

Colonial Society – the Linton connection

Background

Family tree starts with **Walter Linton** born 1780/81, Philiphaugh, Selkirk and his partner Helen Fraiter, also born 1780/81.

Among their offspring there was an **Alexander Linton** born 1825, a drystane dyker, who then had an illegitimate child with Elizabeth Hogg in 1852. This was in Hawick and the child, also named **Alexander Linton** was raised by relatives in Hawick. He became a tailor & clothier.

In 1876 Alexander married an **Agnes Charlotte** (Rae), a mill worker from Selkirk, and they set up home in Hume Close, Selkirk. They had 9 children in total. In 1888 they moved to Canada, but things did not work out so they returned to Selkirk within two years. However this was not the end of the adventures of the Linton family and their stories follow.

The children were –

Those who stayed nearer to home –

John Smith Linton born 1878, died 1956 Selkirk

James Linton born 1880, died 1899 Selkirk

Jane Linton born 1881/82, died 1910 Selkirk

Adam Linton born 1891, died 1891 Selkirk

Lizzie Linton born 1896, died 1977 Duns

Those who travelled –

Alexander John Linton born 1883, died 1965 Selkirk

William Rae Linton born 1886, died 1985 Canada

Oliver Rae Linton born 1887, died 1956 Selkirk

Charles Hogg Linton Born 1892, died 1916 France

Alexander Linton joined the British Army in 1901 and served until 1919. He saw action in Malta, Gibraltar, China and during WW1 took part in the Salonika (Greece) Campaign. He reached the rank of Battery Sergeant Major with the Royal Garrison Artillery being Mentioned in Despatches, receiving Meritorious Service Medals and Territorial Force Efficiency Medals. After discharge he returned to Selkirk with wife (from Guernsey) and family.

William Linton located to Canada in 1907 and found work in the township of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. He is shown in records as being in service as a domestic, although this is more likely to have been farm worker. In WW1 he was turned down for service by the Canadian Forces, so he returned to Britain to join up. However he was again rejected, so he found work in the munitions business and also worked in forestry – all part of the war effort. After the war he returned to Canada but moved to Vancouver Island in forestry (wood for paper making). He was one of those burned out in a forest fire in 1921 (see story of Oliver Linton) but William remained in Canada and married. One of his children (Alex) was responsible for establishing the Mount Washington Alpine Resort on Vancouver Island (see separate document about Alex).

Oliver Linton also moved to Canada in 1907 and was with his brother, William, in Portage La Prairie. In 1910 Oliver was recorded as being one of the founding members of the Colonial Society but by then he was living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In WW1, he joined the Canadian Forces and attained

the rank of Sergeant. He was a machine gunner and saw service in the third Battle of Ypres (1916), being wounded at Hell Fire Corner on the Menin Road. He did not return to active service and was eventually returned to Canada and discharged in 1919, by which time he was married to Elsie Munro and had a child John. The family home was recorded as Nut Jake, Saskatchewan, and occupation was farmer. By 1920 or so, the family had moved to Vancouver Island and where employed on forestry for the paper industry. A second child Agnes was born in 1921. Also in 1921, the family were the victims of a disastrous forest fire which cost them both "hoose and hame". As a direct result of this fire, Elsie took both children back to Scotland, to her folks, leaving Oliver to fight in the courts for compensation alongside the many others who lost their homes and livelihood because of the actions of the logging company, Comox. The court case was eventually settled in favour of the victims and Oliver Linton was able to travel back across Canada and embark for the UK, arriving in Glasgow on 19 October 1924. The family settled in Selkirk with Oliver entering service on the Philiphaugh Estate. Son John and daughter Agnes were members of the Colonial Society. John was secretary of the Society at one time and also held the same position with the Gala Souters. Descendants of Oliver have been standard bearers for the Royal Burgh and Merchant Company, Master of the Merchant Company, Chairmen of the Colonials and Ex-SBs, and in the case of grand-daughter Sheila an involvement in Flodden 500, rosette and bunting preparation, and many common riding activities.

Charles Linton located to Canada in 1913 where he settled in Regina as a farmer. In 1916 he joined the Canadian Armed Forces and fought in France where he was killed in action at Vimy Ridge, a long campaign which lasted for most of WW1. Inscribed on the ramparts of the Vimy Memorial are the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers who were posted as 'missing, presumed dead' in France.

Finally, returning to the parents, Alexander and Agnes Charlotte Linton, Alexander continued to work as a self-employed tailor & clothier until his death in 1915. The family were by this time living in the Fleshmarket. Sometime around 1921-25 his widow Agnes moved (again) to Canada and settled in Regina. Records show that she had the care of family children however this part of the ancestry search has floundered. We can perhaps assume that her son Charles was in a relationship prior to joining the army and that there was offspring. This would fit with a branch of the family remaining in Regina long after the war and into the second half of the twentieth century.

Definitely a family with Colonial connections.