

2020

KERR



**THE**  
**TEVIOTDALE**  
**HERALD**

*Volume 12, Issue 1, Spring 2020*

*A historical anecdote?*

*Should "Kerr" pronounce the name as "Carr" ... after our Norwegian Viking ancestors, who were "Kjarrs" when they first came to Scotland and England in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century?*

*In Norwegian, "Kjarr" is actually pronounced "Sharr."*

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## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*



The year 2019 was a fantastic year for Clan Kerr here in North America.

As we enter the second decade of the twenty-first century, many Scottish Clans that appear at Highland Games across the United States, are struck by the increasing public interest in their Scottish heritage. Everyone these days seem to know interesting new tidbits about their heritage, where they came from, and are trying to piece it all together. They want to know ... “where exactly do I come from”? Over half of the enquiries are prompted by recent DNA reports or visits to family websites. Many we encounter have already begun their research and need some direction and suggestions.

However, growing concern with the latest ‘Generation Z’ crowd (born after 1995) is instant gratification. Unlike earlier American post WW-II generations who had to spend months or years doing research into their heritage, in most cases they had extended family members to rely on. Today’s “Z’ers” are increasingly losing contact with their extended families and family records, and use internet as a “quick-fix” for their curiosity. One hears

more and more these days that people wish they had spoken to their parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents ... and asked questions. Many recall the long lost photograph albums from their youth. A serious complication in family research today is divorce. Fifty percent of American marriages end in divorce: 41% for first timers, 60% for second timers, and 73% for third timers. Further complicating research are increasing numbers born out of wedlock.

On a more positive note in 2019, the Kerr’s were present at a significant number of Highland Games in Colorado, New York, Georgia, Texas, the Carolina’s, Pennsylvania, the New England area and Florida. Our membership also grew by forty-eight in 2019, or just below a 10% growth. We at Clan Kerr are dedicated to helping all seeking their heritage.

*“Slainte mhath”*

*Bob Miller*

President of Clan Kerr

# ***GREETINGS FROM LORD LOTHIAN***

**To Clan Kerr of the United States, and all of America's Kerrs**

*Dear Bob,*

*January 14, 2019*

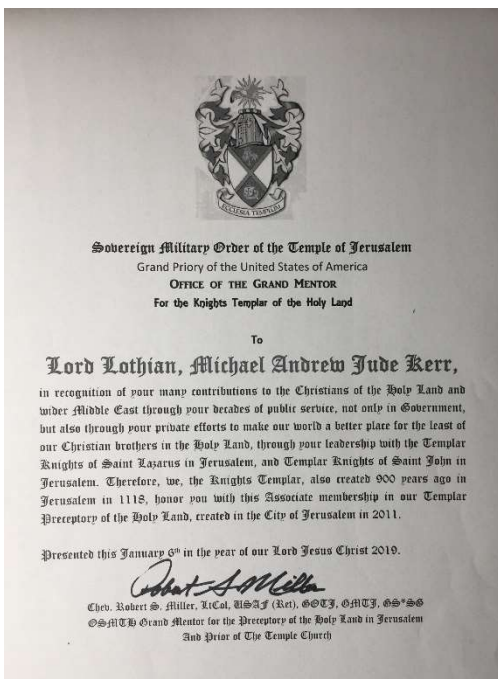
*Happy New Year to all the Kerrs there in America.*

*Best wishes for successful gatherings this year. Johnnie and I still carry many happy memories of last year in Orlando. Our thoughts will be with you all. We will surely also send a message to our kinsmen in Australia.*

*I hope we will meet again soon.*

*Michael*

*Michael Andrew Jude Kerr  
Chief of Clan Kerr*



## **Our Chief Honored**

Among our Chief's many awards and decorations, from a half century of public service not only to the Kerrs but also Scotland and England's governments, are some of his private associations to improve the lot of Christians in today's world. Among these are his association with the Templar Knights of Saint John in England and also that of the Knights of Saint Lazarus in the Holy Land. During Lord Lothian's visit to Florida last year he was also honored as an Associate Member of SMOTJ, the Knights Templar Organization of the Holy Land in Jerusalem. Lord Lothian is now associated with the first modern Knights Templar presence in the Holy Land in 900 years.

## *OUR FUTURE CLAN KERR CHIEF*

During Lord Lothian's visit to Florida for the 2019 Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, our Chief informed us on several occasions that his nephew, who accompanied him, would be his successor as the next Chief of Clan Kerr in Scotland. With that promotion his nephew will eventually become the "Marquis of Lothian."

Lord Lothian's nephew, Johnnie Kerr, was born in 1989 in England, and at thirty-one years of age, is a very congenial, well educated, and widely travelled young man. During his visit to Florida, our future Clan Chief made a big hit with everyone he met showing his maturity, conviviality, and leadership qualities. Our



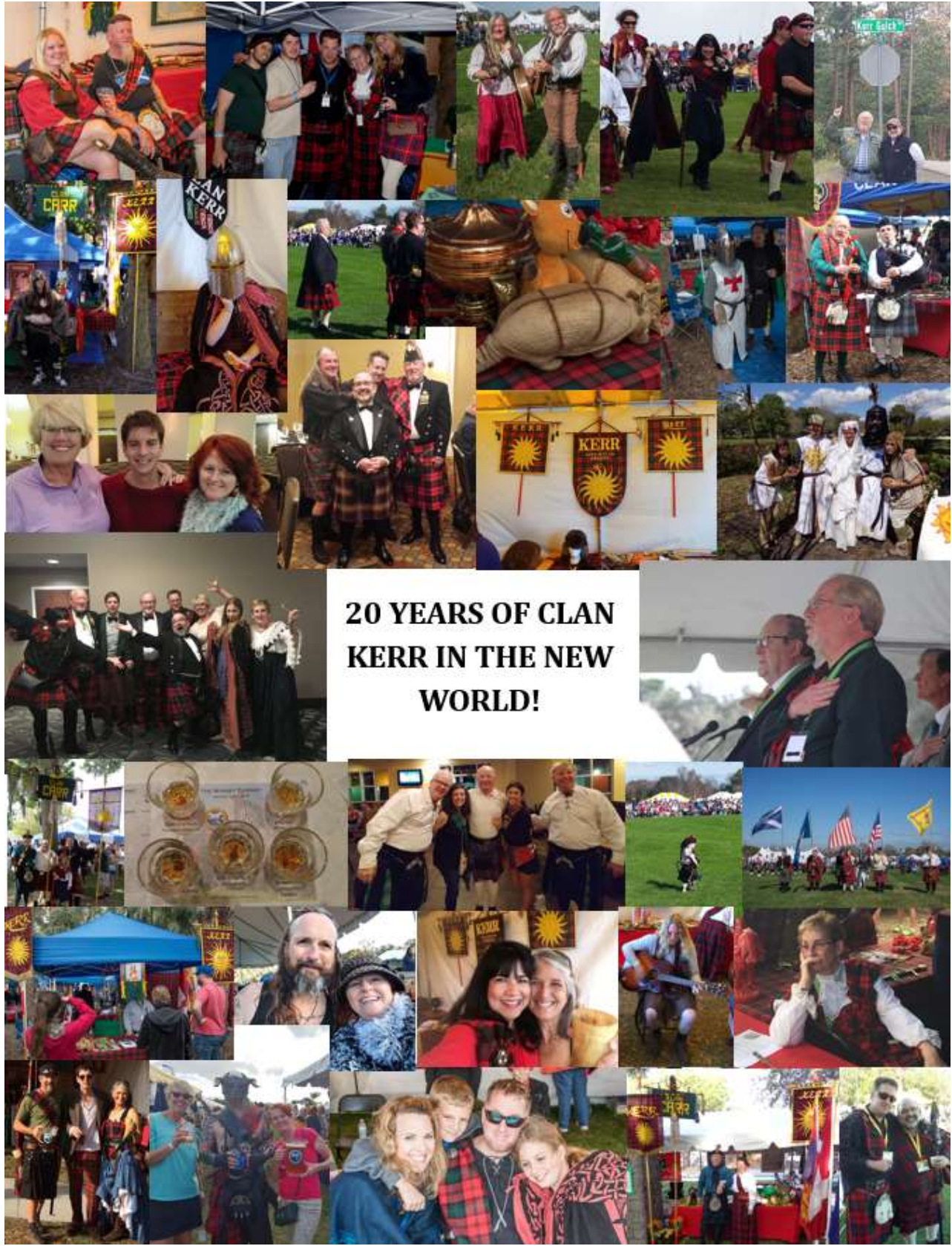
future Chief was especially impressed with the widespread love and affection Scottish-Americans bear, for not only their Scottish heritage, but also the long list of significant contributions our Scottish forebearers made which made America the shining light of freedom and democracy it is in a troubled world.

American Kerrs and Carrs are particularly appreciative to their Scottish heritage and its many contributions of note to our Constitution and Bill of Rights.... "We the people, equality for all, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and electing our leaders to represent us." All of these truly unique concepts were demanded of their leadership and recorded seven centuries ago in Scotland's 1320, Declaration of Arbroath.

## *CLAN KERR'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN AMERICA*

There was a great suppression of clan tartans and Scottish culture and traditions in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries because of England's disagreements with Scotland. Therefore, the formation of earlier Scottish Games, as we now know them here in North America, developed slowly as local family gatherings and were gradually formalized into the recognized national organizations we have today. Clan Kerr of the United States and North America is now among the more active clan organizations in the United States. Of some sixty major American Highland Games last year our members and associate members attended a third of them. Clan Kerr U.S. has members at present in 45 states, with over 420 members across the country.

In the last 250 years in North America, Kerrs, Carrs and those of derivative spellings in their family names, initially began appearing at Games and Festivals here and there as they came over from Scotland. The earliest records of Scotsmen attending Highland or Celtic celebrations in the United States is believed to have been in Ellerbe in North Carolina in the late 1700s. Other celebrations, Games, and events then followed across New York State in 1836, in Boston in 1853, and by 1875 some 125 Caledonian Games had been recorded at various locations around the United States.



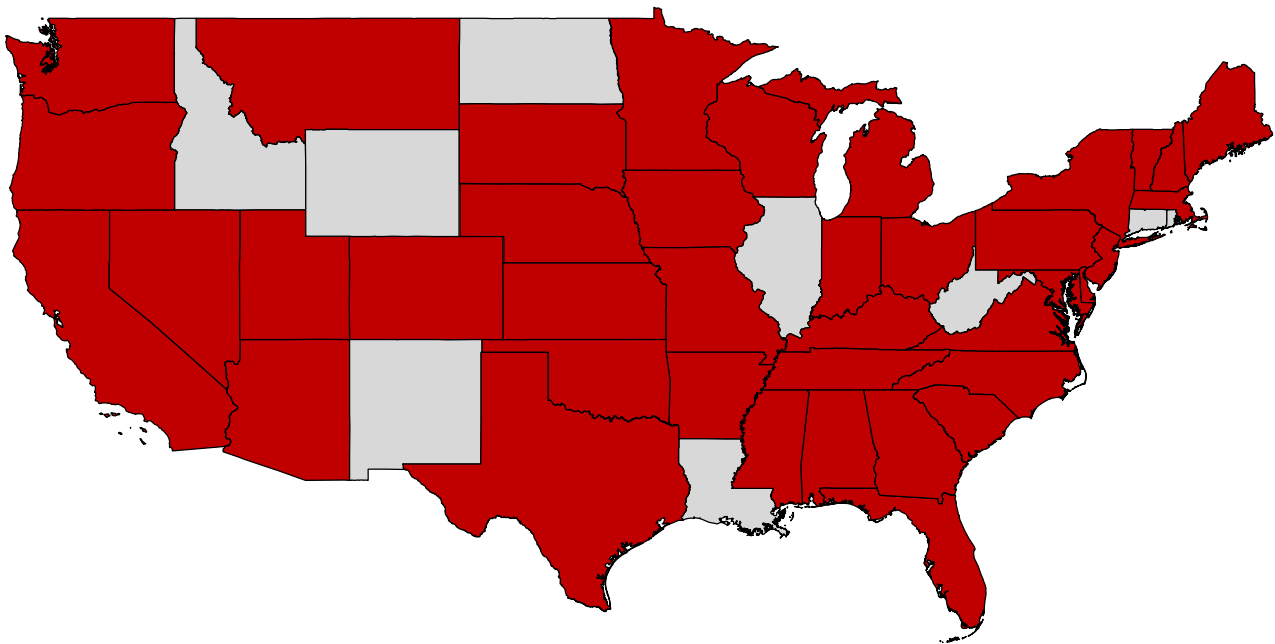
**20 YEARS OF CLAN  
KERR IN THE NEW  
WORLD!**

# *A BRIEF SUMMARY OF CLAN KERR'S U.S. GROWTH*

## Since 2000

In the last two decades Clan Kerr's leadership and members have attended a cumulative 128 Highland games across the country, consumed a budget of \$35,958.00, and received an anonymous Kerr supporter who contributed \$17,565.00. At present the Clan Kerr organization in the United States can be summarized as follows:

- National membership stands at 420.
- 94 % of members reside in 45 States including Hawaii and Alaska.
- 12 of our members reside in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the UK.
- 46% of members are Kerrs, 16% are Carrs, and 38% are still tracing their lineage.
- In recent years members have attended over 40% of Scottish/Celtic Games.



# ***FIRST HIGHLAND GAMES OF THE YEAR 2020***



Some 27,000 people attended America's opening 2020 Games in Central Florida. Clan Kerr of the United States, and its members across the country, hope to attend at least twenty

other Highland Games this year. The opening 2020 Games were well attended by our Clan, with over forty members present, who enjoyed two days of comradery and complimentary food and beverages while our Clan's national piper serenaded the Clan tent throughout the weekend and "The Tinkers" brought us sentimental memories with their glorious tunes. Clan Kerr also led the color guard for Sunday's opening ceremony before some ten-thousand spectators.



## ***LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD?***

### **Kerrs in the U.S. before 2000**

In the Spring 2019 edition of the Teviotdale Herald we reported that the name "Kerr" is in decline in its birth place of Scotland's Borderlands. New information continues to support this finding. In an earlier newsletter we also reported there were an estimated 134,213 Kerr's worldwide in 14 countries, of whom 10,803 were estimated to be in Scotland and 53,480 in North America. Scotland's current population of

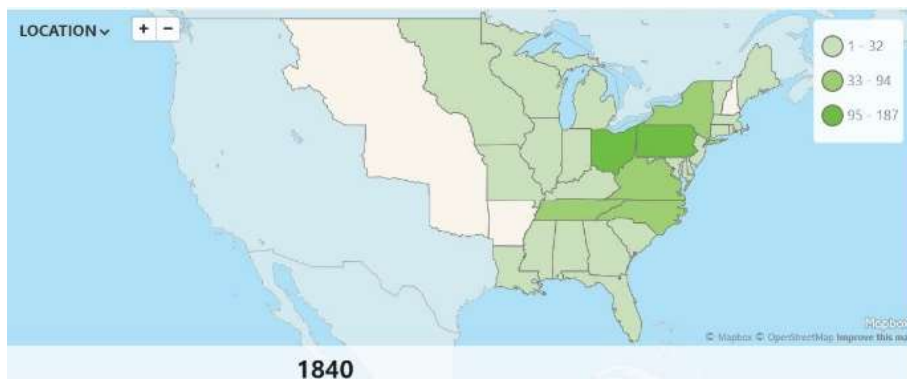


5,404,000 is also in decline, only being offset by the substantial in-migration of non-Scots from around the world in recent years.

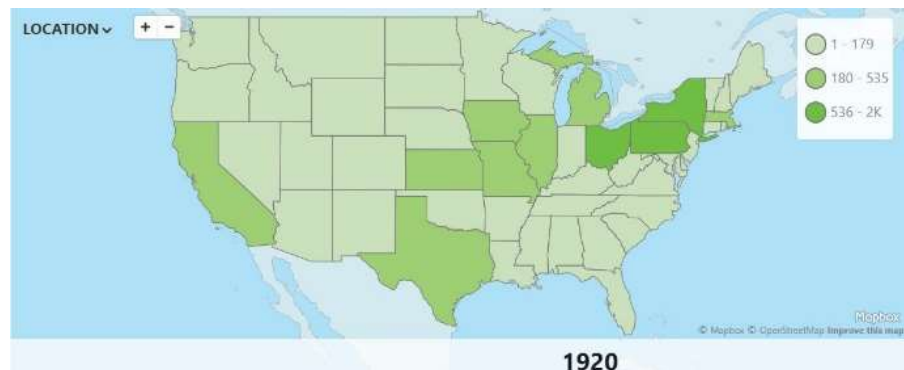
U.S. Census information between 1840 to 1920, only for the name “Kerr,” is also fascinating as it reflects the western migration of Kerrs in the 80-year interval above. The map below indicates where these Kerrs were in America in 1840, and that they only numbered around 700. Most of these were in Pennsylvania and New York. But at the beginning of WW II, the Kerr numbers had grown to 574,000, of which 116,000 were listed on Immigration records from ships arriving along the eastern seaboard. 81,500 Kerrs are also listed as World War II Veterans. We hope to include Carr information on that in our next newsletter.

The following are the six states with the most Kerrs reported in 1840 Census information: Pennsylvania 187 (27%), New York 78 (11%), Virginia 44 (6%), North Carolina 42 (6%), Tennessee 44 (6%), and South Carolina 23 (3%). The other States east of the Mississippi in 1840 had between 1-20 Kerrs.

(1) Source: *Dictionary of American Family Names*, 2013, Oxford University Press



Here in the United States, genealogical interest in the Kerr/Carr heritage, along with that of many other Scottish Clan names, are in serious decline. Most of the decline is attributable to our modern world’s increasing need for instant gratification as our new generations reach maturity in an age of everything being available at their fingertips. This might be cause for no national Clan Kerr organization existing until recently.



# WHERE IS THE KERR HOMELAND IN SCOTLAND?

The Kerr's homeland is in Roxburghshire Parish; the location is highlighted in red. The map below also shows the 31 individual districts of Roxburghshire Parish. To its left are the names of its 31 individual districts.



## Civil parishes

Following the boundary changes carried out under the [Local Government \(Scotland\) Act 1889](#), the county of Roxburgh contained 30 civil parishes:

- [Ancrum](#) (No.12 on map)
- [Bedrule](#) (22)
- [Bowden](#) (6)
- [Castleton](#) (31)
- [Cavers](#) (28)
- [Crailing](#) (15)
- [Eckford](#) (16)
- [Ednam](#) (5)
- [Hawick](#) (19)
- [Hobkirk](#) (29)
- [Hownam](#) (25)
- [Jedburgh](#) (23)
- [Kelso](#) (9)
- [Lilliesleaf](#) (11)
- [Linton](#) (17)
- [Makerstoun](#) (8)
- [Maxton](#) (13)
- [Melrose](#) (1)
- [Minto](#) (20)
- [Morebattle](#) (26)
- [Oxnam](#) (24)
- [Roberton](#) (18)
- [Roxburgh](#) (14)
- [Smailholm](#) (3)
- [Southdean](#) (30)
- [Sprouston](#) (10)
- [St. Boswells](#) (7)
- [Stichill](#) (4)
- [Teviothead](#) (27)
- [Yetholm](#) (21)



The Parish's total population in recent years was 48,639, while four of the Parish's 31 districts contain 54% of the population. The four worth noting are: Jedburgh 4,030, Kelso 5,639, Harwick 14,294, and Melrose with 2,307. Of the 31 districts, numbers 12 and 23 are Ancrum and Jedburgh ... the traditional location for the Kerr leadership in the central borderland area.

## *NEWS FROM THE RANKS!*



David Ancrum, a new member of Clan Kerr in 2019, has raised an interesting point. Should the name “Ancrum” be added to the Kerr’s list of some thirty existing Septs? The town of Ancrum in Roxburghshire, has been there for over seven hundred years, and is only three miles north of Jedburgh in the center of the Kerr’s ancestral homeland in the Borderlands. It is not by chance that Clan Kerr’s present chief in Scotland is also known as Michael Ancram. The town of Ancrum also gave its name to the 1545 “Battle of Ancrum Moor,” in which the Kerrs and their surrounding Scottish allies fought a decisive victory against the army of England’s Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> from February 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 1545 ... “and sent them home to think again!”

The Scots at this battle are reported to have been mostly “Border Reivers” from the local area around Roxburghshire. Along with the forces of some other local-area Clan leaders, they used tactics to mislead the British into a final trap and overwhelmed them. Henry’s army is thought to have had some 5,000 men including 3,000 German and Spanish allies, and some 1,500 English Borderlander’s (from south of the border),



along with 800 Scotsmen (reported to have been Reivers) from the north side of the border around Teviotdale. The Scottish army of less than 2,500 challenged the British who were already making their way south out of Scotland and heavy with plunder after a two-year campaign ... including a huge treasure stolen from nearby Melrose Abbey in the town of Melrose, which was only a few miles away. History suggests the 800 northern Reivers turned sides at the Battle of Ancrum Moor by removing their red-crosses from their clothing, which indicated they were with the British, and turned the tide of battle on the last day into a Scottish victory.

Early American records from 1745 also show a William Ancrum landing at Charleston, South Carolina, while other Ancrums appear elsewhere in America’s modern times. Clan Kerr of the United States welcomes William Ancrum and has added his name to the list of Kerr Septs for the time being. Ancrum is not listed among Scotland’s armigerous names, but obviously have a presence in the heart of the Kerr’s borderland area.

- ✓ **Brian Kerr, a disabled retired veteran in Upstate New York** Is interested in helping our Kerr members, and others, doing research on Lineage/Genealogy/Ancestry questions. He has helped other Kerrs with background information and is interested in helping our members. Many thanks for you generous offer, Brian!

- ✓ **Jay Kerr of Ohio seeks information about his father, James Kerr, who is the son of Max Kerr from Ohio.** Any members with the name Max or Maximillian in their family history are asked to contact Clan Kerr and we will pass along the information to Jay Kerr.
- ✓ **Ellen Woodrow is seeking her lost Kerr relatives in North Carolina.** She is seeking a Margaret Kerr who married Alexander Hughes in Rowan County, North Carolina sometime around 1778. Margaret was born February 1, 1743 and died July 3, 1813.
- ✓ **Conde Zurek's DNA work suggests Kerr ties to Scotland.** The Scottish Café in Lwow, Poland was a famous gathering place for geniuses in math and science. Conde's research in this area now suggests his Polish heritage is associated with Scotland through the Knights Templar or possibly the Crusades.
- ✓ **Anthony Gleason in Arkansas is looking for Clifton Carr.** Because so many of the Carrs in the northeast moved south and west in the last 200 years, we refer Tony to our website at [www.clankerr.org](http://www.clankerr.org) website as a start, and we will keep in touch with him as his search continues.
- ✓ **Sandra Howe,** in California is looking for Isaac Kerr, from Dumfries in Scotland, who married Jane Edgar and moved to Canada in the 1800's.

## ***BE PROUD!***

### **THE 1320 DECLARATION OF ARBROATH AND THE 1776 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

What would America, as we know it today, have become had the signers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, not patterned our government on Scotland's 1320 Arbroath Declaration? Would we be an association of Indian tribes, a Banana Republic, Haiti, or a British or Mexican Province? There are a few who suggest something better could have probably been created, but for sure our system is light years ahead of all other systems of governance in today's world. For this we can thank our Scottish forefathers who settled our shores before our Revolution. The Arbroath document, sealed by fifty-one Scottish nobles in 1320 A.D., formalized and guaranteed the principle of equality for all Scotsmen, the right to elect their own leaders, and to discharge them.





One of our Constitution's key sentences, lifted from the Declaration of Arbroath reads....

*"As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."*

It is significant to note that, despite Arbroath and down to the present, Scotsmen have still had to continue the struggle for their rights and freedom from British tyranny, while tens of thousands were killed and forced to flee to America ... during the Jacobite uprising, the Clearances, and finally to fight the British in our Revolution.

## ***SCOTLAND'S SINGLE MALT***

### **Its Future Amidst the Nations?**



In an earlier edition of The Teviotdale Herald, we speculated about the origins of Scotland's fascination with distilled alcohol for which it became famous in modern times. Today the consumption of Single Malt, along with other alcohol in general, seems to be going crazy. In our modern world a host of serious producers have joined the fray: in Germany, Taiwan, Finland, Australia, India, Canada, Japan, Ireland, Scotland, the USA, and fifteen other countries. All of these are all now struggling to grab a larger share of the international market.

Did you know that global alcohol sales last year exceeded 57.96 billion dollars, or about 16 dollars for every man woman and child on earth today? While whiskey tourism is important to Scotland's tourist trade, only one in four visitors to Scotland actually visit a brewery while there. Japan's Scotch industry is now emerging as one of the the best quality products in the world ... even surpassing Scotland. The Chinese are just behind Japan and have projected to produce some 450 billion cases (six bottles per case) of liquor by



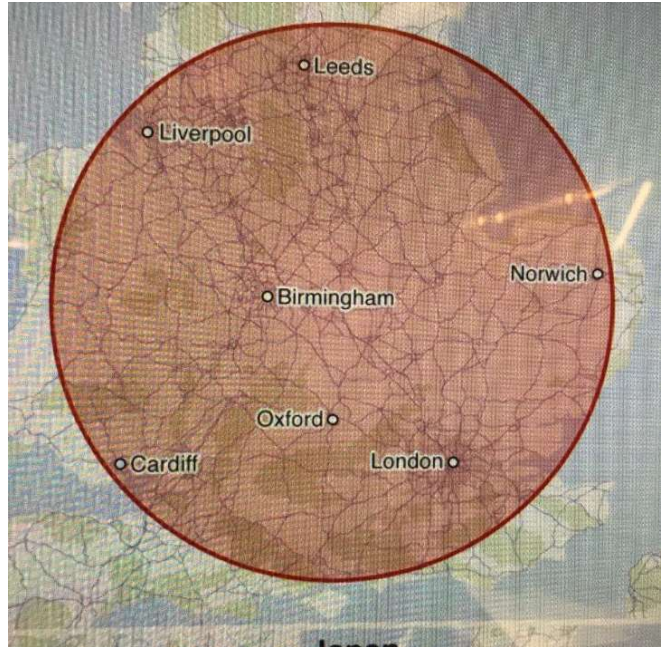
next year. For China this will represent a 20% growth in just the last three years. Scotland's breweries and those here in the United States will soon need to start looking east ... as China's production of alcohol is expected to surpass 46% of the world's total consumption in 2021 ... and that's only a year from now!

***"Slainte Mhath," or "Slange Var."***

Good health or cheers in Gaelic.

# ***THE KERRS DOWN UNDER***

Our Clan Kerr members here in the States are asked to remember our fellow Clan Kerr/Carr kinsmen in Australia. Most of them reside in the two southwest territories of New South Wales and Victoria. Over 100,000 square kilometers of these two territories have been incinerated by fires in recent months, along with great loss of life and property. What would Australia's damage in recent months be equivalent to here in America? Imagine a fire that consumed 60 percent of the total land area of the State of Florida ... everything from Orlando to Florida's northern borders. Viewed in another context: a fire which destroyed 80% of England, south of Scotland's border!



## ***FROM THE CLAN ARCHIVIST***

### **Our Past Newsletters**

Our members are asked to search their old files for earlier copies of Clan Kerr/Carr "Teviotdale Herald" newsletters which were all mailed or e-mailed to our members and have since become misplaced in our files. A list of the missing copies is included below. Anyone finding any of these are asked to contact us and we will arrange to reimburse you for mailing these copies – or feel free to email them to [maggiesredheads@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiesredheads@hotmail.com), the Clan secretary.

- Volume's 1 & 2 for 2008
- Volume 1 for 2009
- Volume 2 for 2010
- Volume 4, issue 2 for 2011
- Volume 5, issue 2 for 2012
- Volume 6, issue 2 for 2013
- Volume 7, issue 1 for 2015



## *FROM OUR GENEALOGIST*

### **More on the Lowland Clearances - Were you a “Cottar?”**

**“Cottar”:** A term for a Scottish peasant farmer provided a small cottage in return for indentured labor for a landowner. Cottars were also called “crofters”.

In earlier newsletters we discussed certain aspects of Scotland’s “Clearances,” which unfortunately for Scotland, set in motion a depopulation movement that still continues to this day. Looking back at the size and duration of Scotland’s experience with the Clearances, it is probable that over 90% of those who left over several hundred years for distant places like America, Australia, and Ireland, were “Cottars.”



In the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, most of Scotland’s people were tenant farmers (Cottars) without property rights, who worked the land of others. For centuries this had been the basis for Scotland’s Clan system and that of its Septs. However, Acts of England’s Parliament starting in 1695, set in motion the subsequent passage of hundreds of laws which began to weaken the Clan system and eventually led to the total disenfranchisement of Scotland’s common people. As the Cottar cancer spread, hundreds of thousands of Cottars who had worked Scotland’s land for centuries, were summarily evicted without any recourse to law, the courts, or compensation. These evictions were eventually to become known as the “Lowland and Highland Clearances.” When this finally ended in the late 1880s, some 300 Scottish and English Dukes, Earls, Lairds and landowners owned over half of Scotland, which was currently owned by sixty-eight wealthy families. Many of these family names are those which one sees everywhere today at Scottish Highland Games across the United States.

## *THE WEBMASTER’S CORNER*

### **The Kerr Clan’s National Website at [www.clankerr.org](http://www.clankerr.org)**

Members are encouraged to visit the CLANKERRUS website at [www.clankerr.org](http://www.clankerr.org) periodically. Our website at present contains seven major headings, and twenty-five sub headings. You never know when people like Brian Kerr, Jay Kerr, Ellen Woodrow, Anthony Gleason and Sandra Howe, find the genealogical information they seek, share it with the Clan and we publish it up on the website! Feel free to forward your family-related research to me for inclusion for others also searching their genealogy.

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, we have updated the 2020 Games schedule and the planned attendance by members of the Clan. Why not check it out and see if a Games near you is something you want to visit? Let us know if you will be going to an event, and we will update the site!



Finally, over the next couple of weeks, we will be adding many of the photos we have collected over the past year. DO you have some shots you want to include in the Gallery?

Also, don't forget, we have a Facebook page, set up for Kerrs to share their photos and experiences. Also, you can use the Facebook page to make contact with other Kerrs and make arrangements to meet at events. If you are going to a Highlands Games or an event, not only let us know for inclusion on the Games schedule, but let other Kerrs and Carrs know on the Facebook page!

By the way, that's me with Judy Herigstad, a proud Kerr competitor at the Long's Peak Games outside the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado! In 2019, she competed at the Rocky Mountain Games in the Denver area, The Pike's Peak Games in Colorado Springs, and a local event in Parachute, CO.

*Slainte*

*Bob Shepard*

Clan Kerr Webmaster

## ***SKUNK WORKS***

### **For the Curious and Trivia minded**

#### **Was it Kjarr Vikings who Conquered England in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings?**

A little known fact in English and Scottish history, is that it was Norway's Vikings who enabled "William the Conqueror's" Norman army to successfully invade south England in 1066, and establish the Norman conquest of England's Anglo Saxon leadership. What is seldom mentioned in English history, and known but to a few, is that a second large Viking army had also landed the same year just south of Edinburgh in Scotland. This second group had already conquered most of North England by the time of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Historians love to discuss the merits of, "combined military operations." In fact, the Norman/Viking conquest of what is today called "Great Britain," was in retrospect, probably among the most famous combined military operations in history. The two armies, about equal in size, were each 10,000 with William in south England, and another 10,000 Vikings led by Norway's King Hardrada who landed with another 10,000 in the Borderland's area in early 1066.





British history today conveniently refers to William the Conqueror's victory at Hastings as a turning point in British history. However, British history is largely quiet about a second massive Viking army which had already captured large areas of Northern England around the city of York. This Viking army was also led by Norway's famous warrior, Harald Hardrada. Hardrada had already won scores of famous battles in Eastern Europe against the Russians, Moslems in north Turkey, and wide areas of today's Ukraine. While William's army barely succeeded in winning at Hastings in October 1066, Hardrada's army encamped around York and had already defeated the British, but was unexpectedly surprised early one September morning in 1066. Before Hardrada's army could don their armor, they were forced to retreat into Scotland. Had England's Anglo-Saxon forces not been forced to divide to meet both the northern and southern armies the same year, England today would probably still be Anglo Saxon.

British historians conveniently opine that the "Kjarrs" with William's army at Hastings then gradually worked their way northward across England for a few hundred years ... until two Kjarr brothers (Ralph and Robert) suddenly appear in the Borderland areas with the name "Kerr." As too often happens, the victors always get to write the history of their conquests.

### **The Kerr's European Viking Origins. Stranger than fiction?**

In earlier newsletters we informed members that the Kerr name is probably the Norse Viking word Kjarr, which is pronounced **Sharr** in Norwegian. Anyone trying to justify the pronunciation based on the Norwegian spelling probably needs to see a Shrink ... as do most of us who try to make sense of Gaelic spelling and pronunciation! I could start with "*Slainte Mhath,*" or "*Ceoladh,*" for example, which are pronounced "*Slange Var.*" and "*Kailley*" in English ... for "Good Health" or "Cheers." Most of us could speculate that this is probably the conundrum between the never-ending debate whether Kerr is pronounced Kerr or Carr (after Sharr)?

History, written by the English, suggests two brothers of Scandinavian descent, Ralph and Robert Kjarr settled in the Jedburgh area in the 1500's (four hundred years after the Battle of Hastings) and began feuding amongst themselves. From this rumor emerged the many possible meanings of the word Kerr, Caerr, Corrie-fisted, and Ker and Carrae. Today this discrepancy is a convenient starting point for the romantic evolution of the present history of Kerr in the Borderlands as we Kerr's are told about today. But in truth it might best be considered a "Fairy Tale," as it confuses the reality of the Kerr's real origins in and around the Scottish borderlands.

## The Extent of Scotland Occupied by Vikings

Viking land holdings at their height in Scotland represented about 15% of the country in the centuries before 1066. Thousands of Viking raids along Britain's coasts consisted of groups of armed men who came ashore by surprise, overwhelmed local communities, raised havoc, spread their DNA, gathered treasure, and then sailed home. Most, but not all, of them over the centuries returned to Norway to enjoy their spoils. Viking raids also plagued most of Europe and even Russia, Ukraine and the Black Sea area. Today, **Varanghis** (for Viking) is still a family name widely encountered throughout Greece and the Balkans. A Varang army even surrounded Istanbul in 860 B.C., and captured the City's immense treasures.

During the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, Viking raids in Scotland took control of Orkney Islands, the Shetlands, Hebrides, and substantial areas around Caithness on the northern tip of Scotland. Elsewhere to the south they also controlled significant coastal areas. Viking Kerr's (or Kjarr's) at the time were already resident in the Lothian Area of Scotland to the south and west of Edinburgh. These Kjarr's had been there for decades before 1066 and most probably the stay-behind progeny of several hundred years of earlier visits to the area.

## The Border Reivers

In the Clan's Fall 2018 newsletter, on page 11, I commented on the new Border Reivers /Heritage Society, recently formed in Florida. Clan Kerr sponsored the Border Reivers tent at the 2019 Florida Games last year. The Reivers leadership under Ms. Carol Beattie Selbigger, has now relocated from Central Florida to the Atlanta area, and plans to resume operations there later this year. Their President reports a large number of Border Reiver street names in northeast Georgia ... suggesting a significant presence of Borderland Riever clansmen in Georgia and South Carolina? One now wonders if cattle rustling and sheep stealing statistics from north Georgia area might suggest significant Reivers in that area?

## The Etymology of the word "Whiskey?"

It's the Anglicization of the Gaelic word *uisce*, meaning water in Irish Gaelic, or *uisge* in Scottish Gaelic. When distilled into alcohol in distant history... it was called *aqua vitae*— or water life. This Roman name became *uisgea beatha*... and by the year 1715, was spelled *usquebae* in Gaelic. But it is pronounced "whiskey." One wonders today how one gets the word whisky from *usquebae*???? Ever attended a Scottish Kaelley??? Its spelled *Ceilidh!* Go figure?

## The Saint Andrews Society

All members of Clan Kerr here in the United States are encouraged to support and/or join their closest Saint Andrew's Society where they live. Named after Scotland's patron saint, this American Society is extensively dedicated to the celebration of Scottish culture and history. Membership in most chapters is less than twenty-five dollars a year. Most also hold several great events a year, the St. Andrews Dinner in the Fall, and Robert Burns Celebration in January. Both are great events at which many members are attired in formal Scottish attire for their individual clans. All of these societies are non-profit organizations that actively support a variety of scholarships related to Scottish music, dancing, athletics, or education.

## The American Tartan, and others!



Tartans for (l to r) FDNY, US Air Force, State of Colorado

Members of Clan Kerr are reminded that a variety of specialized and very attractive tartan designs are available besides just those of the Kerr Clan. Special designs are available on the internet for “the American Tartan,” those of the four military services, the fire and police departments, and even the Knights Templar just to name a few. A few minutes on the internet looking into tartan designs often opens the door to a wide range of possible alternative tartans available. And best of all ... there are not, and never have been, tartan police in the United States who will challenge your selection ... even if it is another Clan’s tartan than that of Kerr. Check it out!

### **Is there a Clan Kerr in England or Scotland?**

Clan Kerr members and readers are invited to provide inputs and opinions on this question for inclusion in a future edition of the Teviotdale Herald. Our readers are aware that Clan Kerr organizations exist at the moment in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. But some wonder about elsewhere in our world. Some members have also asked if such an organization exists in either Scotland or England?

## ***2020 ANNUAL GAMES IN AMERICA***

Members are reminded to check the CLANKERR website’s Home Section for “upcoming events and Highland Games.” A complete listing of 2020 highland games is listed there. Click on the words “[Games Schedule](#)” to go to the listing.