

The Scotch-Irish Elliotts

By Henry Vaughn Elliott

The term Scotch-Irish does not mean a mixture (racially) of the Scots and the Irish. They are Scots who, for the most part came from the lowlands of Scotland into Northern Ireland where (because of their Calvinistic Presbyterianism among other reasons) they seldom mixed with the Catholic Irish. The earlier settlers often verbally pointed out "We're not Eerish bot Scoatch." Writers have confused this issue. Genetically they were Scots and behaved like Scots, for they took on very little of the Irish culture.

[Ed note: In the 17th century, the British Crown schemed to secure its northern border with Scotland by luring landless Scots to resettle in Northern Ireland. They offered 99-year leases of Irish lands. When the leases expired in the early to mid-1700s, the settlers had to begin paying rents. That and a series of poor weather events and crop failures encouraged the start of Scots-Irish immigration to America.]

Even today, December 1968, there is much agitation between the Scots and the Irish in Londonderry, North Ireland where in the early 17th century both William and George Elliott were among the "Orangemen" who were besieged by the Irish. It is believed that this William and his son, George, were the grandfather and the father of Alexander Elliott who was the father of the Elliott children who came to America as our ancestors. There is still an Elliot(t) clan in Scotland. It has a tartan and a crest. Its chief is Sir Arthur Elliot of Stobs.

Our Elliott lineage is:

A. Alexander George Elliot (1683-1762)[†]

1. Alexander Elliot Jr.
2. Mary Elliot m. a Clark
3. Col. William Elliot m. Barbara
4. John Elliot m. Margaret
5. Jane Elliot m. Samuel Henderson
6. Capt. George Elliot m. 1. Addidle, 2. Henderson, 3. Marshall
7. Robert Elliot m. Elizabeth
8. Barbara Elliot m. Matthew Henderson

B. Robert Elliot (1728-1806)

1. James Elliot m. Mary Benson
2. Aney (Annie) Elliot m. ?
3. Agnes Elliot m. ?
4. Rebeccah Elliot m. John Rice
5. Margaret Elliot m. ?
6. John Elliot m. Mary (Polly) Glasgow
7. David Elliot m. Mary Garvin
8. Polly Elliot m. ?

C. **John Elliott (1787-1827)**

1. Newton Glasgow Elliott m. 1. Wikerson, 2. Stewart
2. Annie E. Elliott m. Mr. Gantin
3. Rosanna Elliott m. T. B. Wallace
4. Harrison S. Elliott m. Annie Hunton
5. **Andrew Jackson Elliott m. Patsey Briscoe**
6. Martha Elliott m. James Cawdry
7. Some records indicate a child "Bruce"

D. **Andrew Jackson Elliott (1819-1892)**

1. **John Bruce Elliott m. Anna Trigg (nee Shields)** [*Parents of Mae Elliott Lindeman*]
2. Annie Elliott m. James T. McCulloch
3. Ellen Elliott m. Fred Brereton
4. Cora Elliott m. John J. Lamm
5. Rolla T. Elliott m. Emma Norton
6. Logan Elliott (died as a young man)
7. Katherine Elliott m. Jesse E. Royer
8. Laura Elliott m. Milton Huffman

Alexander George Elliot of County Down, North Ireland lived near the town of Banbridge. He was apparently in the weaving trade. His eight children all came to America. Neither the first nor last (maiden) name of his wife is known. He died at 76 years of age in 1762 and is buried In the Magherally (Presbyterian) churchyard a few miles from Banbridge. The record that he made a will exists; however, the will itself was destroyed in the Irish uprising in 1922. [†]

Robert Elliott, a Revolutionary War soldier, came to America about 1750. He and his twin brother George always lived close to each other. As young men they spent their time around Elliott Knob, a very prominent mountain in the Shenandoah Valley, near Staunton, Virginia.

In 1755 they joined the first company of Virginia Rangers where Captain Preston lists them as both 27 years old (born in 1728). George was 5' 8" listed as a weaver; Robert was 5' 7" listed as a seaman.

An examination of Captain Preston's records shows that. the company was on duty from one end of the valley to the other for about one year.

During this time Robert, along with the rest of the company, visited Felix Gilbert's store where purchases of salt were made for the company.

In 1757 Robert returned to the area of Felix Gilbert's store and bought land from Jno. Bumgardner. This is near present day Harrisonburg beside Massanutten Mountain. Keezletown, the nearest village, is only several hundred yards from where Gilbert's Store stood. This point is now known as Peal's Crossroad.

Robert was situated at the foot of Massanutten Mountain near *Cub Run* (a small stream that empties into one of the forks of the Shenandoah). As time went by, records show that Robert purchased and traded land (many times with his friend Felix Gilbert). Here he lived and prospered for nearly forty years.

It appears that, Robert was married to only one woman (Elizabeth) for early deed transfers use her name as does his final will, written much later.

Their eight children were born in Virginia. The birth pattern indicates that Elizabeth was much younger than Robert.

Sometime around 1790-1798 the family split with the larger group moving to Kentucky. It seems certain that (along with Robert and Elizabeth) David and his wife, Nancy, also Margaret, John, and Polly all moved to Kentucky. Others may have gone; however, James and Rebecca almost certainly stayed in Virginia.

They used the wilderness trail and followed Daniel Boone into Kentucky where they settled along Silver Creek in Madison County outside Richmond. Part of the land purchased by David and Nancy now belongs to Cecil Dunn (1968) and is in the Calcast area not far from Richmond, Kentucky.

I can find no record that Robert owned any land in Kentucky. His will states that he still had bonds (mortgages) due him on his Virginia land.

After giving nominal sums to his children and wife, Robert, makes provision that the "bonds due me" be used to keep Elizabeth; and, following her death, the remainder is to be divided "amongst my children equally." The will was written April 6, 1802. Family records say Elizabeth died in 1804. Robert died in early 1806 - before the third day of February (age 78 years).

Robert led a colorful life-boyhood in North Ireland, seaman as a young man, emigrant to America, Indian scout, Virginia Ranger, Revolutionary War soldier, successful landowner, pioneer in Kentucky.

He is most likely buried on the land described above. Incidentally, his twin brother George lived not far away. They were never far apart for any length of time. (See Anna Elliott O'Dell's book "Captain George Elliott of the Virginia Navy.")

The Scotch-Irish were among the earliest, advocates for public education, for they had been denied one during their childhood. Robert could not write; however, he was interested enough in his children's welfare to pay for it out of his own pocket (a document shows that Robert Elliott left a six-shilling deposit with his friend Felix Gilbert to be credited, along with the deposits of others, to the account of Dennis McSwyny, the school master).

I can only conjecture that all eight of the children were literate-I know that "John" could write.

Probably Robert's greatest accomplishment was in providing an education for his children at such an early date in our history.

John Elliott, born in 1787, was quite young when his parents, several brothers, sisters, and in-laws moved to Kentucky. The evidence is that his parents, Robert and Elizabeth, lived with their son David and his wife Nancy. Without a doubt John heard stories of North Ireland, early day Virginia, and many Indian escapades that had taken place. His father also surely told him of the sea where he had spent his life as a young man.

He lost both parents before he was of age, but not before he had the opportunity to go to school. He was nineteen when his father died. His mother died two years before this.

In 1809, when John was twenty-two, he decided to come to the territory of Missouri. Family records say that he had become engaged to the “comely” Mary (Polly) Glasgow, daughter of John and Rosanna (nee Patterson) Glasgow. The Glasgow family lived near the Elliotts in Kentucky.

John rode a horse over the “Boonelick” trail to a point in the territory around present day Booneville, Missouri. There he staked out a claim, planted corn, harvested it, built a cabin, stored the corn; and, in the fall of 1810, returned to his Kentucky home.

In 1811 John and his bride Polly, each riding a horse, and leading the third laden with household goods, headed for Missouri over the same trail John had traversed almost two years before. It is said that the bride brought blue-grass seed with her from Kentucky. She carried it in teapot.

They spent the early years of their married life on the farm John had homesteaded.

They were part of the group that used old Fort Hempstead for protection from the Indians. This fort was located about three miles from the Missouri River in present day Howard County near what is now part of the Missouri State Agriculture testing grounds just north of New Franklin.

John is listed in the records as one of the defenders of Fort Hempstead where he, his wife and children spent much of their time.

In the next fourteen years they became the parents of six children (three boys and three girls) who grew to adulthood and became prominent in Howard, Cooper, and Pettis Counties.

It is believed that John was at one time Captain of the fort. In any case, he seems to have disposed of some, or all, of his land in 1819 and resided in the fort. Reports say he was a very popular man who took an active part in frontier politics but did not seek office for himself.

He lost his wife, Polly, in 1825.

He, at the age of forty, became the victim of a lingering illness or wound [and died] in 1827.

John’s will, recorded in Fayette, county seat of Howard County, gives guardianship of all six of his minor children to his in-laws (Nathan Glasgow and Andrew Wallis). His property divided equally among the children “share and share alike.”

Without question, John had time to anticipate his death, for the will definitely indicates this.

John, like his father, was the Scotch-Irish pioneer type. His wife, Polly, was also of the blood.

Both John and Polly are buried in an abandoned graveyard known as the Rawling’s Cemetery north and west of New Franklin on a farm owned in 1966 by Chester Buckley.

Andrew Jackson Elliott

Jackson or “Jack” Elliott was born in Old Fort Hempstead in 1819, the youngest of the three sons of John and Polly Elliott. He, like his father and grandfather before him, seemed to be filled with the spirit of adventure. In some respects he led a more colorful life than either of his immediate forefathers.

At the age of eight he had lost both parents and was under the guardianship of his aunts and uncles on his mother’s side of the house.

He somehow acquired an education and became interested in politics early in life.

In 1840, when “Jack” was twenty-one, he married Patsey, the 12th and last, child of Judge Andrew Briscoe. Patsey was only fifteen, but became a devoted lifetime partner whose husband adored her to the point that, her death many years later so grieved him that he was unable to survive the ensuing melancholia.

He had a legacy due him from his father's property: and, later on, received some money from his grandfather Glasgow's estate in Kentucky. He resided in Cooper County, Missouri around Clifton City and Bunceton in the Bel Air territory.

In 1850 he was made Captain of a wagon train going to the California Gold Fields. He arrived on the Pacific Coast, 100 years after his grandfather, Robert, had entered our eastern seaboard.

He was gone two years while his wife Patsey and children-John, Annie, Ellen and the new baby Cora, stayed with the Briscoe parents. He returned by sailing vessel and was made captain of a rebellious crew whose master had lost control. The vessel had become becalmed-food and water were in short supply. Jack's real contribution was in setting up and enforcing a rationing system that saved the lives of many of the crew. His obituary carries a short account of this.

Upon his return he began to improve his land near Clifton City.

During the Civil War, he was an extremely pro-southern individual. He spent some time as a Confederate soldier and acquired the title of “Major” which he carried the rest of his life. The South’s defeat brought him great grief and he never became reconciled to the loss. He even bought and publicly burned blue coats in the streets of Sedalia for many years after the war’s end.

Prior to the conflict he had prospered and owned domestic slaves. Some of them remained as loyal friends and helped him recover his losses.

He built a large “mansion-like” house and used it not only as a shelter for his own family but as “A House By The Side or The Road.”

He was primarily a landowner and stock raiser: however, for quite a number of years his home was used as sort of a “covered-wagon” motel. This became profitable, so a blacksmith shop was added along with pens and feedlots for horses, mules, and oxen.

He became quite wealthy; however, the opening of the railroad brought his “hotel” enterprise to an end, but not before it had made him independently well-to-do.

The “Elliott House” was a place of gaiety, dancing, fine food, and southern gentility that all of their friends and relatives enjoyed,

Jack was always devoted to Patsey who reared the children, supervised the negro [sic] domestic help, and was boss of the manor.

“Jack” Elliott lived such an unforgettable life that he is a legend in this part of Missouri.

As age began to tell, he sold his property in Cooper County and retired to a farm outside of Sedalia in Pettis County. [Perhaps the farm of his son John Bruce Elliott ?]

Patsey died In 1890 leaving Jack so filled with grief that two years later ha too passed away after an unsuccessful bout with melancholia.

His will to live had been broken to the point that the last few weeks of his life his nervous system had ceased functioning properly. For this reason, the family has always said that he died of a “broken heart.”

This man who had early in life lost his parents, who survived Indian wars, who captained an overland trip to California and a sea trip on his return, who sustained defeat in the Civil War, and yet became a very prosperous, influential and loved man was so tenderhearted that his wife’s death was fatal to him.

He and Patsey are buried in Crow Hill Cemetery at Sedalia, Missouri.

CONCLUSION

During the course of a century (1750-1850) generations of Elliotts pioneered their way from the east to the west coast. Robert entered the port of Philadelphia about 1750; his son John came to Missouri in 1809 and John’s son, Jack, saw the Pacific in 1850.

It would not be fair to leave unmentioned two other sons of John (brothers to Jack). They were Newton Glasgow Elliott who became sheriff of Howard County, was in the Missouri Legislature, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Missouri Militia, was the chairman of one of the early day railroads; and Harrison S. Elliott who was very successful in his short life.

Henry Vaughn Elliott (1914-2003)
Eureka, Kansas (*his father, Henry Daniel Elliott being the brother of Mae Elliott Lindeman*)

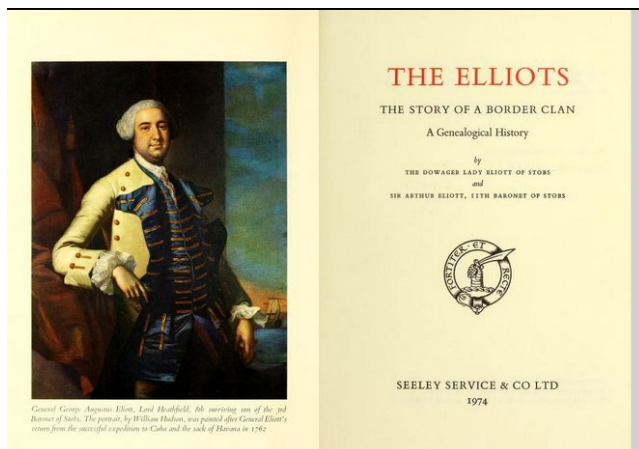
[†]*The Elliott branch of the family can be traced as far back as William Elliot 1540-1599 Edinburgh Scotland, but that lineage is disputed. The Elliott story from Alexander George Elliott on, in North American, is well documented.*

Additional Resources

From Anne Elliott Odell, "Captain George Elliott of the Virginia Navy," pp. 25-26, 29.

"From the fire damaged Ireland records in Dublin enough has been salvaged to decipher the background of Capt. George Elliot in Co. Down. Alexander Elliot, his father, is recorded as having left a Will (destroyed), and the date of his death, his age and his burial place are stated. One can assume his father and grandfather were William and Geroge Elliot as they were living in Banbridge in 1689 at the time of the Siege of Londonderry. These names were over and over handed down from father to son. The family evidently was a prosperous one and operated one of the hackling and weaving mills at Banbridge, for two of the sons in America listed themselves as 'weavers'. In Augusta, Co., Va., Capt. George Elliot operated a combined milling establishment such as he would have been familiar with in Co. Down. The children of Alexander Elliot were a part of the great exodus from Ulster to America. Evidence is they came rather in pairs, and it would seem the youngest daughter came after the father's death in 1762."

"Alexander Elliot of Banbridge, Co. Down, Ireland, b. 1686, d. Dec. 21, 1762 - bur. at Banbridge Grave Yard. The children of Alexander, all grown and some married, came to America in the great Scotch-Irish migration just before the Fr. and Ind. War, around 1755. The continuous use of the names Alexander, George, William, Robert, John and Barbara establishes them as separate Elliotts from other families in Pa., Va. and S. Car., though all were dwelling side by side. The use of the double T seemed to become prevalent among the Scotch-Irish Elliotts though in some legal documents Capt. George Elliott reverted to one T. Evidence is there were strong family ties for in choosing places of settlement brother and brother, or brother and sister are found together in three of the colonies."



Elliot Tartan

"Old Timers" Two Well Known Gentleman Who Figure in this Capacity

From the- Sedalia Weekly Bazoo - Thursday, October 15, 1889

An "old timer" who has heretofore not been mentioned in this paper, is Mr. A. J. Elliott, a prominent and well known farmer of this county. The following is his genealogy as near as he can trace it up. His great great and grand-father were natives of Scotland.

His father John Elliott was a native of South Carolina, and was born in 1764. When seventeen years old, he removed to Virginia and from Virginia to Kentucky. After remaining there until he was thirty-four years old, he went to Illinois and located in what was termed the "American Bottoms" now known as East St. Louis. He left there in 1810 and came to Boon's Lick, now Howard County, where he raised a crop of corn that year and also went to Kentucky and married, Jan. 8th, 1811, Miss Mary Glasgow, who was a native of Madison county, that state.

With his bride, Mr. Elliott set out for his Missouri home and rode on horseback the entire trip, leading horses on which his goods, chattels and seeds were packed. The streams on the route were crossed by fording, swimming, and rafts, crossing the Mississippi River in Kaskaskia. They arrived safely in Boon's Lick, now Howard county and there located.

The Indians in the years of 1810-11-12 were friendly, but after that time they became hostile, and in the years of 1813-14-15-16, Mr. Elliott and his family dwelt for the greater portion of their time in Fort Hempstead, in Howard county.

Three boys and three girls were born to Mr. Elliott as follows: Newton Gleason Elliott, March 3, 1812, Harrison Snoddy Elliott, Feb. 5, 1814, Andrew Jackson Elliott, the subject of this sketch, July 20, 1819.

Of the three girls born two are now dead. Both Mr. Elliott and his wife are now dead, the former dying in 1832, the latter in 1827. Both died in Howard county. Of the children born of their union, Newton Glasgow Elliott, now deceased, married and became the father of four sons, all still living in Cooper and Howard counties as follows: John S. Elliott, Hugh Elliott, Charles Lee Elliott. Their mother also still lives in Howard county.

Harrison S. Elliott, deceased, married and became the father of two sons and one daughter, Charles Elliott and George Elliott, the sons, reside at or near Ellensburg, Wash., the daughter is married and also resides in Washington.

Andrew Jackson Elliott, married Miss Patsie Briscoe, born in Cooper county June 27, 1825, and who was the youngest daughter of Col. Andrew and Anna Kavanaugh Briscoe, who had removed from Kentucky to Missouri September 10, 1840, the ceremony being performed by Esquire William Beard, then a well-known democrat of Cooper county.

Of this union eight children were born, three boys and five girls as follows, John Bruce Elliott, born June 17, 1841 and who married Mrs. Anna Trigg, daughter of General William Trigg of Virginia **[Ed note: This is incorrect. Anna Shields Trigg Elliott was the daughter of William Henry Percy Shields]**; Anna Elliott, born in Cooper county, August 10, 1843 and who married James Turk McCulloch, a native of Missouri, but who with his wife now lives in Oregon; Ellen Elliott, born in Cooper county, February 14, 1846 and who married in 1866, F. B. Brereton, a native of Canada, Cora Elliott, born in Jackson county, Mo., Nov. 2, 1849, and who married J. J. Lamm, a native of Pennsylvania, Feb. 12, 1874; Rolla Thomas Elliott, born in Cooper

county, March 28, 1852 and who married Emma Norton, a native of Ohio, in Cooper county, July 4, 1875, Kate Elliott, born in Cooper county May 3, 1854, and who married Feb. 12, 1874, J. E. Royer, a native of Maryland; Ben Tolson Elliott, born in Cooper county Sept. 27, 1856 and who died in Colorado April 18, 1880, the remains being brought to Sedalia for burial, Laura Elliott, born in Cooper county March 3, 1859, and who married M. Decatur Huffman in Pettis county, Mo., Sept. 3, 1876.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffman at present reside in Fresno county, Cal., and their address is at Selma. The entire Elliott family are stock raisers, farmers and dealers in stocks and their record as cultured, intelligent and estimable people is second to none.

[Ed note: Since there was at least one error in this piece, it is uncertain if the remainder is entirely accurate.]

A Pioneer Gone. Death of an Old and Respected Citizen

From the- Sedalia Democrat - Friday, September 30, 1892

The readers of the Democrat will be pained to learn of the death of Major A. J. Elliott, which occurred on Sunday. The deceased was born in old Port Hempstead, in Howard county, in 1819, when Central Missouri was a wilderness.

Major Elliott's father and mother were among the pioneers who first braved the savage beasts and savager red men of the forest in Howard county, and his father and older brothers fought more than one battle in defense of their homes.

Major Elliott was raised among the stirring scenes of that day and became a man prominent in the community and known far and wide for good judgment, honor and integrity, the qualities that alone in that day could win respect and confidence.

In 1849 he crossed the plains to California and was chosen to command the expedition. Later he started to the states by vessel and reached home after a long and tedious voyage during which the vessel was driven from her course, provisions ran low and the passengers were put upon quarter rations.

The passengers lost confidence in the captain of the vessel, deposed him from authority over them and elected Major Elliott in his place. Judge Levens, of this city, was among the passengers and was dangerously sick, but Major Elliott nursed him and saw him safely home.

Major Elliott leaves seven children, two sons, J. B. and R. T. Elliott, and five daughters, Mrs. J. J. Lamm, Mrs. F. B. Brereton, Mrs. Boyer, of Monroe county, Mrs. Hoffman, of Fresno, Cal., and Mrs. McCulloch, of Portland, Oregon; thirty-six grand-children and three great-grand-children.

He was the organizer of the old settlers' association of Pettis and adjoining counties. The funeral will be held from the Christian church in this city tomorrow at 10 o'clock.
