

Chasing my Y-DNA part 31

Cousin Maggie, Art's daughter in Scotland is under some restraint, but I will say something about it. In the feud with the Scott Clan in the decade of the 1560's a number of the Horseleyhill Elliot were killed off by the Scott Clan indicative of the date they died which would probably be of Feb 1563/1564. Sept (hept), Nov (non), Oct (oct), and Dec (dec); 7 (hept), 8 (oct), 9 (non), and 10 (dec). In 1563 Feb was the 12th month, but on today's calendar Feb is the 2nd month, that is why the double year 1563/1564 is used for Feb.

So Gavin of Horseleyhill the father died by 1564, sons; Robert executed 1564, and Andrew Feb 1563/1564. A long with certainly others.

The descendents of Gavin of Horesleyhill were not going to allow the names of Gavin, Andrew, and Robert go in vain, though Andrew is used as a nickname/alias Dandie, and with Church of Ireland/England; Anglican/Episcopalian, it takes on a more saintly name of Daniel.

Today's American descendents commonly use Bob as a nickname for Robert. It should be noted that the House of Stobs had moved to Redheugh, though land in the Stobs region has been put up for sale. The family of Stobs does not seem to utilize the name Robert as the Americans do.

It should be noted that the Robert of Redheugh family with understanding had not continuously produced male offspring so the Clan ship had not been past down the Redheugh line. The line which I am a part of is that of the William of Larriston, branch, which branched off the Redheugh line previous to the Gilbert of Stob, and Gavin the first Elliot laird of Stobs having only daughters, is the half brother to Andrew which died in the feud and left young sons Andrew (Martin's Dandie, Martin Elliot of Braidley (broad region)/Gorenberry, family moved onto Heughhouse (house on a slope)/Thorlishope (Thorsley's Valley) region), and Clementis Hob (Clement Crosar's Robert Elliot). Land of Stobs was purchase from the daughters (no sons) of Gavin of Stobs, by the stepson Gilbert son of Robin (Robert XV of Redheugh).

There is another reason, why my branch the Larriston Branch had to leave the region and Maggie of Stobs got to stay;

• **HELEN KID'S CURSE.**—Since the publication of the *Border Minstrelsy*, a good many traditional anecdotes connected with old border times have found their way into print, but most of them of very inferior interest, and, what is worse, of very doubtful authenticity. So much, indeed, has been published, that the subject may be said to be nearly exhausted. A great number of traditions have perished with the old people who related them; a very few yet linger, having perhaps not more than one frail life between them and oblivion. Of this latter class the following brief relation may be given as a specimen.

One of the Elliots of Larriston, a young man, chanced to fall in love with a young woman named Helen Kid, the daughter of one of his retainers. It would appear that his love was returned, for the two were *hand-fast*, and within the prescribed period of a year and a day Helen presented her lover with a son. This circumstance so strengthened his attachment, that his resolution became fixed to have their union solemnized by holy church. It need scarcely be said that such a proceeding on the part of young Elliot was very unpopular. His bride-elect was not only the daughter of one of the lowest and poorest of his vassals, but, worse than that, she did not bear the name of either Elliot or Armstrong. Accordingly she was looked upon as nobody, a mere beggar's brat, upon whom the young chief, the glory of his house, was actually throwing himself away. The parties most violent in their opposition to the match were the sisters and daughters of his chief retainers, all ladies of his own name, and all, in one degree or another, his kins-

his good taste and good sense, and that they were all most anxious to cultivate the bride's friendship, less for the position she was about to occupy than for her own merits. In seeming accordance with these professions they appointed an entertainment to which she was invited, to which she came, and at which she was *poisoned*. How the deed was done there is no circumstantial account; tradition merely says she was poisoned. Aware of the foul practice when too late, and feeling the approach of death, she, in her last agonies, gave utterance to a prayer to the following effect:—"That as her entertainers, the ladies of Liddisdale, had persecuted her to the death for being beloved, so might neither they nor their successors, down to the most distant generations, ever be beloved; might they be doomed to live and die single and solitary, desolate and despised; otherwise, in the event of marriage, might they be doomed to be still more miserable." Such in substance was the poor murdered girl's dying prayer, as it has been transmitted down under

women. All and each of them looked upon the rank to be attained by being Larriston's wife as the summit of earthly ambition; and as not a few of them had in their separate endeavours been most diligent to attain this giddy height for themselves, it followed as a consequence that the success of their humbler rival was felt as something extremely mortifying. To look upon her as his favourite leman was bad enough, but to contemplate her becoming his wedded wife, to whom they would be bound to give honor, was more than they could endure, and they were by no means disposed to submit to such endurance either meekly or passively. To turn the laird from his purpose they were not slow to put in practice every method they could devise; they invented and circulated slanders affecting Helen's maidenly fame; they represented her as an artful abandoned creature; they even accused her of being a witch, a horrid accusation in those days—they did all, in short, that an enraged woman could do; but all was in vain. The lover had such perfect confidence in the truth and purity of her he loved, that what he heard made him love her the more. The day on which the marriage was to be solemnized was fixed, and preparations were being made for the approaching ceremony, when all at once, as if by magic, the ladies underwent a transformation, and professed to see the matter in quite a new light. They professed to make the discovery that the reports lately current were unfounded and gross calumnies, that Helen Kid was in reality a young person of rare moral worth; they asserted that the laird's choice was most creditable both to

the name of "*Kid's Curse*." The belief in its virtual potency was long formerly held as part of the popular creed, and is perhaps not even yet altogether extinct. An old gentleman, himself an Elliot, (old Willie Elliot the lawyer, brother to the laird of Whitlaugh), who died at Castleton, not more than twenty-five years ago, seldom heard of a lady of the name belonging to the place being about to be married without expressing himself thus: "Aye, poor thing, nae doubt she expects to be happy, but she forgets that Helen Kid's curse is clinging to her and her kind yet even to this day." Tradition reports nothing more about Helen, except that her son lived to be a man, and was the progenitor of the Elliots of Stobs. On the south side of the Liddel, almost directly opposite to Saughtree School-House, there is a spot on the green brae side, which still bears traces of a human habitation. It is known by the name of Kid's Wa', and is said to have been the ill-fated Helen's residence.

The Larriston branch poison a Helen Kid, of Slaughtree near Thorlishope, and she left a curse on the ladies. Helen Kid had a son lived to be a man a progenitor of the Elliots of Stobs, and since Maggie is of Stobs that is why she is protected from Helen Kid's curse.

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