



THE TEVIOTDALE HERALD
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Clan Carr/Kerr

of Florida and North America

February 11, 2012

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

February 17th - St. Andrew's PUB NIGHT: Fiddler's Green, Winter Park-- 6:00 p.m. on...

February 25th - Jacksonville Florida Games: www.neflgames.com

March 3rd - Fort Lauderdale Games: www.sassf.org

March 31st - Zephyrhills/Dade City Games: www.zephyrhillscelticfestival.com

April 15th - St. Andrew's Society Kirkin' o' the Tartans: Rollins College Chapel

April 21st - Dunedin Games: dunedinhighlandgames.com/games.html

For all local St. Andrew's Society Activities visit: www.standrewscfl.com

July 12-15 - Grandfather Mountain Games: www.gmhg.com

➤ **Clan Carr/Kerr participation at the first Highland Games of 2012 at Winter Springs, Florida**



Saturday & Sunday, January 14th & 15th, saw the kick-off of Florida's first Games of 2012 in Winter Springs in Central Florida. Two incredibly sunny days graced the Games, which drew more than 20,000 Scottish heritage hunters from near and far. The Carr/Kerr Clan had a clan tent at the Games manned by Margo Carr Miller, Bob Miller and their son, Bradley Carr Miller. Eleven new members were signed up during the two day event. Some twenty Carr/Kerr clan members also marched in the

Massing of the Clans at noon on Saturday, with fewer clansmen present on Sunday. Hopefully, pictures of the procession should be available soon on the www.FLASCOT.com. Pictures from the three previous games are already on that website so visit it and enjoy! The Carr/Kerr clan hopes to have a tent this year at the following Florida games: Jacksonville, Dunedin, Ocala, with a presence at the Games of Fort Lauderdale.

A meeting was held at the clan tent on Sunday afternoon to discuss the Clan's future expansion plans in Florida & North America. All new members who signed up during the Games were also briefed on the Clan's intentions to be formally recognized in the next year, and that the Clan Convener was taking such actions as required to achieve this objective, and that members would be advised of his progress in due course.



➤ **Current membership in Clan Carr/Kerr of Florida**

Clan membership has now reached sixty members in the Florida area. Another eight clan members reside in various parts of the north-eastern United States. Membership is expected to surpass 100 before the end of 2012.

➤ **Your Tartan**

Clan Carr/Kerr tartans are among the most handsome. They consist of three different patterns/colors: our MODERN tartan, which is bright reds and greens; our ANCIENT tartan, which is a faded rendition of the modern tartan; and a third known as the HUNTING tartan. The latter is beautiful dark green and blue mixture. Because the Carr/Kerr clansmen were such



valiant warriors and protectors of the border areas,



Scotland's 'shock troops' so to speak, they were amongst the first to encounter and slow down England's never-ending effort to subdue the Scots' freedom-loving ways. The hunting tartan is almost perfect camouflage when set against the heavy greens of Scotland's country side.

The tartan was later adopted as that of the famous "Black Watch," and is currently so-named. For examples of what the three look like, search the web for 'tartans' and you will find all three.

➤ **The Border Clans**

There are six major border clans, of which the Carr/Kerr clan is believed to be the largest, both in land area and population, over the centuries. Part of the reason for the prominence of the Carrs/Kerrs may be that the major land-road north from England (historically since Roman times) has moved right through the heart of the Carr/Kerr clan area.

The six major border clans are: Armstrong, Elliott, Graham, Hay, Johnstone, and Kerr.

➤ **Scotland's Clan Chieftains:**

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly...

Over the centuries, Scotland's border clans, and many deeper into northern Scotland, have not all fared well beneath their clan chieftains. Poverty, over-population, and inter-clan strife - all overlaid by constant English meddling into the affairs of these chieftains - has left

behind a troubled heritage. To maintain the loyalties of the Scottish nobles to the British crown, British kings too often bought their loyalty at the expense of those the Chieftains ruled. Not an issue always popular among the freedom-loving Scots, British rule weighed heavily on them. The constant award of lands, castles, wealth and silver & gold too often convinced the chieftains to, not only avoid the wishes of those they ruled, but also avoid conflict with Britain when that was the wish of the common clansmen. Highlights of a portion of this problem can be appreciated in the movie, "Brave Heart," where "bought and paid-for" Chieftains abandoned the field and their fellow clansmen.

Further north in the Scottish Highlands, clan cohesion may have been stronger between the leaders and those they led, as the power of British influence waned as one travelled northwards from the English/Scottish border. Today, after almost a century of socialism in Britain, and its heavy taxation policies on those with visible wealth, English and Scottish Lords and Chieftains have fallen on hard times, and are no longer able to maintain their large estates. In fact, most Scottish Clan Chieftains today are hereditary inheritors of once wealthy estates and titles that are no more. Most now labor at ordinary jobs among the common man. For them, honorary titles are a painful reminder of what once was, but is no longer.

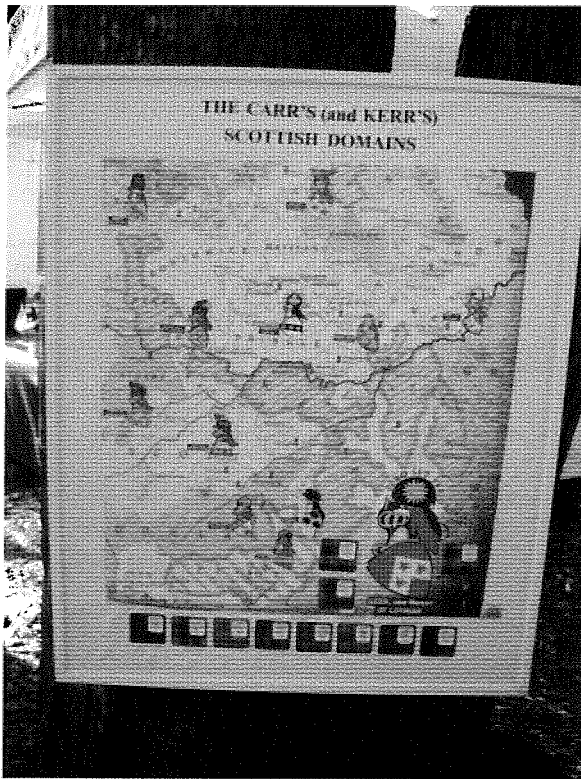


➤ America's Modern Clan Chiefs

But still we Scots celebrate a proud Scottish heritage that has played an incredibly important part in the making of what America is today. For Scottish/Americans it was these Scottish predecessors who risked all to realize a dream they had when they drew up the American Constitution and the Bill of Rights, so as to make this new country the place it has become in modern history. America's Scottish clan leaders today all head up 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, which by and large pay no salaries or remuneration for services, but do cover some expenses related to Games and clan activities ... for American's Scottish heritage is an honor ... not employment.

➤ Sources of Clan Information

All members are referred to two excellent sources of information about Scottish events, heritage, and vendors of things Scottish. The first is 'The Highlander: The Magazine of Scottish Heritage.' It is a bi-monthly publication for \$35.00 a year. The second is "The Scottish



Banner," which is a monthly newspaper delivered to your door for \$34.00. Both are superb documents providing an incredible volume of good information on everything concerning heritage, events, stories, and vendors.

➤ Sources of Genealogical Information

The reality today is that Clan societies of the early 1900's were an incredible source of information about clan families, names, and genealogy. Today most of this has been virtually replaced by the internet. Stories today are everywhere about those who found relatives on the internet, and as the various internet data bases expand the search becomes easier. The exception is for those wishing to get back across the Atlantic into Scotland, and worse, the non-

English speaking areas of Europe and points east. In these latter venues, the most frequent gold nuggets are uncovered during visits to the old country. But if you do pursue this, plan to spend at least a week in the areas where you believe it all started.

In Margo Carr's instance, she learned her heritage started as "Karr" in the Revolutionary War, but some enlistment sergeant in the summer of 1780 in upstate New York, wrote down James Karr's name in the unit pay books as "James Carr." From there on James' family line have been

known as the “Carrs.” Further back still, the earlier Kerr relatives slowly moved west across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and then into the Albany area. When they started out in Massachusetts they were the Kerrs and the spelling changed in New Hampshire. Few at the time could read or write, and her family history is probably replicated millions of times over for many others also searching through dusty and moldy old records here and there. But the end result is always satisfying when the riddle is solved.

➤ **Membership in Clan Kerr/Carr of Florida**

Clan membership is open to all Carrs, Kerrs, Karrs – as well as all “Septs” of this clan. The clan also accepts all applicants for membership who have an interest in the heritage of Scottish clans, and/or those of Ireland, England and Wales. The clan also provides limited research assistance for those doing family trees, genealogical studies, the tracing of lost relatives, or those conducting research to the applicants for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Membership also entitles members to free semi-annual e-mail editions of the Clan’s newsletter, ‘*The Teviotdale News.*’

➤ **The Past Six Years - Local Carr/Kerr Clan Activity**



Clan Carr participated at its first Winter Springs Highland Games in 2004. Prior to that, for the preceding five years, we had attended local Central Florida Games, but only as participants and not formally as a Clan. In the last five years (since 2007), we have participated in the local Winter Springs Annual Highland Games as a Gold, Silver, and/or Clan Sponsor. Since 2004, Clan Carr/Kerr has also been represented (through January 2012), in a total of sixteen state and regional games. We plan

(funding allowing) to participate in four more Florida Games in 2012, and one or two out-of-state Games this year.

Check out: <http://2011highlandgames.shutterfly.com/pictures/329> (601 series for Carr photos) for GREAT photos of the 2011 Games; hopefully, this year’s Games photos will be posted shortly.

Slàinte mhor a h-uile là a chì 's nach fhaic

(Great health to you every day that I see you and every day that I don't)

Robert S. Miller / Margo Carr Miller

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