Kerr-Elwald

KERR.



The origin and signification of Scottish surnames. With a vocabulary of ...

By Clifford Stanley Sims

"Ralph Ker" Lancaster

A marsh. The family are descended from Ralph and Robert Ker of Ker Hall in Lancashire, who were living in Roxburghshire in 1340, when Robert Ker obtained from David II, the lands of Oultoburn, and was ancestor of the Kerrs of Cesford. Ralph Ker was the founder of the family of Kerr of Ferniherst.

The above is felt for the Kerrs of Cessford and Ferniherst, but not all Kerrs.

MEMOIR

OF

Sir Robert Berr, Earl of Ancram.

By Robert Kerr Ancram (1st earl of), William Kerr Earl of Lothian



CCORDING to the various accounts given by Peerage and other writers, the ancient and noble FAMILY OF KERR were of Anglo-Norman lineage, and descended of two brothers who fettled in Scotland in the thirteenth

century. Their descendants branched off into two separate races of Border chieftains, each afferting their own title as chief of the name -the Kerrs of Ferniehirst, now represented by the Marquess of LOTHIAN, and the Kerrs of Cefsfurd by the DUKE OF ROXBURGHE.

From the preceding genealogical tables it will be feen that ROBERT KERR of Ancram, third fon of Sir Andrew Kerr of Ferniehirst, was the grandfather of Sir Robert Kerr who became first Earl of Ancram. He died in February 1588, leaving by his wife, Ifobel Hume, daughter of Hume of Wedderburn, a fon,

WILLIAM KERR of Ancram, who married Margaret Dundas, daughter of Alexander Dundas of Fingask, and had four fonsA description of the parish of Melrose: in answer to Mr. Maitland's queries ... By Adam Milne

14 A Description

ed Male Representatives of the ancient Family of Galashiels. It appears by the Grave-stones here, that they have matched with very honourable Families, as with the Lundins of that Ilk, with the Homes of Wedderburn, and one of them with Sophia Shoner a Dane, Maid of Honour to Queen Anne of Denmark.

On the North-side of the Church within, at the Entry called the Valley-gate, is the Burial-place of the Kers of Tair, since of Sutherland-hall, where their Arms are to be seen on the Wall, viz. A Stag's Head erased on a Cheveron, three Stars with this Inscription below, Here lies the Race of the House of Zair.

Trying to locate Ker Hall, Lancashire, House of Zair/Yair, Sutherland-hall.

THESE of the Sirname of KER give for their proper Figures, a Cheveron charged with Stars, which some blazon Mullets; But of the Distinction betwixt Stars and Mullets afterwards. There were two principal Families of this Name in the County of Roxburgh, viz. Cessfurd and Fernieberst, who are faid to have their Rise from two Brothers, Ralph and Robert, Sons of the Family of KER of KER-HALL, in Lancasbire; originally from the Family of KER in Normandie, who came over with William the Conqueror, to England. Which of these two Brothers were eldelt, is not determined, nor the precise Time when they came to Scotland; but it is faid in the Reign of King David II. And that Robert got from that King the Lands of Oltonburn, lying upon the Water of Bowmont, the Original of the House of Cessford, Earls, and now Duke of Roxburgh. Their Atchievment is quarterly, 1 and 4, Vert, on a Cheveron between three Unicorns Heads erajed Argent, as many Stars Sable, as Ker of Cefsford; they had formerly the Field of their Arms Gules, as others of the Name, till one of the Lairds of Celsford was killed fighting valiantly against the Englift in a green Field, in the Reign of King James IV. Whereupon he ordered for the future that the Field of Arms of that Family should be Vert, in Remembrance thereof. As Sir George Mackenzie in his Manuscipt of Genealogies. I am much of the Opinion, that it was then that the Family got by way of Concession, the Unicorns Heads being a Part of the Royal Enfign; 2d and 3d Gules, three Mastles Or, for the Name of Weapont, which Arms are supported by two Savages, proper, wreathed about the Middle with Laurel, holding Battons over their Shoulders, standing upon a Compartment, whereupon are frequently these Words, Omne solum forti patria est; and for Crest, an Unicorn's Head erased Argent, meaned and horned Or; with the Motto, Pro Christo & Patria dulce periculum.

THE

It is felt that the Kerr are from Normany.

Gaelic/Pictish/Celtic Briton	Beatty, Burn, Dunn, Carlisle, Carlton, Carruthers, Coulter, Cuthbert, Dalgliesh, Drysdale, Glendenning, Glenn, Gowland, Halliday, Kennedy (Gaelic for "Ugly Head" or "Helmeted Head", although family may be Hiberno-Norse in origin), Kilpatrick, Kirkland, MacLellan, McCulloch, Moffit, Pringle (from the Welsh "Hoppringle"), Scott, Taggart, Wallace (thought to mean "Welsh"), Waugh (also derived from OE "Wealh", meaning "Welsh")		
Anglo-Saxon	Ainslie, Barraford (or Beresford), Collingwood, Craw (Crow), Dodd, Elliott (Elward), Fenwick, Hadley, Harden, Hepburn, Heron, Hildreth, Howard, Huntley, Inglis, Irvine, Laidlaw, Langley, Maxwell, Milburn, Musgrave, Pople, Potts, Pyle, Radcliff, Redpath, Reade, Rutledge, Shortridge, Stamper, Stapleton, Turnbull, Veitch Wake, Witherington, Young		
Anglo-Saxon or Norman	Armstrong (maybe from "Fortinbras"), Brown (Norman when "Broun"), Gray, Hall, Little		
Norman or Flemish	Bell, Boone (or Bone), Bruce, Burrell (of Huguenot origin), Cecil, Crisp, Douglas (family is Flemish, although Douglas is a Celtic place name), Eure, Fleming, Fraser, Gordon, Graham, Jardine, Lindsay, Lisle (from "L'Isle"), Noble, Montgomery, Murray, Oliver, Percy, Sommerville, Stewart, Telford (from "Taliafer") and Weir		
Norse or Danish	Allison (from "McAlister", via Alisdair Mor, descendant of Somerled - Cumbrian variant Ellison can also be from the Norse), Bogue, Gilchrist, Hetherington, Kerr (from "Kjarr"), Ogle, Orr, Ridley, Salkeld, Storey, Tait, Wharton		
Patronymic	Anderson, Robinson (a sept of Clan Gunn) and Wilson may sometimes be Norse. Davison, Thomson, Henderson and Wilkinson may be Celtic families. Jackson, Simpson, Robson, Nixon, Dixon, Hodgson and Watson may be Anglo-Saxon. Stephenson could be Celtic or Norman. Johnston and Johnson are more often than not variations of one another.		
Occupational Name	Chamberlain, Forster (or "Forrester"), Hunter, Taylor, Trotter and Turner		
Local Scottish or Place Name	Ballantyne (from "Bennochtain"), Crawford, Cresswell, Elder, Graden, Liddell (from "Liddesdale"), Lowther, Minto, Rayburn, Rome, Rutherford and Tweedie (and, possibly, many of those above)		

Kerr above is said to be Norse or Danish.

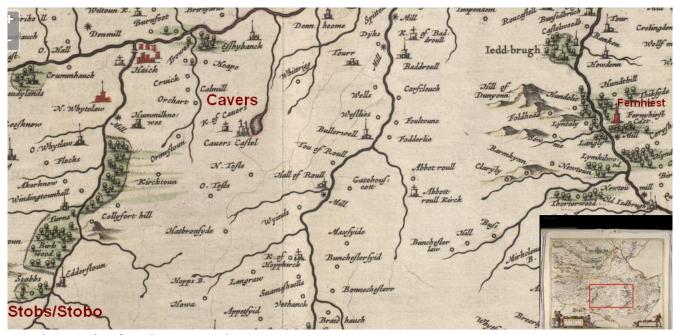
THE KERRS
Thomas Family of Talbot County, Maryland, and Allied Families By Richard Henry Spencer

The Cars, Carrs, Kers and Kerrs are all one family. The surname is widely distributed, being found in Norway and France, as well as in England and Scotland. The name of Ker or Kerr is of Scandinavian origin. It is found in the early North Saga of tenth century date, in which the deeds and voyages of Kari, the Icelander are described. It is said to have entered England with the followers of William the Conqueror, and a Karre certainly appears in the Roll of Battle Abbey, but that document is now generally discredited. The name is not in Domesday Book, but it may have come in a later immigration from either Normandy or Brittany. Genealogists say, however, that "no link between the Border Kers and any particular Norman ancestor entering either England or Scotland at any particular date has yet been discovered."

John Ker, the first of the name on record in Scotland, appears as a witness to the perambulations of the bounds of Stobo Manor, belonging to the See of Glasgow, in the reign of William the Lion, 1165-1214. Richard Ker, the next on record, is referred to in 1245, in a Charter to Melrose Abbey, founded by King David i, 1124-1153, now so picturesque in its ruinous solitude and so rich in historic and poetic association. The witchery of the place, the magic, the singular beauty of it all is incomparable. Here, within its crumbling walls, enshrouded in ivy, Sir Walter Scott often lingered and mused awhile.

> "If thou would'st view fair Melrose aright, Go visit it by the pale moon-light: For the gay beams of lightsome day Gild, but to flout, the ruins gray; When the broken arches are black in night. And each shafted oriel glimmers white;

Kerr are said to be of Scandinavian origin.



Melrose is further north.

Robert Elwald and father Alan was of Rimington, Lancashire, 1305

THE KERRS

Thomas Family of Talbot County, Maryland, and Allied Families By Richard Henry Spencer

When the cold light's uncertain shower Streams on the ruined central tower;

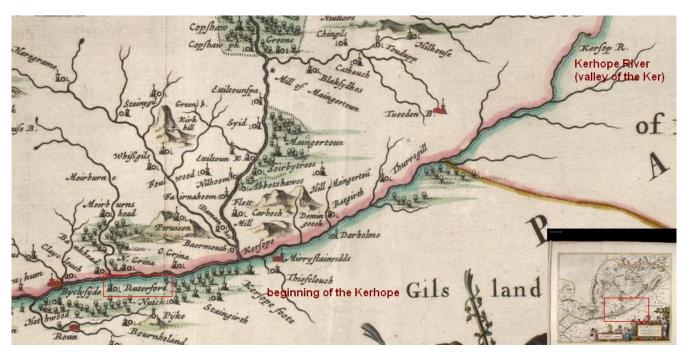
Then go—but go alone the while— Then view St. David's ruined pile; And home returning, soothly swear Was never scene so sad and fair."

A Robert Ker was defendant in a case before the Justices of New Castle-on-Tyne, in June 1231, and the names of Robertus de Kari and Johannes Kir appear in 13th century handwriting in Durham. These seem to be the first of the name on record in England.

Nicol Ker of Peebleshire signed the Ragman's Roll in 1296, as did Andrew del Ker of Stirlingshire. The Ragman's Roll is a list of all the Scotch barons and men of note who subscribed on a roll of parchment their fealty to Edward i. It contains the largest and most authentic enumeration extant of the nobility, barons, landholders, burgesses and clergy of Scotland prior to the 14th century. For many years after the Conquest the name is found only in isolated instances in the public records and not until the beginning of the 14th century does it become frequent. It is often found then in the Patent Rolls and the Hundred Rolls and other records in England as del Ker, or Carr or Ker.

In the reign of David ii, about the year 1357, when John Ker, of the Forest of Selkirk, acquired the lands of Auldtounburn, various families of Kers or Kerrs also acquired lands in Peeblesshire, Haddingtonshire, Dumfriesshire, Lanarkshire, Sterlingshire, and in Aberdeen. From this it would seem that though probably of the same stock, there are many families of the name in Scotland who are not descended from the great Border Houses of Cessford and Fernieherst who first settled in Teviotdale, at Ancrum, Cessford and Fernieherst.

These Kers were very powerful on the Border, their influence extending from the village of Preston Grange in Lothian to the limits of England. Cessford Castle, the ancient baronial residence of the family, is situated on a ridge inclining towards





It is felt that the Kerr, of Cessford, and Ferinhurst, are derived from Scandinavian-Norman (French) stock. This tendency of families to migrate north are strong. It is felt that the Normans had a strong sense of land ownership as compared to the Armstrong and Elwald of the region. Gilbert is an Elwald seems to be a name which is more north and west then the Liddesdale Elwald, and the name Gilbert seems to have stronger association to the Kerr of Ferinhurst.

> 100 PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY, JANUARY 12, 1925.

with the pertinents in maner and fourme as is befor sayd than it sal be leffull to the sayde Sir Robt his ayeris or successouris of lyne or of talze his or thair assignys to resaffe the sayd landis of the Feorule with the



Fig. 1. Seal of Andrew Ker.

pertinents and to resayse as is befor sayde at thir awyn handis in fee and heritage for evirmar the forsayd somme of mone beand left upon the he altar of the sayd abbay befor notar wittness as is forsayd be the sayde Sir Robt his ayeris or successouris forsaide and at all the conditiounis artikyll and poyntmentis lely and treuly sal be kepit in all maner fourme and effect as is befor wryttyn I the sayd Andrew Ker for me and myn ayeris forsayde haly evangell tuychyt has gyffyn a bodelik acht And to the mar sekyrte to this my present lettres of reversione has hungyn my sele in the toune of Jedworth the tend days of the moneth of June the yher of god a thousande four hundreth fyfty and thre yheris befor thir wittnes John of Aynisle of Dolphynston Maister Philip [torn Gilbert Elwald Thom Robson, Sir Patk. of Fotheringham priest and public notary and many uthirs.

I have been permitted to compare this seal with one attached to a Procuratory of Resignation of 18th February 1480 which is much more

clearly defined. The chevron carries three mullets and the helmet above the shield bears a stag's head. The legend is S. ANDRE KAR [or Car?].

II.-1499 Dec. 24. Instrument of Resignation by William Colville of Oxnam, of the half lands of Feoroule, in favour of Andrew Ker of Over Crailing .- A notarial copy on paper.

[Translation.]

In the name of God, amen. By this present public Instrument, be it manifest and known, that in the year of the incarnation of our Lord

The Kerr are felt to be Anglo-Norman, and the Elwald are felt to be Anglo-Dane, and the stag symbol, Anglo-Saxon of King Elfwald.

Stag symbol could be Anglo, because that is what is in common.

Elwald and Kerr both have evidence of being in Lancashire county in the fourteenth century before both coming to the border region.

From Robert Elwald of Remyngton because he did not prosecute Alan, his father, and Francis de Jarum, his pledges, 40d.

From Peter de Herdwyk because he did not prosecute Henry de Essewell and Robert le Loverdessone, his pledges, 10s.

From Thomas de Thurstanton because he did not prosecute Geoffrey Borel of Thurston and Ralph de Shotton, his pledges, 2s.

From Ralph de Langeton, illuminator (lumynour) for a false claim against John Whitwyn, 12d.

From William Calfhird of Durham because he did not prosecute against Hugh de Wherindon, 6d.

Calendar of the Close Rolls, Volumes 1302-1307

Robert Elwald of Remyngton because he did not prosecute Alan, his father, and Francis de Jaruphis pledges, 40d

Digitize

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CALENDAR OF CLOSE ROLLS.

It is felt that the Elwald and Kerr being felt to be Anglo then meeting again on the borders, may have some things in common.



It is felt that there is a migration northward of the Graham, Croyser, Elwald, and now Kerr. The above shows where the names of the Graham, Croyser and Elwald likely were brought to the border from or near. This locality is a region of Anglo-Saxon settlements, though it is felt that Croyser may be French, not necessary Norman like the Kerr.

Mark Elliott 4/15/2013

Additions;

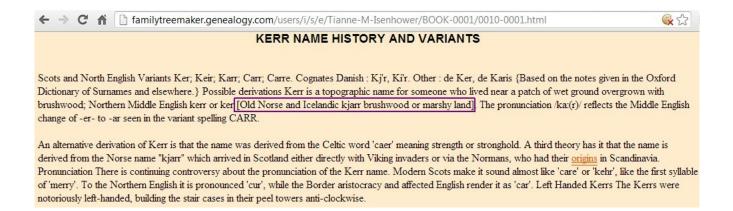
The origins of the name Ker or Kerr are unclear, but the name is thought to be derived from either the Norse 'kjarr', meaning copse, or 'cearr', the Gaelic for left-handed. Since the Kers came originally from Norway, the Norse derivation would seem most likely. However, the Ker family do have a tradition of left-handedness. Sir Andrew Kerr, who led the Kerrs at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, was left-handed, and trained his men to fight left-handed as well, since it was a good way of confusing the enemy. Several of the Kerr family homes are built for left-handed use, particularly the 16th-century Ferniehurst Castle, which has a famous 'Left-Handed Staircase' spiralling the wrong way.

I Never Knew That About the Scottish By Christopher Winn

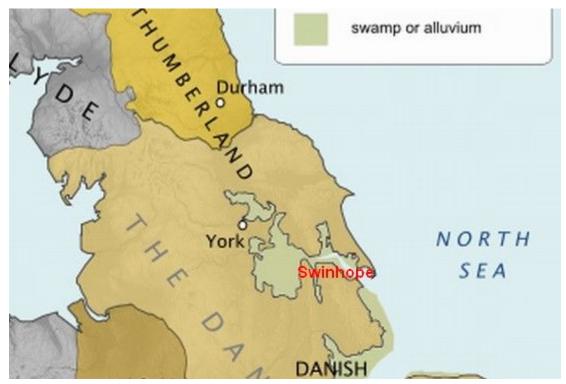


Ferniehurst Castle

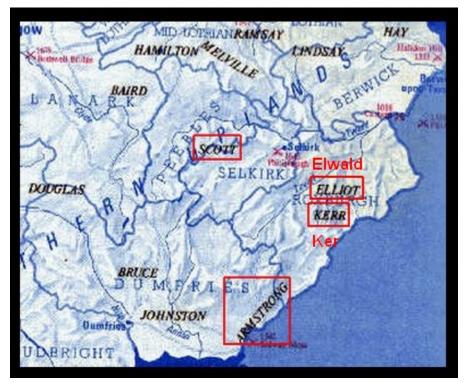
The first Ker to appear in Scotland was JOHNKER, a hunter of Swynhope, whose two sons Ralph and John settled near Jedburgh around 1330, and from whom the two main branches of Kers descend. THEKERS OFFERNIEHURST, now MARQUESSES OFLOTHIAN, descend from the eldest son Ralph, while the KERS OFCESSFORD, now DUKES OFROXBURGHE, descend from John.



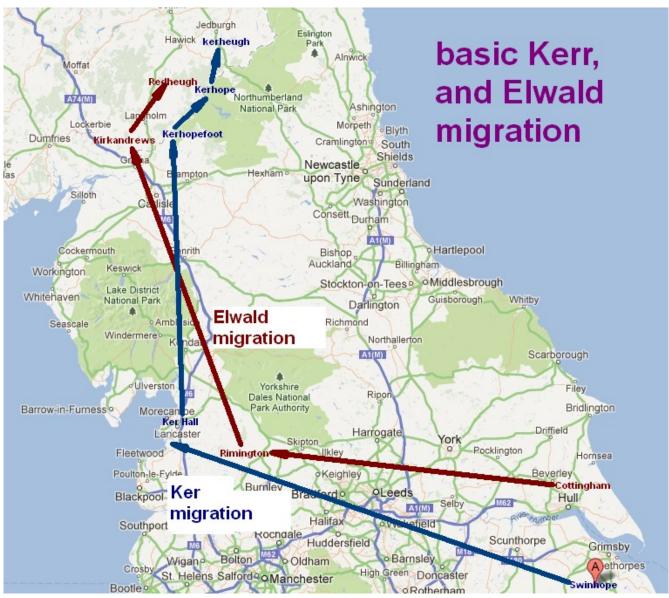
John Kerr, hunter of *Swinhope*, and Ker being derived from Old Norse meaning *marshy land*.



It is marshy around Swinhope.



Elwald are next to Kerr on clan map.



Migration patterns of Elwald and Kerr.

Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire ..., Volume 34

310 LANCASHIRE INQUESTS, EXTENTS, ETC.

John de Bellewe held the valley of Kentemer of the inheritance of the said Ladrayne, in chief of the King by the service of the sixth part of one knight's fee. He held no other lands in the co. of Westmorland.

They also say that Nicholas, son of Miles de Stapelton, and Sybil [his wife], daughter of the said John and Ladrayne, is the next heir of the moiety of that land, and that he is of the age of 15 years; that Joan, wife of Aucher fitz Henry, daughter of the said John and Ladrayne, aged 24 years, is the next heir of the other moiety.

LXXXIV. MICHAEL SON OF JOHN DE HOLE. [29 EDWARD I., No. 100; cf. 28 EDWARD I., No. 50.]

WRIT dated at Beverley, June 10th, 29th year (1301) directed to the sheriff of Lancaster to inquire respecting the lands which were of Michael son of John de Hole, who was of Scotch birth (de progenie Scotorum), and tarrying in the parts of Scotland with his parents, which Alan de Ker and Joan his wife, sister of the said Michael demanded (petierunt) should be delivered to them, as the inheritance of Joan.

Another writ to the same dated May 12th, 29th year (1301).

324 HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

1330 Robertus Balrown.—Johannes le Ker.

1339 Johannes de Lancastria.—Robertus Berwyke.

1331 to 1338 No returns found.+

A LIST OF THE REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF LANCASTER.

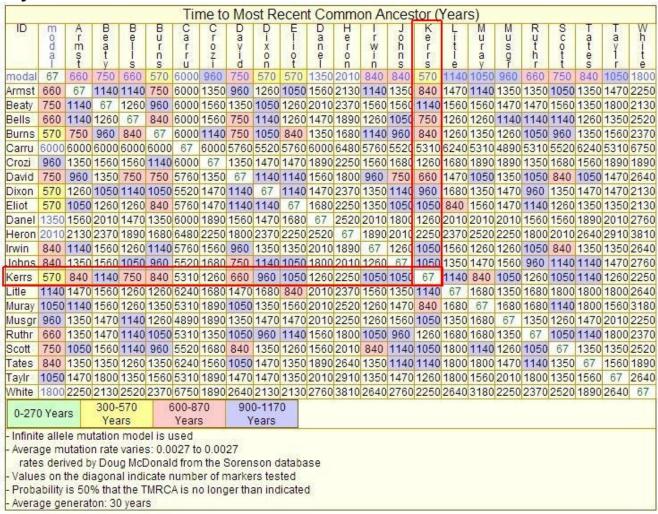
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1295 Lambertus le Dispencer.—Willielmus le Chaunter.*
1295 Radulpus filius Thomæ.—Willielmus le Chaunter.
1300 Willielmus le Chaunter.—Johannes Lawrence (of Ashton Hall).
1305 Johannes de Lancastria.—Robertus de Berwyk.
                                                      The history and
1306 Willielmus le Sleyne.—Johannes de Lancastria.
1307 Willielmus le Sleyne.—Ricardus Pernaunt.
                                                      antiquities of the
1314 Willielmus Dallynge.-Johannes de Wyersdale.
                                                      town of
1315 Willielmus Dallynge.—Johannes de Wyersdale.
                                                      Lancaster
1325 Willielmus Lawrence.—Johannes de Brockholes.
                                                      By Robert
1326 Johannes Cort. de Lancastria.—Adamus de Walton-
                                                      Simpson
1327 Nicholaus de Lancastria.—Henricus Burgeys.
1327 Jahannes de Ker. Laurentius Bulk.
1328 Johannes Cort de Lancastria.—Adamus de Walton.
1328 Adamus filius Simonis.—Johannes le Ker.
                                             de (of) Lancastria (Lancaster)
1330 Willielmus Balrown.—Johannes le Bulk.
                                              de Ker (of Kerr)
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Early Ker of Lancashire are Alan and John. Alan is also an early Elwald name of Lancashire.

Y-DNA of Kerr compared to mine;

FYQWR View	Elliott	Ireland	R16 1424 14 11 11 1412 12 11 13 13 29 16 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 15 17 17
SEYDN View	Elliott	Scotland or Ulster	R16 1424 14 11 11 14 12 12 11 13 13 29 16 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 30 15 15 17 17
ZC3EN View	Tait (Tate)	British-USA	R1b 1424 14 11 11 1412 12 11 13 13 29 18 9 10 11 11 25 15 18 29 15 15 17 17
FB7UZ View	Elliott	British Isles	R16 1424 14 11 11 1412 12 11 13 13 30 16 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 15 17 17
97SGU View	Elliott	British Isles	R16 14 24 14 11 11 14 12 12 11 13 13 30 16 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 15 17 17
7BSFU View	Kerr (Carr)	Ulster (Donegal)	R1b 1424 14 11 11 14 12 12 11 13 14 29 17 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 30 15 15 17 18
7CBWY View	Armstrong	Ulster (Fermanagh)	R1b 14 24 14 11 11 14 12 12 12 13 13 29
VRCAR View	Tait	British-Canada	R16 14 24 14 11 11 14 12 12 12 13 13 29
3BXG9 View	Tait (Tate)	British-USA	R16 1424 14 11 11 14 12 12 12 13 13 29
7UR5B View	Scott	British Isles	R16 14 24 14 11 11 14 12 12 12 13 13 29
DQTQ5 View	Tait	Scotland (Borders)	R1b 1424 14 11 11 1412 12 12 13 13 29 17 9 10 11 11 25 15 18 29 15 15 16 17

My Y-DNA is SEYDN.



The group of Elliott (Elwald) which am in closely compares to Kerrs.

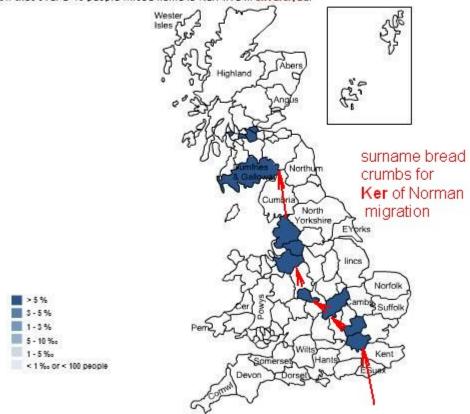
KERR

In Great Britain : 25 206 people share the surname Kerr according to our estimation The surname Kerr is the 371th most common name in Great Britain.

all about the name Kerr : Geographical spread - Data by county - Sorted by county

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

This map shows the geographical spread by county of surname Kerr in Great Britain. For example you can see below that over 5% people whose name is Kerr live in Invercive.



Surname distribution bread crumbs are indicative of Norman origins for the Kerr.

Mark Elliott 5/22/2013