



ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 75 – Autumn 2015

Redheugh, Newcastleton,
Roxburghshire TD9 0SB
www.elliotclan.com
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 Kinsmen,

We have had a quiet year here at Redheugh and it has been lovely to have had a few of our members from overseas popping in to visit the Clan Room. One couple were lucky enough to coincide with our clan genealogist, Ken Blaiklock. The results were, as usual, rather frustrating as they came to a brick wall in Northern Ireland. What they can be certain of, however, is that their ancestor would certainly have made his way from the Scottish Border to Northern Ireland during the 17th Century.

Keith Hunter's research into the origins of the Elliots continues in this issue, with the different aspects of the spelling of the Elliot name. The movement of people, the politics and the circumstances surrounding misty mediaeval history is fascinating and Keith is a master detective. Do read his scholarly work on this subject on elliotclan.com

One unusual request was to sprinkle Basil Elliot's ashes at Redheugh. Unfortunately, I was not here, but my daughter Kate advised the family that the site of the old Tower House was a perfect spot, so I hope he is now peaceful and happy there. There is a photograph of Basil in this newsletter.

Also in this issue is an interesting report from Russell Elliott about the Pitcairn Island. We have been told that the Philatelic Society are designing a new stamp to commemorate the drawing up of the Consitution of the Pitcairn Islands with a picture of the Admiral. He was the seventh son of Sir William Elliott of Stobs, 6th Baronet and Mary Russell of Roseburn.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

NOTICES AND NEWS ITEMS

VISITORS TO THE CLAN ROOM

October 2014

Steve & Norma Elliott, Killen, Alabama
Dan & Anne Bouquet, Georgia
Lori Elliott & John Oaker, Florida

April 2015

Lynne & Steve Elliot, Kent UK
Peter Thomson, Minnesota
Lynette Godden, Surrey UK

May

Gail Wire, Washington
Garrett & Kelly Elliott, Texas

June

John Seaver Elliot VIII, South Carolina
John Seaver Elliot IX, Virginia
Bev & Fran Elliott, Cumbria UK
Robert Elliott & Cynthia Wilson, CA
Greg & Michelle Elliot & Nellie
McKinnon, Victoria Australia

July

Megan Elliott, David Engoren, USA
Terry Elliott, Laurie, Emily & Thomas,
Ontario, Canada
Vera Elliott & Russell Bowen, Vermont
Andrew & Laura Elliott, Alaska
Tracy & Bill Culp, Arkansas
Miriam Bibby, Langholm UK
Christopher Clarke, Norfolk UK
Don & Maureen Lye, QLD Australia

August

Terry Elliott, Chesterfield UK
Wendy Elliott, Toowoomba, Australia
Sarah Jane Gilleard-Kemp, Norfolk, UK

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

FULL COLOUR You can access the full colour version of this issue of The Elliot Clan Society Newsletter on the Elliot websites.

Madge Elliot Honoured



Madge's contribution to the campaign to have the Waverley rail link reopened will be marked by a Freightliner locomotive named after her to run on the new Borders Railway being opened by the Queen on September 9th 2015. Madge was present when the line was closed in 1969. It ran from London to Edinburgh via Carlisle, Newcastle and Hawick and when it was closed there was a demonstration against the closure. The new line will only be a branch line from Tweedside to Edinburgh and has, as yet, no plans to run through to Carlisle.

In Memoriam - Basil Elliot

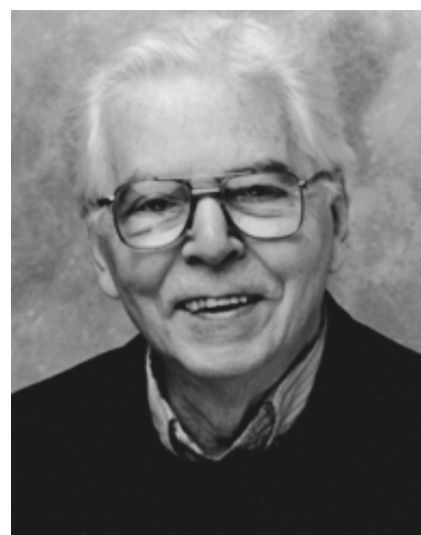
Redheugh was honoured to receive the ashes of Basil Elliot, 1922-2015 b. Staffield, Cumberland, son of Thomas Johnston Elliot and Carrie Muriel Travis.

His cousins, Charles Hetherington of Carlisle and Alistair and Valma MacDonald of Melbourne came to scatter his ashes around the site of the old Tower House.

Basil enlisted in the Navy during the War ending up as the commander of a naval patrol boat

at the age of twenty-three taking it through the Mediterranean, across the Indian Ocean ending up on the Burmese coast searching for Japanese units at night and hiding by day.

After leaving the Navy he completed his law degree and was called to the Bar at twenty-eight. However, he fell in love with New York and spent the rest of his life successfully working there. He never married but was very close to his sister's family.



Elliot Variants

Some scholars have tended to translate Alight or Alyght from Latin documents into Alyth, which is totally unjustifiable.

No one variant has more credibility than any other, and in all three either y or gh stands for the abandoned old English 'yogh' representing the sound of *io*, a semi-vowel.

A similar problem occurred with

The Latest findings from our Clan Historian, Keith Elliot Hunter

the name Mesnieres which became Mingues then Menzies (*Ed. Which explains the modern pronunciation of the name "Mingis"*).

Another revision is that relating to the obvious retention or recovery of The Brae by the Elliots, since it was from there that they were transplanted in 1320.

This is consistent with what we are bound to assume in relation to

the reasons for Bruce's obvious handpicking of the clan for his strategic emergency on the Border and Liddesdale in particular in 1320.

The Elliots would have been his shock troops.

Further reading of our historian's research into the origins of our clan can be found on the website elliotclan.com

The Very Model of a Modern Mansion House



The Elliots of Benrig House possessed every Victorian device to support a comfortable lifestyle including their own personal gasworks and an icehouse. It was the underground chambers and a network of pipes below the big house that was particularly innovative.

A team of donkeys walked in circles providing power to pump pure water upwards from the Crystal Spring into the house. Of course eventually this complicated system of hydraulic ram, shafts and gears was rendered obsolete by the technological advances of a mechanized pump and this fine example of Victorian construction was overgrown with vegetation.

The Tweed Rivers Heritage Project has rescued the well and the vaulted chamber as part of their £9 million project and it was unveiled by the Duke of Sutherland from nearby Mertoun House.

William Brownrigg Elliot of Benrig 1820-1900 was a grandson of the 1st Earl of Minto. Married to Mary McCartie they had two sons who died unmarried.

Russell Eliott & Pitcairn Island



In 1838 Captain Russell Eliott visited Pitcairn aboard HMS Fly. This visit proved most important for the island as he was responsible for drawing up a Constitution. Life for the Local inhabitants was transformed especially by compulsory education and universal suffrage (possibly the first territory to do so).

The following is from Captain Eliott's report to Rear Admiral Ross (Commanding the Pacific fleet) who, on receiving this report, wrote to Charles Wood, the Admiralty Secretary, complimenting Capt. Eliott for the 'judicious and masterly way his orders had been carried out into execution and the report is explanatory in every particular.'

With thanks to Graham Ford, Vice President of The Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands Society. National Archives (Kew) ref ADM 1/53 Qa72.

"After a long passage I arrived at Pitcairn Island on the 29th November where I found this interesting community preserving their deservedly high character for exemplary morality, innocence and integrity, but they very earnestly represented to me the immediate necessity for their being some chief or head to their increasing community, amounting now to 99 souls, for their internal regulation and government, but more especially to meet the difficulties and dangers which they had already experienced and been again threatened with by lawless strangers in Whale Ships, there having been cases of recent occurrence, where half the ruffian crew of a Whale Ship were on shore for a fortnight, during which they offered every insult to the inhabitants and threatened to violate any woman whose protectors they could overcome by force, occasioning the necessary concentration of the men's strength for the personal protection of the females, and thereby great damage to their crops, which demanded their constant attention, taunting them that they had no laws, no country, no authority that they were to respect. American vessels denying they were under the protection of Great Britain, as they had neither colors, or written authority. I found them however with a Merchant Union Jack flying, procured from an English Ship.

Apprehending that my duty required some decisive step in this unlooked for contingency I considered I should best afford protection to these people, and best involve my Government of whose intentions in respect to the Pitcairn Islanders I am ignorant, by conferring the stamp of Authority on their election of a Magistrate or Elder to be periodically chosen from amongst themselves, and answerable for his proceedings to Her Majesty's Government for whose information he is to keep a Journal. I accordingly drew out a few hasty regulations to be observed under my Authority in the election of this Officer marked No.6 which with a formal attestation of his being sworn in before me, and an Union Jack which I supplied them with, will I trust insure them against any renewed insults from Foreigners. By their unanimous voice, they selected for the situation Edward Quintal a most able and superior senior of their number.

I trust, Sir, you will consider my assumption of the power to confer this Authority was warranted by the urgency of circumstances and the difficulty of reference, and that you will be able to approve of the view I have taken of my duty; delaying only one day at Pitcairn I hastened to Cobija (Bolivia) where I only arrived after a very protracted passage from Easterly winds and calms, on the 10th January. Having reason to believe you were at Callao, and considering circumstances rendered it important that I should join your Flag, I accordingly proceeded for this anchorage calling on my way at Arica (Chile) and Islay (Peru).

In conclusion, I have the satisfaction to be able to report the uninterrupted good health, and good conduct of the Crew during the long cruise of 174 days, in which, from leaving the coast to our return to Cobija, we traversed 17,402¾ miles of Ocean, were 150 days actually under weigh and 158 on Salt Provision."

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your very obedient servant, (signed) R. Eliott, Commander.

SIR ARTHUR ELIOTT MEMORIAL TRUST 2015

This small Trust operates within the Parish of Newcastleton which includes upper Hermitage and the upper Liddel Valley. Applications are invited to be in by the end of July so that applicants know their plans for the next year. It was established in 1991 in memory of the late Sir Arthur Elliott, Chief of Clan Elliot who lived at Redheugh, Newcastleton.

The purposes of the Trust are to benefit the inhabitants of Liddesdale; to advance education, provide facilities in the interests of social welfare and to improve quality of life within the community of the Parish of Newcastleton and the Liddesdale area. The intention is to provide annual grants to enable successful candidates to carry out individual ambitions or community projects that lie within the 'purposes' defined above.

Carolyn Edge

Music group for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers

Tegan Ewart

A levels Carlisle College

Iain Rennie

Engineering Level 3, Carlisle

Teigan Adams, Level 2,

Child Care at Carlisle College

Sara Yahia Mohammed

Biomedical Science (Anatomy)
Aberdeen

Daniel Yahia Mohammed

Degree in History & Politics,
Edinburgh University

Daniel Nixon, Politics & Public
Policy at Glasgow University

Tilly Skelton, 3rd year of BA
Midwifery degree at Aberdeen

Finlay Skelton, History degree at
Edinburgh or Stirling University

Total £1175

John Rome Elliot 1928-2015



Jock was a Founder Member of the Clan Society and served on the Executive Committee for many, many years. Some of our members got to know and love Jean and Jock. They were popular and involved members of the community and the Elliot Clan Society is lucky that two of their children took his place on the Committee when he retired four years ago. Jock (Jr) is an accomplished stone dyker and demonstrates his skill at our Gatherings and Isabel owns the "Shop on the Corner" in Newcastleton.

It was not a surprise that Liddesdale Parish Church was overflowing at his funeral on 28th May and his coffin was carried to the cemetery by his beloved tractor and trailer.

Born above the butcher's shop in 1928 son of Walter and Belle he had no interest in the butchers business but his interest in farming was kindled by his grandfather John Rome of the Birnie. He left school at 14 and went to work at Greenholm Farm – next door to Redheugh – and then Toftholm until his marriage to Jean in 1957.

He went into partnership with his brother, Wattie at D'Mainholm Farm and seven years later added Gillside. They had four children, Isabel, Maureen, Anne and John (Jock) who were all roped into seasonal jobs around the farm as soon as they were able. Lambing, clipping, baling, feeding hens and mucking out but, on the plus side, there were ponies and pets.

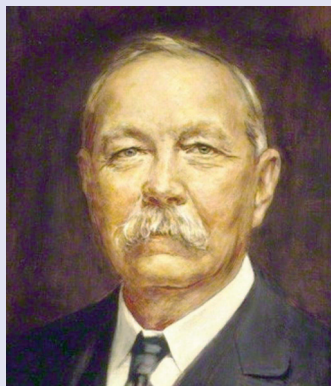
The following extract from his diary gives us a keen sense of his priorities!

"January 1962" Good day. Took Jean to Carlisle this morning, had another girl about 1 o'clock. Threshing here, didn't get on very well but the corn was very good. Down seeing Jean looking very well. Got a bump in the van as I was leaving. Reported it to the police. Calf died tonight that was calved yesterday. Put Humpy (the cow) out, as she was getting down in the shed.

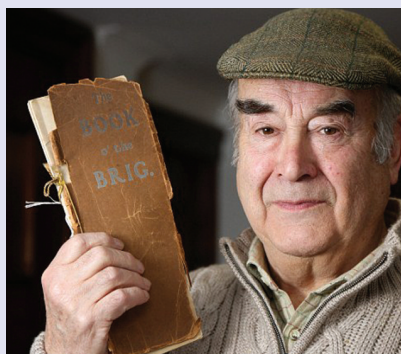
After 38 years in D'Mainholm Jock and Jean retired to Northfield with the tractor, forty sheep, the saw bench, Kit the cat and Bess the collie.



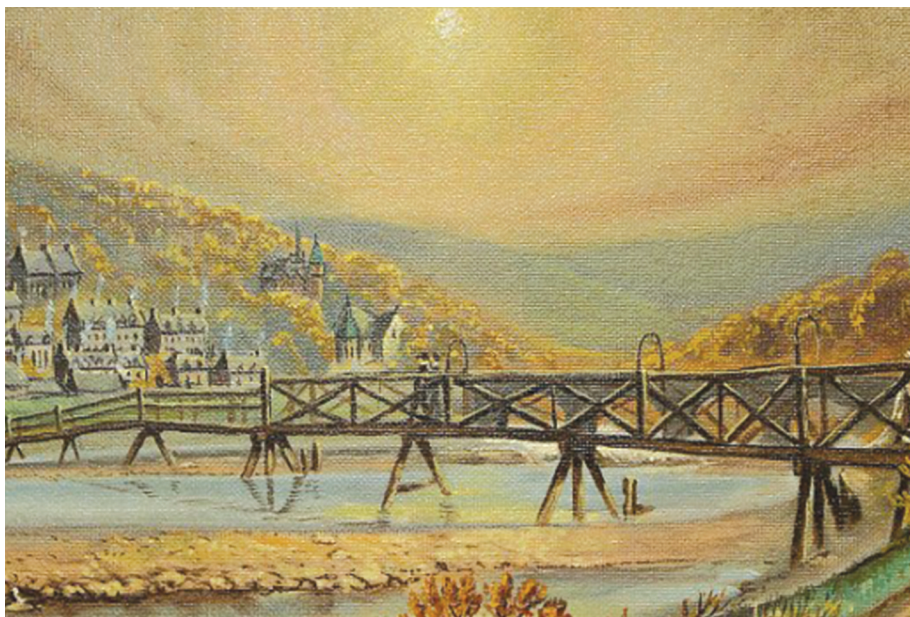
*Pictured right:
This painting shows
Bannerfield's Bridge,
before it was washed away
by a great flood in 1902.*



*Pictured above: Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle, and below:
Walter Elliot with
The Book of The Brig.*



CONAN DOYLE'S SELKIRK STORY



Walter Elliot has donated a long forgotten Sherlock Holmes story to raise money for the replacement to Selkirk's Iron Brig. The history of this story began when a great flood washed away the Wood Brig crossing the Ettrick in 1902. To raise money to build a new bridge the town organized a three-day bazaar in December 1903 and sold a 48-page booklet of contributed stories entitled "The Book of the Brig".

Conan Doyle came to Selkirk to open the festival's last day and at the same time an anonymously authored short story entitled "Sherlock Holmes: Discovering the Border Burghs and, by deduction, the Brig Bazaar" and featuring Holmes and Dr. Watson, appeared in the booklet.

A Madras Scandal

*On January 22, 1838,
Isabella Napier, wife of
Colonel Johnstone Napier
of the East India Company,
left her home near
St. George's Cathedral
in Madras.*

With her youngest daughter and an ayah she got into a coach and instructed the coachman to drive to the Adyar residence of EDWARD FRANCIS ELLIOT, chief magistrate and superintendent of police in Madras. He was the son of The Rt. Hon. Hugh Elliot and Margaret Jones.

It was the culmination of a whirlwind romance and Mrs Napier chose to abandon the marriage of 17 years and three older children for her lover. Thereafter, Mrs. Napier and Mr. Elliot lived together much to the consternation of Colonel Napier and no doubt, to the absolute delight of everybody else in Madras.

After a brief trial Elliot was ordered to pay Rs. 25,000 as damages to Napier and the divorce was pronounced on April 5th 1838.

The Act of Parliament was pronounced on November 30th 1838. Napier was free to marry again but Isabella was forbidden from marrying Elliot. However with the help of powerful friends and relations the ban on matrimony was lifted and on August 7, 1839, Isabella and Edward were married. The marriage was a success with two more children. He died in 1866.

MAKING HISTORY

Two pilots have made history by becoming the first father and daughter flight crew. Senior First Officer LAURA ELLIOTT and her father, Captain PETER ELLIOTT, flew together for the first time from Birmingham to Tenerife. The pair work for Thomas Cook and hope to make the arrangement a regular event.



We welcome the following new members to the Society

UNITED KINGDOM

E486 Elliott, Mr. Beverley, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 0EW
W9 Oliver, Mrs. Margaret Jean, Cross Hands, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA14 6LR

CANADA

C1118 Elliott, Jones C.A., Ottawa ON K2E 5J6
C1119 Elliott, Andrew S.R. Ottawa ON K2E 5J6

UNITED STATES

US3745 Elliott, Michael, Cameron TX 76520
US3746 Quigley, Nancy A., Delmar IA 52037
US3747 Cheers, Timothy D., Norwalk IA 50211
US3748 Howard, Robert, Kingwood TX 77339
US3749 Slone, Nannette Shoemaker, Orlando FL 32836
US3750 Elliott, Andrea & Dylan, Orlando FL 32829
US3751 Elliott, Michael H., Ridgefield CT 06877
US3752 Elliott, Marine, Summerfield FL 34491
US3753 Smith, Sharon W., Oak Ridge NC 27310
US3754 Elliott, Joseph, Port Orange FL 32129
US3755 Crews, Katherine Elliott, Port Orange FL 32127
US3756 English, Tamara, Orlando FL 32828
US3757 Owens, Rachel, Daytona Beach FL32118

US3758 Chavis, Wenonah, Clearwater FL 33765
US3759 Baker, Freda Elliott, Viera FL 32940
US3760 Bowen, Vera Elliott, Fayston VT 05673
US3761 Elliott, Scott Wayne, Neenah, WI 54956
US3762 Elliott, Peggy & Charles E. Staudt, San Antonio TX 78254
US3763 Brezinski, Linda J., Rochester MA 02770
US3764 Elliott, Robert W., Southborough MA 01772
US3765 Elliott, Kevin & Clara, San Jose, CA 95128
US3766 Elliott, John T., Gilman IL 60938
US3767 Elliott John J., Hillsboro OR 97123
US3768 English, Patricia Rush, Richardson TX 75080
US3769 Elliott, Lester F. Jr., Bluffton SC 29909
US3770 Elliott, John Pascal, Tallahassee, FL 32312
US3771 Hill, Mary Frances Elliott, Sebastian FL 32958
US3772 Thurman, Dana Elliott, Kansas City MO 64139
US3773 Martinez, Gary, Corona, CA 92880
US3787 Stauffer, Barbara Minto, Spartanburg, SC 29301
US3788 Tafoya & Elliott, Rickki & Luke, Vallejo CA 94591
US3789 McGrew, Diana Lee Elliott, Baker LA 70714
US3790 Elliott, Richard G. Jr., Key Largo FL 33037
US3791 Elliott, Susan Lee, Dandridge TN 37725
US3792 Elliott, Myrna Sue, Waynesville OH 45068

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