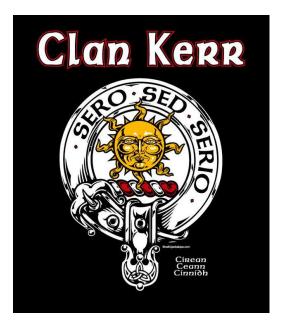
THE

TEVIOTDALE

HERALD

The Second Covid-19 Lockdown Edition



Volume 13 - Issue 1 - Spring 2021

The Kerr/Carr Clan American Newsletter

679 Silver Creek Drive, Suite #2, Winter Springs, Florida 32708-3142

The President's Message

"Failte"! ... Welcome!

It appears that we may be blessed with a brighter 2021, as many of us look forward

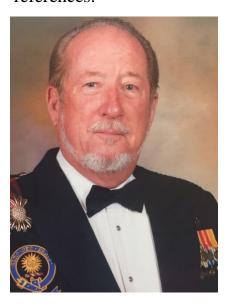
to socializing at Scottish Highland Games and social events here at home. Some Games are now being scheduled for mid-to-late 2021, and are referred to at the end of this newsletter.

We learned recently that our Clan Chief, Michael Kerr, like most of us this past year here in North America, has also been "hunkered down" at his residence in Scotland. We wish him and Lady Jane Fitzalan-Howard, and his nephew Johnnie, health and happiness, as we hope the worst of the Covid Storm is now more in our past than in our future.



For those of us considering trips to the British Isles, please consider visiting your Kerr heritage at Ferniehirst Castle near Jedburgh in Scotland's Borderlands. I have included a note about the Kerr Castle and local heritage sites by Robert Lawson, who is the Kerr Curator in Jedburgh.

Our "Genealogist's Corner" in this issue also contains several useful research references.



Stay well and think Scottish!

Bob Miller

"Slainte whor a h-uile la a chie's fhaie"
"Great health to you every day that I see you,
and every day that I don't."

A Kerr Castle Tour

by Robert Lawson Curator of the Kerr's Ferniehirst Castle at Jedburgh



Come and see us at Ferniehirst Castle! The castle we see today was designed and rebuilt by Sir Andrew Kerr in 1598, at the time in Scottish history when there was still a danger of trouble and uprisings on the Border.

Doors were designed to open outwards and gun holes were placed strategically around the building for the castle's defense. Although the walls were undermined and destroyed by a succession of assailants, the original AD 1470 undercrofts survived to support the castle buildings.

The interior consists of the original grand apartments and upstairs rooms in the style of a 17th century Scottish Baronial Laird. It boasts a wonderful Great Hall with a large decorated Italianate fireplace and a tiny wood-lined turret library with an original cured oak ceiling.

Clan Kerr's USA 2020/2021 Officers and Directors

Clan Kerr's planned Officer and Director re-election at one of the mid-2020 Highland Games, was postponed for the Covid-19 lock-down. Notice was sent to all Directors and Officers asking them to extend their terms until the next Annual Meeting, which is now scheduled for the mid-January 2022 Highland Games of Central Florida.

For members information this list is also shown on the Clan's website:

Officers:

President: Robert S. Miller

Secretary/Registrar: Margaret Carr Miller

Webmaster/Treasurer: Robert Gordon (Carr) Shepard

Directors:

Claudia (Carr) Chamberland, Dennis Chamberland, and Bradley (Carr) Miller

Associate Directors:

Dennis Carr, James Carr, Carolyn Schultz Carr, Zoey Carr, Randy Furst; Tom Carr, Robyn Carr, and Judith (Carr) Wadsworth.

Clan Kerr Attendance at 2020 Games

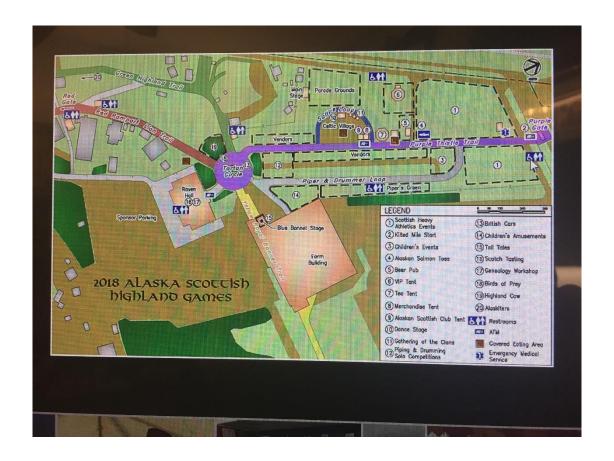
As the year 2020 opened, Clan Kerr's plans for the year included attendance at seven Florida Games and nine out-of-state Highland Games. The Florida seven were at Dunedin, Jacksonville, Mount Dora, Orlando, Ormond Beach, Saint Augustine, and Sarasota. The other nine were in Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Grand Father Mountain and Lock Norman, North Carolina; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Rocky Mountain and Pike's Peak, Colorado; Stone Mountain and Savanna, Georgia; and Mountain Home, Idaho.





The arrival of Covid-19 unfortunately resulted in cancellation of all the post-February 2020 Games in North America. Clan Kerr was still able to be present at four 2020 "Covid-era" events in Longwood, Orlando and Mount Dora in Florida, as well as one in Mountain Home in Idaho.

Plans are now in development to be represented for the first time at America's northern-most 39th Annual 2020 Games, at Preston, Alaska. We now have three members in Alaska and look forward to their participation at future Alaskan Games in mid-2021 at Preston, near Anchorage.



Page 5 of 23

America's St. Andrew's Society



Created in 1657 in Boston, today the St. Andrew's Society is a national organization. Clan Kerr members are all encouraged to join their local St. Andrew's Societies. which are non-profit organizations with chapters in most towns and cities across America. Most of these societies

participate in three annual events, which are a lot of fun! They participate in St. Patrick's Day parades each year, they have a fall St. Andrew's Dinner and January/ February's famous "Burns Night Suppers." Most of their events consist of the famous "Address to the 'Haggis'," along with piping, dinner and dancing.



News from Down Under

Australia: Walter Kerr. President of Australia's Clan Kerr, reports everything is well with their Clan. Unfortunately, fires like those of 2019, have once again plagued them. Clan Kerr USA has also contacted Australia's "Scottish Australian Heritage Council," at Kaleen, NSW. This Council's newsletters are among the best seen outside of the United States, and from time to time contain useful Clan research information for those of us involved in genealogy. interested. the Council's publications can be found at:



www.newsletter@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



New Zealand: Wellington's Jess and Amelia Kerr, both in their early twenties, have been selected to represent New Zealand at the forthcoming international Cricket Games in South Africa.

Planning a Visit to Kerr Lands in Scotland?



In anticipation of some of our American Clan Kerr members who have expressed an interest in visiting Scotland as soon as the pandemic is gone, Mr. Robert Lawson, Curator of Ferniehirst Castle near Jedburgh in the Borderlands, has kindly included the following on their website in Scotland.

"As Curator for Lord Ralph Kerr at

Ferniehirst Castle, I am frequently asked by members of the Kerr Clan if I can suggest sites near Jedburgh associated with the Kerrs. There are, indeed, a number of sites to put you in touch with your roots and invoke a real feeling of the history of your important, once powerful family here in Roxburghshire. I have created the following pages as a guide for those who may be planning a "Kerr Tour," following the trail back through the centuries to the earlier Roxburghshire Kerrs. "For more information please refer to Clans Kerr's Scottish website at www.clankerr.co.uk.







From the Clan Secretary:

Some three months have elapsed since our Winter 2020 Newsletter. At the time, we were experiencing an unusual membership growth. People were spending more time with what I would refer to as Covid-19's "Closet Fever Syndrome."

Membership has continued to grow with at least 20 new members and one more American State (forty-eight now) in which we have Clan Kerr members.

One of the most unusual developments has been the number of those submitting significant amounts of documentation about their family searches. An amazing fifty pages in the case of one John Kerr, a Pennsylvania veteran of the Civil War.

News From Our Membership

- 1. <u>Claudia Chamberland</u> of Florida's Space Coast, just discovered some serious Carr/Kerr family relationships in her genealogy... and suddenly a host of potential new family relatives. She plans to have a DNA test to make sure.
- 2. **Randle Beavers**, a serious researcher into his Kerr heritage, is struggling with his final lap to establish links through the Rutherford-Kerr relationships, and to connect him to links with Robert the Bruce and the Black Douglass'.
- 3. <u>Ursula (Kerr) Clark</u> of North Carolina joined us after many years attending Highland Games at Grand Father Mountain in North Carolina.
- 4. <u>Neal Harlow</u> of Northern Virginia, is looking into his genealogy. He's traced his family back to Adam Kerr, born November 1, 1801, Rathvern Parish, in Banf, Scotland. Neal's elder family members state there was a castle in their background. An Abbey perhaps? It was sold to the government some decades back for taxes. His dad, Norman Kerr Harlow's mom and his Grandmother was Ruth Kerr before she was married.
- 5. <u>John Carr</u>, a relative of Francis Lee Thurman, M.D., who visited Scotland in the 1930s, has now found a history of the Carr (Kyr, Kjr,Kerr, Carre) names in Scotland before the Norman Invasion. His study includes a John Kerr of Selkirk Forest in 1357, who was the father of Henry Kerr, Sheriff of Roxburg and father of Robert Kerr. Thurman's 23-page report traces the Kerr/Carr name into the Virginia Carr's before the American Revolution.

- 6. <u>Travis Smeltzer's</u> wife is tracing his grandmother, Jess Maria Carr. She married George Alvin Kenyon, who was not born in France 12/23/1922 as his research suggested, but rather in Saugerties, New York.
- 7. <u>Lee Kerr</u> of Ocala, Florida is related to William Leland Kerr, and thanked our Clan for the Newsletters which meant a lot to his research.
- 8. **Edward Hartz** of Lakewood, California is tracing his maternal grandfather who was Everett Wilson Carr.
- 9. <u>John Kerr</u> of Batesville, Mississippi, has traced his ancestors to Thomas and Robert Kerr in Scotland's Borderlands, and is awaiting a reply about his information from the Kerr Curator in Scotland.
- 10. <u>Clan Kerr USA</u> sent Walter Kerr, President of Clan Kerr in Australia, its best wishes for his 89th birthday on January 16, 2021.
- 11. **Jan Dockins** of Virginia is a descendant of Benjamin Carr (1592–1672), and is interested in learning more about her ties back to Benjamin.
- 12. <u>Ellora Stanton</u> of Grand Junction, Colorado, wants to trace her paternal grandmother, Ella Carr Washam Piper (1882-1968). Her father was Thomas J. Carr.



News from COSCA



COSCA, America's "Council of Scottish Clans and Associations," continues to struggle with its strategic plan formulated some five years ago: to help preserve and promote the customs, traditions and heritage of the Scottish people in

America. While a year (or two) of Covid-19 has financially challenged many Highland Games organizations, it has also seriously impacted many of America's 110 Clan and Society organizations that depend on membership contributions. COSCA represents some eighty clans and indicates one of their problems is the declining interest in American Clans on the part of Scotland's Clan Chiefs.

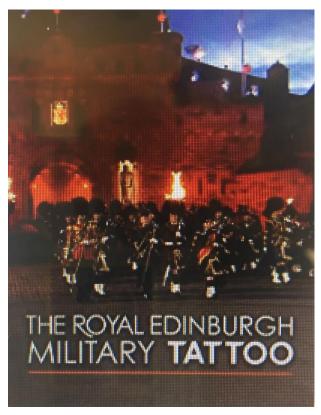
Ninety-four Scottish Clan Chiefs, recognized by Scotland's Lord Lyon, are listed as members of the Scotland's Council of Chiefs. Some eighty-five appear on the 2020 list. Unfortunately, less than half have websites.

THESAURUS 'a marvellous sreasure trove, enormous fun Allan Massie 'simply a book that everyone has to get fiells Kay Birds: bleater, briskie, corbie, craw, gowdie, gowk, speug. Fish blin ee, cuddie, gowkney, haddie, loch trour, powan, red fish, Fruit: blaeberry, bramble, groser, knotherry, rizzar,

The Scot's Thesaurus

English may be the lingua franca of the British Isles, but those visiting Scotland's rural area should consider taking along a Celtic/English dictionary. The 1990 Scot's Thesaurus lists some fifteen thousand useful Celtic words still in use. Unfortunately, it's not in alphabetical order so you may have to struggle a little in the rural areas from time to time. Several on-line Celtic language courses are available before you go. No problem! "Se canan ceilteach a th 'an an Gaidhig a tha duthchas ach do dh Alba?"

WHAT IS A "TATTOO"?



Most of you will say, "Heck, I know what that is"! But how many know its origin? Three hundred years ago in the mid-17th Century in Holland, British troops occupied Holland and were quartered in civilian homes around Amsterdam. This was similar to British troops being sheltered in American homes in Boston during the American Revolution.

In the American colonies' case, Britain's "Quartering Act," ordered the quartering of British troops in Colonial buildings and homes at the Colonists' expense. In the case of Holland, when troops needed to be recalled from town for local

meetings, British military drummers would parade through Amsterdam's streets informing residents, innkeepers and ale-houses ... to turn off their taps. In Flemish, the British shouted, "doe den tap toe"! Decades later these parades included other musical instruments. The Dutch expression "doe den tap toe," morphed into the

Anglicized word "tattoo."

Today British and Scot military organizations embellish their Tattoo events with brass bands, pipes, spit & polished troops, cannon fire, and large bonfires. Scotland's most famous Tattoo is now held each summer in Edinburgh. So ... "do den tap toe"!

Our Genealogist's Corner

Looking into your past? Doing family research?



Our members have provided the following seven web addresses which they have found useful. They are included here without attribution:

- 1. Magnacarta800th.com/schools/biographies/the-25-barons-or-magna-carta/Robert-de-ros/
- 2. Clancummings.us/pdf/familyrecordsofb1870bruc.pdf
- 3. Findagrave.com/memorial/7645768/Robert-de ros
- 4. Familsearch.org
- 5. Familyseach.org/search/catalog/313027?avalability=family%20library
- 6. Freepages.rootsweb.com/otstott/family/ind1749.html
- 7. Thehennesseefamily.com/getperson.php?psrsonID-146148&tree=hennessee

There are two very interesting things about the above seven Kerr background sites, which contained 30 or more pages about Kerrs in America. These are listed below. The latter site is documentation for Lt. John Kerr (1745-1807), the father of Samuel Kerr (1788–1823):

- 1. Familysearch.org/service/records/storage/dasmem/patron/v2/TH-904-78315-4949-57/dist.txt?ctx=ArtCtxPublic
- 2. Passer.org/graves/patriots_k.html

An alternate site available is the database at the Kerr Family Association of North America (KFANA) in North Carolina. Their database of some 1,200 Kerr family trees, collected from their membership over the years, is available only to members. KFANA indicates much of their information is also available at the Odom Library in Moultrie, Georgia, which belongs to Valdosta State University. This Library's 530,000 documents are worth checking out. You can find links to KFANA's website at: www.clankerrus.org.

From the "Skunk Works"

Kerr Clan Falconry?



No proof exists at the moment that any Clan Kerr Chief's, or their clansmen, ever had a claim to Falconry. However, the possibility is worth considering! Clan Kerr's website in Scotland shows two men with falcons on an old cloth, but it is not explained who they were.

Known widely as the "Sport of Kings," one could include Borderland Chiefs. In 1334, Scotland's King sent a Peregrine Falcon to England's King Edward III. Mary Queen of Scots also used to go falconing during her captivity in Scotland. A little known idiosyncrasy of falcons is that their heads are literally

gimballed to the rest of their body. Once the bird focuses on its prey, no matter what the attitude or position of its body throughout its flight, its head never moves from

Some its target. Highland Games feature falcon demonstrations; watch for them forthcoming Highland Games in North America, they are very worthwhile to observe. If our members can find references to Borderland Chiefs using falcons, let us know and we will put in a future newsletter.



The Kerr's Covid Tent in Longwood, Florida



Steven MacDonald, one of America's most talented young bagpipers, and Clan Kerr USA's official piper for a decade now, entertained the public at the Florida St. Andrews Society Covid-19 "Cèilidh in the Park," on November 14, 2020.

Some 3,000 people enjoyed his music in Orlando's only fall Scottish celebration. Unable to erect clan tents to the event because of Covid-19's

"spacing intervals," an exception was made for a single Kerr Clan umbrella to be placed on the field. Steven, now 26, has won virtually every national competition in the last decade and is known worldwide. We Orlando Scots are very proud of Steven's accomplishments.





Kerr Progenitors (1,900 B.C.-2021 A.D.)?



The word "Kir" dates back to Jerusalem at the time of King David. They were a local Jewish tribe responsible for the King's protection. The Hattic word, nearby in Anatolia, meant "honorable." The pre-history evolution of the ancient word then morphs to – Kaisar – Kesar – Kiarr – Kiaer, and later still to variations of Kjarr in the centuries before the Norman Invasion of Scotland. The old Norse word Kjarr also appears frequently in Norse mythology dating back to the time of Rome's occupation of Germany and Southern England. Some scholars suggest the word was derived from Caesar.

Norse mythology also describes Kiar/Kjarr (both pronounced the same), as a king of the Valir, who lived in the Celtic Roman south. This was the era from the time of the Hun Migrations in the early centuries of Rome. One of the famous Hun poems, known as a "Poetic Edda," names a Kiar's dwelling place as being superior to that of the Huns. Did Kiar and his progeny rule over Roman-era Germany?

"Of old, they say Humil, over Huns did rule. Gizur the Gauls, Goths and Angantyr, Valdar the Danes.

The Kiar, Arlek the Valiant and the English people."

Scotland's Kerrs In the Crusades

This study was referred to in our last newsletter. Research planned in Scottish



archives for the Autumn of 2020 had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

Our initial report sought Scots in the lead-up to the First Crusade during the early years of the Eleventh Century. Some references have been found, but now need to be researched.

There is a humorous reference to the Scots who participated in the First Crusade of 1096. The reference appears after the 1098 battle to capture the City of Antioch in northern Syria. "Our Scots were lost sight of after the capture of Antioch, and only our imaginations can follow them to the siege of Jerusalem." The reference to a Scottish contingent that made it that far, could have been of significant value to the forthcoming siege of

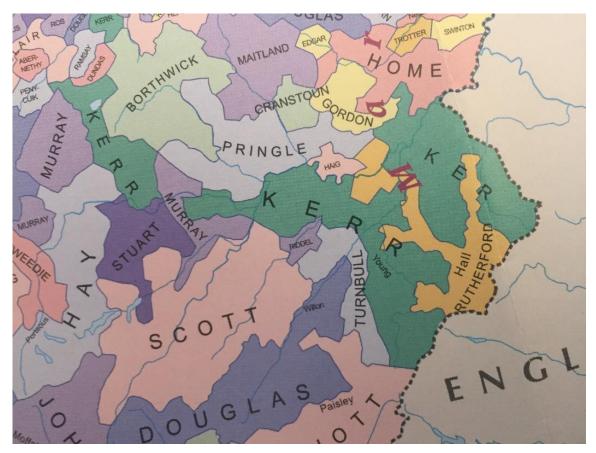
Jerusalem the following year.

The creation of the Knights Templar organization in the Borderlands area of Scotland, in the lead up to the Second Crusade, is important. These records were created by those from all walks of life and circumstances who joined the Crusades. Research will begin in Scotland's Borderlands as soon as the Covid pandemic is behind us.



The Borderland Clans Around the Kerr's

Next time you attend Scottish Highland Games, visit with some of the other noteworthy Borderland Clans present. They, too, have existed for hundreds of years near the English border with Scotland.



Research now being done by the Border Reiver Society in Georgia is beginning to produce results, proving that some Borderland Clan members were not always from the Clan they thought. The name you have today is a composite of scores of other names passed down through the centuries.

Genealogy studies today already suggest a "waring blender" mixture spanning the entire area. Some of the other prominent Clans are: Armstrong, Douglas, Elliot, Hay, Home, Johnstone, Pringle, Rutherford, and Scott. The bottom line is about proudly enjoying our Scottish heritage. When at future Highland Games, stop by other Borderland Clan tents and share a "wee dram" and celebrate your mutual heritage.

The Webmaster's Corner

Welcome back! This 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 its 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!

There are key sections to point out as you peruse the website, such as <u>Clan History</u> and <u>About the Clan</u>. 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**

<u>World</u> menu. The Clan Kerr Leadership set this section aside to begin documenting histories of the various Kerr families and branches 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!

Sláinte Mhòr!

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

Clan Kerr/Carr Webmaster

Email: ClanKerr@bobandbon.com

(727) 420-8320



Planned 2021-22 Scottish Highland Games by State

This list is not all inclusive. Check the websites shown for all 2021 Games before attending, even those with firm dates.

The sixteen Games marked with asterisks (*) are the Games that Clan Kerr, or its associates, hope to attend as of early February 2021:

ALASKA: Jun 27-28, 2021: 2075 Glen Highway, Palmer. www.alaskascottish.org *

ARIZONA: Jul 8, 2021: Flagstaff: www.nachs.info

COLORADO: Aug ____, 2021: Rocky Mountain Highland Games.

www.scottishgames.org *

Sept 10-12, 2021: Longs Peak. Estes Park. www.scotsfwest.com *

FLORIDA: Jan 15-16, 2022: Winter Springs. <u>www.flascot.com</u> *

Feb 27, 2022: Northeast Florida Games. Green Cove Springs.

www.neflgames.com *

Feb _____, 2022: Southeast Florida Games. Plantation. www.sassf.org *
Feb _____, 2022: Sarasota Games. www.sarasotahighlandgames.com *

Mar _____, 2022: St Augustine Games *

Apr _____, 2022: Mt. Dora Games. www.carsonic@citymountdora.com *

GEORGIA: May 1, 2022: Savanna Highland Games. Savannahscottishgames.com *

IDAHO Jun ____, 2022: Nampa. * INDIANA: Oct , 2022: Indianapolis Games. Fishers. www.indyscotgamesandandfest.com Jul _____, 2022: Belfast. www.maincelticcelebraton.com MAINE: MARYLAND: Apr 24, 2021. South Maryland Games. St Leonard. www.cssm.org MISSISSIPPI: Nov 13-14, 2021. Gulfport. www.mshighlandsandislands.org MONTANA: Aug 21-22, 2021. Hamilton. www.bcgg.org Sep ___: Concord. www.nshscot.org NEW HAMP: Oct ___: Las Vegas. www.lasvegascelticsociety.org **NEVADA: NEW MEX:** May 1, 2021: Bernallo. www/celticfestabq.com **NEW YORK:** Apr 10, 2021: N.Y. City Tartan Day Parade. www.nyctartanweek.org * Jun _____, 2021: Allegany Games. Belfast. www.alleganycountyceltic.com Jul , 2021: Crush Cancer Highland Games. www.buffaloheavies.com Aug 14, 2021; Long Branch Games. Liverpool. www.cnyscottishgames.org Aug _____, 2021: Long Island Games. Old Westbury. www.liscots.org NORTH CAROLINA: July 10-11, 2021: Grandfather Mountain Games. www.gmhg.org * Oct , 2021: Laurinburg Games. www.carolina-highlandgames.com June 25-26, 2021. Ohio Games. Middleburg Heights. OHIO: www.ohioscottishgames.com * Sep ____, 2021. Tulsa's Scotfest. * **OKLAHOMA** OREGON: Jun _____, 2021. McMinniville Games. www.macscottishfest.com PENSYLVANIA: Sep _____, 2021. Covenanter Games, Quarryville. www.covenanerscottish.festival.com Sep _____, 2021. Bethlehem Highland Games, Bethlehem. www.celticfest.org May , 2021. Smoky Mountain Games. TENNESSEE: www.smokymountaingames.org Sep _____, 2021. Nashville Games. www.midtenngames.com * Sep _____, 2021. Jefferson Games. www.scots-irish.com TEXAS: Sep ____, 2021. Midland Games. www.westtexascelticfair.com May ___, 2022. McKinney Scottish Games. www.texasscottishfestival.com VIRGINIA: Sept 4-5, 2021. Virginia Scottish Games. Plains. www.vascsottishgames.org Jul , 2021. Mount Vernon Games. www.celticarts.org **WASHINGTON:**

Some Scottish Potpourrie

Potpourrie: A medley collection of related things. From a Spanish 1400's word for a stew of chickpeas, various meats, sausage, vegetables, potatoes and onions.



Page 23 of 23