

# Chasing my Y-DNA part 41

Infest of Robert Elwald of Ridheuch. When Robert Elwald of Redheugh (meaning red slope, likely because of oxides of iron).

To all these theories, however, as to the original cradle of the family, one insuperable objection presents itself. When they first appear in records in connexion with the Borders, it is under the name of Elwald; towards the end of the sixteenth century they are called Ellat or Elliot; and not until the seventeenth century do they become Elliot. The termination "wald" in Elwald seems to indicate a Saxon origin. An "Elwoldus," described as "dux Estanglorum," is mentioned in the Melrose chronicle as having died about the year 964. The cognate names of Adelwold and Ethelwold were common in Saxon times. The Domesday Book contains the names of an Alwold, a chamberlain in Berkshire, and an Adelwoldus, who held a similar office in Kent.<sup>1</sup> There were Elwolds dwelling in the parish of Ellingham in Northumberland during the twelfth century,<sup>2</sup> at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1230, and during the thirteenth and succeeding centuries the name is of not infrequent occurrence in the records of the English northern border counties. It seems most probable, therefore, that from this stock the Liddesdale Elliots are sprung, and not from the descendants of "Monsieur" Aliot, or from the legendary

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<sup>1</sup> Battle Abbey Roll (Duchess of Cleveland), vol. i., p. 210.

<sup>2</sup> History of Northumberland, vol. ii., p. 268.

*The English Elliots are thus probably of an entirely a different family origin....*George Tancred The Annals of a Border Club.

Elliots of Aberlot or Elliotston. That the name Elwald should find its original form in Aliot seems highly improbable, while, on the other hand, we can clearly trace the modification of the name Elwald into Elwad, Elwood, Ellat, Elliott, and finally Elliot. The English Elliots are thus probably of an entirely different family and origin, and we have accordingly the singular coincidence of two dissimilar surnames, after being subjected to the ill-usage of several centuries, eventually acquiring the same form.

The first recorded mention of the name in Teviotdale is on a notarial instrument preserved at Minto, dated 5th March, 1425-26, referred to by Mr Armstrong and the Hon. G. S. Elliot.<sup>1</sup> From the end of that century the family seems to have rapidly increased in numbers and influence, and to have risen to considerable importance during the sixteenth century. The establishment of the family in Liddesdale, on the benty uplands by the Liddele and Hermitage waters, where still the name remains, is substantially proved by the following writs, contained in an old progress of the titles of Larriston, hitherto unnoticed, and

In 1476 Archibald 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus, known as “Bell the Cat” passes land to his faithful family squire Robert Elwald, land.

Liddesdale, on the benty uplands by the Liddele and Hermitage waters, where still the name remains, is substantially proved by the following writs, contained in an old progress of the titles of Larriston, hitherto unnoticed, and which, by the courtesy of their possessor, we have been permitted to examine :—

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On 25th June, 1476,<sup>2</sup> Archibald, Earl of Angus and Lord of Liddesdale, popularly known as “Bell-the-Cat,” granted a charter of the lands of Dalman, Bluntwood, and the Crouke, to “our velbelufyt fameliar squiar Robert elwald of ye Redheuch for his guid and faithful servis to us don and for to be don,” which lands had formerly been possessed by David Purdom. This charter is signed at “Lentole,” *i.e.*, Lintalee, an ancient possession of the house of Douglas by the banks of the Jed.

On 7th January, 1479,<sup>3</sup> the Earl of Angus, at the “Ermtage” (Hermitage), granted another charter in favour

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<sup>1</sup> History of Liddesdale, &c., p. 179; and The Border Elliots, appendix, No. xi.

<sup>2, 3</sup> Larriston Titles.



of the said Robert Elwald, and for a similar cause as the preceding, of the lands of "Layhalcht, Carolschelis, hartsgarth et le faulde," lying in the lordship of "ledesdale" and sheriffdom of Roxburgh, to be held for the services of ward and relief.

On 8th January, 1479,<sup>1</sup> Angus granted a precept for infefting the said Robert Elwald in the lands in the last mentioned charter.

On 20th September, 1484,<sup>2</sup> Angus again executed a precept directed to "Walter Scot de Edschan, Radulpho Ker, fratri Wateri Ker de Cessford et Willielmo Elwaldo de goranbery" to infeft Robert Elwald of the Redheuch in the 20 merk lands of Over and Nether "Larrostane."

On 13th November, 1489,<sup>3</sup> at "Calco," the earl directed a further precept to William Ker of "Mersyntoune Radulpho Ker de Primside louch, Wilielmo elwad de gouinbery et Wilelmo gledstanys" to infeft Robert Elwad of the "Redehuch" in the lands commonly called "redehuch," "layhauch," "hartsgarth," "caraschele," "dawmane," and "larostanys superior et inferior," lying in the

Sept 20, 1484 likely landholders;  
Walter Scott of Edschaw  
Rudolph Kerr of Cressford  
William Elwald of Goranberry, to make  
Robert Elwald to be with land.

Also;  
William Kerr of Merisntown  
Rudolph Kerr of Primside Loch  
William Elwald again of Goranberry  
William Gladstanis.

This shows connection to the **Kerr, Scott and Gladstanis** families.

gouinbery et Wilelmo gledstanys" to infest Robert Elwad of the "Redehuch" in the lands commonly called "red-huch," "layhauch," "hartsgarth," "caraschele," "daw-maney," and "larostanys superior et inferior," lying in the lordship of "Lyddalisdale;" and on 13th June, 1497,<sup>4</sup> in presence of Ninian Elwald, Robert Elwald, William Elwald, John Elwald, Andrew Elwald, John Crosar, Quynntin Crosar, John Grame, and George Forstar, sasine of all the foresaid lands was taken in the hands of Richard Hall, notary public. We have thus, in the foregoing writs, the original infestments of, probably, the earliest Robert Elwald of Redheuch, first of the long succession of Roberts, chiefs of the clan, and frequently captains of the castle of the Hermitage under its various lords, and from whom the leading branches of the clan presume descent. The actual charter of the lands of Redheuch is wanting, but from the terms of the precept of 1489, we may presume that it, too, was granted to the same individual in whose favour the previous writs run. The importance of the family at this period

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<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup> Larriston Titles.

Names felt to be of witnesses;

Ninian, Robert, William, John, and Andrew Elwald.

**Robert, John, and William** are Norman forenames which originated in Englan, and Ninian and Andrew are christain saintly names which likely originated with John Elwald rector of St Andrews 1423.

John and Quentin Crosar (Crosier), John Grame (Graham) and George Forestar (Forester).

Buy **no Armstrong** which along with the Elwald are found associated to the Crosier, Graham, and Forester.

is evidenced by the fact that the Earl of Angus, on entering into certain treasonable communications with the English king in 1491 (which probably caused the exchange of his Border stronghold of the Hermitage for Bothwell Castle in Lanarkshire, a few years later, as a precautionary measure adopted by King James), bound himself to hand over in surety, along with his eldest son, the Master of Angus, "Robert Elwolde, son to Robert Elwolde, of the Hermitage, younger, which late deceassid, to be delivered with said earl's son for the same, or with himself."<sup>1</sup> From a retour of the service of Robert Elwolde, as heir to his grandfather in certain lands in the barony of Cavers, of date 15th February, 1497-98, preserved in the Cavers charter chest, and quoted by Mr Armstrong in his history, we learn that Robert Elwolde the grandfather, and, as we presume, first of Larriston and Redheuch, died on 3rd May, 1497. From another retour,<sup>2</sup> dated 19th October, 1501, of a service in presence of George Douglas, depute for William Douglas of Cavers, sheriff of Roxburgh, at Jedworth, the said Robert was served heir to his said grandfather, who is stated to

The above is to show the Elwald, Douglas connection in Cavers by 1497.

Names which occur besides Elwald;  
landholders; 3 Kerr, 1 Scott, 1 Gladstanis  
witnesses; 2 Crosier, 1 Graham, and 1 Forester

Elwald fornames used;  
Robert, William, and John, Norman names, and Andrew and Ninian, christian saintly names, and Elwald is and Anglo-Saxon christian, surname Elwald.





Above shows some locations for the Armstrong, Graham, Forest, and Kerr.

The Elwald were north on this map.



ne > Maps of Scotland, 1560-1928

