

THE ELLIOTT FAMILY IN CHANGE ISLANDS

SUMMARY OF MY RESEARCH SO FAR

My research began with Joseph Edmund Elliott of Change Islands. His monument is in the cemetery of the Anglican church at Change Islands. It states that he died November 12, 1914, aged 65 years.

I have been informed that he was a sea-captain, i.e. engaged in the fishing trade, and that he had a fleet of five schooners.

He was twice married. He had four children by the first marriage, and six children by the second. When he got married for the second time, he kept two of the children of his first marriage, the other two went to live with relatives. His second wife was a widow, and had two children by her own first marriage. These two she brought with her. He also adopted a boy from another family.

Two of his children of the second marriage are still living. They are--

(1) Laura Elizabeth Elliott (Mrs. Arthur Jordan). My wife's Mother. Mrs. Jordan is a wonderful old lady, she will be 89 next month. Her mind is as clear as a bell. She lives at Niagara Falls. We have talked to her many times about her childhood in Change Islands. It was a very busy household, with eleven children altogether. People coming and going all the time.

It is curious that she knows nothing whatever of her grandfather, except the one fact that he was said to be a "TARTAR."

(2) Bessie Elliot (Mrs. Swan Taylor). My wife's Aunt. She is, I think, about 82 years old, very keen and very active. She lives near Galt. Of her grandfather she knows nothing whatever.

From these facts my wife and I came to the conclusion that the grandfather (i.e. the father of Joseph Edmund Elliott) must have died early in life, as his grandchildren seem to know nothing about him.

The next step was to start looking for the father of Joseph Edmund Elliott.

At this point I would like to draw your attention to the following extract from some information sent me by Dr. Macpherson.

From the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.
Twillingate Baptismal Records.

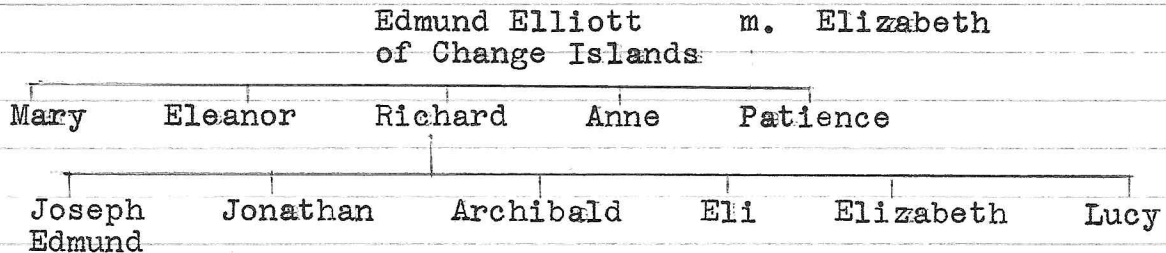
Edmund Elliott m. Elizabeth
of Change Islands

Mary Eleanor Richard Anne Patience

(There were six baptisms in the above order, The first baptism took place 28 August, 1821)

I started thinking about this family, and I noticed the repetition of the Christian name EDMUND. I came to the conclusion that it was very likely that Richard Elliott was the father of Joseph Edmund Elliott.

On this assumption I drew up a tentative genealogical table as follows--



The first part of the above table is taken directly from the U.S.P.G. Records.

The latter part of the table is from information given me by Joseph's two daughters.

The only point not absolutely verified is whether Joseph and his brothers and sisters were or were not the children of Richard.

Following this I wrote to various sources to try and ascertain definitely whether Joseph Edmund Elliott was actually the son of Richard Elliott, but I could obtain no confirmation of this.

Finally I wrote to the Registry of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland to try and obtain the Will or Testament of Richard Elliott.

Mr. G.M. Badcock, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, was kind enough to write me a reply, the chief points in which were as follows--

Richard Elliott of Change Islands was drowned at sea, on the passage from Fogo to Change Islands, on Monday, the fifteenth day of October, 1866. He left no Will, and his two brothers, Edmund Elliott and Thomas Elliott, applied to the Supreme Court for Letters of Administration, which were granted in due course.

Richard Elliott was a widower, and left eight children, all of whom were minors.

It seems to me that the names and dates all fit in exactly.

Richard Elliott was at this time about forty years of age. He died about seventeen years before his granddaughter, Laura Elizabeth Elliott, was born. Between his death and the birth of Laura there was the first marriage of Joseph and the birth of four other children. No wonder that Laura knew nothing about her grandfather.

Richard Elliott's eldest son, Joseph Edmund Elliott, would at the time of his father's death be about seventeen years of age.

It is rather a tragic picture, father and mother both dead, leaving eight children, the eldest being only seventeen.

One might assume that the two youngest children were adopted by other members of the family. That is why I had only heard of six children. One thinks here of Joseph "giving away" two of his children at the time of his second marriage. It was of course the best thing to do under the circumstances.

It seems to me that all these facts make it almost certain that Joseph Edmund Elliott was the son of Richard Elliott.

If that is true, then I have carried the genealogical table back as far as Edmund Elliott of Change Islands, who was married to Elizabeth, and whose first child was baptized on the 28th day of August, 1821.

We are still awaiting replies to several enquiries on this point about Joseph Edmund Elliott and his father Richard Elliott.

A baptismal record of Joseph or his brothers would of course give the father's name.

I might add that the family stories seem to relate to Fogo rather than to Twillingate, and we have not done ^{any} research on Fogo yet. However there is ^{is}

Joh Elliott, inhabitant of Change Islands, Fogo. 1787

Edmund Elliot, planter, Fogo. 1816.

A school teacher, native of Change Islands, told my wife last summer that Change Islands was named from the fact that early settlers changed from winter to summer quarters. These dual addresses of the Elliotts seem to bear this out, and would indicate that Fogo or Old Perlican would warrant further research.

OTHER ASPECTS OF MY RESEARCH

I have of course done a good deal of other research. I have been in touch with the minister of the Anglican church at Twillingate, and I have his book, the History of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Twillingate. I have a book on Dorset which describes, amongst other things, the history of the trade between Poole and Newfoundland.

In reading Boswell's Life of Johnson I noticed that Boswell makes reference to a place in Scotland called Fogo. I checked on this at the University here, and found that Fogo is a small town on the River Blackadder in Berwickshire. This is in the next county to Sir Walter Scott's Roxburghshire, and to Stobs, the family seat of the Elliott family. General George Augustus Elliott, the famous hero of Gibraltar, was the seventh son of the third baronet of Stobs. I notice that one of the men you mention was George Augustus Elliott, who I think was born about the time that the whole of England and Scotland were ringing with the fame of the defender of Gibraltar.

I wonder what is the connection between Fogo in Scotland, Fuego in the Cape Verde Islands, and Fogo in Newfoundland. There is something there which I have not quite fathomed. Maybe the same man named Fuego in the Cape Verde Islands, and Fogo in Newfoundland. Maybe he was a Scotsman.

I noticed that the church in Change Islands is dedicated to St. Margaret. I found that St. Margaret was a Saxon Princess, the sister of Edgar Atheling. When William the Conqueror became King of England in 1066, the Saxon royal family went to Scotland. Margaret married Malsolm III, King of Scotland, and was canonized, being greatly venerated for her holy works.

The conclusion one can draw from this is that whoever had to do with the building of the church at Change Islands had Scottish recollections.

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