



The great Clan Kerr is well remembered in Scotland as one of the most loyal Clans of the turbulent Border territories. The name is of ancient origin, stemming back to the Norse settlement of Normandy where the Kerrs were an important family. The name itself derives from the old Norse "kjrr" meaning "men from the marshes", and the name has been spelled in many forms since, including Kerr, Ker, Carr and Carre. The Kerrs arrived in Britain after William I's conquest of England in 1066, and the Clan Kerr descend from two brothers, Ralph and John Ker, who settled in Jedburgh around 1330. The Clan soon grew and prospered, building themselves a position of influence through their sheer strength and tenacity. The Clan Kerr controlled two castles on the border with England, and were quick to fend off any intrusion by the Southerners, but were not indisposed to a quick venture across the divide whenever they fancied some prime English beef for their tables.

By the 15th Century the Clan Kerr were considered highly important Crown vassals, and with loyalty came rich rewards. In 1451 Andrew Kerr was granted the barony of Old Roxburgh, and by 1457 had been created the Warden of the Marches. By the close of the 15th Century, the Clan Kerr held the honours of possessing the Castle and Barony of Cessford, and the Barony of Oxnam, a considerable achievement for any Border Clan.

The Clan Kerr's faithfulness to the Crown of Scotland continued throughout the centuries, and the Clan were always willing to take up arms for the sake of their proud nation. The Kerrs fought under their chief, Sir Andrew Kerr, at the Battle of Flodden in 1513,

standing beside James IV in his conflict with the English armies. Thirteen years later, Sir Andrew laid down his life in defence of the infant James V when the royal procession was attacked on the way to Edinburgh Castle. With such sacrifice came great rewards for the Clan Kerr. Honours continued to be heaped upon the Clan down through the years, with the titles bestowed on the Kerrs including the Barony of Newbattle, the Earldom of Lothian, the Lordship of Jedburgh, the Earldom of Ancram, and the Dukedom of Roxburghe. The Earls of Lothian were advanced to the rank of Marquess at the beginning of the 18th Century. The 12th Marquess of Lothian resides at Ferniehurst Castle, although the principal seat of Clan Kerr is considered to be the fabulous mansion of Monteviot. Other great monuments to the Kerr's success are the splendid Floors Castle, and Newbattle Abbey, near Edinburgh.

The Clan Kerr crest is a shining sun, and their bold motto reads "Sero sed serio" meaning in Latin, "Late but in earnest".

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