

The Teviotdale Herald

The official newsletter of

CLAN CARR/KERR

of the United States and North America, Inc.

Suite 2, 679 Silver Creek Drive, Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Website: www.clankerr.us

September 10, 2015

Vol, 7, Issue 2

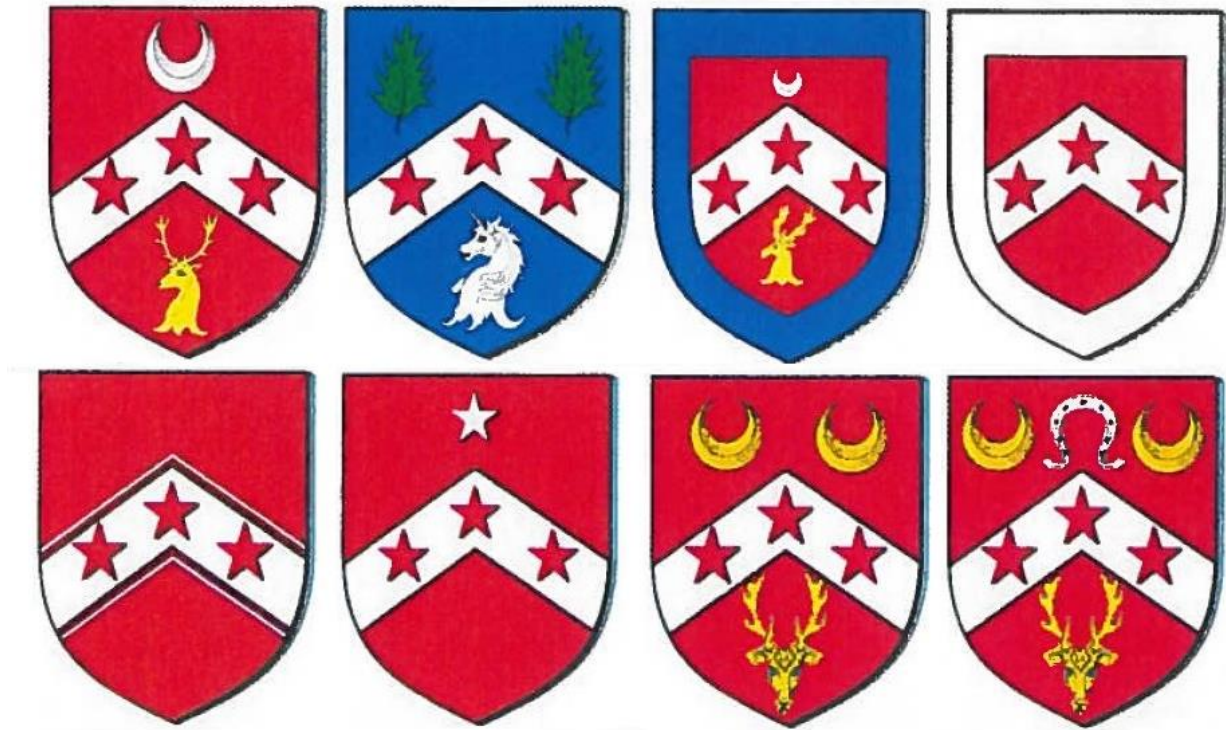
The President's Message

Scotland Magazine's August/September 2015 issue decided to honor Clan Kerr this year with an article about Kerr ancestry heraldry as it relates to shields of the Kerr's over time. In this issue, on pages 52-53, are real examples of John Kerr's efforts to register new heraldry for himself. His grandfather James Kerr was born in Perthshire, Scotland, and immigrated to the United States in 1934. John had a son Walter who is James Kerr's father. In this case John is applying, posthumously, for a coat of arms for his father James.



If interested in all the trials and tribulations needed for you to do something like this for your own family, its best to read the above four page article entitled, "*A Coat of Arms: What an Achievement.*"

Below are eight of the various Kerr family coats of arms, some of which belonged to the Ker of Greenhead, the Ker of Knock, and the Ker of Chatto in the 1670's, the Ker of Boughting in 1787, John Ker in 1880, Walter Talbot Ker in 1913, while the other three are fictitious arms which the above applicant may adopt based on his father's work during his lifetime.



For clan members wishing to obtain their own registered coats of arms, be aware that the formal approval process is complex, time consuming and costs upwards of \$5,000.

Animal Trivia:

Scotland's most famous animals are three, the Fold, the Shorthorn and Shetland-Clydesdale. The first is a cat, the second a longhaired cow and the last either a small or large horse. The Fold, first seen around the Coupar Angus farm in the Tayside area northwest of Dundee in 1961, was eventually developed into a breed in both long and short hair versions. Quite homely and virtually without ears, they are only loved by their mothers. However, they have somehow achieved champion status at the American Cat Fanciers Association in 1978. The cow has long shaggy orange colored hair, smells like a cow and is famously known today as the Aberdeen Angus. Scotland's smallest horse on the other hand is the famous Shetland pony. Everyone knows the giant Clydesdale version, made famous pulling Budweiser beer hither and yon across America.

The Kerr's and Scottish Dancing:

All should try it! It sounds difficult, but is quite simple. Most of the larger American Highland Games have country dance groups who will teach you their style of dancing, for nothing! They will even provide the music. Bill Kearney of the Buffalo, New York Branch of the Scottish Dancing Society defines the dance as follows: "It's a distinctive historical form of dancing not to be mistaken for a form of folk dancing. The roots of Scottish Country Dancing are in both

French Ballet and the French Court. The combination of Celtic dance patterns, combined with French Ballet in 17th century Scotland, created a dance embodying grace and exhilarating spirit. If you are not interested in the social dances of the older folks, try some of the more famous highland dances entitled:

The Highland Fling
The Sword Dance
Flora MacDonald's Fancy
The Irish Jig (the Scottish version)
The Sailor's Hornpipe
Pas De Basque

To find a dance group near you, visit, www.rscds.org .

History of the Bagpipes (part 1)

Everyone knows where bagpipes originated ... right? Well.... maybe not! In fact, bagpipes came late to Scotland, sometime in the 14th century, after having been used extensively for thousands of years elsewhere, from prehistoric shawms to hornpipes of Middle Eastern civilizations. Since the late 14th century, only in Scotland have the pipes seemed to thrive as a great musical instrument. Believe it or not ... bagpipe bands existed in the English Court in the year 1327! Some historians allege that while Rome burned, Emperor Nero never played the fiddle as commonly thought, but in fact played a version of the bagpipe now known to have been used periodically by the Roman army. For those of you who have visited the Balkans, they too have an instrument: a small cow's skin with inserts for air to be blown in - and another with a flute-like reed for songs.

Many in the music world insist that Bagpipes were designed to encourage the Bardic Scottish tradition of "Brosnachadh," which encourages and incites military bravery on the field of battle for warriors and chieftains. Brosnachadh also laments the passing of warriors and chieftains, and throughout much of Scotland's history, has been played in the great halls to both effects. Then there are the dancing aspects: one of which is summarized as, "*Broadly speaking there are two types of music: the march, strathspey and reel variety, which were composed for dancing or for armies on the move: the other the ceol mor or great pibroch (The Salute, The Gathering and the Lament) which are the symphony music of the pipes.*"

The origins of the name "Kerr" (part 2)

In the Spring 2015 edition of the "Teviotdale Herald," members will recall they were faced with the troubling origins of the word Kerr. Was it Kjar or Cier, and did it originate from the either the marsh-dwellers or those with dark skin in deficient light?

Fortunately for we Carrs, Karrs and Kerrs, the truth in history is often times impacted by war and peace, accumulations of wealth, questions of inheritance, those who could read and write, and those who recorded history as they wanted it ... to say nothing about the various tax collectors appointed over time to tax those supporting the leadership who meticulously cared for those illiterate souls indentured on their lands.

Superimposed on all of the foregoing are those who succeed to the positions of leadership. Herein resides the true origins and definitions of the Kerr name and clan organization that have been passed down to us through the centuries. In fact, if all of the foregoing is somewhat confusing it should be. But somewhere in the endless debate of fact and legend resides reality. According to a foreword by the Right Honorable Earl of Elgin, the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, which was published in 1994 in "*Collins Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia*," Lord Elgin asserts the Kerr's Norman origins came from two brothers, Ralph and Robert (who was also called John) who came to Roxbury from Lancashire (in north-west England) a couple of hundred years ago. When Admiral Mark Kerr was asked how to pronounce his family name, he informed the *Literary Digest*, "In Scotland the name rhymes with *care*," ... and also declared that since many of the family had come from England, the pronunciation of this clan also rhymes with *car*.

And then there are the Norwegians and Swedes, who insist it is their Kjarr bloodline which started it all in England with the Norman invasion. The Kjarr brothers, Ralph and Robert, first came to England in the fall of the year 1066 AD. In January of that year, England's King Edward the Confessor died, starting a succession struggle, which was quickly settled when Harold was crowned king, only to be confronted months later by his own brother William, with his two Norwegian allies - the brothers Tostig and Harald Hardrada. Tostig and Hardrada, and their Norwegian troops, invaded England from France in the summer of 1066, only to be killed at the Battle of Fulford in September 1066. Harald Hadrada's brother, William, still in France, then brought over his own army from France and defeated his brother Harold on October 14, 1066, at the Battle of Hastings in southeast England. William was then declared King of England on Christmas Day 1066.

So who were Ralph and Robert Kjarr? Were they the clan who, in the ensuing centuries, gradually moved northwards through England, until around the year 1600, when they left Lancashire in northwest England and ended up in the Roxbury area of Scotland? Today it is these progeny who are pretenders to the Kerr Clan heritage?

**The Summary of the Growth of Membership
for the Clan Carr/Kerr of North America (2000-2014)**

YEAR	MEMBERS	GAMES ATTENDED	MEMBER(1) INCOME	ANNUAL(2) EXPENSES
2000	6			
2001	8	3	\$ 50	\$ 350

2002	12	3	60	430
2003	15	3	75	400
2004	22	4	110	370
2005	23	4	115	490
2006	28	5	140	580
2007	35	5	175	640
2008	47	5	235	560
2009	47	5	235	890
2010	47	5	235	1,258
2011	52	6	260	1,450
2012	71	5	355	2,300
2013	107	6	535	2,100
2014	250	10 (3)	\$1,250	\$3,200

- (1) As no corporation existed, membership income represents a nominal \$5.00 provided per member by an anonymous benefactor.
- (2) Annual Expenses represent direct cost of attendance at Highland and Celtic games and were provided by an anonymous benefactor interested in supporting Scottish heritage at American highland games across North America.
- (3) The ten Games and Festivals the Clan attended in 2014 were Jacksonville, Dunedin, Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota, St Augustine, Ormond Beach, Ocala, Mt Dora, Stone Mountain and Orlando.

Famous Revolutionary War Flags

British Major Forbes, of the English King’s 9th Royal Regiment of Foot, served with General Burgoyne’s forces marching down to Albany from Canada in 1780. American resistance to the British Crown was four years old and England planned to cut the colonies in half along the Hudson River and end the Revolution. At a decisive engagement in upstate New York, today known as the Battle of Fort Anne, two American Revolutionary battle flags were captured from American forces. Major Forbes kept a diary of his experience at Fort Anne which is the London archives today, and he described the captured flags in detail. Major Forbes’ diary also alleged the two flags were the first Revolutionary Battle Flags captured on the battlefield in the American Revolution.

James Carr was one of 15 American Revolutionaries captured on July 8, 1780, at the Battle of Fort Anne, and he or his family may have created these two flags. He spent the next two years as a British prisoner of war in a camp in Montreal. Two years later he and other American POWs were exchanged for British Officers at Castleton, Vermont in 1782. The two flags below celebrate his military service at Fort Anne.

< INSERT BOTH EARLY CARR FLAGS HERE >

Tartan Day

“Tartan Day” is an American celebration derived from Resolution 155, passed sixteen years ago by the American Congress, in March of 1998. Congress wanted to recognize the tremendous Scottish contributions to the formation and development of the United States by its many Scottish founding fathers. In fact, a significant amount of our Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are all based on Scotland’s “Declaration of Arbroath” from 1320. The Arbroath Declaration is the world’s first known Declaration of Independence.

Clan Tartans Celebrate our Unity

The word clan is derived from the Gaelic word for “children.” Clan names in use today have come down to us over the generations from a host of ancient sources, from the royal dynasties of the Picts, Viking families in the Highlands, and the noble families of the Angles, Saxons, Flemish, Normans and Britons. Today the clan system is an honorable brotherhood of pageantry, clearly beyond rank, religion, and our shared successes and failures, all of which have irrevocably linked and bonded us together as an interrelated family sharing an incredibly rich history. The ancient history of the tartan has become lost in the records of time, and its original provenance today hotly debated. Only in 1815, did the Highland Society of London begin collecting approved tartans. Its first book of clan tartans appeared in 1831. Since then recognized tartans have proliferated around the world, approaching thousands.

Scottish Independence

It’s no longer a mystery! Scotland earlier this year was all a dither over its impending decision to become an independent state ... or remain within the British Empire. Pollsters were unable to clearly define either the public’s preferences or the outcome. Between London and Edinburgh were a host of issues: currency, North Sea oil, the European Union, who can vote, and was it all worth it? Hotly being debated in Scotland’s Parliament was the question of Scotland’s diaspora. As one observed, Scotland today is a nation of 5 million, but a real community of 35 million! For millions around the world they were troubled by what their relatives back home should do, might do, or might not do. Worldwide, Scots in the diaspora prayed Scotland did not “muck things up.” Many Scots even pointed out that half the signatories of America’s Declaration of Independence were Scottish. Not only that, but so too were eleven American Presidents, half the America’s secretaries of Treasury, and a third of America’s Secretaries of State. Surely Scottish freedom and independence would emerge from the 2015 plebiscite!

And when it was all over there was much to do about nothing. Only the English Parliamentarians were upset because they had offered Scotland so much to stay, when they were worried that they would not stay in the United Kingdom.

How do I know if I am Scottish or Irish?

Well.... Do you prefer Irish Whiskey or Scottish Single Malt? In the 17th and 18th Century, for a host of reasons, upwards of a half of Scotland's people were forced to leave. They went to Ireland, North America and elsewhere. Of those who went to Ireland, probably over half left for North America mostly to do with poverty, starvation and lack of opportunity. The most obvious way to be sure about your heritage, of course, is to know your family history or genealogy. Try to find family records that show where your ancestors came from. Talk to your elders to obtain as much information as you can. There are three basic questions most of us can ask ourselves to help eliminate a lot of the confusion:

1. Is our family Protestant or Catholic? Most immigrants from Scotland were Protestant, Presbyterian or Episcopal, while most from Ireland (aside from a small enclave in northern Ireland) were Catholics.
2. Has anyone in our family alleged or thought they were "Scotch/Irish?" If so they probably originated in Scotland and at some point voluntarily (or otherwise) moved to Ireland before coming to the United States. England, in the 16th and 17th centuries, 'encouraged' Scots - especially in the Lowland Border areas - to 'get out.' They wanted them to immigrate to Ireland since the British Crown wanted to dilute Ireland's Catholic majority. Consequently, all Scottish arrivals in Ireland were recorded by the British administrators as being Irish. Britain ruled Ireland until 1922, and many of these immigrants called themselves Scotch/Irish to differentiate themselves from the Irish Catholic majority.
3. Did our family or ancestors come to the United States before the mid-1800s? If they did its most probable they came from Scotland, as most immigrants in the latter half of the 18th Century came from Ireland because of hardships experienced in the Potato Famine and other social evils of that time.

Is it possible that you are still a Landowner in Scotland?

As a result of this analysis, are you worried that your claim might take years to resolve? The truth is that in the 17th and 18th Centuries, somewhere around a third to a half of Scotland's residents were forced to leave their property by "landowners" who had obtained their property in a variety of ways over the centuries. These could have included siding with the British Monarchy against their own people. Perhaps they were "Scottish nobles," or family of the nobles, who took what they wanted from the landless peasants and indentured servants who were unable to defend themselves. They were finally sanctioned through official 'clearances.'

The "clearances" actually came in two periods. The first started during the thirty-one years between 1715 and 1746, the period of the Jacobite Movement. The Jacobite's fought five major

battles with England: at Sherrifmuir, Glensheil, Prestonpans, Falkirk, and finally at Culloden. In the last battle the Scottish clans were totally defeated. What was it all really about? England's official religion, since Henry the 8th left the Church of Rome, required everyone in England to be an Anglican. The Jacobite's hoped to change England back to Catholicism. The Scottish Highlands, northern England and Ireland became the strongholds of the Jacobite's. But at the Battle of Culloden fate abandoned them and changed Scotland's history forever.

Shortly after the Scottish defeat at Culloden, vindictive English policies came into effect. The Act of Proscription in 1746; then the Dress Act; and then the Teures Abolition Act in 1660, ended the feudal bond of military service for Scots. Then there was the Heritable Jurisdictions Act, which removed all sovereign powers Clan Chieftains had over their clans. Finally, the worst of all, there was the British legislation known as the "Highland Clearances." It was the ultimate insult! Scotland's nobles, landowners, and political leaders had little choice but to cooperate with English retribution against their own people. "The Highland Clearances" was more commonly known as the "evictions." Landed tenants, under earlier Scottish Clan law, had property rights and recourse concerning 'unlawful takings.' No longer! Now landed tenants were described as 'crofters', an insulting term defining tenant farmers who "own a small enclosed field adjoining a house, or a tenant working a small farm." Hundreds of thousands of crofters were forced to leave for foreign shores, mostly for the Americas. They left without compensation, only the clothes on their backs. For those who stayed they became a source of virtually free labor to their landlords, being forced to work long hours without compensation.

The second and final act of the 'clearances' arrived with the onset of Britain's weaving industry. Millions of sheep were needed to keep Britain's looms working. More Crofters' lands were now needed for sheep and not farming. The result is that today there are about five million Scots living in Scotland while there are about seven times that many living elsewhere in the world today. For American Scots, the bottom line is, unless you have old documents proving your property claims "in the old country," don't bother.

Kerr Family Headquarters in Scotland

The 13TH Marquess of Lothian, the officially recognized world-wide Kerr Clan Chieftain, resides at Ferniehirst Castle in the Scottish Borderlands, adjacent to England's northern border. It was originally built in the 15th century astride the main central road into Scotland to house local area troops dedicated to raiding the local area and English lands to the south. The principle seat of Kerr power today is actually located nearby at the Monteviot mansion. All Clan Kerr members and septs visiting Scotland are encouraged to pay a visit to the above locations while in Scotland.



Central Florida Carr/Kerr
contingency
2015 Central Florida
Highland Games



Could this be the BRAVEST of the
Carr/Kerr Clan??? The JIM CARRS!
Zoey, handsome friend, pretty friend,
Jim & Carolyn



Bob & Margo (Carr) Miller

Central Florida Contingent of
Clan Carr/Kerr

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

CLAN CARR/KERR
of the United States and North America, Inc.
Suite 2, 679 Silver Creek Drive, Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Website: www.clankerr.us

First Name(s): _____
Middle Name or Initial: _____
Surname: _____
Clan: _____
Address and Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: (Optional) _____ Cell Phone: (Optional) _____
Origin of your Carr/Kerr Kinship _____
E-Mail Address for Newsletter and periodic notices of interest: _____
Mail by post, or e-mail this application to: maggiesredheads@hotmail.com – or -

Ms. Margaret Carr Miller, Treasurer
Carr/Kerr Clan of the United States and North America
679 Silver Creek Drive
Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Clan Carr/Kerr of the United States and North America (CLAKERUSNA), an American non-profit corporation, is open to all persons with an interest in Scottish history, culture, arts, and the various associated Clan Septs. The Clan accepts all applicants who have the wish to celebrate their Scottish heritage, attend Highland and Celtic games, have an interest in their family heritage & their family tree, genealogy studies, tracing lost relatives, and those conducting research relevant to Daughters and/or Sons of the American Revolution (DAR/SAR). There is no annual membership fee for individuals or families through the year 2017. However, prospective members are required to provide a dated membership form with a valid e-mail address to which periodic newsletters and announcements can be sent.

Clan Carr/Kerr of the United States and North America was established in Florida in the year 2000, by Margaret Carr (Karr/Kerr) Miller, (DAR #836478) who has been attending Highland Games and Celtic Festivals in the southeastern United States for the past fourteen years. Today the descendants of Carr/Kerr and its variant spellings and Septs in the United States number in the hundreds of thousands.

“Thank you” to Robert Gordon (Carr) “Bob” Shepard who has been working diligently on the Clan's new website at www.clankerr.us



Members are encouraged to visit the site periodically for new information on activities and news ... and to let us know if there is anything you would like to post on the Website or in the Newsletter. Cheers to everyone!

Sláinte!
Bob & Margo (Carr) Miller



Bob (Carr) Shepard, Carr Clan Webmaster, with Bob & Margo (Carr) Miller