



# ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY Newsletter

No. 72 – Spring 2014

Redheugh, Newcastleton,  
Roxburghshire TD9 0SB  
[www.elliotclan.com](http://www.elliotclan.com)  
[www.elliotclanusa.com](http://www.elliotclanusa.com)  
[www.elliotclanaustralia.org](http://www.elliotclanaustralia.org)  
[www.visitnewcastleton.com](http://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,

Thank you so much for your kind Christmas cards. Christopher and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

This year is a big year for the Scots who will be making an important decision on the future of Scotland in September. They will be voting in a referendum on whether the Scots want to be separated from the United Kingdom. My views are vehemently against independence but this is my own personal opinion. The history of our clan is bound up with the difficulties of living on the border between two hostile nations and all that that entails. Although I do not foresee the same hostilities occurring; however, to separate this small country from the UK cannot be a sensible move given that we have been together since the 17th Century. We have developed together: socially, intellectually and built an empire together, as well as fighting the same enemies. I will not go on for, as I said before, this is a very personal opinion and I do not expect you all to feel the same.

I am delighted to report that my first cousin, Andrew Jackson, has agreed to become a Trustee of the Society.

His mother, Jean, was my father's sister and grew up with him at Wolfelee. Andrew is married to Virginia and they have four children and live in Dorset. He had a distinguished military career in the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. There is more on his background in this issue.

Another bit of good news is that my daughter, Kate Frances, is getting married this summer to Nic Verbij at Redheugh. Many of you will have met Nic at the last Gathering and we are delighted that they have decided to tie the knot. About three years ago, they completed an epic six month journey on bicycles together travelling from Bangkok to Shanghai via Laos, Vietnam and the Tibetan plateau. You can still see their blog on [Pedaleast.wordpress.com](http://Pedaleast.wordpress.com). They are both now living in Haarlem, The Netherlands.

Christopher and I had a memorable visit to the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta in October. We saw a lot of old friends and the tent display was fabulous. Sylvia was responsible for the organization of the Clan Tent (and of us) for the weekend, the AGM as well as a lovely Elliot dinner. There are some great photographs on the [www.elliotclan.com](http://www.elliotclan.com). This was also Judy Elliott's last job as the President of the US Branch. She has done a remarkable job for the Society over the last five years and I have a great respect for the work she put in and for her. The Clan Society has been fortunate to have her. She hands over to Mike Elliott who has been her Vice President for the last five years and has been working with her on the Clan Constitution sorting out the nuts and bolts of the US Branch.

Yours sincerely,

*Margaret Elliott of Redheugh*

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

**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](mailto:redheugh@btinternet.com)

## NOTICES AND NEWS ITEMS

**Engagement:** The engagement is announced between Kate Frances Elliott, daughter of Margaret Elliott of Redheugh and the late Anthony Vaughan-Arbuckle and Nic Verbij of Haarlem, The Netherlands.

### The Victorian Elliots in Peace and War:

Lord and Lady Minto, their family and household between 1816 and 1901 by John Evans, published by Amberley Publishing ISBN 978 1 4456 0507 4. A part history and part an account of the daily life of a large aristocratic family with homes in Scotland (Minto House) and Eaton Square in London. The story is told principally by the Earl and Countess of Minto, their five sons – a diplomat, MP, soldier, sailor and lawyer – along with the daughters' governess.

\*See aerial photograph of Minto House on page 3.

**Genealogical Database:** John Hodgkinson in Australia is working with Ken Blaiklock and Margaret Laurenson to digitize and coordinate all the genealogical data into one easily accessed programme. This will take time.

**'Clan' by David Elliott** is being turned into a movie.

See website [www.clanthemovie.co.uk](http://www.clanthemovie.co.uk) for some great photographs of Hermitage Castle and Liddesdale under cloud!

### High Quality Clan Crest Sweaters:

V F Designs Ltd. [www.vfdesigns.com](http://www.vfdesigns.com)

**New Bed & Breakfast:** Singdean – Lifestyle Boutique and Luxury Accommodation on the B6357 between Newcastleton and Bonchester Bridge TD9 OSP. Tel: 01450 860622. [www.alppine.co.uk](http://www.alppine.co.uk).

Situated in an old stone barn, you will find our relaxed collection of interior home wares alongside lovely informal European clothing, footwear and accessories for men and women hand-picked from the Alps, Scandinavi as well as beautiful Scotland. Away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, nestling amongst the beautiful wild scenery. Your suite, part of the 700 years old stone barn, has its own front door so that you can come and go at your leisure. With a private outdoor Alpine sauna and hot tub, it is an ideal location for total relaxation, a peaceful and informal getaway.

Researched and written by  
Clan Historian, K E. Hunter.



*King David I and King Malcolm  
"The Maiden" from the initial  
letter of a charter to The Abbey  
of Kelso, 1159.*

# The Breton Story - Part II

The mid-12th century civil war between King Stephen and Henry I's daughter, the Empress Matilda was an opportunistic time for mercenaries engaged in what was mainly siege warfare, but better still was the organisation of Scotland as a feudal military state by the Norman-tutored and French-speaking Kings of the Scots, David I and his grandsons Malcolm IV (the Maiden) and William I (the Lion - 1165-1214).

As for doubts as to links between West Country or Welsh border Eliots and Scotland, further research has soon revealed the award of lands by King David to Somerset and Devon barons, like the Flemish baron, Robert of Bampton, the Berkleys of Castle Cary and the de Braose family who later acquired lands originally in the hands of Judicaël, viscount of the Halebouët. Many men of modest status who prospered during the reigns of David I and his grandsons were originally in the retinues of such migrants.

The history of the Elliot Clan and its formation can only be properly understood within the context of this "Davidian Revolution." Many migrant minor nobles were already vassals of David, who, as Earl of Huntingdon had vast scattered estates in England.

Others were soldiers of fortune, ready to respond to David's urgent need to strengthen an inherently weak monarchy, still confronted with many "no-go" areas in the remote Highland fastnesses. De Brus, a Yorkshire knight, received the vast territory of Annandale, while de Soules got the lordship of Liddesdale. While the lands of old Northumbrian families in the east were left untouched, and their patriarchs sometimes honoured, the vast majority of fiefs were put in the hands of newcomers with continental names.

Not all were Norman. Some were Flemish, like the Murrays and Douglasses, while others were Picard, like the Balliols, who still had lands in Picardy. The time to surrender English lands or quit Scotland was still far off. Several "Britos" have been found in 12th and 13th century charters, like William Brito, a laird or baron who swore fealty to Edward I following the Scots defeat at the Battle of Dunbar in 1296.

King David's project was continued north of the Forth into the still Gaelic lowlands, mainly by his grandson, William the Lion, a man with a love for jousting, often with young Breton, Flemish and Picard knights at his side. Some, like Philip de Valognes, were rewarded with lands to the west of Arbirlot and the royal chamberlainship.

To counter any threats from the north, and from MacBeth pretenders, William built up a large military apparatus, along with some seventy motte and bailey castles, while turning from time to time to mercenaries, especially Flemings, through access to a sophisticated recruitment network run by *locatores*.

Research is continuing into the time, and circumstances in which, the Elliots first got lands in Angus, their presence there and possession of lands can no longer be doubted. This may answer the question as to when and how a unique and exclusive Breton variant toponym was given to a river, Elliot Water.

*Keith is continuing his research, and has so far identified several Scoto-Breton settlers with the name tag "Brito" in recently digitalised primary sources. These will be published in due course, in pdf form via a link to the Society's website.*



# \* MINTO HOUSE FROM THE AIR

16th century tower encased by William Adam house (1738-43), enveloped by Archibald Elliott (1809 -14), altered by 'William Playfair (1837), enlarged with a service wing by Robert Lorimer, who also laid out the stonework terraces to the formal garden (1894-1906). All set in very private and idyllic parkland.

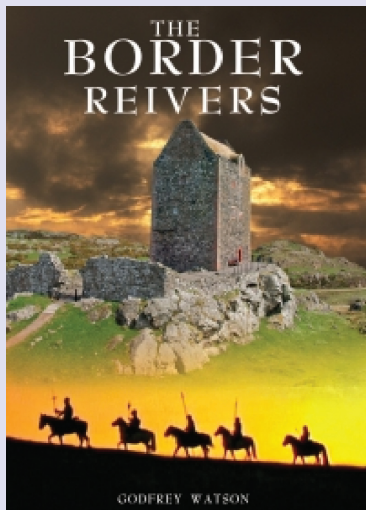
The V-shaped plan of the house was highly distinctive, the elevations disappointingly bland, but the sequence of internal spaces through the point of the V quite stunning. The house was owned, almost continuously over several centuries, by the Elliot family until it was demolished in 1992.





## EDITORS RECOMMENDATION

*The Border Reivers* by Godfrey Watson has been reprinted in paperback form by The Sandhill Press Ltd. Re-issued due to popular demand, this book gives a fascinating insight into sixteenth century Border Life. Against a background of robbery and violence, of hangings and excommunication, of Border Law and Border Ballads, stalk the legendary figures of Wat o' Harden and the Bold Buccleuch, of Johnny Armstrong and Kinmont Willie, of Hobby Noble and Jock o' the Side, and the Warden of the Marshes whose unenviable task it was to try and restrain them.



## PURSE FRAME JUG

Date:  
late 1300s



This fine bronze jug is inscribed 'THOMAS:ELIYOT/+HI RECOMAND ME TO EU/+WYLLEAM:ELIYOT.' One member of the Elyot family probably commissioned it to present to another on a special occasion. It was clearly a prized piece. Its condition shows that it was kept well polished, and when the handle broke an iron band was riveted on to replace it. It may have been made for the Elyots in one of the foundries outside Aldgate - the letters in the inscription are similar to those used on church bells. Thomas and William Elyot have not been identified.

# THE BATTLE OF RATTLIN' ROARIN' WILLIE

By Robert Burns

Robert Burns's contribution to world literature is well known and rightly praised all over the world. His poems have been translated into a variety of languages far removed from the Scottish dialect of his native Ayrshire. In addition to his original verses, however, Burns made another important contribution to Scottish literature and music. He helped save many old Scottish tunes and songs from being lost.

They were being forgotten as the life and old ways of the countryside were changing due to the agricultural and industrial revolutions. As farming became more mechanized, people left their native farms and moved to the towns.

Burns was one of a number of Scots in the late 18th century who realized that a priceless heritage was disappearing and he set out to recover for posterity as many of the old songs as he could. Walter Scott was another who gathered together the old ballads that had been handed down by word of mouth.

Burns version of the old song is about a fiddler who liked a glass of wine and who, no matter how cash-strapped, would never sell his beloved fiddle. However, over the years the song had several versions and a later version collected by Allan Cunningham has a more dramatic story.

*Our Willie's away to Jeddart  
To dance on the rood-day  
A sharp sword by his side  
A fiddle to cheer the way  
The joyous thairms o' his fiddle  
Rob Rule had handled rude,  
And Willie left New Mill Banks  
Red wat wi' Robin's blude.*

*Now may the name of Elliot  
Be cursed frae firth to firth  
He has fettrd the gude right hand  
That keepit the land in mirth:  
And charm'd maids'  
hearts frae dool;  
And sair will they want him Willie,  
When birks are bare at Yule.*

*Our Willie's away to Jeddart –  
May ne'er the saints forbode  
That evr sae merry a fellow  
Should gang sae black a road  
For Stobs and young Falnash  
They followed him up and down  
In the links of Ousenam water  
They found him sleeping soun.*

*The lasses of Ousenam water  
Are rugging and riving their hair  
And a' for the sake of Willie  
They ill hear his sange nae mair  
Nae Mair to his merrie fiddle  
Dance Teviot's maidens free:  
My curses on their cunning  
Wha' gured Sweet Willie dee.*

Allan Cunningham, author of *The Complete Works of Robert Burns*, published in 1840, describes Willie as "a noted ballad-maker and brawler, whose sword-hand was dreaded as much as his bow-hand was admired".

Earlier, Sir Walter Scott set down the details that were known about Willie Henderson. He says that Willie was one of the early Border minstrels and he quarreled with a fellow balladeer named Sweetmilk (aka **William Elliot**). The two chanced to meet at an inn at Newmill, between Hawick and Jedburgh, and resolved to settle their quarrel. They left the inn and crossed the River Teviot to an open field. Willie killed his opponent and fled into the woods surrounding Jedburgh near the Oxnam Water.

In time, Willie grew tired of hiding out in the woods and rashly decided to go to the Jedburgh Rood Fair. He was spotted and trailed back to his hiding place by **Sir Gilbert Eliott of Stobs and young Elliot of Falnash**. He was handed over to the Sheriff for trial, was speedily condemned and executed at Jedburgh.

*Taken from an article in The Highlander Jan/Feb 2014 by Norrie McLeish.*

# Gibraltar Connections!



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

In 1782 Mozart composed an unfinished piece of music about Britain's victory in the Great Siege of Gibraltar. Mozart, who disliked the French and described himself as an "arch-Englishman" in a letter to his father, Leopold, was invited by an unnamed woman in Hungary to compose a piece for voice and piano about Britain's defence of the territory by **General George Augustus Eliott, Lord Heathfield**.

The words to O Calpe! (after Gibraltar's Latin name) were written in German by Michael Denis, an Austrian poet and are excessively triumphalist, with no fewer than 35 exclamation marks in 11 stanzas, but Mozart gave up setting them to music at the start of the fourth stanza.

In 2006, however, a group representing Gibraltar's campaign for self-determination issued a plea for someone to complete the job. Robin Willow, a London song-writer took on the task not only setting the remaining seven stanzas to music but having it arranged for orchestra by **Christopher Elliott** and introducing a choral section written by Max Somerset.

It received its first performance in October 2013 at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford (*pictured below*) by the Amadeus Orchestra and Berkshire Youth Choir.



Songwriter, Robin Willow.  
Photo by Graham Reading.



## NEW TRUSTEE

Andrew Jackson has agreed to become a Trustee of the Elliot Clan Society. He is first cousin to Margaret and nephew of Sir Arthur Elliott of Stobs, elder son of his sister, Jean. He followed his father and uncle into the King's Own Scottish Borderers and achieved his lifelong ambition commanding the 1st Battalion KOSB. His army career included tours to Iraq, Hong Kong, Africa, Germany and Northern Ireland, and a 4 year tour as a helicopter pilot.

He is now Chairman of the Regimental Association of the KOSB. His last four years in the British Army he achieved the rank of Brigadier appointed Director of Army Recruiting. He is now the Managing Director of Kenexa Government Solutions.

He sits on the boards of two organisations focused on helping members of the military family find employment; Non-Executive Chairman of recruit for Spouses in the UK and an active supporter of Combat Stress, a UK charity that provides support and professional psychological services to military personnel suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health issues.

*His brother, Roderick Jackson, is a Trustee of the Sir Arthur Elliott Memorial Trust.*

## THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS



**Barry and Paul Elliott** were born in Rotherham to Amy and James Patton Elliott in the 1940s. They won the television talent show Opportunity Knocks in 1967 followed by success on New Faces in 1964. They launched their own television show in 1985 "Chucklehounds" which consisted of short programmes aimed at pre-school children and contained no dialogue. They were dressed in giant dog costumes. As well as regular television appearances, Paul and Barry have appeared on stage in venues across the UK with their own tours and in numerous pantomimes. In 2008 they were honoured with the Special Award at the Children's BAFTA Awards.

# We welcome the following new members to the Society

## UNITED KINGDOM

- E474 Woods, Malcolm Elliot, Chislehurst,  
Kent BR67 6EU
- E475 Elliot, Paul and Family, Hitchin,  
Hertfordshire, SG4 0NF
- E476 Elliott, Mr & Mrs Terry, Wingerworth,  
Derbyshire S42 6TK
- E477 Elliott, Richard K., Chesterfield, Derbyshire  
S41 8TG
- E478 Elliott, Aaron Lars, chesterfield, Derbyshire  
S43 3AF
- E479 Moss, Kerry Jane, Northend, Portsmouth  
PO2 7HJ
- E480 Richardson, Ironbridge, Telford TF8 7QT
- E481 Elliott, Andrew, Nicola & David,  
Joseph & Ian, Farington Moss,  
Leyland PR26 6QU
- W8 Baron, Dr. Charles, Rhosesmor, Mold  
CH7 6PG

## CANADA

- C1100 Westby, Jayde Krisanda,  
Calgary AB
- C1101 Sherry, Cameron and Winnifred,  
Howick QC
- C1102 Fawcett, Patricia, Calgary AB
- C1103 Gagnon, Donna Leslie,  
Haliburton ON
- C1104 Elliott, Allan, Duncan, Alann, Nancy,  
Chateauguay QC
- C1105 Myles, Terry, Port Hope  
ON
- C1106 Elliott, Terrance Charles, Happy Valley,  
Goose Bay, NL
- C1107 Guitare, Lisa and Joshua,  
London ON
- C1108 Elliott, Randall, Patricia, Kristen, Kyle,  
Niagara Falls, ON
- C1109 Elliot, Peter, Barbara, Alexander,  
Milton ON
- C1110 Elliot/Scott, Blake & Kristina,  
Milton ON
- C1111 Goad/Hackman, Janis and Alethea,  
Kamloops, BC

## NEW ZEALAND

- N328 Taylor, Mrs Pauline A., Taradale, Napier

## UNITED STATES

- US3646 Moyer Isabel Grace, Sevierville, TN 37862
- US3647 Harris, Mark Elliott, Goldendale, WA 98620
- US3648 Elliott, Leon E., Melbourne, FL 32947 US3650
- US3650 Elliot Chuck, Canaan, VT 05903-9752
- US3651 Elliott, Eric M. Augusta, ME 04330
- US3652 PetersChristine Elliott, Amherst, NH 03031-2224
- US3653 Elliott Weymouth, Laura, Wilmington, MA 01887
- US3654. Elliott, Robert A, Attleboro, MA 02703
- US3655 Wittes, Kathy & Edward Lewis Chatsworth, CA 91311
- US3656 Golden, Amy Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
- US3657 Miller, David, California, MD 20629
- US3658 Elliott, Walter L. Sale Creek, TN 37373
- US3659 Hanson, Carol, Clermont, FL 34711
- US3660 Ferguson, Melissa Joan Atlanta, GA 30316
- US3661 O'Brien, Susan Elliott Hoschton, GA 30548
- US3662 Elliott, S.W. Athens, GA 30606
- US3663 Eccles, John & Rebekah Camarillo, CA 93010
- US3664 Owen, Mr. & Mrs. William Atlanta, GA 30318
- US3665 Grissop, Jackson William, Travelers Rest, SC 29690
- US3666 Miller, Nancy, McDonough, GA 30252
- US3667 Polanowski, Mrs. Tracy Elliott, Nashville, TN 37221
- US3668 Sommerville, Sara Elliott, Augusta, GA 30906
- US3669 Shockley, Sandra Johnson, Crawfordville, FL 32326
- US3670 Van Every, Gloria Elliott, Troy, MI 48098
- US3671 Marks, Robin, Spokane, WA 99203-2128
- US3672 Elliott, Michael "Mickey" H. Sr. Brunswick, GA 31523
- US3673 Dougherty, Tim, Rochelle, IL 61068
- US3674 Dougherty, Ken, Rochelle, IL 61068
- US3675 Dougherty, Dan, Phoenix, AZ 85022
- US3676 Salton, Judith L. Windsor, NY 13865
- US3677 Hand, Richard J. Whitehall, PA 18052
- US3678 Elliott, Charles (Sam) Greer, SC 29650-3342
- US3679 Elliott, Tom, Bedminster, NJ 07921-1638
- US3680 Chavis, Nicole M., Clearwater, FL 3375
- US3681 Roberts, Annie, Rokledge, FL 32955
- US3682 Elliott, Marie, San Antonio, TX 78253
- US3683 Rast, Marc Elliot, San Antonio, TX 78248
- US3684 Brown, Sally, West Hartford CT 06107
- US3685 Elliott, John, New Orleans, LA 70118-5116

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