

## THE SCOTTS IN ZEELAND

I am a member of the Scott Clan through my mother's side of the family. The Chief of the Clan is The Duke of Buccleuch, who also holds the title of the Marquis of Queensberry.

As is not unusual, the search for family background commenced with an interrogation of my own family and along with the aid of the I.G.I., it was possible to trace the family tree back to its origin in the Orkney Islands. On impulse in 1985, I wrote a letter to the Bishop of Orkney asking if any Scotts were still in Orkney. To my delight, a letter was received from Nan Scott, who is Chairperson of the *Orkney Family History Society*.<sup>1</sup> Indeed my forebears were known and closely related to her.

Subsequently, when visiting the Orkneys, a still more distant cousin, Eoin Flett Scott, told of his experience in 1968. His farm on Mainland (the main island of the Orkneys) was in early times, a Viking farm. The farm of Redland was covered in title by odal law: that is, an original title granted from the Norse times.

While cleaning out a farm drain, lined in a common Orkney fashion with stone, he had come across a dressed and squared stone, which carried the outline of a crest. This was graphite rubbed, and sent to the Lord Lyon's Office in Edinburgh with the hope of identification of the crest. Alas, this did not occur for a long period, until by romantic chance, one of the office staff while powdering her nose, saw the rubbing reflected in her mirror and recognised it to be a reversed crest. The stone carver had carved the crest from the imprinter and not from the printed seal. Thus it is supposed that the stone was discarded. The crest was then identified as belonging to Jacob (James) Scott of The Hague and had been granted in 1679. The matriculation of the Arms showed that Jacob was in a line of descent from David Scott,<sup>2</sup> the third son of Robert Scott of Sinton and Harden. His eldest brother Walter Scott who was known as 'Wattie, burn the Braes' was a powerful border chief. The matriculation outlines that David had settled in Holland, his progeny became distinguished in affairs of The Netherlands over many succeeding generations. The family later included Directors of both the Dutch East and West Indies Companies, one was the President of the High Court of the Hague and still later they were major bankers in Amsterdam.

The earliest record of the family Scott that has been identified by the Orkney Archives, was the presence of Alexander Scott,<sup>3</sup> who was the priest of St. Mary in the parish of Burness in 1527 on the island of Sanday. There is circumstantial evidence that the Scott influence existed in Sanday as there is a Knowe (or bay) of Yarrow and a small village of Newark, both places which exist close to the Scott country around Hawick in lowland Scotland. Also found are Roos Wick and Roos Lock, Dutch words for Rose. The coming together of Rose and Yarrow brings to mind 'The Rose of Yarrow',<sup>4</sup> who was celebrated in songs and poems and married 'Auld Wat' of Hardin. The use of the word Roos would also imply an early Dutch contact.

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<sup>1</sup> Orkney Family History Society, e-mail, olaf.mooney@virgin.net.

<sup>2</sup> A. Nisbet, *Heraldry*, 1722: 1, pp. 88–110.

<sup>3</sup> R. S. Barclay, *The Population of Orkney, 1755–1961* (Kirkwall: Kirkwall Press Orkney, n.d.).

<sup>4</sup> Walter Scott, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel, Scott's Poetical Works*, (Melbourne: E.W. Cole).

Local 'folk' stories in the Scott family believe that the family was commenced by a starving castaway in a boat on the shores of Sanday, more of this later. Now it is now necessary to leave as a question mark the Orkney/Netherlands connection.

Having established from David Scott's history called for me to look more closely at the 15th and 16th C. and to the events on the mainland of Scotland. The early 16th Century, political chaos reigned because of the minority of King James the 5th. The country was divided between those who supported the claims of the Queen Mother, Margaret, as Regent and those who supported Douglas, the Earl of Angus. Queen Margaret, who was the sister of King Henry VIII, set up the Queen's Party, which had its headquarters at Stirling. Angus had the child king, James V, at Linlithgow, but the child was known to be unhappy to be with Angus. A number of the powerful Barons assembled to march on Linlithgow to take the King physically but were astounded when the King and the loyal burghers of Edinburgh came to oppose them; the Barons retreated. Specific mention<sup>5</sup> was made that 'due redress be made upon the borders of the nation' and a footnote that Buccleuch was amongst them.

On the 9th May 1526, a pardon was signed by the young King James V for alleged treason, by the Scotts and others, specifically it would seem for this act. This list or Muniment<sup>6</sup> included David Scott, who is known to have been in the Low Countries at this time. I suspect that he was still a landowner at this time.

During these troubled days the border chiefs were carrying out serious border raids against the English even during times when treaties of peace existed between the two countries. Later In 1526, the young King James and Angus led a punishment raid to Jedburgh and the border areas. It is suspected that James had had secret dealings with Buccleuch to encourage him to attempt a rescue of the King, as James felt that he was illegally under the power of Angus. On the 2nd of August 1526, on the return from Jedburgh, near Melrose, Buccleuch suddenly appeared on a hilltop with 1000 horsemen and demanded that the King be put in his charge. In an ensuing fight Buccleuch was wounded and 80 of his men killed, and his group fled. He was vigorously chased by Kerr of Cessford who was killed by a 'domestic' of Buccleuch thus commencing a deadly feud, which lasted for 200 years between the Scotts and the Kerrs. Buccleuch fled to Holland.

As glanced his eye o'er Halidon;  
 For on his soul the slaughter red  
 Of that unhallow'd morn arose,  
 When first the Scott and Carr were foes; When royal James behld the fray,  
 Prize to the victor of the day;  
 When Home and Douglas in the van,  
 Bore down Buccleuch's retiring clan,  
 Till gallant Cessford's hear-blood dear  
 Reek'd on the dark Elliot's spear <sup>3</sup>

The King did dramatically escape in 1528 from the power of the Douglas', and in Parliament, on the 5th September 1528, Buccleuch was declared innocent of all charges brought against him.

Scott family 'folk' stories has it that one of the more prominent members of the Scott clan had been captured at the Melrose raid, taken to Edinburgh for trial, and by unknown means had been helped to escape and been supplied with a boat. Was he the unknown castaway on Sanday? Sadly, the records of the Criminal Proceedings in Edinburgh appear to have been destroyed when Cromwell demanded that all records in Scotland be erased.

<sup>5</sup> C. Ridpath, *The Border History of England and Scotland*, revised by P. Ridpath, (Berwick, 1848), pp. 361–62.

<sup>6</sup> Sir William Frazer, *The Scotts of Buccleuch*, (Edinburgh, 1878).

<sup>3</sup> 'Lay of the Last Minstrel', Canto First verse XXX.

What of David Scott? It is possible that David was quite a troublemaker. Although a young man, the 'Pitcairn' records of the 'Criminal Trials Of Scotland'<sup>7</sup> has a David Scott on charges on 3 occasions in 1502, specifically for 'burning' but later still for being involved with the Armstrong's and the traitors of Levyn. Later still he was charged with being involved in the 'cruel slaughter of George Newtounne and George Cavers'. There is no record of penalty over these charges. He is frequently called 'lady' during the trial records, but why this is so is not clear. Obviously possibilities come to mind, include that he was considered effeminate or was of slight build. Alternately he was called 'laddie' and the clerk had mis-spelled the term. The shorter Oxford Dictionary records that 'laddie' was in use in 1546. Thus given that he may have been only a teenager at this time, and that he was listed in the Buccleuch Muniments, he probably held land in his name. The Criminal Trials show that his surety was underwritten by senior members of the clan, all these factors suggesting that he was closely related to the clan chief as suspected. The criminal records and the murder charge would be in keeping with the family sending him overseas.

The Island of Walcheren, in Zeeland, had as its capital Middelburg. Although an Island then, today this is not the case, the island being joined by means of land-reclamation. It may be looked upon as the plug at the mouth of the river Rhine, with the main waterway on the south of Zeeland being the River Schelde. The Schelde is the gateway to Antwerp and the rich cities of an area, which we recognise today as Belgium, although called in the 15th-16th C. the South or Spanish Netherlands. It is clear from Dutch records that the Scott or Schotte family was established in Walcheren from early in the sixteenth century.

The family name Scott, is not confined to the line of the Buccleuchs. Among the followers of William the Conqueror were the Ballieus from Picardy. After the invasion and coronation of William, he parceled out lands to his nobles and wisely often made their holdings geographically widely separated. The Ballieus were granted land, mainly in Kent but also in the Midlands and in Scotland. The marriage of John Balliol (Bailleul) who was for a time Regent of Scotland, to Dervogilla of Galloway was politically important. This must have been a factor leading to King Edward I of England to support their son, John, against the claims of the Bruce family to the throne of Scotland. Edward I allocated the Scottish throne to John Balliol. He reigned as King John Balliol from 1292-6, but eventually he rebelled against Edward, as he did not wish to rule as a puppet king. The Arms of Dervogilda, include the catherine wheel the symbol of St Catherine of Alexandria. They are still be found in parts of Balliol College in Oxford. The College which was founded by John Balliol Senior, and was subsequently supported by Devorgilda.

Following King John Balliol's revolt and defeat by Edward, others of the family dispensed with the name Balliol. In particular Alexander Balliol changed his name to Scot or Scott and lived mainly near Brabourne in Kent, where the Scott tombs may be found today in Brabourne Church.

King Edward Balliol, the son of King John Balliol, also called 'the pretender', was for a brief time on the Scots throne like his forebear ruled as a puppet king of Edward III. He had a very weak hold on Scotland from 1332 to 1356 in the deeply divided country. He retired from Scottish affairs in 1356 and was pensioned off on an annuity by Edward III.

Meanwhile in England, the family of Scotts having fled Scotland flourished particularly in Kent. In 1696, a genealogical review of the Schotte (Scott) family was published in Dutch by Smallgange.<sup>8</sup> Some of his 'facts' must be regarded as fanciful, however much appears to be extremely accurate. The more that I have been able to follow his published tree and comments, the more that I find that his claims can be substantiated. Smallgange claims that the

<sup>7</sup> *Trials: Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland*, ed R Pitcairn, (Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 1829-33).

<sup>8</sup> M. Smallgange, *Cronyk van Zeeland* (Middelburg, 1696).

original Scott heraldic symbol was the forcene horse,<sup>9</sup> but this emblem was lost by them because of an alleged family misbehaviour and replaced by a griffin, which has continued to be part of the Coat of Arms of the Scotts of Scottshall. However, in the Book of Arms,<sup>10</sup> some Scotts in The Netherlands continued to use the forcene horse or a unicorn in their Arms. The entire griffin or the head or the thigh can be traced through generations of the Scotts in Zeeland. Indeed in the Town Hall in Middelburg, the leg of the Griffin can be seen in the Municipal Coats of Arms. It is attributed to the church and area of Klevekirck, the archivist in Middelburg was unaware that this was the Coat of Arms of one of the Scott Family who were the original owners of the land upon which the church had been erected.

Reginald Scott of the Kent family was the last Governor of Calais, which was lost to France in 1558. He fled north to Zeeland, where he too settled. He probably settled about the area of Flushing in Zeeland, more correctly called Vlissingen, and a principal seaport on the Schelde River but is only seven kilometres from Middelburg.

Another notable Kent family member was another Reginald Scott who published his remarkable book 'The Discovery of Witchcraft'. The book so upset James VI of Scotland that on his assumption of the English throne as James I of England, he ordered that all copies were to be burnt. King James VI was extremely superstitious and had had at least three 'witches' burnt at the stake in Edinburgh prior to ascending the English Throne due to the alleged predictions that his marriage would fail. Scott however had his book reprinted at Leiden at the request of the academics of the University of Leiden. It is said that Shakespeare drew on the book for data for the mad scenes in his play *Macbeth*.

In The Netherlands, popular revolt in the sixteenth Century. was on the rise because of the unrelenting drive of Philip II of Spain to rid all the population of heretics, or non-Catholics. However, the Protestant changes of Calvinism and various other similar minded movements were gaining vast followings and the popularity of 'hedge preaching' in vacant lands attracted many thousands to become aware of the Protestant concepts. Margaret of Parma, Phillip's governor-general for the Low Countries, was petitioned by leading nobles and burgers for the reduction of the persecution. Among the nobles was Prince William The Silent of Orange. The petitioners were scorned as 'beggars'; the name bound the discontented together as a brotherhood.

About 60,000 refugees are thought to have left to avoid the inquisition and persecution in the southern provinces, mostly settling in England. Without doubt, the fact that the denouncement of a possible 'heretic' if proven, allowed the informer and the Town Council, a portion of the possessions of the 'heretics' would have led to many 'spite' cases. The exiles set about drafting the constitution of the Dutch Reformed Church in London.

As the First Dutch revolt commenced in earnest, the defeats of the rebels on land was commonplace, but was more than effectively countered by the development and successes of the 'sea-beggars', who were, in the main, seamen from the maritime provinces of Zeeland and Holland. They disrupted the flow of trade to and from Antwerp by their blockade of the River Schelde, and attacked the Spanish at all times at sea. These activities were very much encouraged by Queen Elizabeth of England.

The 'sea-beggars' were supplied with arms, shelter and food in the English ports, as it was very much in the interests of Elizabeth I to disrupt all Spanish supply lines and trade. But the 'sea-beggars' also disrupted the Baltic trade. In 1572, Elizabeth was obliged to agree to the calls of the merchants from the Hanseatic League to cease giving aid to the sea-beggars from her ports. Without bases, they raided along the coastline in Spanish occupied territory. By chance, they landed at Brill a small port in South Holland. The Spanish garrison was out of the

<sup>9</sup> The forcene horse is now the emblem of the County of Kent.

<sup>10</sup> J.-B. Rietstep, *Planches de l'Armorial Général*, tome 1 (1884), revised by H.V. Rolland, 1938.

town on that day, the beggars decided to settle in the town. Very soon other towns in Zeeland also came over to the beggars who by 1572, occupied all of Zeeland except Middelburg which held out and remained in Spanish hands.

In 1574, the Spanish in desperation sent a relief force by galley to attempt to assist the starving garrison. In a sea battle off Sluys, the rebel force led by Hans Schot utterly defeated the Spanish in what is regarded as the last sea battle between oared vessels and sailing vessels in Dutch waters. The Spanish did have oared vessels in their Armada of 1588.

On land, with the defeat of the Spanish at sea, forces under the command of Jacob Scott, grandson of David Scott, took the fortress of Middelburg. The Scotts subsequently became politically and economically a major family in Zeeland and later in The Hague. The direct descendants of Jacob were directors of both the Dutch East and West Indies Companies. One son, Appolonius was the President of the High Court at The Hague. Others went on to be successful merchants in The Hague and others bankers in Amsterdam.

By 1585, it was clear that Elizabeth had to support Prince William of Orange or face the risk that Spain would occupy the entire coast of the Low Countries from which England might expect an invasion. Elizabeth sent men and horses under the command of The Earl of Leicester; these troops remained until immediately prior to the sailing of the great Spanish Armada of 1588, and some units until 1590. Among the troops was John Scott, son of Sir Thomas Scott of Scottshall. John was knighted in the field of battle at Zutphen. It is likely that he too sired a family in Zeeland.

In 1588, Sir Thomas Scott was the Governor of Kent, and raised 5000 troops at the command of Elizabeth I to defend Kent; he allegedly stood with her on the Cliffs of Dover as the battle of The Spanish Armada was fought. Kent provided 4600 levies between 1585 and 1602. In the hour of need, more men were enrolled and a eulogy on his death in 1594 contains the following lines:

His men and tenants waild the daye  
His kinn and countrie cried!  
Both younge and old in Kent may saye  
Wee werrth the day he died.

The descendants of the Scotts of Scottshall, became prominent in all areas of English life, and count in their ranks the celebrated architects of the nineteenth Century. Sir Gilbert Scott, father and son. Their works included restoring the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey, the building of the Albert Memorial and the Glasgow Cathedral.

The economic importance to England of the trade through Zeeland via Flushing and Middelburg has a counterpart in its importance to Scotland. The Scottish wool staple or market, was held at the town of Veere on the Island of Walcheren, and only seven kilometers north of Middelburg. The de Veere family were by marriage eventually the Counts of Oxford from 1147 following the Norman Conquest. Also by marriage, Mary Stuart, the fifth daughter of King James I of Scotland married Wolfgang Borssele, seigneur of Veere at that time (about 1480's), thus the overlords of Veere had considerable power in Scotland's Royal Houses, and possibly influenced the Scottish merchants to use this port. In Veere today there is the well preserved Scotch House, a warehouse and trading building from early times.

The economy of Scotland in the fifteenth and sixteenth Centuries was agriculture based. Wool, leather and animal hides being the main exports. Raw manpower was almost an export, as the Scots appear to have roamed widely throughout Europe. This factor causes many headaches for the family historians, as it would appear that in foreign areas a man 'coming from Scotland' often became known as the Scot and hence adopted the surname Scot or Scott. I have found the surname as far east as Bavaria and as far south as Lombardy in Italy.

Economically, the vast fishing grounds of the North Sea had not been exploited by the Scots, who tended to fish only in the local shallow waters. Many reasons could be put forward for why this was so, including low population and no capital backing. Certainly the overall lack of timber to build boats in the far north of Scotland would have been a major factor.

This was not the case with the Dutch. They had exploited their skills at boat building by trading with the Baltic States and with Norway to import timber. Their herring fleets were eventually to be the means whereby the Dutch were to become the masters of the lucrative international herring trade. Their success was related not only to the volume of fish caught but also to their quality.

Herrings require to be salted and the production of salt by the Dutch and its purity became renowned.<sup>11</sup> Here again there is a connection with Scotland. Salt has been a trade good from prehistoric times, its use for preservation, flouring and cheese making, caused salt to be very sought after and carried along the various salt roads of Europe.

The herring from the Baltic Sea was smaller than those of the North Sea. The fish to be of the highest quality required to be salted within 24 hours to produce the 'white herring', for which 50 kg. of salt was needed for every 1000 fish. If a longer time elapsed, the fish could be partly salted and then later cured in smokehouses and were then known as 'red herrings'. As the fishing fleets went further to sea, the salt had to be carried in larger quantities to the fishing grounds. It would have been good sense to try to obtain salt from outlets closer to the fishing grounds, and this appears to have been attempted with numerous salt workings along the Firth of Forth. The purity of salt from river or coastal areas was often poor because of many contaminants and bad taste. Salt from mines, e.g. in the Austrian areas near Salzburg (salt town) or from natural springs, as found in the German Luneburg Heath springs, suffered similarly. The poison being mostly due to lead contamination.

The Dutch however perfected a technique of extracting near pure salt from peat. This salt was so pure as to be of 'table quality'. By 1570, there were 450 salt workings in The Netherlands, 200 of these in Zeeland. Arnemuiden near Middelburg had 31 of these. Peat digging became so widespread in the Netherlands that the water table was affected and peat digging became a regulated industry.

Obviously, there would have been a good economic reason to attempt to make salt in other areas where peat was to be found, as in Ireland and Northern Scotland. In the Orkneys, on the Island of Eday, which is adjacent to Sanday, separated by less than 500 metres of water, such an attempt appears to have occurred. The land was owned by the Earl of Carrick. A site has been excavated showing all the expected ground lay out for a salt furnace and also existing above ground there remain buildings consistent with a large salt purification plant.

I mentioned earlier that Sanday was the traditional 'birth-place' of the Scott family in Orkney. I have also drawn attention to the original Crest of Jacob Scott from The Hague being found in Orkney, so I have to wonder if Jacob was endeavoring to set up a salt trading liaison, salt being such a precious commodity. Unfortunately, I cannot at this time substantiate this theory, but why else would a Dutch merchant be committing his seal in such a wilderness as the Orkneys? The Dutch West Indies Company gradually failed between the First (1652-1654) and the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667), Jacob was granted Arms in 1679, suggesting he was an independent trader or indeed a family member of the then powerful banking house of Everarde Scott and Son of Amsterdam.

Before closing, I should draw attention to some of the descendants of the two Scott families in Australia. The Orkney Scotts include Captain William Scott who was a pioneer in 1838 in South Australia and a member of the Legislative Council there. His brother James may have been among the first to plant grapes at Magill outside Adelaide. My own Orkney family

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<sup>11</sup> C.S. Reed, 'The Dutch Salt Industry', *Journal of Occupational Health and Science*, 16: 2, April 2000.

roots, following a stay in Glasgow, came to the Hunter District in 1879. Of the Kent Scotts, the group who settled in the Hunter area should be noted for their horse breeding skills. The horses were for export to India as remounts for the Indian Army. Their fame lies in that they were the Whaler horses, which played such a large role in the Middle East Campaigns of the First World War. This family intermarried with the Mitchells, and the Mitchell Library doors at the State Library of N.S.W. show the Coat of Arms of David Scott Mitchell. These Arms show the mix of the Mitchell and Scott Arms but strangely the Scotts of Buccleuch, however to date I can find nothing to suggest that the family, who originated in Bath, in England, were ever from Scotland.

**Con Scott Reed, MB, BS, FRACP, MA  
127 Wallis St.  
Woollahra. 2025**