



ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 69 – Autumn 2012

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www.elliotclanusa.com
www.elliotclanaustralia.org
www.visitnewcastleton.com

Chief: Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

"Here's to all Elliots and Elliot' bairns
And them that lie in Elliots arms."

Dear Members,

In the last newsletter I spent the first part complaining about last winter's weather. Apparently 5% of British people's lives are spent talking about the weather! Anyway, this has been the worst summer on record since something like 1828 or maybe since records began and we have just experienced our first frost and I write this on the 1st September, for Heaven's sake. Do not be surprised if your chief up sticks and emigrates.

Despite this we are trying to be positive about next summer and I call all Elliott/Elliot/Elliotts wherever they may be to come to our next Clan Gathering on 30th August 2013. We are rustling up an entertaining programme for our visitors over that whole weekend. The ticket application form is going out with this newsletter and will be posted on all our websites. I hope that despite the economic downturn many of you will come and join us and get to know your kinsmen at home and abroad.

If you are thinking of coming to Scotland next year for the first time, I urge you to contact your own local commissioners, many of whom have experience of Gatherings and will have helpful advice on the best way of spending your time, where to go, etc. etc.

The Canadian arm of the Society is having a change of leadership. Walter Elliot, with his wife, Anne has been a strong and steady hand on the tiller for the last nine years. They have travelled the length and breadth of Canada to support and encourage their Chapter Chairs. Whenever I visit Canada, they always make me feel welcome and amongst friends. My sincere thanks to them . . . He has passed the baton on to Catherine Elliot-Shaw who made a hit at the last Gathering by expertly teaching us some new dances at the Ceilidh. I have known John and Catherine for some years now and much look forward to working with them.

This issue has a long and fascinating article about our possible French/Breton connections by Keith Hunter who has spent a great deal of time and energy researching this. It opens up all sorts of possibilities into Elliot origins. Two American Elliotts of influence and invention and a short piece about the Reiving way of life. I hope you will read and enjoy it.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

NOTICES AND NEWS ITEMS

VF Designs is a new website promoting a lovely range of sweaters and scarves with the clan crest embroidered on. Highly recommended it has a webpage with various Scottish chiefs, featuring your own chief who is comprehensively upstaged by her dog, Tilly.
www.vfdesigns.com

Elliotdale, South Africa established in 1878 and named after Sir Henry George Elliot, the Chief Magistrate of the Transkei. He was the son of Gilbert Elliot Murray Kynmound, 2nd Earl of Minto.

Silk Taffeta – We need 10 people to get together to make it worth while to order Elliot tartan silk taffeta at £45.00 approx per metre. If you are interested email redheugh@btinternet.com

Chateau de Colombieres sur Orb, Haute Languedoc – Surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery and situated in the rolling countryside, the Chateau's gites offer all year round comfort. The many facilities for summer include a 15 metre swimming pool, garden terraces and barbecue. For additional winter comfort each gite has an open log fire and central heating. For more information contact: email Christopher.elliott@club-internet.fr website: www.gitesdecharme.biz

SIR ARTHUR ELLIOTT MEMORIAL TRUST 2012

Grants totalling £950.00 were awarded to:

Peter M. Needham – BA Professional Education at Stirling University.

George Aitchison – BSc. Agriculture at the SAC Edinburgh.

Fiona Walker – HND Theatre Costume Interpretation at Telford College, Edinburgh.

Liddesdale Heritage – Chatterbox.

Ewan Kennedy – Scout camp in Switzerland July 2013.

Clan Room: To avoid disappointment, please warn us if you intend to visit Redheugh. Email or telephone us on the following UK number: **013873-75213** or redheugh@btinternet.com

STEPHEN ELLIOTT 1771-1830



Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, the third son of William Elliott, a merchant. His father died when he was a boy and his older brother is said to have taken charge of his education. He was sent to New Haven, Connecticut to be

tutored by Judge Simeon Baldwin and entered Yale in 1788 where he received a BA with valedictorian honors.

Elliott then returned to South Carolina and became a planter. Elected to the South Carolina Legislature from 1793-1800. He married Esther Habersham with whom he had a large family. In 1812 he was appointed President of the "Bank of the State" and moved to Charleston.

In Charleston he was active in the founding of the Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina, President of the Charleston Library Society and co-founded the Southern Review with Hugh Swinton Legare in 1828. Elected president of South Carolina College and an early and active campaigner for the establishment of the Medical College of South Carolina where he taught natural history and botany from 1824 until his death.

Stephen has been memorialized in a number of ways. The Elliott college building on the University of South Carolina campus was named for him and in 1853 the Elliott Society of Natural History, Charleston was founded. In 1933 a monument was erected over Elliott's unmarked grave in St. Paul's churchyard, Charleston. Elliott is remembered also "in a genus of plants of the Heath family" probably Ericaceae *Elliottia racemosa*.



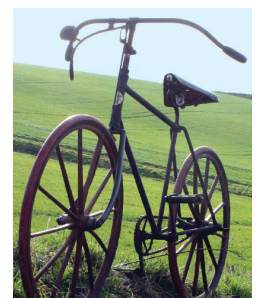
Andrew Elliot from Burnfoot of Ewes, the newly elected Langholm Cornet at the Langholm Common Riding.

THE ELLIOTT HICKORY WHEELS

A number of attempts were made a few years ago to introduce hickory wheels in place of the wire suspension wheels, among the most notable being a bicycle built by Sterling Elliott, and called the Hickory. The frame was built of tubing as was usual, but the wheels – hubs, spokes and rims – were made of hickory, the spokes being known as radial spokes. In order to maintain its rigidity and to carry the pneumatic tyre the rim was surrounded by a metallic band in which the tyre was placed.



Our corps of merciless inspectors testing the Elliott Hickory Wheels.



The modern Bicycle and its Accessories, by Alex Schwalbach and Julius Wilcox, 1898.

Keith Elliot Hunter was a Metropolitan Police Commander, and a Bramshill Police Staff College University Scholar in Modern History (1968-71). His great-grandfather was James Elliot, a Liddesdale gamekeeper with strong Whithaugh connections, living in the gamekeeper's cottage at Wood, before becoming a farmer at Carnetley Farm, near Brampton. He died at Slaggyford in 1927. James's father was William Elliot, a shepherd for many years at Kershope. James's mother was Catherine, née Crozier. The names Scott, Aitchison and Murray also appear in his family tree. His grandmother Catherine had Turnbull and Nichol cousins whom he visited in 1949 at Gorranberry and Toftholm.

Recommended reading: *Scotland: a New History*, by Michael Lynch, former professor of history, University of Edinburgh. Various works of scholarship on the Norman Conquest. "Le rôle des Bretons dans la politique de la colonisation normande d'Angleterre" [The role of the Bretons in the Norman policy of the colonisation of England (c.1042-1135)] a paper by Dr Keats-Rohan of Queen Mary College London, published in the *Memoires of the Breton Archeological and Historical Society*, 1996 – available online by "googling" K S B Keats-Rohan. According to Dr Keats-Rohan practically all early 12th century Breton migrants cut their ties with Brittany.

THE ELIOTS AND THE ELLIOTS BRETON SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE?



Combat de Trente – Breton knights at the Battle of the Thirty

It is always surprising and annoying when a long-held belief is finally contradicted by facts which have for a long time remained hidden – in the case of Elliot origins – for at least a millennium. My own curiosity was aroused by sight of the name *Alliot* (as in *Alliot-Marie*) in a French newspaper report. This led me, on a whim, to take advantage of reasonable fluency in French and the revolution in information technology, by searching newly digitalised French archives. These include registrations of births, deaths and marriages, obligatory in France since the late 16th century. Having a great-great grandmother with the out-and-out French maiden name of Crozier was another prompt.

Eliot and its parochial variant *Elliot* came up on the screen with a click of the mouse. Denial of a connection between the Eliots of St Germain and the border Elliots (with their own Scots parochial variants) had always puzzled me. To me, as a retired police officer, this was always "suspect." No proof had ever existed either way.

It now seems that there are and always have been, from ancient times, Eliots and Elliots in Brittany. Almost the whole of William the Conqueror's left flank at Hastings was composed of Breton knights and foot soldiers, vassals of Breton nobles, in turn vassals of their Count Brian, later granted the vast northern Earldom of Richmond, who led the suppression of revolts in East Anglia and Exeter.

More Bretons, the future King Henry's allies when Count of the Cotentin and Avranchais came over in successive waves, following his accession to the throne on his elder brother William Rufus's death.

Among them was the Breton Alan Fitsflaad, whose descendants included the Stewart de Dol, seneschal to King David I of Scotland (and Earl of Huntingdon), progenitor of Clan Stewart and the future royal house of Stuart. In 1124, the very pro-Norman David made huge land grants in the south-west of Scotland to the Norman baron de Brus, ancestor of Robert the Bruce, and other knights taken into his vassalage, with names like de Morville, and de Soules (> Soulis) recorded as witnesses.

Within two to three decades Normans, Flemings and Bretons pushed northwards into eastern parts, through Fife, Angus and into Morayshire. As in England, Norman, Flemish and Breton vassal barons and knights sought early assimilation, usually through early marriage. One historian has commented that in the north-east (Morayshire) they became more Gaelicised than the Gaels themselves. Freskin the Fleming took the title "de Moravia" and founded Clan Murray; a Saint Clair founded Clan Sinclair; a de Chesholme Clan Chisholm and a de Gordon Clan Gordon. One of the Elliot name variants, *Dalliot*, may have originated as d'Alliot. *Read on* ➤

A much longer, more detailed and updated research document throwing even more light on Elliot origins can be obtained by members via pdf attachment from Keith Hunter at ke.hunter@btinternet.com



Volant de Breton – According to a contemporary chronicler and biographer of Henri I, William of Poitiers, the Bretons in England were no more than barbarians, given over to plunder and brigandage.

By 1160 Bretons were in possession of no less than 250 fiefs in England; they were established in south-western Scotland, and took part in north eastern colonisation. It is a matter of record that while Normans were given the task of pacifying Northumbria (then under David's control), Bretons alongside Normans had the task of pacifying the more problematical Cumbria. Among the contingents which started the eastward push would have been, so a historian reminds us, a whole retinue of landless knights, foot soldiers, armourers, stablers, masons, cooks and other kinds of servant.

According to a contemporary chronicler and biographer of Henri I, William of Poitiers, the Bretons in England were no more than barbarians, given over to plunder and brigandage.

We learn from early clusters in French archives that Eliot/Elliott homelands were in what is now the département du Morbihan in Brittany, with some spillage into neighbouring Ille et Vilaine, Finistère and the Côte d'Amor. A further cluster with the parochial variant spelling, Eliot, occurs in the Seine Maritime département. This most probably reflects an early implantation of a branch of the tribe in Normandy probably with the task of defending the duchy's eastern frontier against incursions from Flanders and Vermandois. This may have been the origin of a tribal division into the two Eliot/Elliott branches already mentioned, and the reason why the Eliots of St Germain's have always been mistakenly regarded as being unrelated to the Angus and Border Elliots. The fact is that the parochial variant Eliot was still present in clusters in the Morbihan, following the migration of many kinsmen to the Seine Maritime region. Bretons came over in separate waves, and in successive generations. The Eliots of St Germain's were among the first to arrive. Others came over later and probably found themselves swearing fealty elsewhere, originally, for example, in the Breton-held Earldom of Richmond.

The variant *Alliot* is found in early clusters in the Loire Atlantique, on the southern border of Morbihan. We should remember that all aspiring young French (Frankish) warriors wanted to be Normans, and many from as far south as Aquitaine flocked to William's banner during his invasion preparations prior to 1066.

Such historical coincidences seem to be too many and too strong to rebut the finding that the Eliots/Elliots/Eliotts and Elliotts came over as Brythonic-speaking soldiers of fortune, to the land of their 4th century AD ancestors.

The evidence is compelling, although further lines of research are being followed up. Random scrolling through many records of Elliots we find, for example, in 1772, a "chevalier" d'Eliot recorded in **la base Les chevaliers des Ordres Royaux**. Elsewhere, a Gaspard-Antoine Elliot was one of **Les bénéficiaires de pensions royales avant 1789**. The Breton nobility suffered greatly during the revolt in Brittany against the revolutionary Jacobins. Bretons were fiercely catholic.

Given the favouring of Flemings, many former mercenaries from the English civil war of 1148-57, by William I (the Lion) in his extension of military feudalism through Fife, Angus and into Morayshire, among whom were the ancestors of Clan Murray, the Douglasses and Clan Innes, and an almost certain association of Elliots in Angus with these settlers, the name Ellwald is now thought to be Flemish, rather than English.

Middle Scots had yet to penetrate Angus and Morayshire. William I recruited Anglo-Norman and Breton mercenaries from England in 1212, by which time the Eliots were deployed in Monmouthshire and the marcher counties, and doubtlessly ready to offer their services.

The Old English "wald", surviving as the Flemish "wald" and "valdr" in Old Norse, which meant ruler or chieftain, had probably disappeared like hundreds of OE words from the Middle English lexicon, leaving only its second meaning, "forest." We need look no further for corroboration than the name Beorwalda, the Flemish founder and chieftain of Clan Innes. We now know that Elliot was an older Breton name, and it could not be that a mutation from -wald to -ot -iot just so happened. The new suffix "wald" was a sign of status, but the reversion to Elliot took place following transplantation from Angus to Liddesdale, where no Flemings had settled. The restoration of the "i" in Elliot was mirrored by a similar restoration in the name Crosier. The retention by some of the more modern name, Ellwood, suggests that it stuck to collateral branches of the clan, but not to all Elliots. ■

Exploring Border Reivers
History by Philip Nixon,
Published by
Breedon Books Publishing
ISBN 978-1-85983-583-8



THE REIVERS AND THEIR WAY OF LIFE

The necessary allegiance to family and the constant state of war and turmoil along the Border shaped the everyday lives of the people. Living depended largely on livestock rather than crops, and their agricultural system followed a regular pattern. Raiding took place all year round, but it was more popular from autumn to spring when the nights were longer and time wasn't devoted to growing crops. However most time and effort was given to raising cattle and sheep. In April the Borderer would move up to the higher ground, living in his sheiling for four or five months while his beasts were pastured. These summer communities were safer than their winter homes but were still subject to occasional raids. This nomadic life suited the borderers well. They had learned from years of living through wars not to build permanent dwellings but to live constantly on the move.

Their meals probably consisted largely of beef or mutton broth. Bishop Leslie commented extensively on their diet, referring to them eating mostly 'flesh, milk and boiled barley' and that bread was only eaten rarely but that 'hearth cakes of oats' were eaten instead. He said that the borderers took very little beer or wine which is probably why drunken behavior gets few mentions in the Border records.

Both men and women dressed necessarily in practical and hard wearing clothes. However some style and finery must have existed given the descriptions of items of stolen clothing in the complaints lodged with the March wardens on Truce Days.

The women were usually well treated and highly respected and were said to be generally regarded as fair and comely. An unwritten law in the Reivers' code forbade the attack and violation of women and rape was an uncommon crime. The children were raised in the strong tradition of their family surnames but it did not last very long and there is a record of an 11 year old Johnson taking part in a raid.

Most of the people of the borders lived in makeshift houses that could be built in a short time. Stakes would be driven into the ground and the gaps filled in with stones and turf sods. The walls were finished off with clay and the roof would be either turf or thatch. Wooden shutters kept out the worst of the weather and the doorway hung with a length of cowhide. These huts could be built in about three or four hours. ■

MINTO WAR MEMORIAL

Minto War Memorial is situated in its own hedged garden in the grounds of Minto Church. Minto is a tiny hamlet near Denholm which is 5 miles from Hawick.

OS map ref NT566201
UKNIWM Ref No. 44341

The Minto War Memorial is one of the most distinguished memorials to be found in the country. The base of stone quarried from Minto Crag is surmounted by a life size statue of a British soldier. Although he wears the uniform of a private soldier, the face of the statue is said to have been modelled on that of Lt. Esmond Elliot, the son of the Earl of Minto who was killed near Ypres in 1917.

On the memorial's completion, the Countess of Minto is reputed to have had the figure turned from its original position of facing the family estate because she said that 'a British soldier never turns his back on the enemy.'



The memorial was unveiled by Sir Douglas Haig in September, 1921, a metal plaque records the names of 7 men who fell. The sculptor of the statue was Thomas J. Clapperton who was based in London (though a native of Galashiels), amongst his other works was the Flodden Memorial in Selkirk and the equally splendid Canonbie War Memorial in Dumfries and Galloway. ■

Visitors to The Clan Room 2012

Gilbert & Thomas Elliott – NSW Australia
David & Eleanor Karro – VA, USA
Michael & Sheila Elliot – St. Albans, Herts. UK
Elliott Boose – York PA, USA
Barbara McNay – New Zealand
Jeremy Doyle and Shashi Gadgil – London UK
The Marvin/Kennedy/McKee Family – Texas USA
Ian and Chris Thomson – NSW Australia

Josh, Julianne and Julian Elliott – North Ireland
Ian and Marelene Elliot – Liphook, Hampshire UK
The Bewcastle Heritage Society
Robert, Joyce and Elizabeth Elliott – Sequin, Texas
David and Rita Elliott – Commissioner for NC, USA
Andrew, Melissa and Camilla Elliott – Walcha, NSW, Australia.

We welcome the following new members to the Society

AUSTRALIA

A310 Elliott, Mr. Warren, Lismore Heights NSW 2480
A311 Hartley, Mrs. Dorothy, Edge Hill, Cairns QLD 4870
A312 Elliott, Mr. Brian A., Labrador QLD 4215
A313 Fayers, Mr. Lynette, Wangi Wangi NSW 2267
A314 Elliott, Mr & Mrs Ronald W., Bolwarra Heights NSW 2320
A315 Elliott, Mr & Mrs Craig R., Seaham NSW 2324
A316 Elliott, Mr. Geoffrey, Camp Hill QLD 4152
A317 Bailey, Mr & Mrs. Bruce, Holder ACT 2611
A318 Dutton, Mrs Phyllis, Norman Gardens QLD 4701
A319 O'Reilly, Mrs. Helen, East Lismore NSW 2480
A320 Kruger, Mr Richard, East Lismore NSW 2480

CANADA

C1096 Walsh, Carol & Gary, Cochrane AB
C1097 Nixon, Donna, Canmore AB
C1098 Elliott, Christopher, Toronto ON
C1099 Elliott, Daniel, Frankford ON

NEW ZEALAND

N323 Lock, Mrs. Hilary, Oamaru 9400
N324 Elliott, Mr. Peter G., Palmerston North 4470
N325 Elliott, Mr. Warren, Christchurch 8025
N326 Elliot, Lynn, Kapiti Coast 5512

UNITED KINGDOM

E457 Baron, Mrs. Gwendoline, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 4AU
E458 Elliott, Michael Scott, St. Albans AL3 5SH
E459 Elliot, Stephen, Morton West, Carlisle CA3 7SY
NI/6 Elliott, Martyn Samuel, Carrickfergus Co. Antrim BT38 8SG

UNITED STATES

US3540 Kemker, Grady S., Centennial CO 80112
US3541 Scobie, Ginger Elliott, Orchard Lake, MI 48325
US3542 Elliott, Darren Robert, Victor MT 59875
US3543 Horwich, Janice, Chicago IL 50513
US3544 Hennig, Orange Park, FL 32073
US3545 Murphy, Ryan, Jacksonville FL 3223
US3546 Elliott, Evelyn, Bakersfield, CA 93306
US3547 Judson, Kathryn Marcia, Reno NV 89506
US3548 Coleman, Billie Katherine, Mauldin SC 29662
US3549 Jones, Sara Smith, North Augusta SC 29841
US3550 Elliott, Kirstin, Diana TX 75640
US3551 Siglin, Kathleen E., Vestal NY 13850
US3552 Dougherty, James, DeWitt IA 52742
US3553 Elliott, Erin, Las Vegas NV 89146
US3554 Elliott, Michelle C., Broadlands VA 20148
US3555 Elliott, Steve & Winnie, Sacramento CA 95819
US3556 Lal, Jason, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
US3557 Olds, Larry, El Cajon CA 92019
US3558 Vail, Deborah, Angola NY 14006
US3559 Mister, Martha L., Broomes Island MD 20615
US3560 Miller, Stephanie, California MD 20619
US3561 Elliott, Gary Scott, Huntingtown MD 20639
US3562 Robinson, Kathleen Elliott, Ocean View, DE 19970
US3563 Elliott, Thomas A., Reston VA 20194
US3564 Elliott Jr., Thurman Doyle, Rancho Palos Verdes CA 09275
US3565 Elliott, Jennifer J., Santa Ana CA 92703
US3566 Elliott, R.Corky, Costa Mesa CA 92626
US3567 Louvau, Andrew, Overland Park, KS 66204
US3568 Boog-Scott, John & Kirsty, Richardson TX 75082
US3569 Elliott, Jay, Wheaton IL 60187
US3570 Allen, Diane, High wood, IL 60040
US3571 Elliot, Jerry & Linda, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
US3572 Ruprecht, Cindy Elliott, Leavenworth, WA 98826
US3573 Elliott, David M., Woodbridge VA 22193
US3574 Graham, Stephanie Elliott, Dover NH 03820

Details of new members received too late for publication will appear in the next newsletter.