

Central Florida's CARR Clan Newsletter

20 February 2010

My thanks to all of you who stopped by to visit the **CARR Clan tent at the recent Winter Springs Scottish Highland Games over the weekend of 16-17 January 2010, and left your contact information for this newsletter.** Membership is free as long as you provide e-mail addresses for the newsletter.

It is my fondest hope that all of you will enjoy and revel in your Scottish heritage as the years pass, and for those of you trying to trace your histories, good luck. Its fun, challenging, rewarding, and sometimes extremely frustrating. That latter aside, the Carr's and Kerr's and other derivative spellings of the name, are mostly Scottish from the Borderlands area just north of the present English/Scottish border. Think of Hadrian's wall if you need a visual reference.

The Scott's back home in the old country pronounce the name Kerr.... as Carr. Just like the pronunciation of the automobile. For many of you, but not all, the Carr's of North America came from the phonetic spelling of the name generations ago when people asked newly arriving immigrants here to spell their name. If they did not know how to spell, which most did not, they had an excellent chance of becoming Carr's. So it was with my wife's family, who started out in Scotland in 1713 as Kerr's, then came to the New England area of new world around the 1740's as Kerr's. Then came the Revolution, and James, a Kerr boy in my wife's direct line, signed up for military service with the revolutionaries near Albany. His name was recorded in volunteer ledgers as James Carr. His service records after the revolution ended up in Washington where he went years later to ask for a pension for his service, only to learn that his name was recorded as Carr and not Kerr. And so, for the last 230 years my wife's family line here have been Carr's.

People back then had a lot of free time in winter, and go give you an idea of how much, the first of her ancestors had 6 children, the next 10, the third 14, then 6, and 3, and 3, and 6 in the most recent batch of six Carr children born in Upstate New York between 1966 to 1975. Her direct line and all the other of their siblings in the last 230 years today could conservatively number in the thousands – just from James.

If genealogy is your passion, you will enjoy the challenge going back in time as much as or more than I have. It's the interesting people you find that is so rewarding. In my wife's case, her progeny had a robust military career. Henry Clay Carr, her great great grandfather was born in 1829 and served at Gettysburg and stood on the knoll watching Picket's confederate charge come across the field at him. Three of his brothers were also

at Gettysburg that day, one at Little Round Top. She learned in 2005 that another of her more recent relatives was a P-51 fighter pilot Ace in WW-II in Europe, whose airplane is still on display at a French Air Museum.

There are many Scottish games annually in Florida, which can be found on the internet if one looks there. Those now scheduled in Florida this year are:

Jacksonville	28 February
Sarasota	20 March
Dunedin	5 April
Ocala	2 October

Should any of you have Carr relatives from the Upstate New York area and its environs, and have names, do not hesitate to contact me and I shall endeavor to see I can be of assistance. If there was a direct link, then you have a relative in your past who served in the revolution, was captured at Fort Anne, New York, and held by the British as a POW for three years before being released.

Regards.

Robert S. Miller

Acting Carr Clan Convenor until....

Also, Carr family genealogist and husband to Margaret Gannon Carr (Miller).