

ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 81 – Autumn 2018

“Wha daur meddle wi’ me?”

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,

Christopher and I are now back with some wonderful memories of Grandfather Mountain and the Blue Ridge Mountains (report in this issue).

We had a marvellous time thanks to the North Carolina Commissioner, Sid and Carol and their team who looked after us and arranged all the activities over the weekend.

At home, we have a few changes on the Executive Committee. Sandra Inglis is taking over as Treasurer and Lynn Elliott has joined us on the Committee. Of course, many of you know Hazel White, Treasurer for the last twenty years, and she has been a steady hand on the tiller as well as an extremely good friend. It is a great relief that she has decided to stay on the Committee to keep us all in order!

Redheugh has become a little bigger lately as we have added The Foulshiels Cottage on to the farm. This is a derelict cottage about half a mile up the hill behind the farm and we are planning to restore and equip it this winter as a guest cottage that can be hired for holiday lets. It has the most amazing views, feels extremely remote and will have about 2 double bedrooms.

The area has become very popular for mountain bikers, ramblers and those seeking a bit of peace and quiet!

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

VISITING THE 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

At Last - A New Petrol Station

Newcastleton has a new self service petrol station. The nearest one was 20 miles away over the hill and this has made a terrific difference to our visitors and residents.

Guides to The Scottish Borders

Based in Edinburgh: Ian W Walker for *Borders Journeys*

Mobile: 07794 021819

email: ian@bordersjourneys.co.uk

website: www.bordersjourneys.co.uk

Researching Scottish Ancestry - Ian's Story

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtX55rLzD0

Member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and VisitScotland Ancestral Welcome Scheme.

Based in the Borders: Derek Stewart, historian - weekends only -

email: reiver1514@gmail.com

Author of “Wha Daur Meddle Wi Me”.

Guided at Abbotsford and Bowhill.

Border Reiver re-enactment group.

Correction: Scott of Satchells’

publication of 1688 on the Scotts and the Elliots: The link should read:

archive.org/stream/metricalhistoryo00scot



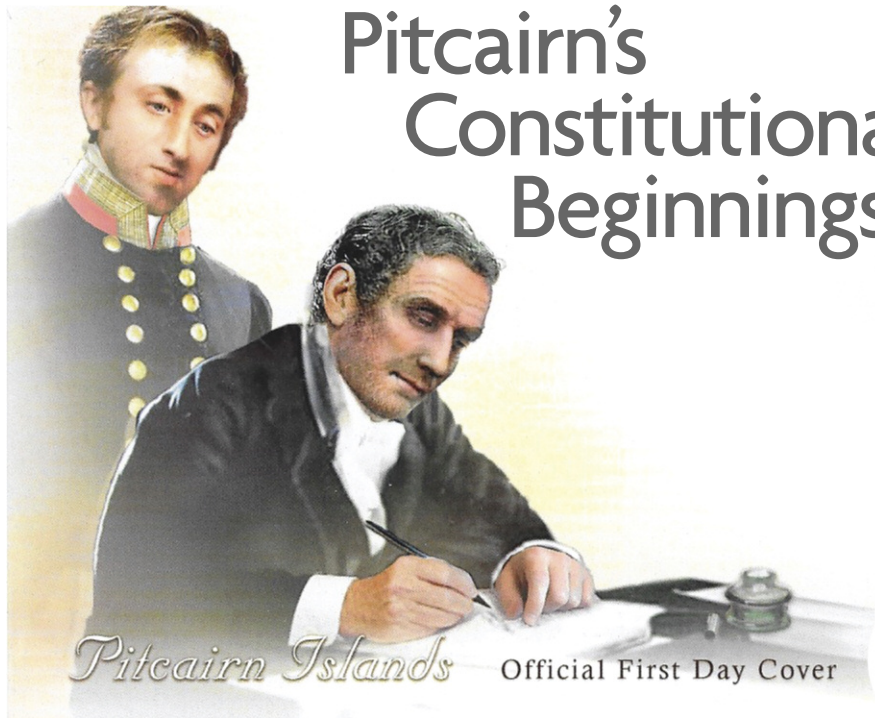
Margaret Elliott at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, 2018.

Miniatures recently
acquired by the Chief



From the top: Admiral
Russell Elliott and his wife,
Bethia Russell. Mary Russell
(a cousin) married
Sir William Elliott, 6th Bt.

Pitcairn's Constitutional Beginnings



The community's experience with the recently departed and an unpopular leader, Joshua Hill, coupled with increasing visits from troublesome American whalers and general community disorder, brought the Islanders to recognize their need for stability and protection.

The visit of the HMS Fly was timely as CAPTAIN RUSSELL ELLIOTT was able to work with

pastor and teacher, George Nobbs to draw up a constitution and a code of laws.

Pitcairn's Constitution signed onboard the HMS Fly on 30 November 1838, incorporated Pitcairn Islands into the British Empire and included two notable firsts in British legislation – female suffrage and compulsory schooling.

Pitcairn Stamps





Margaret Elliott was the honoured guest at Grandfather Mountain 2018, pictured here with banner-bearer, Ben Elliott.

Grandfather Mountain North Carolina - 2018

I was looking forward to this famous annual event. Two years earlier Sid Elliott had arranged that I would be the Honoured Guest and the Elliots the honoured clan. Sid and Carol had done a great deal of preparation and were a lovely host for my first night in the Blue Ridge Mountains. David and Rita were kind enough to collect me from the chaotic airport at Charlotte which appeared to be under reconstruction.

Bill and Marianne ferried seven of us down to Biltmore House the next day in his 'truck' for an expedition to the largest house in America! On a very hot day we joined a thousand other tourists gawping at this extravaganza of architecture with the addition of Chiluly glass sculptures positioned all round the grounds. We got back in time for the Torchlight ceremony where I failed dismally to yell loud enough for the Elliots to hear!!

Christopher had arrived and on Friday we all went to the Games. It was an enormous pleasure seeing so many old friends who had heroically flown in from all parts of the US to be there.

I was sharing the Guest of Honour spot with Andrew MacThomas of Finegand whom I know well. Ben Elliott appeared as my excellent banner bearer, always on hand when needed.

Sid and Carol and their wonderful family had provisioned the two tents and we were never short of lovely things to eat and drink. I was proud that the Elliots were one of

the largest groups marching at the head of the whole column during the Sunday March of the Clans. There was a very well run AGM and I also attended a meeting of COSCA.

Michael Elliott, our Commissioner in Louisiana, who died recently and was a very elegant dresser was commemorated with his wonderful outfits being sold by Christyn, his wife, in aid of the Clan Society. She raised about \$1000.00 and kindly gave me his lovely horn stick.

Our Clan dinner was a triumph with about 54 members attending in a lovely country club. Our wonderful William Grissop sang in his beautiful voice and I repeated my endless appreciation to all those who voluntarily give their time and energy to the Elliot Clan. A testament to the memory of our redoubtable ancestors who were clever enough to emigrate to America and leave this damp little country of Scotland behind.

I have a lovely memento of my time in the Blue Ridge Mountains in a book called "Wayfaring Strangers" The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia with CD as a present from Bill Elliott.

Christopher and I then managed to drive ourselves up to Charlottesville to visit Monticello ending up in Washington DC for a few nights. It was so hot that we disappeared for an entire day into the cool airconditioned National Gallery and had a treat of a time.



Riding the Marches: “Safe Oot, Safe In”

In the 12th century, the Border towns of Langholm, Biggar, Lanark, Musselburgh and Linlithgow began “Riding the Marches.” Young men called burgesses rode out to guard their livestock and warn off marauders. A ‘steward’ led a band of local men around their burgh’s common land to patrol its borders. Each Borders community developed its own independent identity and Borderers are still intensely loyal to their hometown. This Common Riding tradition has become one of Europe’s biggest equestrian spectacles. Thousands of local people and visitors come out to cheer hundreds of riders parading through the town to

their rides in the surrounding countryside.

Every spring a Principal is elected to be the symbolic leader of the year’s Riding and to lead the procession carrying the town’s flag. He is usually a bachelor of good character, native to the town preferably able to ride a horse. It is a great privilege to be selected and will be a proud and memorable day in the life of those chosen.

Our own Newcastleton (Copshaw Holm) has introduced its own version of Common Riding taking place at the beginning of July every year. No horses are required, just bicycles and is a very popular event.

The Origins of Tartan

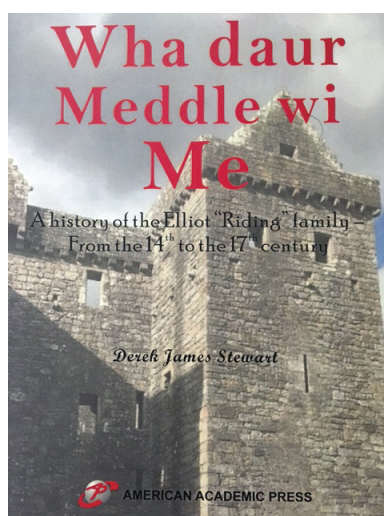
Diodorus Siculus, the Greek historian in 100 BC wrote: “The way they (the Celts) dress is astonishing: they wear brightly coloured and embroidered shirts, with trousers called bracae and cloaks fastened at the shoulder with a brooch, heavy in winter light in summer. These cloaks are striped or checkered in design, with the separate checks close together and in various colours.”

Marcus Terentius Varro, Roman scholar and writer 50BC “... woven of divers colours.”

Titus Livius, Roman historian 30 BC “... flaming coloured dresses.”

Elizabeth Wayland Barber, one of the world’s leading scholars on ancient textiles, was part of a group that thoroughly investigated the clothing found on remarkably well-preserved mummies in Qizilchoqa near the modern Chinese city of Hami on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Those mummies were long-nosed, light haired and round-eyed and were very definitely not Asian in origin, but Celts who were far from their homeland of central Europe.

In her book *The Mummies of Urumchi* she says: “At Qizilchoqa the dominant weave proved to be normal diagonal twill and the chief decoration was plaid – that is, wide and narrow colour stripes in both warp and weft, as in the woolen twill material of a Scottish kilt. Many historians have assumed that the idea of plaids was relatively new to Scotland in the 17th century. Archaeology tells a different story. The Celts have been weaving plaid twills for 3,000 years at least.



Derek James Stewart has written a book full of the forgotten stories of Elliots on the Scottish Border.

by Derek James Stewart

He delves into the history, their lives, hopes, adventures and survival living in a wild region between two hostile nations intermittently at war with each other. The author was born and bred in Hawick and trained as an engineer but found a passion for history. He has a degree in History from the Open University and has worked at Hawick Musum, Bowhill house and Abbotsford. He is secretary of the Living History club the “Border Clansmen” who recreate and reenact the 16th and 17th Century. He has taken part in the last three Elliot Gatherings at Redheugh and is a popular addition to these events.

Available from Amazon.com £49.99.

Madame Celeste Elliott



Born Celeste Celine in Paris around 1810 and enrolled as a pupil of the Paris conservatory. During her visit to the United States Celeste performed in small ballets in theatres on the east coast. In 1828 she married HENRY ELLIOTT of Baltimore with whom she had a daughter, b. 1829. During her life she became a theatrical sensation and box-office star. Writing after her death in 1882 the Gentleman's Magazine noted: *It would be a difficult matter at the present juncture to realize the enthusiasm which Celeste's acting evoked in those early days throughout the New World. No other actress was ever more popularly hailed there, and the memory of none ever remained so long green in the hearts of the American people. Cheered to the echo of the soldiery, affectionately greeted by the populace, and unanimously elected a Free Citizen of the States. In Kentucky not a seat remained untaken for several weeks before her appearance.*

The Elliot Clan Society Executive Committee

The Executive has a new Treasurer in **Sandra Inglis**, daughter of Harry Elliot (who helped Sir Arthur in setting up the Society). She takes over from Hazel White this summer.

Sandra Inglis, was born and brought up in Newcastleton, educated in the Primary School, Hawick High School and then at Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh graduating as a School Teacher in 1969. She married a local boy, Stewart Inglis and had three sons. For twenty-three years she worked in Hawick High School in a variety of posts, retiring in 2014. Widowed in 2010, Sandra is involved in many Newcastleton organisations including the



First Responders, the Heritage Association and The Copshaw Clatter. She is also as a Trustee for the Sir Arthur Elliott Memorial Trust.

We also have a new member of the Executive Committee in **Lynn Elliott**.

After a long and illustrious international career in the cloth business beginning at the age of 14 in West Yorkshire, Lynn came to Langholm in 2000. After a couple of years he was made redundant but

having worked all his life he found it impossible to retire. He realised his dream to own a Hattersley treadle loom and make some of his own cloth. His workshop is at Buccleuch Mill in Langholm and he sells online at www.elliottshed.com His Elliot plaid is a quality product.



We welcome the following new members to the Society

CANADA

- C1135 Hirst, Susan & Paul, Toronto ON
C1145 Elliot, Andrew & Lauri, Stoney Creek, ON.

UNITED STATES

- US3959 Elliott, Sharon, Mount Vernon WA
US3960 Elliott, Laura, Eagle River Alaska
US3961 Carl, Lisa, Jacksonville Beach, FL
US3962 King, Darlene, Jacksonville FL
US3963 Elliott, Nancy, Carmichael CA
US3964 Workman, Jamie, Huntersville NC
US3965 Elliott, Scott, Modesto CA
US3966 Baker, Susan Lynn, Ridgefield CT
US3967 Elliott, Dominic, Folsom CA
US3968 Elliott, Kimberley, Bridgton ME

UNITED STATES

- US3969 Shurtz, Danny, Lafayette CA
US3970 Harrison, Charles S. St. Joseph MO
US3971 Elliott-Stanford, Kimberly, Fountain Valley CA
US3972 Bauder, William Russell, Freeland MI
US3973 Wagner, Barbara, Palmer, Alaska
US3974 Spivey, Judith Elliott, Whitefish MT
US3975 Lovasik, Terry Acerto, Martinez CA
US3976 Collins, Mercere, Newland NC
US3977 Johnston, Jessica Elliott, Athens GA
US3978 Elliott, James, Huntersville NC
US3979 Elliott, Carlyn, Hendersonville NC
US3980 Battles, James B. Plano TX

AUSTRALIA

- OC/387 Elliot, Carole, Coolangalla QL

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

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

The Sir Arthur Elliott Memorial Trust 2018

Grants for this year were awarded to:

Lewis George Dalglish - B.SC Geography at Edinburgh University.

Finlay Skelton - History at Edinburgh University.

Daniel Nixon - Politics & Social and Public Policy at Glasgow University.

Rachel Nixon - Physics at St. Andrews University.

Emma McNeill - Criminology at Napier University, Edinburgh.

Callon Herd - B. Des (Hons) Product Design at Napier.

Sara Yahia Mohammed - Medicine at Aberdeen University.

TOTAL £1000

An Appeal to all our Clan members worldwide . . .

All of the above students have been born and educated in Newcastleton and the Borders and it is obvious that they are pursuing a wide range of interests and talents. The Memorial Trust has had more applications than we can handle and we are able to help only a few each year. Although these grants are taken from the income of the Trust, the value of money pays for less each year and our income does not increase. We need more money to be more effective. Sir Arthur Elliott loved this valley, the centre of the old Elliot clan lands and wanted to see this community thrive and develop. This is the reason this Trust was set up in 1972 and since then about 200 young people and local organisations have benefited from the annual grants. The Clan members were an important part of the creation of this Trust It has charitable status. SCO17755 registered to this address. Margaret Elliott has undertaken to match any donations received.