



General George Augustus Elliott, Lord Heathfield, 8th surviving son of the 3rd Baronet of Stobs. The portrait, by William Hudson, was painted after General Elliott's return from the successful expedition to Cuba and the sack of Havana in 1762

THE ELLIOTS

THE STORY OF A BORDER CLAN

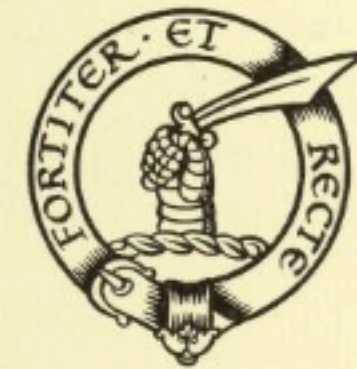
A Genealogical History

by

THE DOWAGER LADY ELLIOTT OF STOBS

and

SIR ARTHUR ELLIOTT, 11TH BARONET OF STOBS



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The Ellots of Redheugh

The Earliest record of the Ellots is of an Elliot of Redheugh whose daughter, Mary, married Cuthbert Blackadder of that ilk. She had a son living in 1447

Robert Elliot the 10th of Redheugh, Chief

d. 1497

Robert the 11th

d. by 1491

Robert the 12th, Chief

d. by 1516

William of Larriston
(See Ellots of Horsleyhill)

Robert the 13th
k. at Flodden 1513

Robert the 14th, Chief

d. by 1563

Martin of Braidley
(See Ellots of Braidley)

Archibald of Falnash
(See Ellots of Falnash)

John of Copshaw?

Robert the 15th, Chief

m. Jean Scott, dau. of Buccleuch
(Jean m. 2ndly Gavin of Baillillie & Stobs)

Robert the 16th, Chief

m. Marion Hamilton
d. by 1591

William of Hartsgarth
(Line Extinct by 1634)

Gilbert of Stobs
"Gibbie wi' the golden gartins"
m. Margaret Scott (Harden)
bought Stobs 1607. d. 1634

Archibald

Gavin of Brugh
(See Ellots of Brugh)

Robert the 17th, Chief

m. 2ndly Lady Jean Stewart
d. by 1673. No Male issue

William of the Rigg
m. Jean Rutherford

William Elliott of Stobs
m. Elizabeth Douglas
d. 1654

4th son

6th son

Gavin of Midlem Mill
m. 2ndly 1646 Margaret Hay

James
m. Margaret of Redheugh
(See Ellots of Larriston)

Margaret,
heiress of Redheugh
m. James, 6th son of Gilbert
of Stobs

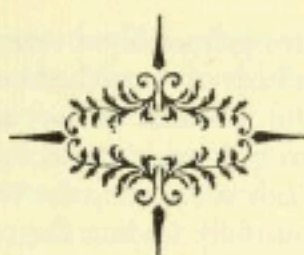
Robert
d. by 1637

Francis James
(Lines Extinct)

Sir Gilbert Elliott of Stobs
1st Bt. succeeded as Chief
between 1666 & 1673
(See separate pedigree
of the Ellots of Stobs)

Robert Elliot of Midlem Mill
m. 1678 Elizabeth Elliot (Braidley)
(Male line presumed)
extinct - See Text

Sir Gilbert Elliot
of Minto, 1st Bt.
(See Ellots of Minto)



The Elliots of Redheugh and of Stobs

The early generations of the Elliots in Liddesdale are wrapped in obscurity but by 1476, some 500 years ago, ROBERT ELLOT, Chief of the Clan and the 10th of his name,¹ was established at REDHEUGH.* His tower stood on the high heugh above Hermitage Water, commanding the ford below and looking across to the tower of the Elliots of the Park guarding the other side; behind lay the slopes of the Harden Fell and the summer shielings of the clan; and, out of sight beyond, the wastes of Roan and Tarras Moss. To the South four miles away stretched the long line of hills marking the border.

Robert must have been very content in that year of 1476. In the decades that had gone before, the English had been expelled from Liddesdale; Hermitage Castle, safely in the hands of the Douglasses, was captured by an Elliot of Redheugh; and the Clan itself settled on lands stretching from the source of Hermitage Water to the upper reaches of the Liddel. Now, the additional lands of Dalman, Bluntwood and the Cruch had been bestowed on him by Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, the Lord of Liddesdale; and not long afterwards on the 7th January 1479/80 Robert was given 'Layhaugh, Carrolschell, Harts-garthe with the faulde' and, on 20th September 1484, 'the 20 merk lands of Over and Neither Larrostand'.²

* Since completing the text, evidence of one of these earlier Chiefs has come to light. In the Stodart MSS of the Blackadder family supplied by the Lord Lyon's Office, there is a record of an Elliot of Redheugh, called 'Chieftan of the South', who was killed in battle with three of his sons. According to the Pedigree, this Chief had a daughter Mary, who married Cuthbert Blackadder of that ilk and who had three sons. The eldest of these, Andrew Blackadder, was alive in 1447.

MIDLEM MILL—MINTO

4th son of Gibbie of Stobs

LARRISTON

6th son of Gibbie of Stobs

STONEDGE

Younger son of the 1st Baronet of Stobs

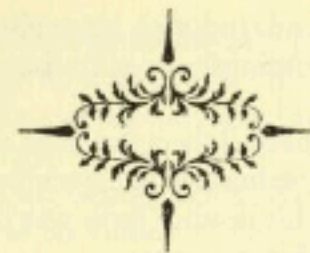
AUSTRALIA

3rd son of the 6th Baronet of Stobs

SOUTH AFRICA

5th son of the 6th Baronet of Stobs

References consulted are indicated in the text by superior figures and are listed on pages 191 and 192.



The Elliots of Midlem Mill

Line Presumed Extinct

Owened Midlem Mill by 1643

GAVIN ELLOT OF GRANGE and of MIDLEM MILL was the 4th son of Gibbie of Stobs and his wife Margaret Scott and grandson of Robert of Redheugh and his wife Jean Scott. He was one of a large family, six sons and four (known) daughters, and was probably born at Stobs as his father lived there from his early youth until he died in 1634. Exactly when Gavin first acquired property is not clear but he was already 'of Grange' when, on the 26th May 1640, he and his wife, Mary Bennett, received a charter of North Preston and of Sunderland Hall from Andrew Kerr of Sunderland Hall and his wife Esther Elliot.¹ By 1643 Gavin held Midlem Mill, North Preston and a part of Grange.² As the Bennetts of Chesters held the other part of Grange and had at one time also held North Preston, Gavin's wife may well have been of this family.³ However, Mary Bennett died childless and on the 15th September 1646 Gavin married, at Peebles, Margaret, daughter of Andrew Hay of Haystoun w.s., Principal Clerk of Sessions.⁴

Gavin lived at a time to try men's consciences—when they were forced to choose between Kirk and King. Yet we know little of him, only that in '1645 and 1646 and subsequent years Gavin's fidelity and sufferings and his adherence to the interests of the King' were important enough to be made the grounds for granting in 1685 a Remission to his son Gilbert who had been involved in the Argyll rising.⁵ Was Gavin at Naseby or Philiphaugh, or how did he serve the interests of the King? The only relevant fact of which we have a record is that Gavin served on the Committee of War in 1648 with his brothers, William of

Stobs and Gilbert of Craighend, and with his nephew, young Stobs.⁶ Later, in 1661, he was appointed a Commissioner of Excise and, in 1663, a Justice of the Peace for Roxburgh.⁷

Gavin settled on his eldest son Robert the lands and town of Midlem in July 1653⁸ and the lands of Graystainhauch in September 1671.⁹ He must also have parted with Grange before his death. Gavin was dead by 1678,¹⁰ having had issue by his wife, Margaret Hay, two sons:—

1. Robert of Midlem Mill, of whom hereafter.
2. Gilbert (see Elliots of Minto).

ROBERT ELLIOT, 2nd Laird of MIDLEM MILL, was the elder son of Gavin of Grange and Midlem Mill and his wife, Margaret Hay, and grandson of Gibbie of Stobs. Robert married in 1678 Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Elliot of Harwood in Rulewater.¹ Scott of Satchell's comment on the marriage in the Postal which he addressed to 'that worthy and Generous Gentleman Robert Elliot laird of Midliemill', was as follows:—

'Sir in my sleep I was much troubled
And dreamed of Henry Elliot of Harwood
.....
And knowing he was your Father in Law
Therefore my weak judgement thought fit
These lines to you I should dedicat;
Knowing him to be a worthy man
And much honour'd by your Generation;
Though all in one ye now joined be
Yet ye're a Peer grew higher on the Tree;
For I believe there is so much odds,
Few Elliots compar'd with the house of Stobs'²

The comment seems a little unfair to Harwood as his descent was as good as Midlem Mill, both springing from Redheugh.

Robert was appointed a Commissioner of Supply in 1685, 1689, 1690, and 1704³ and seems to have prospered in a quiet way. His father had settled Midlem Mill on him and in 1695 Robert added the lands of Clarelaw, called Langsyde, and north Preston, which he purchased, irredeemably, from John Elliot

of Langsyde⁴ and in 1702, also irredeemably, the lands of Whitmuir.⁵ In 1706 and for many years thereafter Robert factored for his brother, Gilbert, now Sir Gilbert Elliot of Headshaw Kt. and Baronet, who had obtained a Crown Charter of the Barony of Minto in 1703.⁶ Nevertheless Robert never forgot that he was the elder brother and the Hon. George Elliot says 'that when on some public occasion he was ushered in as Sir Gilbert's brother, he would not let this pass, and exclaimed "na, na, Gibbie's my brether"'.⁷

Robert of Midlem Mill was dead by September 1725;⁸ he and Elizabeth Elliot had issue:—

1. Gilbert, who must have died shortly before May 1709 since on 7th September 1708 his brother Robert is described as 'second lawful son'⁹ and on 22nd May 1709 as 'eldest'.¹⁰
 2. Robert of Midlem Mill, of whom hereafter.
 3. Margaret, married Henry Elliot of Lodgegill, Liddesdale.¹¹
 4. Marion, '2nd daughter', married 18th April 1700, Andrew Haliburton w.s., 3rd son of Thomas Haliburton of Newmains.¹²
 5. Anny, married Robert Patterson of Drygrange.¹³
 6. Elizabeth, married 28th December 1716 John Gibson w.s.¹⁴
 7. Nelly (Helen), married 25th March 1722 William Elliot of Wolfelee.¹⁵
 8. Magdalen, youngest daughter, married by October 1729 John Pasley of Craig, near Langholm. She died April 1773, aged 78.¹⁶
- Robert also had a 'natural daughter', Elizabeth, who married 13th August 1679 Richard Patterson, Portioner of Midlem.¹⁷

ROBERT ELLIOT, 3rd Laird of MIDLEM MILL, was the son of Robert of Midlem Mill and his wife Elizabeth Elliot.¹ He married (contract 3rd January 1719) Katherine, the only child of Adam Elliot of Tyneside.²

Robert of Midlem Mill was for fifteen years factor to the Duke of Buccleuch and lived at Langholm Castle, Broadhaugh and Branxholm.³ However, he and his wife must also have lived at Midlem Mill and either rebuilt or remodelled the house, as there is a date-stone built into the mill, 'R.E. 1730 K.E.'⁴ Robert died in May 1753 and was buried at Bowden.⁵ He left a heavily encumbered estate, which was sold by the Trustee three years later, and his widow moved to Berwick with her unmarried daughters, surviving him many years.⁶ Robert and Katherine Elliot had issue:—

1. Gilbert, died in infancy on 22nd January 1724 and was buried in Ewes churchyard.⁷
 2. Gavin of Midlem Mill, of whom hereafter.
 3. Henry, baptised at Bowden church 6th July 1729.⁸
 4. Robert, baptised at Cavers in 1730, 'child to Robert Elliot, Chamberlain to her grace the Duchess of Buccleuch'.⁹ On the 21st November 1744 he was apprenticed to John Haliburton of Howcleugh, merchant.¹⁰ But he must later have joined the Navy. His brother Gavin mentions that he 'was an ensign of Marines and married', while the Hon. George Elliot states that he served as a clerk on H.M.S. *Royal George*.¹¹
 5. Andrew, 'Major of Marines died at Rhode Island. Letters of Administration granted to his brother Gavin, September 1779'.¹²
 6. Adam, apprenticed to John Middlemast, a baker, 1st July 1741. Died at Lisbon in 1752.¹³
 7. } Anny and Margaret, unmarried, lived in Lichfield Street, London.¹⁴
 8. }
 9. Elizabeth, 2nd daughter, married 19th May 1749 Simon Haliburton of Howcleugh, Minister at Castleton, Liddesdale and later Ashkirk. He died April 1789.¹⁵
 10. Maisy, who lived at Berwick with her mother after her father's death.¹⁶
 11. Jean,¹⁷ baptised at Hawick 19th July 1738, lived with her mother at Berwick.¹⁸
 12. Helen, married James Wilkie, a merchant in Marseilles.¹⁹ Gavin Elliot describes him as his brother-in-law and left him £20 in his will.²⁰ Helen died 22nd February 1798.
- Robert and Katherine had two more children who died in infancy.²¹

GAVIN ELLIOT, 4th Laird of MIDLEM MILL, was the eldest surviving son of Robert of Midlem Mill and his wife Katherine Elliot. Gavin has left in the family bible an interesting account of his early life, but the latter part of the diary is unfortunately confined simply to a record of his children's and grandchildren's baptisms and pathetic accounts of the early deaths of many of them.

He writes: 'I was born 27th March 1727 O.S. at the old Langholme Castle, my father living afterwards at Branxholm, I went to the Latin School at Hawick in 1734 under Mr. James Anderson and was sent to the college at Edin: 1739

which with other schools I attended till 1742, afterwards lived with my father at Midlemiln about 18 months and set out for London in November 1743, where I arrived ye 30th of said month, having attended an academy for some months I got into the counting house of Mr. Alexander Coutts where I remained until Aprile 1745 and having got £300 from my father I took my passage for Virginia in the Maypaul, Capt. Brookes with about £900 sterg. value of goods to keep a store furnished out by Mr. Alexander Black of London. I arrived in Virginia 17th Sept. 1745 and settled my store and lodged at the house of Mr. Robert Elliot at Kemps Warehouse in Middlesex county upon Piankitank River.

Having nearly finished the Sales of my goods in March 1747, I took my passage home in the Mermaid, Capt. Booth North about arrived Newcastle the 30th of April and took post for London, I visited my friends at Midlemiln during Summer and returned again to London in Oct: 1747 with my sister Anny (and Br. Adam who died afterwards at Lisbon 1752 having in the Spring of 1742 gone into the Compting house of Mr. Alexander Black). I left a power with Mr. Robert Elliot to recover my outstanding debts there, but never getting any good accompt of them and about 400 stg. sunk thereby, I preferred the offer of coming to Danzig to other more distant and better prospects. Having accordingly embarked for said place 29th Sept. 1748 in Capt. Okey Belfour and after calling at Elsinore and Copenhagen arrived there safely the 30th Oct. 1749, as clerk to Messr. Gibson and Hog with a salery of £60 stg. p. annum.'

In May 1753 Gavin's father died leaving a heavy debt to Colonel William Elliot of Wells. In a letter to Col. Elliot, dated 3rd November 1753, his factor, Archibald Jerdan, wrote; 'There is a letter come from young Mr. Elliot now of Midda Mill, who is in ye East Indies desiring if he may be indulged so far as to delay the selling of his little paternal estate till Whitsunday 1755 and if he can not redeem it betwixt and then, he will willingly consent the estates to be sold to pay the debt. My Lord Minto thinks it would be cruel to refuse'.¹ Gavin, however, was just starting in business for himself and was in no position to clear the debt and, as we have seen, the estate was finally sold by the trustees.* Oddly enough, Gavin does not himself mention his father's death, nor the debt, nor does he refer to Midlem Mill. Is it possible that the letter to Archibald Jerdan was not from Gavin at all, who in 1753 seems to have been in Danzig (and not in the

* Hon. George Elliot says that the house was subsequently rebuilt and named Lint Hill.

East Indies), but from an older brother of whom we have no record? On the other hand even with regard to his marriage Gavin says very little: 'Having married this year (1758) A. C. Clemens with who I got in cash £18,000, but wrote off £5,237 of my Virginia debts'. Later he mentions that her name was Anna Catherine Clemens and that they were married in Danzig 20th April 1758.

We know nothing of Gavin's subsequent history except that he finally returned to London and died on 10th November 1786 and was buried in the vault of Greenwich Church. The month before he died he made his will, in which he describes himself as of Winchester Street, London. He left all his plate etc. to 'my dear wife'; to his sisters Margaret, Nancy and Jane Elliot 7 guineas each for mourning and annuities; to his 'brother in law James Wilkie' £20; to his daughters, Catharina Elizabeth Elliot and Anna Renata Elliot and to his son William during his minority, also annuities. He appointed John Pasley and John Irving, gentlemen, his executors.²

After his death his widow left London and went to live in Blackheath. She died 16th September 1809 at the age of 75 and was buried in Wallot Churchyard, Bath.

Gavin Elliot and Anna Catherine Clemens had issue:—

1. Robert, born 20th February 1759. Died at Blackheath May 16 1770 'after a lingering consumptive disorder of about 8 or 10 months and buried in the Parish Vault of Greenwich Church, he seldom complained but of grypes, tho' unable to apply to his book or attend the school for the last 6 months, he went about until a few days of his death, and seldom free of a cough. He was naturally of a quiet and good disposition, of a middling genius, fond of his book and esteemed by his master and companions at school where he had made tollerable progress in Latin and had learned writing and knew the common rules of Arithmetick pretty well. He measured 4 ft. 5½ in. about 3 months before his death being at length carried off by a fever, much reduced, he died without a struggle.'¹
2. Catharina Elizabeth, born 29th January 1760, married the Rev. William Lance, Vicar of Horfoot, Curate of Horsham St. Faith on 13th December 1787.
3. Helena Constantia, born 7th June 1761. Died in Danzig 3rd November 1764, buried in St. Peters Church. 'She was pretty and lively with every promising qualification to make her loss lamented, being carried off in 5 days illness, by the scarlet fever and cough'.

4. Clemens, born 21st February 1764. Died at Blackheath 21st September 1768 and buried in the vault of George Elliott of Woomble (grandson of the 1st Bt. of Stobs) in the church of Norfleet.

5. Anna Renata, born at Blackheath 19th June 1766. She married Adam Ogilvie of Hartwoodmyres 8th July 1787 at Greenwich Church with the blessing of the Rev. Mr. Lance, 'and happy may they be all their lifes is my hearty wish'.

6. Gilbert, born 22nd February 1770 at Blackheath. Died at Blackheath at the age of 12 and was buried in the vault of the Greenwich Church.

7. William, of whom hereafter.

WILLIAM ELLIOT was the only surviving son of Gavin Elliot and his wife Anna Catherine Clemens. He was born at Blackheath on the 11th November 1773,¹ being only thirteen years old when his father died. He took Holy Orders and was Rector of Simonburn, Northumberland and married Grace Johnson of Newcastle. He was dead by November 1855.² William Elliot and Grace Johnson had issue:—

1. Robert Thomas Elliot, served heir general to his father 8th Nov. 1855. Described as 'of Capetown, then Australia'.²
2. Catherine, married Edward John Alderman of Forbes, Berks. Their daughter married in 1878 Charles Erskine, 11th of Shielfield, and it was Mrs Charles Erskine, The Anchorage, Melrose, who inherited Gavin Elliot's bible and the family portraits.¹
3. Anne Elizabeth, married Henry Landon.¹
4. Eleanor, married Arnold Wood.¹
5. Louise, died young.¹