatherings, no matter how large or small. The Gallery section of the website serves as a photo repository to store the photographic record of The Clan in North America for all to share. If you have your photos on another website, links can be used to reference your information.

Right now, there are several Games attendance in there. Predominately, they include the Central Florida Games. Others include events in Colorado and Dunedin, Florida. Why not take a minute and view the galleries? Do you have photos you can add to the website? Feel free to add more to the events already on the site, or I am more than happy to create a new page for your gathering!

So, I hope you are seeing how we can assist by providing a common repository for the modern photographic history of The Clan. Hopefully, we will be able to find a connection to each other and expand our understanding of our relationships.

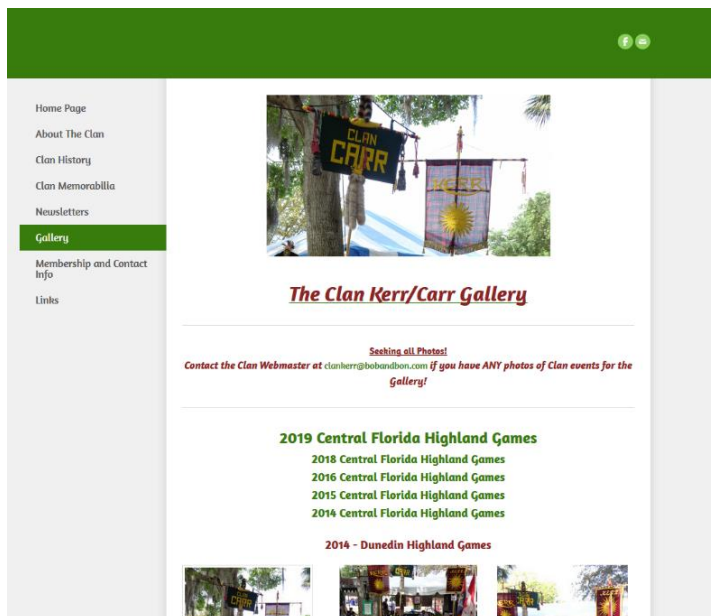
If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to me! I would be happy to add your information and ancestor to our nascent collection. We have plenty of space and are involved in sharing Clan history for the long term!

Slàinte mhòr!

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

Clan Webmaster

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Miscellaneous

Some useful expressions to help you get around when visiting in Scotland

Ma heids mince ... I'm mixed up
Yer oot yer face ... You're drunk
Yer bums out the sindae... You're talking rubbish
Yer all bum and parsley... You're a blowhard
Keep the head ... Stay calm
Lang may yer lum reek ... I wish you well
Haud yer wheesht ... Be quiet
Yer aywis at the coo's tail ... Hurry up
It's a lang rod that's no goat a turnin ... Don't lose heart
A clean shirt'll do ye ... You're not long for this world



**This is the Clan add for
“The Scottish Banner”**

CLAN KERR

of the United States and North America



**Memberships are free to all
interested in the Borderland
Kerrs, its Septs, and issues
related to heritage, kinship,
genealogy, Highland and
Celtic Games, et cetera.**

Applications found at:

www.CLANKERR.org

Clan President, Robert Miller

at

407-346-8977

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