

**C l a n**  
**C A R R / K E R R**  
**o f C e n t r a l F l o r i d a**

**Newsletter**



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**679 Silvercreek Drive**  
**Winter Springs, FL 32708**  
**(407) 327-4043**  
**e-mail: [the\\_zormaster@msn.com](mailto:the_zormaster@msn.com)**

## **LOCAL HAPPENINGS ...**

### **Clan Carr/Kerr participation at the 2011 Winter Springs Scottish Highland Games**

A Clan tent was present at the two-day Highland Games of Central Florida again this year and was the center-point for the gathering of those interested in Carr/Kerr Clan activities. At a sponsor's formal event on Friday evening before the start of the games, held at the Hilton Hotel in Altamonte Springs, Bob and Margo Miller (the organizers of Clan Carr/Kerr) were formally recognized for their contributions to the Scottish games over the years and presented with a medal.

At noon on Saturday there was a Massing of the Clans at noon on center field of the Games and 15 members of Clan Carr/Kerr were the second clan to march onto the field and be recognized as they passed the reviewing stand. Ten new members were signed up at the Games; total local membership now stands at 40.

### **Area Scottish Highland Games 2011**

More than likely, a Clan Carr tent will be present at the following 2011 Scottish Highland Games. Details and contact information about these Games can be found on the Internet at [www.asgf.org](http://www.asgf.org) on the "Calendar of Games."

February 26	Jacksonville, FL
March 5-6	Zephyrhills, FL
March 27	Dunedin, FL
April 9	Tallahassee, FL
July 7-10	Grandfather Mountain, NC
October 15-16	Stone Mountain, GA

### **2011 Scottish Highland Games Schedule for North America**

The above Website for "The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals" is a useful reference document for those interested in attending various games around the United States. If you are traveling during the year there may be Games underway where you will be or en route. Take a kilt with you, or piece of Clan Carr/Kerr Tartan, and attend these Games. The Website ([www.asgf.org](http://www.asgf.org)) lists games and events by month, by location, and has contact information.

### **Clan Carr/Kerr for North America**

There is presently no Clan Carr or Kerr existent in North America. There are several Kerr associations that have been formed by individual Kerr families who are interested in their respective family roots at various places around the United States. Some of them offer membership for an annual fee while others appear to be interested in providing some research facilities for those interested in locating relatives and family associations.

## **A New U.S. Clan Carr/Kerr?**

For the past four years, Bob and Margo (Carr) Miller of Winter Springs, Florida, have been hosting a Clan Carr Tent at various Scottish Highland Games around Florida and have been signing up interested new members. All who sign up have been receiving a periodic newsletter, free of charge, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

At the 2011 Winter Springs Scottish Highland Games a discussion was held during the day with various members present on how to form the new Clan? It was decided that an interim person should be named whose responsibilities would be to forming a new Clan Carr organization for North America. It was agreed that Bob Miller of Winter Springs would serve as an Interim Clan Commander to achieve the above goal, and that he would do so on a volunteer basis, while providing periodic update reports to the membership as a Carr/Kerr Clan organization begins to take shape. The process should take 3-5 years, require a considerable amount of volunteer work to spread the word and attend as many future Scottish games as possible to gather interested persons, and contact those in Scotland required to coordinate the legally recognized registry of our new organization.

### **Membership in Clan Carr/Kerr**

Membership in Clan Carr/Kerr is free through December 2012, to all with an interest in their Scottish background and the celebration of Scottish heritage. There are 38 Septs to this great border-land clan, most of which are spelling variations to the name: such as Cares, Carrie, Curr, Gaer, Karr and Karr, Harrie, Kierrs and MacCarr. All 38 variations are welcome. Members must provide the Interim Clan Commander (below) with their name, address, phone and a valid e-mail address to which semi-annual newsletters and announcements can be sent. Limited research facilities are also available for genealogical interests.

### **Want to order your tartan?**

There are a host of sites on the Internet that can provide you with tartan material and related garments. For the Carr/Kerr clan, and its various Septs, there are three principle tartans available, Modern, Ancient, and Hunting. The most handsome is the Modern, while the Ancient is a faded version of the Modern. The Hunting Tartan is a dark green/blue plaid, more commonly known as "Black Watch." A few of the places on the Internet where you can find a variety of Scottish attire and paraphernalia are:

[www.boldblades.com](http://www.boldblades.com)  
[www.thecarolinacelt.com](http://www.thecarolinacelt.com)  
[www.geoffreykilts.co.uk](http://www.geoffreykilts.co.uk)  
[www.lawrensnets.com](http://www.lawrensnets.com)  
[www.houseofbagpipes.com](http://www.houseofbagpipes.com)  
[www.kilts-n-stuff.com](http://www.kilts-n-stuff.com)  
[www.jhiggins.net](http://www.jhiggins.net)  
[www.britishshop.com](http://www.britishshop.com)

## **St. Andrews Society of Central Florida**

Bob Miller is presently the Vice President of the St. Andrew's Society of Central Florida, and is actively interested in recruiting new members for this Society. It holds several annual dinners in November, late January and April to celebrate our Scottish traditions. Funds raised are used, amongst many things, to sponsor numerous annual scholarships. In recent years these scholarships have included grants to our youngsters of Scottish heritage who are interested in learning to play the bagpipes or the art of Scottish Highland Dancing. Scholarships are normally given to those who actively participate in Scottish events, and in the case of bagpipes, include funds to attend formal summer bagpipe courses, of a week or longer, in the Carolinas where hundreds of young aspirants assemble annually to perfect their skills. Kilt-making or any other Scottish skills will be considered for scholarships as well. Those interested in more information on the St Andrews Society are encouraged to call Bob Miller at 407-327-4043.

### **SOME HISTORY YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ...**

#### **Clan Carr/Kerr Pride of Place**

Largest among the eight principle Scottish Borderland's Clans are the Carr's (Kerr's). With the largest area just north of the central border region, they traditionally bore the brunt of endless instability caused by their southern neighbors. Other border clans are the Elliots, Maxwells, Rutherfords, Armstrongs, Homes, Grahams and Johnstones. Historically there were three main English routes into Scotland: an eastern route along the North Sea coast from Berwick on Tweed; a central route from Castle on Tyne into the Jedburgh area; and a western route from Carlisle.

Hundreds of years of British attempts to subdue the Scots, like the Romans before them, produced ongoing, never-ending unsuccessful attempts to subjugate a freedom-loving people. The borderland clans usually bore the brunt of conflict with England. Many of Scotland's most memorable military victories and defeats occurred within fifty miles of the Scottish/English border.

#### **When did your Carr/Kerr Ancestor Arrive here?**

For those of you who have been able to trace your lineage it into the late 1600's to mid 1700's, but not to a point in the old country, consider the Jacobite Rebellion that lasted in Scotland from 1688 to 1746, and heavily involved the border-area Scottish clans.

The rebellion centered around Scottish efforts to place James the 7<sup>th</sup> on the Scottish throne as King of Scotland, and took its name of "Jacobite" from the Latin name for James. Upset at the effrontery of Scottish desires for their own Sovereign, England immediately contested the rebellion with British armies that repeatedly entered Scotland to suppress the uprising.

After fifty-eight years the uprising was eventually extinguished. Scotland still is subservient to the British Monarchy today. Five major military battles were fought during the uprising along and to the north of the English/Scottish border area. The most notable were at Killecrankie in July 1689, at Dunkeld in August 1689, at Haughs of Cromdale in May 1690, at Bath of Boyne in 1691, and at the massacre of Glencoe in 1692. Scottish losses were substantial in these encounters and those not killed were considered traitors to the British Crown, and obviously had a problematic future in Scotland if they remained. As a result, many from clan Kerr, along with thousands from other Clans, fled Scotland for the America's. Others also fled to Ireland where the rebellion continued unsuccessfully for many years.

### **Clans, Shields and Royalty!!! How many are there?**

At the last count there are some 174 individual Clan Crests recognized by the Lord Lyon Register, starting in alphabetical order with Albernethy, the Lord of Asltoun and ending with Urquart of Cromartie. Carr/Kerr is 79<sup>th</sup> and listed as Kerr – now the Marquis of Lothian.

In addition to this there are thirteen shields for the local principalities of Scotland. For Scottish nobility there are four shields for the Lordship of the Isles, the Earldom of Sutherland, the Earldom of Carrick, and the Earldom of the March. Finally, there are two large crests, one for the great seal of Scotland and a second for the Arms of Her Majesty's Lord Lyon King of Arms.

### **A Few Useful Scottish Definitions**

Clan: A group of people inter-related by ancestry or marriage; a group of families with a common surname and a common ancestry, especially among Scots; a group of people united by common characteristics, aims or interests.

Tartan: The distinctive design or designs associated with each Scottish Clan; a design of straight lines crossing at right angles to give a checkered appearance.

Clan: A clan or family, which has a recognized chief or head, has a legally recognized status and corporate identity under Scottish law.

Amigerous Clan: These clans are officially recognized by the Lord Lyon, have the right to bear arms, but do not currently have a chief or clan leader.

The Standing Council of Scottish Clan Chiefs: Founded in 1951 by the Lord High Constable of Scotland, the Countess of Erroll.

1. Membership is by invitation and is limited, in the main, to those chiefs who would have been of sufficient importance to be regarded as the (British) sovereign's hereditary advisors.
2. The standing council was formed by a lobbying/pressure group regarding matters affecting Scottish chiefs and to represent their views and interests to the Scottish and British governments.
3. The Council instructs the public regarding rights, functions and positions of Scottish chiefs, along with clans and names, which they represent, to protect their titles and chieftain's insignia from exploitation or misuse.
4. The Council's function is not to support clans, clansmen, or clan associations, but to represent the interests of the chiefs to the government and public.

The Court of Lord Lyon: This Court was established by the Act of the Parliament of 1672, and remains the same today. The Court, and Scotland itself, are probably the only entities where a court of heraldry and genealogy operates on a daily basis. As well as being a Judge of the Realm, the Lord Lyon is also an Officer of State and is responsible for the preparation of all state ceremonies in Scotland, such as royal proclamations and the investiture of "Knights of the Thistle."

The Scottish Tartan Authority: This authority was formed in 1996, by Scotland's leading weavers and tartan retailers. They were joined by two American organizations: the International Association of Tartan Studies and Tartan Educational and Cultural Association.

Sincerely,

*Bob Miller*

Robert S. Miller  
Acting/Interim Clan Carr/Kerr Convener/Commander  
Carr/Kerr family genealogist

RSM/mcm