



ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 77 – Autumn 2016

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,

With this newsletter you will find the Programme outline and ticket application form for the International Elliot Gathering 2017. There is a slightly new format in that we are co-producing a Scocha concert with the Holm Show on the Newcastleton showground to kick off the Gathering weekend. Tickets are not only for Clan members but for the general public so get your request in early. Scocha are an extremely popular Hawick rock 'n folk band and sell out at every concert. One of their first performances (when there was only two of them!) was at the Elliot Gathering twelve years ago and they have gone from strength to strength since then.

There is an exciting new development from the Edinburgh Tattoo which is themed next year as a "Splash of Tartan," a part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. They are planning to feature the Elliots and Agnews on the same evening, Wednesday 23rd August 2017 which fits in very nicely with our Gathering.

Kirkandrews on Esk is an outstandingly situated little church which is holding their annual Friends event especially to coincide with our Gathering, so please plan to go to this if you can. I am hoping there may be a Ceilidh in the village planned for later on that Saturday evening so gear yourselves up for a busy weekend.

Anything to do with the Gathering please contact us using the elliotgathering@btinternet.com email address and we will try to help.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

The Sir Arthur Eliott Memorial Trust 2016

This year's grants were given to: Mhairi Herd, 3rd year BSC Adult Nursing, Napier University; Callon Neil Herd, BSc Hons Product Design at Napier University; Emma McNeill, Criminology at Napier University; Michael Peden, MSc Automotive Engineering, The University of Bath; Sara Yahia Mohammed, BA Medicine and BA Surgery, University of Aberdeen; Daniel Yahia Mohammed, History & Politics Edinburgh University; Finlay Skelton, History Edinburgh University; Iain Rennie, Btec Extended Diploma in Engineering; Daniel Robert Nixon, Politics, University of Glasgow.

TOTAL £1,325

The Newcastleton Common Riding donated £250 generously to the Memorial Trust this year. Our yearly awards are given out of annual income which does need an injection from time to time to keep up with inflation. We are a registered charity No. SCO 17755.

NOTICES AND NEWS ITEMS

An Infamous Mistress by Joanne Major & Sarah Murden published by Pen & Sword. A mistress of George IV, career courtesan GRACE DALRYMPLE ELLIOT led a fascinating life. This major new biography explores the life, loves and family of the celebrated personality who ended up as a prisoner of war during the French Revolution. Set for the first time in the context of Grace's wider family, this is a compelling tale of scandal and intrigue. Her portrait by Gainsborough hangs in the Frick Gallery NY.

Borders Journeys: Where do you come from? What stories lie in your family history? Have you ever wondered? Maybe you have hit a dead end in your research or just don't know where to start. Borders Journeys can help you unlock your Scottish ancestral heritage. www.bordersjourneys.co.uk
ancestry@bordersjourneys.co.uk
Tel: 0131 4507151 or 07794 021819. Borders Journeys is registered with Visit Scotland Ancestral Welcome Scheme and Ian is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

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

THE RESEARCHER'S STORY . . .

I first became interested in the history of the Elliots during my teens, following visits to Liddesdale and Hermitage Castle, and to my grandmother Catherine, nee Elliot's cousin at the Toftholm and Gorrenberry farms.

Many years later a chance remark by a distinguished French acquaintance of Breton origin sparked an active interest into soe serious historical research, since graduating as a mature student of Modern History from University College London in 1971.

He had insisted that the name Elliot was Breton, just as any trawl through Breton telephone directories would have long since suggested, but thanks to Y-chromosome research and the digital revolution is it now easier to confirm the Celtic-Brythonic origin of the name and its many variants. These appear in databases culled from French etats-civils. Some of the Anglo-Breton variant names which have dogged past research in to Elliot history, principally those of Alliot, Allot Elliot Eligott, Ellacott and Elicott, also originated in Brittany. Doubts about the ethnic origin of the Elliots, English and Scottish, had until that stage arisen from a long-standing, unsupported assumption that the Eliots of St. Germans in Cornwall were of Norman origin. As for their Scottish cousins, attempts to trace their origins were made almost impossible by destruction of the family records by fire at Stobs Castle in 1712. The unsubstantiated assumption that the St. Germans Eliots were Normans and that the Scottish Elliots were not did not help. The other misguided view (promoted by a well known rhyme) that an Eliot with one L and one T could not be an Elliot, Elliott or Elliott, despite the fact that the old parochial St. Germans spelling of the name was Ellyot, and that Eliot was a Peebles parochial spelling.

The existence of two Eliot earls, one of St. Germans and the other of Minto, failed to shake this belief, notwithstanding the work of the mid-19th century American genealogist, William Harvey Elliot, whose Genealogy of the Elliots, published in the USA, appears to have escaped twentieth century attention.

Following discussions with Margaret Elliott of Redheugh, I agreed to undertake further research, despite a lack of direct access to a university library and various archives. This did not, however, affect my aim to find sufficient evidence to establish the history of the Elliots before their arrival in Liddesdale during the early fourteenth century. The list of sources, primary and secondary, on which I have relied is not therefore a long one, but together they meet the test of providing a sufficiency of proof. Acquisition of the works of leading scholars relating to the period under review, Geoffrey Barrow, Richard Oram, Michael Penman and Michael Brown and others, including Michael Jones and Katharine Keats-Rohan relating the post-Conquest settlement of Bretons, was essential, as was information provided by the Breton historian, Professor Louis Elegoet (from whose surname the English Eligott was almost certainly derived) regarding the toponymic origins of the old Breton name Halegouet with its several French-corrupted variants, including Helliet, Alliot and Elliot. Access to certain database, such as those of the People of Medieval Scotland and The Soldier of Later Medieval England, based on Hundred Years' War muster rolls, was crucial, but incontrovertible evidence has now emerged from Y-Chromosome research and surviving maps. The results of the Elliot DNA project (2005 to 2015-Appendix C) involving samples from nearly three hundred male Elliots (Eliotts, Elliotts and Eliots) has revealed the predominant Elliot DNA haplotype to be

Celtic-Brythonic. Its salience and endurance indicates the maintenance of an extraordinarily tight kinship, and the strength and vigour of Elliot lineages, possibly equaling that of any other so-called 'clan'. Several thousand Elliots today, in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand share a common Breton ancestor. The geographic distribution of the name revealed in fifteenth century muster rolls, suggests that numerous Breton Elliot mercenaries settled in various English locations along with their families, during the period immediately following the Conquest in 1066.

Keith Elliot Hunter's scholarly work on the Origins of the Elliots is available to read on the elliotclan.com website.

To put it in some sort of context we print the old tradition according to Capt. Scott of Satchells b.1613 whose account of local families was published in 1688 which is mentioned at the beginning of the work.

The town of Elliot was their Antiquitie

Which stands in Angus at the foot of Glenshie

With brave King Robert Bruce they hither came

Which is three hundred and eighty years ago;

In west Teviotdale* these gentlemen did dwell

They were twelve great families, I heard my goodsir* tell:

Their chief was then a Baron of renown

Designed Reid-heugh, which is now called Larriston*

*west Teviotdale = Liddesdale

*goodsir = grandfather

*Larriston = at the time the Elliot chiefs were based at Larriston.

CHARLES ELLIOTT was a descendant of the 6th son of Gilbert of Stobs "Gibbie wi' the golden gartins'.

At the age of eighteen he went to London and trained as a cabinet-maker. He quickly showed an aptitude for business in 1774 becoming a partner in Davis & Elliott of 97 New Bond Street.

Charles prospered in his trade, making furniture for the Royal Family and becoming one of the most noted cabinet-makers of the period.

After being widowed when his wife Sarah Ann Sherman died in 1784 he married secondly Eling Venn. He had three sons and two daughters with his first wife.

Comparative literature:

N. Barton, 'Rise of a Royal Furniture Maker',
Country Life, 10 Feb 1966, p.293.

G.C. Williamson, *John Russell R.A., London, 1894, pp.44 and 142, No. 3.*

Charles Elliott and Eling Venn



A Pair of Pastel Portraits of Charles Elliott (1752–1826) of New Bond Street, London; and his wife, Eling Venn by John Russell (Guildford 1745–1806 Hull). Pastel on oval canvas, in matching gold-coloured frames. The second signed and dated 1789, in pencil, centre right: J Russell R A. pt/1789. Dimensions: The first 60 by 44 cm (23.5 x 17 inches); the second 59 cm x 44 cm (23 x 17 inches). John Russell is renowned for his portraits in oil and especially



pastel; in 1790 he was appointed official Painter-in-Crayon (i.e. pastel) to King George III and the Royal family. As a result, his pastel portraits were highly sought after and his works were considered on a par with those of Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792). The sitters here are Charles Charles Elliott and his wife, Eling Venn. Elliott was an English cabinet-maker and importer by Royal appointment, who arranged the funeral carriage for Admiral Lord Nelson after the victorious Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Emily Current and Meritt Elliott

The two met while studying at UCLA in the late '90s and launched their own styling business not long after graduating. To this day, they balance styling celebrities like Emma Roberts, Jessica Alba and Sarah Silverman with designing, but they're no longer involved with Current/Elliott. They left in 2012, reportedly over disagreements with the brand's owner, Serge Azria. For spring 2015, Current and Elliott launched The Great, a multi-category contemporary line that they feel is a fuller expression of their "whimsical Americana" aesthetic.

Emily Current, left,
and Meritt Elliott, right.



LIDDESDALE

If any one place in the history of Scotland can be singled out as a special arena of war, perhaps the valley of the Liddel and its surrounding hills merits this bloody distinction.



The remote hills of Liddesdale in the Borderlands.

– An Arena of Ancient Warfare

Certainly it was the habitat of the hawk, not the dove. For the Lid ('the gushing stream') or the watershed at its source were the boundaries of nations and tribes from time immemorial. Whether under the dominion of Roman, Briton, Norseman or Scot, Liddesdale

and appear to have established a main defensive line along the forward edge of the hills above Liddesdale and in a great arc overlooking the upper reaches of the Tweed valley. The size and extent of the Catrail* or "warfence", together with the system of hill forts behind it, suggest that what had once been simply a major tribal boundary (dated c.100BC by Dr. Ian M. Smith, Ancient Monuments Commission) may have been converted at this period into a military barrier by the Britons in a determined effort to contain the Angle invaders – perhaps following the death of the great British hero, Arthur, in AD 539. It is significant that a great battle was finally fought between the Celts of Strathclyde and the Angles of Northumbria near the Catrail in AD603 at Dagistan, the ancient name of the Dawston burn, a tributary of the Liddel. By 616, following their victory, the Angles had driven a wedge between these northern British and their comrades in Wales and Liddesdale soon became part of their Northumbrian kingdom.

In the 9th century the Norsemen approaching from the Solway, evidently made this same high ground the limit of their settlement and established here their frontier with Northumbria. Certainly the place-names of Liddesdale and Eskdale are often of Norse origin while those of Teviotdale and Tweeddale are mainly Anglo-Saxon. Indeed the positive evidence of Norse landowning which is to be found in charters relating to Dumfriesshire, is notably lacking in eastern Roxburghshire. Thus in the western valleys, the Norman barons, like de Brus (Bruce) and de Soulis, were granted lands in Annandale and Liddesdale in the reign of David 1 (1124-1153).

**Cat = battle or conflict, Rhail = fence. This vast ditch about 26 feet wide with a rampart on each side 10 feet high, extended for 45 miles connecting important hill forts.*

remained always an uneasy restless frontier region poised between constantly warring races.

In Roman times, this country was inhabited by a large tribe called the Selgovae who – with the Novantes in Galloway – the Romans failed either to gain as allies or to subdue as vassals. In 117AD serious trouble erupted, leading to heavy casualties among the legions. Little is known of this disaster but Professor I. A. Richmond suggests that it was in this area of south western Scotland that the Ninth Legion suffered its ignominious defeat, following which the entire Legion was cashiered and all mention of their name removed from the army lists. These events and the difficulty of policing the region led to the building of the great wall between Newcastle and Carlisle, begun under Hadrian in 122AD. Even then the Romans found it expedient to establish a large outpost housing a cohort, one thousand strong and partly mounted at Bewcastle only ten miles south of the Liddel.

After the departure of the Roman garrisons, the British tribes were assailed from the east by the Angles

SIR GEORGE ELLIOT

*1st Baronet. 1815-1893.
Eldest son of Ralph Elliot,
a coal miner and Elizabeth,
daughter of Henry Braithwaite
of Newcastle upon Tyne.*



He began his working life as a pit lad using a quarter of his wages to fund evening classes and went on to become extremely successful and widely known in his later years as a colliery owner.

He married in 1836 Margaret Green of Rainton, Durham and they had two sons and four daughters.

He entered up his career as colliery owner in 1840 when Messrs. Backhouse and Mounsey purchased, on his advice, the Washington Colliery, near Durham – Mr. Elliot taking equal shares with them. In 1851 he resigned his appointment as chief viewer of Monkwearmouth Colliery, and became mining engineer to the late Marquis of Londonderry.

In addition to his colliery undertakings, he established, in conjunction with Sir Richard Glass, important works for the manufacture of wire-rope.

In 1864 the firm of Glass & Elliot was amalgamated with another and

formed into the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company who manufactured the second Atlantic cable much thicker and more costly than the former one.

The firm afterwards became Elliot & Co. of Westminster, Cardiff and Durham, wire-rope makers.

Sir George Elliot was a member of the Royal Commissions on Coal Supply and on Accidents in Mines, and in 1874, in recognition of his public services, he was created a Baronet.

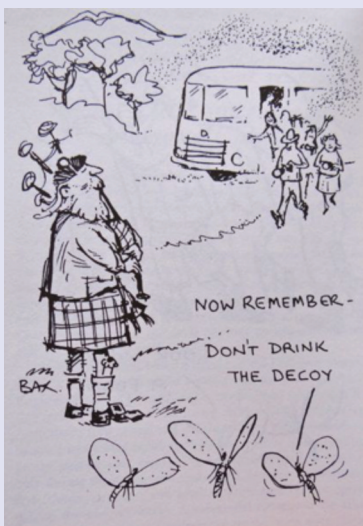
He was elected a member of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1877.

He was also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

His eldest son Ralph died aged 35 at the Cape of Good Hope and his second son, George William Elliot, then MP for Richmond Yorkshire, succeeded to the baronetcy.

THE YARRAE MIDGES

*From
'A Song for Yarrow'
by Walter Elliot*



The midges in Yarrae ae as big as a sparrae

*An when it is put tae the test,
Some that Ah knew could bit their
wey thru
Anorak, jersey and vest.*

*In Yarrae, ye know, a lang time ago
Elephants roamed day and night
Till the midges came in and then
did begin
Tae swalle them up in yin bite.*

*The midges Ah've seen hae wee
beady een*

*Big teeth an huge flappin lugs
Yin that Ah saw, fought a close
draw*

Wi yin o Jim Mitchell's best dugs.

*Walkers that stray on the South
Upland Way*

*If the're lucky, the're bitten bie a
cleg**

*But if they're the sorts that gaun
roon in shorts*

Maistly they're wanten a leg.

*An in the trough o St. Mary's Loch
If the heid o a monster dis loom
Dinnae make a mess bie phone
Loch Ness*

It's a Yarrae midge oot for a soom.

A midge: a very small stinging insect that makes up for its size by flying swarms of millions. They favour warm summer evenings in the Borders.

*A cleg – A Scottish horsefly.

Visitors to the Clan Room — September 2015 to September 2016

Jim and Lynn Elliott, Vista CA. USA
 Kathie Elliott McWhirter, Mt. Pleasant USA
 John and Janet Elliott, Gilman Florida, USA
 Lynn Harrington, Colorado Springs USA
 Anthony and Sandra Elliott, Wombwell, Barnsley UK
 Trevor Elliott, Lelant, UK
 Julia Elliott, Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada
 Katie and Stan Livingston, St. Martins, Perthshire UK
 Terry Elliott, Chesterfield UK
 Elliot and Sayuri Walker, Carlisle UK
 Ryan J. Elliott, Fishers, Indiana USA

Leanne Perks, Mermaid Beach, QLD, Australia
 Julia and Justine Tregloan, Mesa, Arizona, USA
 Line Boutin, St. Etienne, Quebec Canada
 Oscar, Colin and Lucy Elliott and Tracy Woodburn, Colinton, AB, Canada
 Carrie Elliott, Kevin Brewer, Ottawa ON, Canada
 Hilary and Allan Elliott, Ottawa, ON, Canada
 Alexandra Ergas, Emily Westwick and Maureen Elliott, North Vancouver
 Carol and Jim Budds, Charleston SC, USA

Ruthie Epting, Phill Duggins, Charlotte, NC, USA
 Lorraine and Bernard Elliott, North Vancouver, BC Canada
 Alexandra Ergas, Emily Westwick and Maureen Elliott, North Vancouver
 Sandy Elliott, West Vancouver, Canada
 Ben and Mary Ellen Kemker, Bartlette, Tennessee, USA
 Steve and Vicki Sanders, Tennessee USA
 Clive Baugh, Swanley Kent UK
 Simon James Elliott, Vermont USA
 Wilson Elder Athens Georgia USA
 Ridley Elliott, Parmeston N. New Zealand

We welcome the following new members to the Society

UNITED KINGDOM

S161 Thornton, Norman R.B. Edinburgh
 S160 Livingston, Katie M., St. Martins Perth
 W9 Oliver, Cross Hands, Llanelli

CANADA

C1125 Boutin, Line, St. Etienne QC
 C1126 Elliott, Dave, Jean, Harrison & Lindsay, Wallaceburg ON
 C1127 Elliott, Scott, Diane, Mitchell Kendall, Windsor ON
 C1128 Staffen, Diane William, Cameron, Hamilton ON
 C1129 Hurst, Lisa, Rod, Andrew, Devon, Belle River ON
 C1130 Elliott, Jon & Debra, Sarnia ON
 C1131 Zuwala, Denise, Ted, Elizabeth & Aaron, Brantford ON

NEW ZEALAND

N333 Maureen Lock, Westcourt 4870 Cairns QLD

UNITED STATES

US3838 Swalley, Keith, Surprise AZ
 US3839 Young, Wescott, Reddick FL
 US3840 Elliott, Greg, Jacksonville Beach FL

UNITED STATES

US3841 Nye Norma, Robeson PA
 US3842 Doolin, Kate, Sunrise FL
 US3843 Budds, Garrett James, John's Island SC
 US3844 Budds, Michael Heyward E., Asheville NC
 US3845 Baker, Shawen Elliott, Harpersville AL
 US3846 Elliott, Gary Bruce, San Antonio TX
 US3847 Bokelman, Debbie, Washington KS
 US3848 Elliott, Larry, Anderson CA
 US3849 Elliott, Gary, West Sacramento CA
 US3850 Elliott, Kami, Pittesburgh CA
 US3851 Brown, Olivia, Antelope CA
 US3852 Elliott, Kirk, Aliso Viejo CA
 US3853 O'Meara, Marie Elliott, Galt CA
 US3854 Elliott, Karen Lucile, Oakhurst CA
 US3855 Herin, Susan Olivia Elliott, Mariette GA
 US3856 Tuck, Bonnie, River Oaks TX
 US3857 Elliott, Debra & Norman, Ft. Worth TX
 US3858 Dockery, Marie V. Young Harris, GA
 US3859 Vasquez, Linda, Stockton GA
 US3860 Barney, Dallas, TX
 US3861 Carlson, Julia Gage, Cambridge MA
 US3862 Lewis, Debra, Searsport, ME

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

REMINDER FOR UK MEMBERS: Annual subscriptions due this October 2016: Single Membership £18.00, Family Membership £20.00, Life Membership £150.00 to The Treasurer, Elliot Clan Society, 20 South Liddel Street, Newcastleon TD9 0RP. On line: Please put membership number as reference. Sort Code 80-17-06. A/C 00668159.