

# First Chief of the Elwald

Reserved for generation was **Robert** for the name of the **Elwald Clan Chief**.

Mr Robert Bruce Armstrong has very kindly allowed me to make use of the result of his investigations into the early history of the Elliots, and I am thus enabled to give a correct notice of the Redheuch family, and of the origin of the Larriston and Braidley branches.

Elwald, a personal name, became a surname, and was gradually altered to Elwood, Elliot, or Allot, finally to Elliot or Eliot.

In 1587 the Ellottis are mentioned as a clan on the middle march, having a chief.

In 1488 Robert Elwald of Thorleshope, and his brother Patrick, occur, and that place long remained the seat of a branch of the Elliots.

During the sixteenth century the heads of the house of Redheuch were recognised as chiefs of the clan.

I. Robert Elwold, who was alive in 1491, and at that time an aged man, is supposed to have been chief of his clan. He was probably born between 1420 and 1430. His son,

II. Robert Elwold, who had been Captain of the Hermitage, died shortly before November 1491.

III. Robert Elwold, his son, at that period was a person of the first consequence in Liddesdale; he was probably the Robert\* known as early as 1508 as of Redheuch, and who is again mentioned in 1510. If he was the Master Elliot who was killed at Flodden, he must have left besides Robert, his successor, two sons, William of Larriston, and Archibald.

IV. Robert Elliot, supposed to have been the eldest son of the last mentioned, was of Redheuch in 1515-1516, and was Captain of the

\* In the list of 1494-1495 there are five Elwalds bearing the Christian name of Robert. One "called King," another "of Langhalch," another "senior," another "the Earl," and another "young ridar."



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Hermitage in 1531.\* He also appears in 1546, 1546-1547, and 1548. In 1548-1549 he is again mentioned as Captain of the Hermitage, and must have died before 1557. He had at least two sons—Robert, and Martin of Braidlie.

V. Robert Elliot, the eldest son, appears in 1546, 1547, 1548, and 1553. He succeeded his father before 1557, during which year he is mentioned as *eldest*, when Martin, his brother, is also referred to. In 1561 he is called of Redheuch, and in 1563 was appointed Captain of the Hermitage. He married "Maorie Hamiltoun," and had four sons—Robert, Gibbie or Gilbert, William in Hartscharth (who married Jane Rutherford, one of the coheiresses of Gawen Elliot of Stobbs), and Archie. Robert Elliot of Redheuch died before 1566.

From 1563 down to 1573 we do not hear of an Elliot of Redheuch, the probability being that the Robert who first appears in the latter year had, during that period, been a minor. During these ten years Martin Elliot of Braidlie, the uncle of the minor, led the clan, and under his leadership it became one of the most important on the border.

VI. Robert Elliot of Redheuch, first mentioned in 1573. In 1580-1581 he was directed to give up the Hermitage, of which castle he had been captain. He also appears during the years 1582 to 1608 inclusive, and is believed to have married a daughter of Thomas Carlton of Carlton Hall. Besides Redheuch, Robert Elliot was also in possession or occupation of Larriston.† The date of his death is uncertain; he was succeeded by his son.

VII. Robert Elliot, who was served heir to his father April 20th, 1619, and who married Lady Jane Stewart, daughter of Francis, Earl of Bothwell. By a charter of January 27th, 1637, he settled Lariston on his daughter, Mary, and her husband, James Elliot.

In 1624 Robert was accused of conspiring to murder the Earl of Buccleuch.

What could one conclude the name of the first chief would be? The conclusion from above is that the name would be **Robert Elwald**.



# *The Elliots of Redheugh and of Stobs*

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 publisher: Seeley Service & Co LTD 1974 p11

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,<sup>1</sup> 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 captained 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'.<sup>2</sup>

\* 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.

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William, son of William Laidlaw and Helen Douglas, born at Weensmoor, 1815, married Agnes Purdom. She came from Liddesdale, where the family of Purdom have been represented for many centuries. I saw a charter, dated 25th June 1476, from Archibald, Earl of Angus and Lord of Liddesdale, granting the lands of Dalman, Bluntwood, and the Crouke to 'our velbelufyt fameliar squiar, Robert **Elwald** (Elliot) 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. This is a proof of the antiquity of this family.



**Robert Elwald of Redheugh** would be the tenth chief with the same name, in 1476.

Given that the chieftain likely started at Robert de Bruce, of 1320, a rough estimate  $(1480-1318)/9$  (in between generations makes 9 not 10) = **19 years between first sons**. Which would be possible.



This would put the name close to the time of Elwald surname emergence.

The name *Elwald* is felt to emerge from the name; saint/king *Ælfwald* (*wald* German for forest, *wold* Low German), which dropping the *Æ* brought *Elwald* (*wold*).

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The Anglo-Saxon heritage in Middle English personal names; East Anglia 1100-1399

Alfreda wife of Elwald

A. *Alfreda uxor Elfwaldi* Nf 1153-68 **Holme** 106 (*Elfreda uxor Elfwaldi* Nf 1175-86 **Holme** 139).

C. *Alanus Elfwold* Nf a. 1248 **Bec** 107, ... *Elfwold* ib. 113.

Alan Elwald

*Alfreda* is the wife of (uxor) *Elfwald* in 1160 Holme. It is likely an *Alan* son of *Elfwald* took *Elfwald* as a surname, giving the name *Alan Elfwald* (*Alanus Elfwold*). By having an *f* in the name it is indicative that it is a variant of *Ælfwald*.



It can be seen that *Bec* and *Holme* are close to each other.

From **Robert Elwald** of Remyngton because he did not prosecute Alan, his father, and Francis de Jarum, his pledges, 40*d*.  
 From Peter de Herdwyk because he did not prosecute Henry de Essewell and Robert le Loverdessone, his pledges, 10*s*.  
 From Thomas de Thurstanton because he did not prosecute Geoffrey Borel of Thurston and Ralph de Shotton, his pledges, 2*s*.  
 From Ralph de Langeton, illuminator (*lumynour*) for a false claim against John Whitwyn, 12*d*.  
 From William Calfbird of Durham because he did not prosecute against Hugh de Wherindon, 6*d*.

### Calendar of the Close Rolls, Volumes 1302-1307

Robert Elwald of Remyngton because he did not prosecute Alan, his father, and Francis de Jarum his pledges, 40*d*

Digitize

*From Robert Elwald of Remyngton (Rimington) because he did not persecute Alan his father and Francis de (of) Jarum, his pledges 40d. ca. 1305.*

This *Robert Elwald* would be at the time of the first *Elwald Clan chief*. Alan is his father, and Francis is of Jarum.

At Picton Junct. the Cleveland line meets the rly from Northalerton to Stockton. The border of **Yorkshire** is soon reached at Yarm, a small town of no interest. (The name is Danish—Jarum in its old form; there is a Jarum (**Hjardum**) in S. Jutland.) The ch., rebuilt in 1730, contains an E. window, filled with stained glass by Pecket of York. A 14th cent. bridge, built by Bp. Skirlaw, here spans the Tees, which the rly. crosses by a long viaduct, and proceeds along its Durham bank by Preston Junct. to Stockton. (See *Handbook for Durham*.)

Handbook for travellers in Yorkshire  
 By John Murray (Firm), Richard John King



It should be noted that Jarum is a Danish community.

In 1411 there is found a John Elwald of Dinsdale.

www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP\_25\_1\_279\_152.shtml

CP 25/1/279/152, number 30.

Link: [Image of document at AALT](#)

County: **Yorkshire**

Place: Westminster.

Date: One month from Easter, 12 Henry [IV] [10 May 1411].

Parties: **John Clervaux** of **Croft**, querent, and **John Elwald** of **Dydynsale** and **Beatrice**, his wife, and **John Secroft** of **Croft** and **Agnes**, his wife, deforciantis.

Property: 1 messuage, 18 acres of land and 3 acres of meadow in **Croft** and **Jolby**.

Action: Plea of covenant.

Agreement: John **Elwald** and Beatrice and John Secroft and Agnes have acknowledged the tenements to be the right of John Clervaux, as those which he has of their gift, and have remised and quitclaimed them from themselves and the heirs of Beatrice and Agnes to him and his heirs for ever.

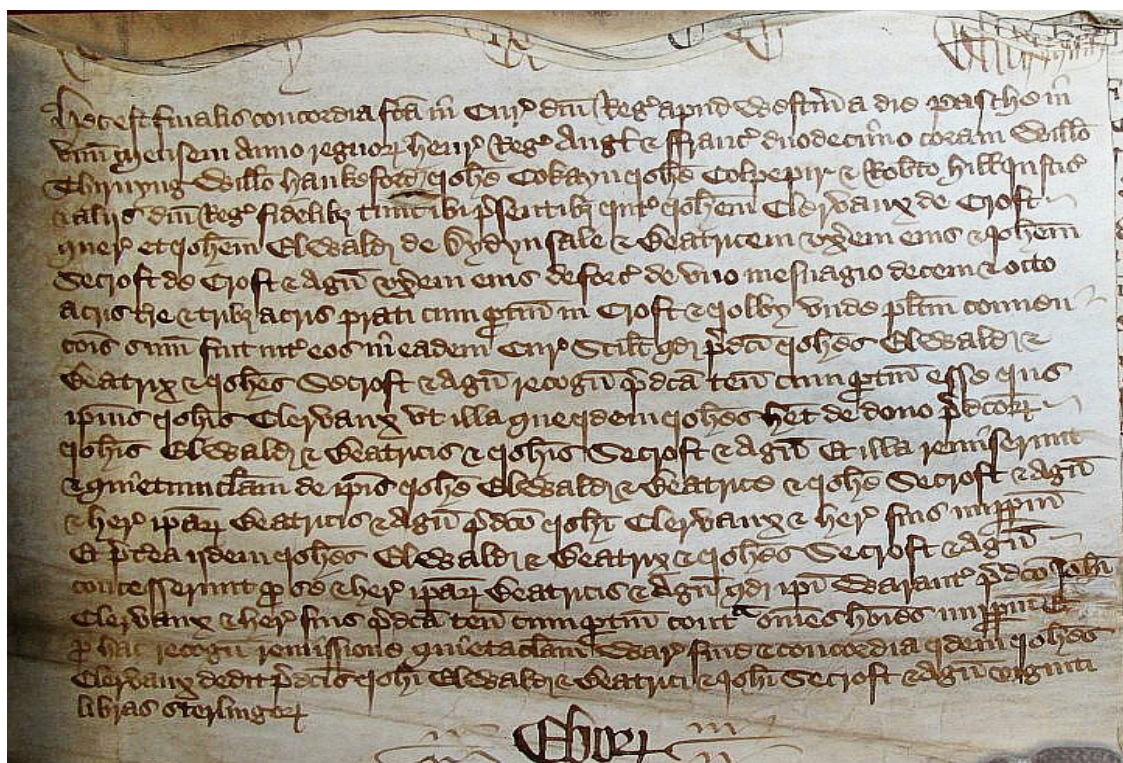
Warranty: Warranty.

For this: John Clervaux has given them 20 pounds sterling.

Standardised forms of names. (These are tentative suggestions, intended only as a finding aid.)

Persons: John Clervaux, John **Elwald**, Beatrice **Elwald**, John Secroft, Agnes Secroft

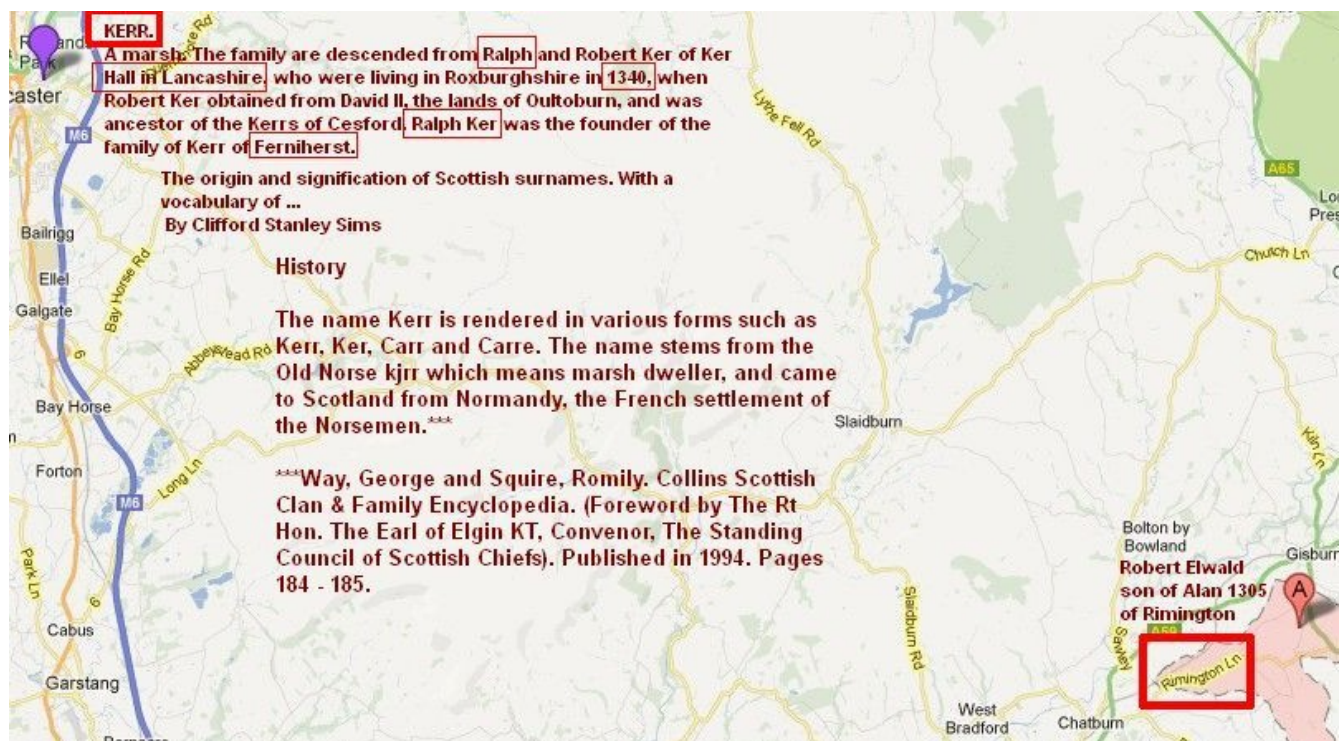
Places: **Croft on Tees**, **Over Dinsdale** (in Sockburn) or **Dinsdale**, **Jolby** (in **Croft on Tees**)





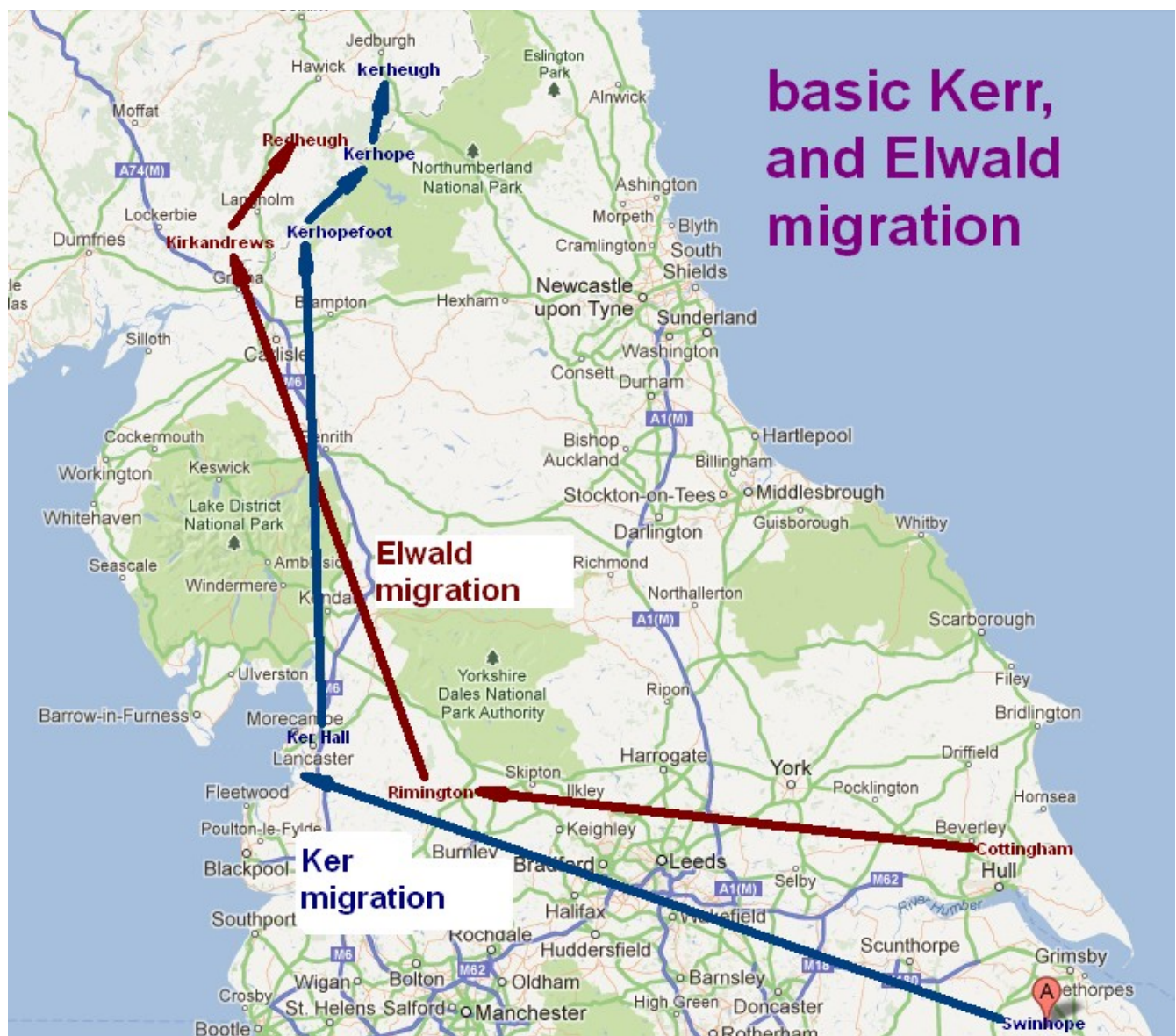
It can be seen that in 1411, Dinsdale is near Jarum. So it is felt that this family may be linked to Jarum.





The Kerr which were of the Traitors of Leven to the North are felt to come from Lancashire.





Migration paths of Ker, and Elwald seem similar. This would be in the pathway of the early Alan and Robert Elwald.