



ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 71 – Autumn 2013

Redheugh, Newcastleton,
Roxburghshire TD9 OSB
www.elliotclan.com
www.elliotclanusa.com
www.elliotclanaustralia.org
www.visitnewcastleton.com

Chief: Margaret Eliott of Redheugh

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

Dear Kinsmen,

Redheugh is just emerging from a most enjoyable and busy weekend and the reason why this issue of our newsletter is behind our usually tight schedule. A report of the Gathering overleaf.

One piece of sad news is the death of Bryan Wakeham, a Trustee of the Clan Society and a valued friend. His beloved wife, Patricia, died a few years ago of a brain tumour and he suffered increasing ill health and discomfort with great humour and fortitude. I will miss his wise counsel and support.

I have resigned as Vice Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and will remain on the Executive Committee until the AGM in July 2014. It has been an interesting time over the last eight years. I was very involved in the first Convention in 2009 held in the Scottish Parliament building with three of our Society's Presidents from Australia, Canada and the USA attending. The Flodden Service to commemorate five hundred years since the battle has just taken place at St.Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh hosted by the Standing Council and it raised around £25,000.00 for two military charities, Combat Stress and Erskine Hospital. These two events have turned the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs into a more proactive organisation under Sir Malcolm MacGregor's leadership.

Christopher and I are looking forward to our trip to Atlanta for the Stone Mountain Highland Games 19th–20th October and seeing a lot of familiar faces as well as making new friends at the Elliot dinner on Saturday evening. Sylvia Elliott has been working hard to make this weekend good fun for everyone.

Alert to all our UK members. We are unfortunately having to raise our membership fees and I hope you will still consider it money well spent! Next year we have to print another membership booklet there are plans to have a third printing of the hardback which has been out of print now for a couple of years.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Eliott of Redheugh

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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

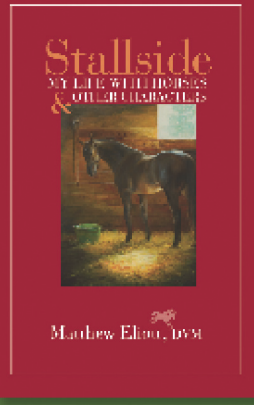
NOTICES AND NEWS ITEMS

IN MEMORIAM – William Elliot – 1930-2013. Billy was a wonderful piper and used to come and play at all Sir Arthur's Clan Gatherings. He was always immaculately turned out. The last time he piped for us was on the Elliot DVD and the Clan were lucky that he lived so near by in Langholm. His thanksgiving service took place in August this year and Langholm Parish Church was full to the brim with his many friends.

ILLUSTRIOUS FOREBEARS! The clan genealogist, Kenneth Blaiklock, is delighted to have found an Elliott in the newborn Prince George's family tree. Catherine Middleton's father's great grandmother was an EMILY JANE ELLIOTT 1859-1949 daughter of John Elliott, messenger of Leyton, Essex.

MATTHEW ELLIOTT, a long time equine veterinarian and first time author presents this delightful book which lovers of horses and all animals will relish. "Stallside – My Life with Horses and Other Characters." Published by RiverHorse Press \$15.00. To order contact farmonthelake@gmail.com

MATTHEW ELLIOTT, a long time equine veterinarian and first time author presents this delightful book which lovers of horses and all animals will relish.



Dr. Elliott is a masterful storyteller who captures with humor and humility the magical world of horses. In his stories you will meet a cast of memorable characters and gain insight into the daily life and unusual adventures of a vet on the road.

Published by RiverHorse Press
\$15.00 (soft cover, 176 pgs.)

Available, July 15, 2013

To order, contact...
farmonthelake@gmail.com

You must all expect a Scottish summer to look like the damp grey day that dawned on Friday 30th August so I should not have been surprised. My stepdaughter, after all, had chosen a date in deep December some years ago for her wedding so that she would not be disappointed, but even so, I did want the Borders to sparkle for our visitors.

The Gathering 2013

We had a record number attending from all over the world. North Americans are, of course, the dominant membership so we usually get a high proportion from that neck of the woods. However, Australia and New Zealand were a strong group this year and very welcome they were too. The United Kingdom turned out as well with one family group of about 15 taking over a large house locally for the occasion.

The Officers Dinner is the one event where we try inadequately to repay the considerable work that so many put in to keep our Society thriving internationally. It is a chance for newcomers to get to know me, my family and the local Executive Committee. It took place at The Liddesdale Hotel with Tom Elliott, the chief's piper, looking smart and kicking us off with some stirring tunes. How lucky we are to have him. Each of the four tables were hosted by the chief, her husband, Christopher, Ben and Kate.

During the dinner Billy Thomson was presented with some engraved tumblers and a bottle of Elliot whisky and thanked for forty years on the Executive Committee having been part of the Society since my father founded it in 1972. He has inconveniently decided it is time for him to retire. A picture of a Borders peel tower was given to Margaret Laurenson, our single handed President of the New Zealand Clan Society with thanks. In her absence it was accepted by Lorraine Elliott.

The Gathering: Redheugh was looking spruce and expectant with banner unfurled for the first bus which arrived at 10.30.

My darling granddaughters were the welcoming committee and there was much to do and see during the morning.

Expert craftsmen Drew Oliver and his daughters explaining the art of Stick Dressing and John Elliot demonstrating his skill at building a dry stone wall (dyking).

Derek Stewart and his Border Clansmen, dressed up to the nines, displayed the fighting tools of the 16th Century.

In the house, the Hermitage Women's Rural Institute dispensed delicious home made refreshments and our clan genealogist, Kenneth Blaiklock, discussed family trees and offered help and advice.

Again, Tom Elliott showed us what a remarkable piper he is and became the focus of most of the photographs taken. He looked splendid and worked extremely hard.

I hope you all enjoyed **The Barbecue**. There is something remarkably delicious about a whole lamb cooked over an open fire. I managed to have a taste before the hordes fell upon it. Wonderful!

The Cannon blasted off at 2.30 and shook the whole valley triggering the start of the more formal Gathering. Speeches were made by the chief and three of the overseas Presidents, Judith Elliott USA, Catherine Elliott-Shaw, Canada and James Elliott, Australia. The chief was presented with a beautiful early Canadian glass sweetmeat jar by the Canada Elliot Clan Society. The entertainments were a Falconry Display and the fighting skills of the Border Clansmen.

The Ceilidh kicked off in The Village Hall at about 7.30pm and we had a fantastic evening with songs and poetry, reels and jigs from all kinds of brave and talented people.

NOTE: Photographs taken throughout the day are online to look at: www.visitnewcastleton.com/elliott-gathering-2013

Please send your Gathering photographs to john@jonline.net who is collecting a complete record of the day to share with our membership.

*The photographer,
Bob Beveridge writes
“I have been moved by this
wonderful memorial which lies
in the most beautiful and
remote mountains of
Sutherland. Because of its
almost inaccessible location,
I only found it after my third
attempt as it took an eight
hours long walk and jog to
reach.”*

THE GLENCOUL ELLIOT MEMORIAL

The story of the Elliot brothers is heart-rending. The little cottage (their home 100 years ago) is still there in the deserted Glencoul. It is in surprisingly good condition and is occasionally looked after by the Scottish Mountaineering Society. The nephew of the brothers is eighty odd years old William Elliot, who is a Korean War Veteran and lives near Kyleskue in Sutherland.

The Duke of Westminster, on whose land the cottage stands, was so moved he erected this magnificent memorial, which stands in a lonely glen beside the loch at Glencoul, almost 100 years ago.



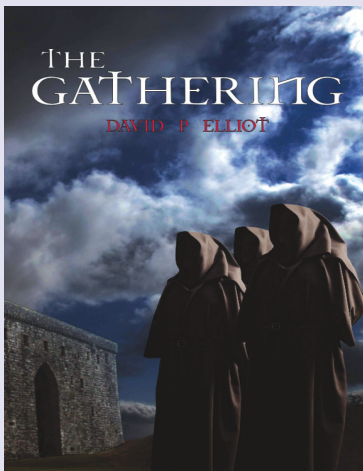
Their father, John Elliot was a Deer Forester, born in Lochbroom, Ross-shire, and he and his wife were Gaelic speakers. William, and the other four children, were born in Eddrachillis (GlenCoul). John's father, William, was a shepherd, born about 1805 in Glendune, Dumfriesshire – so it is likely he went north after the clearances.

These Elliot boys joined different regiments, died at different times and places etc. William Elliot died aged 25, a Corporal in the Cameron Highlander in March 1917. His brother, Alister died aged 24, a Lance Corporal in the Highland Light Infantry in April 1918.

From dates and memorial place, William died in the hospital at St. Omer (it was a major centre for the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations. Whereas, Alister probably died in the mess of general trench warfare as he has no grave as such.

DAVID P. ELLIOT

has given a copy of his latest book *"The Gathering"* published by www.redcappublishing.com In this sequel to his historical supernatural thriller 'Clan', Thomas Ralstone needs to turn again to his family to understand what is happening and why a Russian mercenary is stalking him and seems determined to return him to the scene of his childhood nightmares in the Borders of Scotland and the dark brooding menace of Hermitage Castle where, it seems, a 700 year old curse is once again unraveling to threaten him.



SIR ARTHUR ELIOTT Memorial Trust 2013

Jamie John Mitchell
Level 3 Engineering
Carlisle College

Newcastleton Play Park
Friends of Newcastleton Park

Peter Needham
BA Professional Primary
Education at Stirling University

Sara Yahia Mohammed
BSC Physiology at University of
Aberdeen

Elizabeth Smith
Level 3 Make up Artistry at
Lancaster and Morecambe
College

Rachel Nixon
toward the purchase of a violin
and attend SBC Youth
Orchestra.

Connor Ewart
City & Guilds Level 2 diploma in
vehicle maintenance and repair.

TOTAL £1100

William The Conqueror's Breton Dogs of War

The Elliots and their DNA – Keith Elliot Hunter

In 1067 William the Conqueror returned to Normandy and left his new English kingdom in the hands of his half-brother Odo, and his trusted warrior, William fitzOsbern, somewhat over-optimistic in trusting the loyalty of his new subjects. In 1068 he returned with an even larger army, in response to widespread revolt. The worst was taking place in the south-west, at Exeter, where the Godwyns were rallying support. William entered into a campaign of ruthless pacification, but when trouble flared up again in 1069, he turned his Breton dogs of war loose in the lands which they had always coveted most as spoils of war: the ancient western homelands of their 6th century British ancestors. Following pacification and occupation, leading to one of the biggest areas of medieval Breton settlement, the Breton forces went on to defeat an invasion force led by the dead King Harold's sons, at Barnstaple. Heavy losses were sustained on both sides.

The rewards given to the Bretons' leaders were immediate and enormous. Brien, son of Eudo, Count of Penthièvre (Morbihan) received the earldom of Cornwall, while his companion, Judicaël de Lohéac, viscount of the Halebgoët, the ancestral Breton homelands of the Elliots in Finistère, and many of their distant cousins also identified by variants of the old name, got the lordship of Totnes and practically the whole of Devon, where the St Germans Eliots first settled. For these lands Judicaël (shortened by the Normans to Juhel) owed the Conqueror the service of no less than seventy-two knights. One factor which cannot escape our attention is the fact that many people in Brien's earldom still spoke Cornish, a language closely related to Breton and Welsh.

The Elliots, and all those who brought other Halebgoët (Halgoët) variant names with them, like Elegoët (English Eligott, or Ellacott), Eleouët (Border variant Elwett – same pronunciation), or Alliot (Border variant Dalliot = d'Alliot), must have gathered in considerable numbers, since history suggests that there were enough of them to take part in William fitzOsbern's immediate conquest of South Wales. Here, and through the marcher counties astride Offa's Dyke, we still find the heaviest concentrations of Eliots today.

The name Eliot in all its spellings is, and always has been, Breton, that is, of Ancient British and Celtic origin. The supposition that the Eliots of St Germans are of Anglo-Norman origin has never been more than that, and Peregrine Eliot, the present Earl, is happy to accept his Breton ancestry. He confirms that there has never been any evidence of Eliot Norman origins. All extant British Eliot name variants can be traced to Brittany, meaning that an ages-long puzzle has been solved. The existence of a high number of variants of the original toponym, which translates as the people or tribe of the lands of the saughtree has always been acknowledged in Brittany.

The Eliots (all spellings) were, like their neighbouring Flemish settlers in South Wales, originally mercenaries, and the continuance of the mercenary, military traditions of Eliot settler families would have been in the hands, quite typically, of younger sons. The feudal host, consisting of freemen and tied peasants, was never enough. Kings and their magnates needed professional soldiers in their households, their itinerant retinues and castle garrisons. According to contemporary sources William II (Rufus) poured out large sums of money on his Breton mercenaries, who no doubt would have been involved in his seizure of Cumberland and construction of Carlisle Castle. *(to be continued)*

The Battle of Flodden 1513-2013

A description of the Battle was in the last issue but for those who are interested in the battlefield I recommend a visit to the website www.flodden.net

Our group were guided round the battlefield by Clive Hallam-Baker who has written a book and made a DVD. He does this voluntarily to raise money for the maintenance of the signs and walkways at the site but also to bring the battle alive for the visitors. He certainly did this for us.

We started our Sunday 1st September 2013 boarding our coach in Newcastleton at 9am for the two hour drive to Ladykirk. The Church lies along the northern bank of the River Tweed which separates Scotland and England. It was built by King James IV of Scotland after (so the legend goes) he was nearly drowned crossing the ford just below the church. He, it is claimed, vowed to build a church in memory of the Blessed Virgin of the Steill which had saved him (A steill is a deep pool where salmon nets are placed). His vow included the fact that the church should be one that could not be destroyed by either fire or flood (thus, the unusual stone roof).

The service was taken by the Rev. Alan Cartwright who surprised us all by finding various hymns written by Elliots. *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* and *Thy Kingly Crown* by Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott (1836-1897), *O King of Glory, God of Grace* by Henry Elliott Fox (1841-1926).



Our day was closely followed by an Independent Television crew and the results can be seen on the link:
www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2013-09-09/flodden-remembered



EMUN ELLIOTT, the Scottish actor is to be at the National Library of Scotland on Thursday 10th October to discuss what has inspired him during his life. At the age of only 29, Portobello born, Emun has already made a serious impact on the acting world, proving himself to be a versatile multi-faceted and extremely talented actor who can turn his hand to both drama and comedy on the stage, screen and radio. His credits include the multi-award-winning National Theatre of Scotland's *The Black Watch*, BBC One's period drama *The Paradise*, Hollywood blockbuster, *Prometheus* and epic fantasy drama, *Game of Thrones*.

FROM MIDLEM MILL TO TIPPECANOE:

An Elliott Family Tale has been kindly given to the Clan Museum Library by James and Carlyn Elliot Battles of Rockville, Maryland USA. The preface states "I am an Elliott and this work is my family tale. The American branch traces its ancestry to Robert Elliott who immigrated with his large family settling in Middlesex Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in 1737."

ROBERT CHESTERS ELLIOT 1940-2013

was a member of the Clan Society from its earliest years. At the millennium he presented the Clan Room with a photograph taken by his amateur photographer father of Churchill at the London Zoo in 1943. This photograph featured in the Faces of the Century exhibition with which the National Portrait Gallery in London marked the millenium. Bob traced his ancestors back to the eighteenth century. He was born in London, educated at John Lyon Lower School, Harrow, Purley Grammar School and the London School of Economics. An academic lawyer, he led the Qualifying English Law Degree at the University of Dundee (the only English law degree in Scotland) for nearly twenty years. He wrote an extensive range of articles, conference papers and book reviews on legal education and training and other matters and in 1996 co-authored a book on Charity Law in Scotland. Bob had an amazing memory and, with his wide interests, a well-stocked mind. Laid back, extrovert, non-judgemental and witty, he was good company and beloved family man.



Franco-British Military Tournament 1957

(From left to right)

Pipe Major J. Roe MBE,
Scots Guards;

Pipe Major A. Pitkeathly, MBE,
Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders;

Pipe Sergeant G. Elliot,
A & SH;

Pipe Sergeant W. Robertson,
Royal Scots;

Pipe Sergeant R. Kilgour,
Scots Guards.

We welcome the following new members to the Society

AUSTRALIA

A323 Elliot, Robyn & Glennis, Maryborough, QLD.

NEW ZEALAND

N328 Taylor, Mrs Pauline A., Taradale, Napier

UNITED KINGDOM

E469 Elliott, Peter, Blackburn, Lancashire
BB1 2BS

E470 Corner, Norma, Coxhoe, Durham
DH6 4SL

E471 Elliott, Graham John, St. Albans,
Hertfordshire
AL1 4RQ

E472 Elliott, D.D., Barnard Castle, Durham
DL12 8AJ

E473 Dalgliesh, James Elliot, Aglionby, Carlisle
CA4 8AD

S153 Elliott, Gordon, Dunfermline, Fife
KY11 4LY

S154 Elliott, Capt & Mrs. Harvey, Largs, Ayrshire
KA30 8HL

S155 Elliott, Margaret, Fenwick, Kilmarnock,
E. Ayrshire KA3 6EP

S156 Hutcheson, Lorna Elliott, Kilmaurs,
Kilmarnock,
E. Ayrshire KA3 2TD

S157 Elliot, Robert & May, Stirling FJ7 8PU

SWEDEN

OC/38 Bengtsson, Lars-Inge, 21124 Malmo

U.S.A.

US3620 Smotherman, Clyde & Mildred, Union MO 63084

US3621 Shooter, Trish, Frisco TX 75035

US3622 Smotherman Sr., Greg & Anita, Cuba, MO 65454

US3623 Gosser, Gregory R., Meomonee Falls, WI 53051

US3624 Elliott, Jonathon, Peoria AZ 85345

US3625 Elliott, Shane & Rosalyn, Modesto CA 95355

US3626 Burch-Elliott, Jamie, Des Moines IA 50312

US3627 Elliott, Adam, Des Moines IA 50312

US3628 Robinson, Tim, Des Moines IA 50312

US3629 Viall, Henry A., Providence RI 02906

US3630 Elliott, Dennis, West Des Moines, IA 50265

US3631 Ryan, Mary Donna, Kimball MI 48074

US3632 Russom, Steve, Cypress TX 77443-1348

US3633 Little, Rebecca, Friendswood TX 77546-2954

US3634 Moore, Diane, Nashville TN 37221

US3635 Elliott, Scott A., Holly Hill, FL 32117

US3636 Elliott, Roger Dean, Bloomington IL 61701-5232

US3637 Adams, Laura Elliott, Santa Cruz CA 950623

US3638 Elliott, Tim & Debbie, Corsicana TX 75110

US3639 McLure, Rebecca Elliott, Weatherford TX 76088

US3640 Elliott, Raymond H., Peabody MA 019560

US3641 Elliott, Michelle, Holland, MI 49424-9009

US3642 Elliott, Roger Alan, Stockton CA 95206

US3643 Casias, Susan Elliott, Valley Springs
CA 95252-9226

US3644 Elliott, Danny, Easley SC 29640

US3645 Broesel, Chris, Rossmore CA 90720-4923

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