

The Teviotdale Herald

The official newsletter of



CLAN CARR/KERR of the United States and North America, Inc.

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

Website: www.clankerrus.org

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The President's Message



Clan Kerr of the United States and North America continues to grow quickly here in the United States. Unlike other clans and septs which are largely family affairs concentrating on a few local games and narrow in focus, our three hundred and fifty members today reside in fourteen states and four foreign countries. Our website: www.clankerrus.org and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/clankerr.us are both easily accessible and have become the source for many Carrs/Kerrs doing family research. Before we formally incorporated as Clan Kerr of the United States and North America in 2013, we had already attended a cumulative sixty-eight Highland Games up and down the East Coast, and a few in our western States. Since 2013, we have added another twenty games to our list. We have noted the growth of a strong resurgence of pride among Americans of Scottish Ancestry, and more and more of you are now seeking your roots. We, at Clan Kerr/Carr, are proud of the contribution we are making to that quest.

Clan Kerr/Carr's Growth Moving Into the Future

When the decision was made to nurture an all inclusive Clan Kerr/Carr in the United States almost two decades ago, our membership grew quickly to 52 in 2007. Following an informal Kerr (and name variations of Kerr) Clan meeting in South Carolina in 2007, legal formality was created for the organization's existence, including the need to create a non-profit Kerr **Clan** non-profit organization. This Clan has since resulted in nurturing the Clan's expansion here in the United States and several foreign countries. Our membership current stands at 351. Correspondence with the current Kerr leadership in Scotland has further established Clan Kerr's activities and growth in North America, and enables us to use the related clan's crest, coat of arms, and the host of related badges, tartans and paraphernalia now available through properly registered commercially through many sales outlets worldwide.



CLAN KERR's Champion Bagpiper is Famous!

Steven MacDonald, a multiple-year recipient of Clan Kerr's financial support for bagpipe scholarships, has continued to bring him fame and recognition. Clan Kerr, along with the local St. Andrews Society of Central Florida, have helped Steven attend many Highland Games for over a decade now, including those of Grandfather Mountain, Stone Mountain, and training camps in North Carolina. Steven featured prominently in, not only Grandfather Mountain's entertainment program last year, but also at the Norfolk Virginia Tattoo of April 2017. Most recently Steven was invited to travel to Israel and be an instructor at a summer camp there for local Christian bagpipe players who are currently the only bagpipe band in Israel. Steven will also be in Scotland this summer performing with the top pipe bands there. Clan Kerr is very proud of Steven as he attends Carnegie Mellon University where he is now entering his junior year.



In Memoriam **The Passage of a truly great Kerr**

James (Kerr) Gray's recent passing, at the age of 92, will leave the Clan Kerr (and Clan Stuart) American families much poorer! Born in Canada, Jim served repeatedly in both the Canadian and American military forces in Europe during World War II. He then moved to the United States where he served for many years in military-related missions. A consummate Kerr/Stuart historian, Jim's was among America's best presenter of his rendition of Robert Burns's "Ode to the Haggis." Shown here is one of Jim's most recent "trenching of the Haggis."

The Clan Kerr/Carr Refrain

Those visiting the www.clankerrus.com website will note, when clicking on the Clan History, that the last item is "The Clan Refrain." This Refrain is alleged to have been copied from an old family bible in the Albany area of Upstate New York, and was passed to us many years ago by someone who vouched for its prominence and authenticity. We have now had this refrain put to music by a choral group in North Florida, and will find a way to have it included in our www.clankerrus.com website before the end of this year. The www.clankerrus.com will also register the song as Clan property in the United States.



Clan Kerr/Carr – U.S. and North America Leadership

Clan Kerr/Carr's Board



A Director's meeting was held in mid-January 2017. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Under new business three main issues were discussed and approved. Under Article 3 of the Bylaws, the Board of Directors would begin a search for a new president to assume office sometime in early 2018. Per Article 7(1) of the Bylaws, the Clan will now actively grow towards the west coast and encourage clan participation at future games in and around Colorado, California and Texas. New representatives are also being groomed for areas of the northeastern United States. It was also agreed that, per Article 9, the Board of Directors would henceforth only conduct Board of Directors meetings every two years, and try to select Games' venues for these meetings elsewhere in the United States.

Clan Kerr/Carr's Financial Statement

Clan Kerr of the United States and North America is a non-profit, Florida based corporation, which pays no salary or remuneration to any of its directors, members or supporters, who are all required to personally bear their own costs associated with their support of Clan operations in the United States. This organization charges no dues to its members. It is an "information only" organization.

www.clankerrus

The official Kerr Clan website in North America

The Kerr Clan's website continues to stimulate a significant number of assistance requests throughout the year, from as far away as Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Even one request came from an evidentially misplaced or lost Kerr somewhere in the United Arab Emirates. In the last six months fourteen enquiries have been received. The interest in genealogy research continues to grow exponentially, some of it associated with DAR and SAR-type research, with the balance from people seeking answers as simple as, "Was my grandmother from Scotland"? Most of our inquiries, as strange as it might seem, come from east of the Mississippi. Some opine that the explanation for this might be as simple as most of our clansmen are still residing in "long established communities" in the East. Others, in the western areas of the United States where explosive growth has taken place in the last half century, are Westerners who have been separated from their traditional communities back East?



What's the difference between an Irish or Scottish Clan?

A lot!!!

In both locations ... it depends on who you ask?

The Irish, never beholden to the British, have some hundred and twenty clans of their own, along with perhaps a thousand Septs. Irish Clan names on the other hand, are often a problem for non-Irish to pronounce...like MacDhuibhinse, Ui Gabla, Uri Labranda, and Tueith-an-Toraidh for example. Most of Ireland's clans, like their Scottish counterparts, also have mottos, clan crests, beautiful tartans for their kilts, weapons and other paraphernalia, but of course, they prefer Irish Whiskey to Scotch!

Scotland's clans are fewer in number to Ireland's clans ... but that also depends on who you ask. Scots need to ask England's Lord Lyon, who is the official Clan approval authority for recognizing Scottish Clans. However, as you travel the roads and byways of Scotland and ask the same question about its clans, your total could more than double. So many ask ... what happened to the others we never hear about? Its England's royal complexities, which have created "Armigerous Clans," which are those who the English, insist have no chieftain, which England legally recognizes at present. England insists on hereditary Chieftains only approved by the Lord Lyon! So, legally, under English law, these armigerous clans also have no legal status under Scottish Law, which is beholden to London and its ancient, outdated demands concerning the divine right of Kings and their royal paraphernalia. Odd as it may seem, all Scottish armigerous clans also have mottos and crests. It may surprise Kerr clan members here in the United States to know that the armigerous 'Clan Ainslie,' which is presently listed among Scotland's armigerous clans, actually survive on Kerr lands along the English border and have their own motto and crest which reads, "For Country Often, for King Always!"

Sitting astride the troubled Scottish/English borderlands, it is obvious that the Clan Ainslie's motto, like that of the Kerr's, has obviously also been carefully thought through so as to hedge one's bets in troubled times. Kerr's motto is, "Late, but in earnest," obviously affording the Kerr's time to consider who to side with when the British were coming, enabling them to play their cards accordingly. Clan Ainslie also lists its former seat of power at the now-ruined Delphinstone Castle near Jedburg (where the Kerr Castle is located).



From the Clan's Historian How Old are Scotland's Highland Games?

- As we know them today, these Games are probably not older than two-hundred years.
- As formally or informally organized events in Scotland, they are perhaps four-hundred years old.
- These were held as special events, ordered to be held by local Scottish Lords and Chieftains, for their entertainment. There have been probably less than seven hundred years of Games held.
- There are those who insist athletic events in the Highlands predate those of ancient Greece's Olympics, and were based on old Nordic traditions, referring to the Scotti, Oda, and Odaigh. These, while romantically appealing to some, probably have little basis in fact.

Vetted sources place Scotland's modern Games at about two-hundred years. In the early 1800's, one of the first Games was held at Braemar, which until today is still attended annually by England's reigning monarch and members of the British Royal Family. Here in North America the mid-1800s also saw initial gatherings for cattle sales, holidays, funerals and market events, some of which were referred to as "Scotch Fairs." In Scotland today there are about eighty events, which are listed as local one-day, small town affairs often including cattle and handicrafts. All of these are held between May and September and draw small crowds. And Games elsewhere in the world? The northernmost games today are held at Finnsmark in Norway, and the southernmost at Dunedin in New Zealand. Even Brazil now has its Games at Sapriciaia do Sul. America and Canada hold the most, the largest, and the best Games annually, which in many instances exceed twenty-five to thirty thousand spectators at two and three day events.



The Old World

Clans: Inherited Leadership versus Earned

For Americans, mixing the concept of Clan pride and Scottish genealogy is one worth revisiting from time to time. Visit Scotland sometime and look into clan organizations and one too often encounters disinterest, even



surprise. Scotland's people, no longer as homogenous as those of yesteryear, are struggling once more with independence not only from England, but now the European Union as well. Scotland's people are increasingly becoming disconnected from their historic clan associations and relationships. Many were forced to flee to Ireland and North America during the Jacobite Rebellion, and others later fled during the 'clearings' ... and still others in hard times. Most of them just wanted to forget a time of indentured servitude where one existed at the pleasure of one's Liege Lord. Today's Scottish clansmen seldom struggle with such issues. On the other hand, for Scots today in North America, the Old

World clan association concept is a long lost appendix and no longer a painful memory. This has led to a resurgence of pride in one's Old World clan origins.

Future 2017-18 Highland Games in North America

Grandfather Mountain Games	July 8-9, 2017	Linville, NC
Elizabeth Celtic Games	July 16-17, 2017	Elizabeth, CO *
Colorado Scottish Festival	August 4, 2017	Highlands Ranch, CO *
Central New York Scottish Games	August 13, 2017	Liverpool, NY
Buffalo Scottish Games	August 17-2017	Amherst, NY
Quechee Scottish Festival	August 27, 2017	Quechee, VT
Longs Peak Scottish Games	September 7-10, 2017	Estes Park, CO *
Edinboro Scottish Games	September 8-11, 2017	Edinboro, PA *
Stone Mountain Scottish Games	October 14-16, 2017	Stone Mountain, GA *
Dunedin Celtic Festival and Games	November 19, 2017	Dunedin, FL *
Central Florida Highland Games	January 13-14, 2018	Winter Springs, FL *

*Events at which Clan Kerr plans to be present



Future Generations of our Clans

