

The Elliot family

In the article

The History of Lightcliffe House

it was noted that the architect and surveyor, George Henry Elliott, and family were at Lightcliffe House on the night 31st March 1901. Then in 1904 the Elliots' thirteen-year-old son died there. He was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard. But his is not the only burial of family members in the Lightcliffe churchyard and so their story had better be told.

It begins in Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, a seventeenth century woollen mill town on the banks of the River Esk near the Scottish Border. A mason David Elliot and his wife Isabella née Hotson had a son Thomas Elliot baptised there. The Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564 – 1950 suggests that Thomas Elliot was born on 17th March 1819.

Like his father Thomas was a mason. The young mason was still in Dumfriesshire, Scotland on 6th June 1841. But then he then must have travelled south. In April 1847 whilst living in the North Riding of Yorkshire village of Brompton-on-Swale he married a young widow, Mary Hamilton, at Easby parish church near Richmond, Yorkshire.

Mary and some of her family were from this same village usually just referred to as Brompton or – with a Yorkshire accent - Brumpton. [There are in fact lots of North Yorkshire villages 'something Brompton' or 'Brompton something' so the 'on-Swale' bit is important.]

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Easby</i> in the County of <i>York N.R.</i> in the Year <i>1819</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1819. Sep. 24</i>	<i>Mary Lisle Daughter of</i>	<i>Eleanor</i>	<i>Dodsworth</i>	<i>Brumpton</i>	<i>Married Woman</i>	<i>The Vicar</i>

The story of Mary Lisle Dodsworth, as she was baptised on 24th September 1819, is quite a complicated one. Is her middle name a clue as to who her father was? No one will ever know! As you can see her mother was a married woman' Eleanor Dodsworth of 'Brumpton'.

Eleanor Dodsworth née Pratt was the wife of a Robert Dodsworth, a a carpenter from Croft-on-Tees, who she married on 18th February 1805 again at Easby.

Feb 18 Robert Dodsworth & Eleanor Pratt^E — Licene

Eleanor Pratt was one of the many children of George, another mason, and Isabel Pratt of Brompton. She also had an Easby baptism on 14th July 1782.

July 14 Eleanor Daughter of George and Isabel Pratt of Brumpton.

Two years after her daughter Mary was born, forty-year-old Eleanor Dodsworth died. She was buried at Easby on 20th May 1821.

Eleanor Dodsworth	Brompton	May 20	40	The Vicar
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The question is then Who looked after the little girl, Mary (Lisle) Dodsworth?

The 1841 census suggests a possibility.

1841 census

Matthew Pratt 69 Mason

Mary Pratt 70

Mary Dodsworth 20 F.S.

Address Brompton on Swale, Richmond, NRY

Matthew Pratt was another of George and Isabel Pratt's children – baptised at Easby on 27th December 1772 - so he and his wife may well have taken little Mary in after his sister died.

On 23rd September 1841 the servant, Mary Dodsworth, married John Hamilton, a tailor, in Easby church. Both were from Brompton (on-Swale). They had a daughter Jane born Q3 1842 and baptised at Easby on 31st July 1843. But then thirty-one-year-old John Hamilton died, he was buried at Easby on 30th June 1845.

1847. Marriage solemnized by license in the parish of Easby in the County of York								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
54	April 12 th	Thomas Elliot	Full age	Married	Mason	Brompton	David Elliot	Mason
		Mary Hamilton	Full age	Widow		Brompton	Robert Dodsworth	Joiner
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Anglican Church by me, T. A. Pratt								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ Thomas Elliot Mary Hamilton }		in the Presence of us,		{ Joseph Young Mary Laidlaw }		

The very difficult to read Easby parish marriage record above states that on 12th April 1847 the widow Mary Hamilton née Dodsworth married Thomas Elliot who by then was also residing in Brompton (on-Swale) again at Easby. A daughter Isabella was baptised there on 12th December 1847 and then a son Matthew Pratt Elliot - presumably named after the uncle who brought his mother up - on 22nd September 1850 . The family were still in the same village and Thomas was still a stonemason.

Dec 12 th	Isabella	Thomas & Mary	Elliot	Brompton	Stone mason	The Vicar.
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[The baptism records show the variations in the spelling of the surname Elliot e.g. Eliott and Elliott. The spelling used on documents quoted will be used.]

September 22 nd	Matthew Pratt	Thomas & Mary	Elliott	Brompton	Mason	Mrs. Thompson
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But then Thomas must have got some work elsewhere, as on the night of the 1851 census he was lodging with a Smithson family in Staveley near Knaresborough, Yorkshire but his family were still in Brompton on Swale next door to the Pratts.

1851 census

Mary Elliot Head 32 Stonemason's Wife
Isabella Elliot Dau 3
Mathew Pratt Elliot Son 7 mo
Address Brompton-on-Swale, Richmond, NRY

1851 census

Mathew Pratt Head 78 Retired Mason
Mary Pratt Wife 83
Sarah Newton Visitor 4
Address Brompton-on-Swale, Richmond, NRY

At the time Mary's daughter Jane Hamilton, an eight-year-old scholar, was living with four unmarried Hamilton aunts in Northallerton, NRY on 30th March 1851. Six years later she died there. The fourteen-year-old was buried in Northallerton on 28th June 1857.

Matthew Pratt of Brompton on Swale had his death, on 25th February 1853, announced in the *Yorkshire Gazette*.

From the children's baptism records; John at Easby on 15th May 1853, Ellen, William and George Henry at Boroughbridge on 24th June 1855, 26th July 1857 and 1st July 1860 you can see that the family moved to Boroughbridge after Matthew Pratt's death.

1853 15 th May No. 3	John	Thomas & Mary	Elliott	Brompton	Mason	Mrs. Thompson
June 24 th No. 460.	Ellen	Thomas & Mary	Elliott	Boroughbridge	Mason	Robt. Brown Curate
July 26 th No. 503.	William	Thomas & Mary	Elliott	Boroughbridge	Mason	John Brown
1860. July 1 st No. 601.	George Henry	Thomas & Mary	Elliott	Boroughbridge	Mason	Robt. Brown

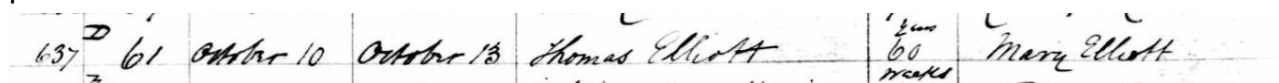
1861 census

Thomas Elliott Head 42 Stonemason
 Mary Elliott Wife 42
 Isabel Elliott Dau 13 Scholar
 Matthew Elliott Son 10 ditto
 John Elliott Son 8 ditto
 Ellen Elliott Dau 6 ditto
 William Elliott Son 3
 George H Elliott Son 1
 Address
 West Side of Horse Fair, Boroughbridge, NRY

1871 census

Thomas Elliott Head 52 Stonemason
 Mary Elliott Wife 52
 Isabella Elliott Dau 23 Dressmaker
 Matthew Elliott Son 20
 Mechanical Draughtsman
 John Elliott Son 18 Stone Carver
 Ellen Elliott Dau 16 Scholar
 William Elliott Son 13 ditto
 George H Elliott Son 11 ditto
 Address 40 Peckover St., Bradford

Between the two censuses the family moved again from Boroughbridge to Bradford. Then there must have been another move to Hipperholme perhaps to Myrtle Bank as this was where the Scotsman Thomas Elliot died on 10th October 1879. He was buried in Lightcliffe plot D61 on 13th October.

1881 census

Mary Elliot Head 62 Widow
 Isabel Elliot Dau 38 Daughter
 Mathew Elliot Son 30 Civil Engineer
 Jono. Elliot Son 28 Sculptor Carver
 Ellen Elliot Dau 26 Schoolmistress
 George H. Elliot Son 21 Architect
 Address Myrtle Bank, Hipperholme

!881 census

William Elliot Lodger 23 Teacher at Greys School
 Address Sunderland

All the family were at Myrtle Bank, Hipperholme on 3rd April 1881 apart from William who was lodging in Sunderland and described as a 'Teacher at Grey Schools'. He probably returned to the family home later that year to take up a post as second master at Hipperholme Grammar School. He and his younger brother were certainly still there in September 1885 when they were lodging with their mother as this newspaper report shows.

Huddersfield Daily Chronicle 15th September 1885

On Friday (yesterday) at the Royal Hotel Brighouse, Mr Louis A. Kershaw, barrister, held a court for the revising of the lists for the townships of Hipperholme, Brighouse, Rastrick and Fixby.

The cases entered into were of lodgers,

..... George Henry Elliott, living with his mother, and paying £20 for two rooms; and William Elliott, brother of the same, occupying two other rooms, and paying rent to his mother, £26 per annum.

All the claims were allowed.

Leeds Times 24th September 1887

The memorial stones of a new Wesleyan Sunday school at Hipperholme, near Halifax, were laid on Saturday. The school was designed by Mr. G.H. Elliott, Hipperholme; it adjoins the chapel, and will contain, when finished, assembly-rooms and ten class-rooms, giving accommodation for 340 scholars.

The architect, George Henry Elliott of Lightcliffe, designed the Wesleyan Sunday school and the refurbishment of the Chapel. His stone carving brother John was also involved.

On 11th October 1889 *Brighouse Echo* noted the Whitehall Wesleyan Chapel, which had 'been closed for a considerable time for enlargement and improvement, was reopened'.

The *Halifax Courier* for 12th October 1889 also reported on the opening.

The cathedral glazing, which has very much added to the general effect, has been executed by Mr. W. Lazenby, of Bradford, and the stone carving has been done by Mr. John Elliott of Lightcliffe. The whole of the work has been carried out from designs and under the superintendence of Mr. G. H. Elliott, of Lightcliffe.

Just before then, on 11th September 1889 George Henry Elliot married Martha Beanland in Bradford. She was born on 25th March 1862, the daughter of a John Beanland and his wife Martha. The Beanlands 'batch' baptised five children in Bradford on 8th June 1873 when their father's occupation was grocer. On later censuses he was said to be a 'Grocer and Dealer in Draught Ale'. He died on 30th June 1880.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
463	Eleventh September 1889	George Henry Elliot	27 years	Bachelor	Architect	Myrtle Bank Lightcliffe	Thomas Elliot (deceased)	Builder
		Martha Beanland	27 years	Spinster		Roselynn Shipley	John Beanland (deceased)	Goldsmith
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, <i>by</i> after <i>James</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>George Henry Elliot</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Martha Beanland</i>		
		<i>Martha Beanland</i>				<i>William Elliott</i>		
						<i>John Elliott</i>		

1891 census

Mary Elliot Head 71 Living on her own means
Isabel Elliot Dau 43 ditto
Ellen Elliot Dau 36 Living on her own means
Address 2 Myrtle Bank, Hipperholme

1891 census

George Henry Elliott Head 31 Architect & Surveyor
Martha Elliot Wife 28
Address Lower German House, Lightcliffe

1891 census

John Elliott Boarder 36 Mason Stone Carver
Address Kingston upon Hull

1891 census

William Elliott Boarder 33

[there is then a long virtually illegible description of his occupation]

Address Monmouth, Wales

In the description of William Elliot's occupation, it does not seem to say 'Teacher'. But he could have been doing something else whilst on a school Easter holiday break. And then there is the intriguing information on his certificate from the Teaching Registration Council. This suggests that after a spell as second master at Hipperholme Grammar School from 1881 to 1887 - which fits with him living with his mother in 1885 - William Elliot became the temporary headmaster of Lightcliffe Church of England School 1890 - 1891. Was this after the headmaster of Lightcliffe National School, William Cook, died suddenly on 8th November 1890? Possibly.

TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL																								
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION (Established by Act of Parliament and Constituted by Orders in Council). MW.																								
Register Entry concerning:	ELLIOT, WILLIAM.																							
Date of Registration:	1st March, 1921.	Register Number: 67201																						
Residential Address:	Evening Hill, Burton, WESTMORLAND.																							
Attainments:	M.A., Cambridge. University of London Matriculation Certificate. University of Cambridge Secondary Teachers' Certificate.																							
Training in Teaching:	Culham Training College, Oxford.																							
Experience:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Assistant Master -</td> <td>1878-1881;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Street Board School.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Master -</td> <td>1881-1887;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hipperholme Grammar School.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head Master (Temporary) -</td> <td>1890-1891;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lightcliffe C.of E. School.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organising Inspector -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland & Westmorland Voluntary</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Association.</td> <td>1891-1903;</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Secretary and Secretary -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumberland Education Committee.</td> <td>1903-</td> </tr> </table>		Assistant Master -	1878-1881;	Thomas Street Board School.		Second Master -	1881-1887;	Hipperholme Grammar School.		Head Master (Temporary) -	1890-1891;	Lightcliffe C.of E. School.		Organising Inspector -		Cumberland & Westmorland Voluntary		School Association.	1891-1903;	Assistant Secretary and Secretary -		Cumberland Education Committee.	1903-
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Secretary.																								

A few weeks later on 21st December 1890 a 'Sale of Work' in connection with St. Matthew's Church was held in the schoolrooms of Lightcliffe National School. Both W. Elliott and J. R. Markham gave the vote of thanks. At this early stage after William Cook's death, were they both acting as joint temporary headmasters until John Richard Markham was officially appointed? But was William Elliot already a Government Inspector of Schools? Who knows!

Brighouse Echo 26th December 1890

Brighouse Echo 11th January 1891

poses it was perhaps to be allowed.—On the motion of Messrs. W. Elliott and J. R. Markham, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Brooke for her kindness in coming forward to open the bazaar.—The schoolroom presented a very pleasing appearance, having been handsomely decorated with bunting and evergreens. The stalls were all well stocked with seasonable goods of every shape and variety. The

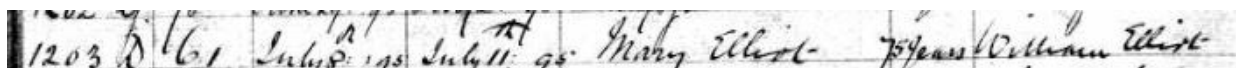
A lecture on "Ghosts" is surely appropriate just now, when the long winter evenings are upon us. The other Friday night, Mr. W. Elliott, a Government inspector of schools, entertained the members of the Lightcliffe Scientific and Literary Society with a discourse upon this always attractive subject.

By the time the census was taken on 5th April 1891 eldest son, Matthew Pratt Elliot was in Indiana, USA and had married. Back tracking a little, in 1873 he was on the list of students of the Institute of Civil Engineers, working for a Birmingham Glass Works. His actual year of immigration to the USA is unknown; 1880 is stated on the 1910 census but he was in Hipperholme then. He married Lulu Hull on 25th June 1890 in Kokomo, Indiana. Their only child, George Dodsworth Elliot, was born there on 30th May 1892. In 1894 when Matthew travelled back to New York from Liverpool he was recorded as being an 'Engineer'. On the 1910 USA census he was the manager of a glass factory in Kokomo, Indiana where he died on 18th July 1919.

His nephew, Matthew William Edward Elliot, son of George Henry and Martha Elliot, was born on 13th April 1891 and then baptised in St. Peter's Church, Bradford on 15th May 1891.

1119	Thirteenth April 1891 Lightcliffe	Fifteenth May	Matthew William Edward	George Henry Elliot	Martha Elliot formerly Hammond	Un-baptised	Lightcliffe	J. C. Long
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Mary Elliot formerly Hamilton née Dodsworth died on 8th July 1895. She was buried on 11th July 1895 with her husband in Lightcliffe plot D61 then owned by her son William Elliot.



George Alfred Herbert Alexander Elliot was born 8th January 1900, perhaps at Lightcliffe House as this was where his parents were on 31st March 1901 when the census was taken.

1901 census

George H Elliott Head 41 Architect & Surveyor
Martha Elliott Wife 38
Mathew W E Elliott Son 9
George H A Elliott Son 1
Address Lightcliffe House, Lightcliffe

1901 census

William Elliott Boarder 43
Organising Inspector of Voluntary Schools
Address
1, Millholme Terrace, Upperby, Carlisle

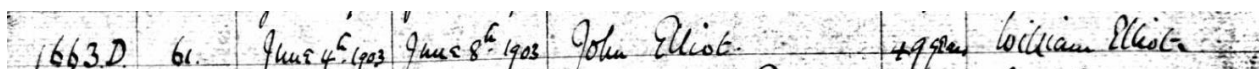
1901 census

Isabel Elliot Head 53 Living on own means
Elenor Elliot Sister 45 ditto
Margaret Isabelle Tidymen Servant 14 General
Servant Domestic
Address Richmond Road, Brompton-on-Swale,
NRY

The unmarried daughters, Isabella and Ellen/Eleanor had moved back to Brompton-on-Swale.

Brother John Elliot, the stone carver, has not been found on the 1901 census.

Wherever the stone carver, John Elliot was for the 1901 census he was back in Lightcliffe for his burial on 8th June 1903 after his death on 4th June 1903. He was buried with his parents on plot D61 owned by his brother William.



A year later the plot would get one more occupant before being declared full.

DEATH.—The many friends of Mr. Harry Elliot, Lightcliffe House, will hear with regret of the death of his eldest son, Willie, aged 13 years, which took place early on Tuesday morning. The family had recently been spending their holidays at Morecambe, and came home a fortnight ago. It is thought that the boy contracted a chill whilst away, and this led to influenza. Profound sympathy is felt throughout the district with the family in their sad loss.

Matthew William Edward Elliot died on 20th September 1904 and was buried with his paternal grandparents and an uncle on 22nd September 1904.

1719	D 61	Sep 20 th	Sep 22	Matthew William Edward Elliot	13 yrs	full
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Plot D61 in the middle between the headstone and the cross this side of the path has no headstone, which seems a shame given that one of the occupants was a stone carver.





The now demolished Lightcliffe House

This large house was just off Smith House Lane and what is now Windsor Walk.

George Henry Elliot and family moved out of Lightcliffe House sometime after the death of the teenager and before the Osborns moved in, possibly in 1906. They were in Morecambe on 2nd April 1911 in the same street as his brother William Elliot and their two sisters.

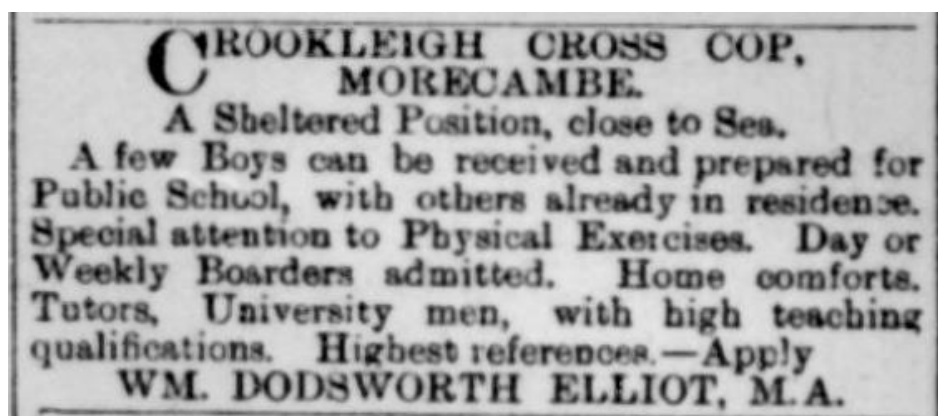
1911 census

William D Elliot Head 53
 Secretary Education Committee Cumberland C C
 Isabella Mary Elliot Sister 63
 Elinor Elliot Sister 56
 George H H Elliot Nephew 11 School
 George Bowyer Hoyle Boarder 8 ditto
 Marjory Pinnock Servant 18
 Address Crookleigh, Furness Rd, Heysham,
 Morecambe

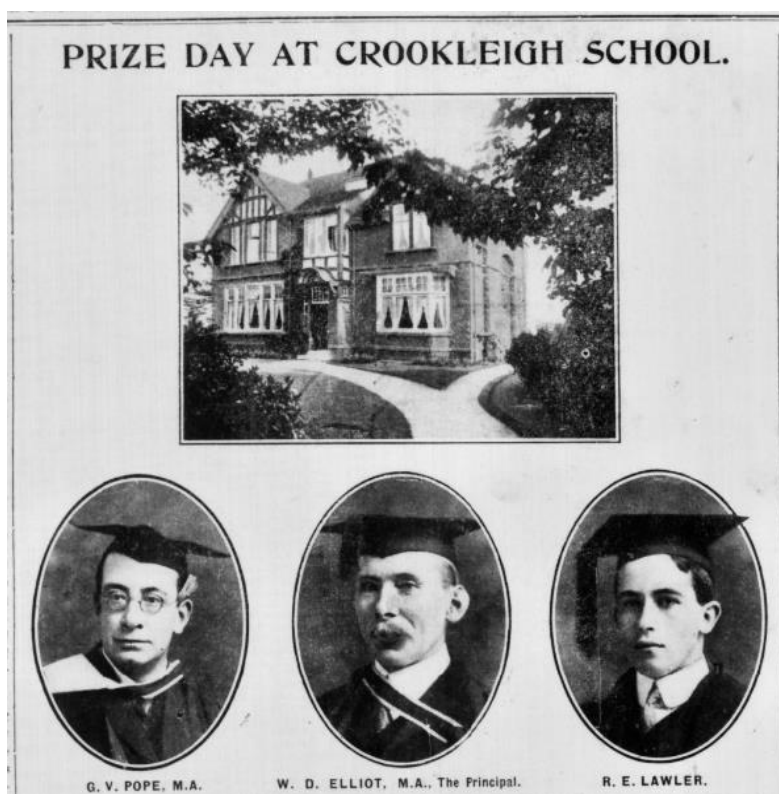
1911 census

George Henry Elliot Head 51
 Architect & Surveyor
 Martha Elliot Wife 48
 Caroline Walton Visitor 32
 Address Glen Holm, Furness Rd, Heysham,
 Morecambe

William seems to have been in Morecambe from at least 1910. He has also taken on the middle name Dodsworth and seems to be taking in boarders and not just his nephew. The following advert appeared in *The Lancaster Observer and Morecambe Chronicle* on 12th May 1911 followed by lots of 1912 adverts for a preparatory school at Crookleigh.



The school had a prize day as reported in the *Morecambe Visitor* on 6th November 1912.



But then the newspaper adverts for the school stopped, and the Great War started. The “Elaborate Furnishings” of Crookleigh, Furness Road, Morecambe were put up for sale in April 1915, an indication that the preparatory school had closed by then.

Like his brother George Henry Elliot seems to have been involved with the local community in Heysham, Morecambe giving talks and serving on the council until at least 1915.

1921 census

William Elliot	Head 63	Secretary for Education	Cumberland County Council
Isabel Mary Elliot	Sister 73	Home Duties	
Elinor Elliot	Sister 65	Home Duties	
George Alfred Herbert Elliot	Nephew 21	Poultry Farmer	Own Account
Una Pettit	Servant 24	House maid	
Address Evening Hill, Thursley, Carlisle			

1921 census

Thomas Roberts	Head 38	Labourer General	E D Jones & Son Builders Contractors
Sefhorah E Roberts	Wife 36	Household Duties	-
George Henry Elliot	Boarder 61	Architect & Surveyor	F A Roberts Architect & Surveyor
Martha Elliot	Boarder 58	-	-
Helen Lois Yeadon	Boarder 24	Tobacconist	Own Account
Address Castle Villa, Prestatyn, Denbighshire & Flintshire, Wales			

William Elliot and his sisters moved to Thursley near Carlisle, but George Henry and Martha Elliot seem to have remained in Morecambe although they were away from home on 19th June 1921. Seventy-five-year-old Isabel Mary Elliot died Q1 1923, her death was registered in the Wigton district.

The *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* on 28th June 1927 announced the death of

ELLIOT – June 24, 1927, at the residence of his son Westroyd, Sowerby Bridge, GEORGE HENRY beloved husband of Martha ELLIOT, of 8, Morecambe Terrace, Morecambe.

George Henry Elliot – understandably mis transcribed from the parish record as Joseph Henry - was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 28th June 1927 in plot T64, another plot with no headstone to the right of the monument by the ivy-covered wall.



2752 T64 June 24th June 28th George Henry Elliot 68 yrs

For completeness this is what happened to the rest of the Elliot family.

Ellen /Eleanor Elliot died Q3 1937 in the Kendall district aged 82 years.

1939 register

William D	Elliot	10 Jan 1857	Male	Secretary For Education Retired	Single	26	1
Margaret R	Wilson	30 Jul 1882	Female	Housekeeper & Registered Nurse	Single	26	2

Address Evening Hill Evening Street, Dalton, South Westmorland R.D., Westmorland, England

Eighty- seven-year-old William D Elliot died Q4 1944 in the Ulverston district.

George Alfred Herbert Alexander Elliot died on 23rd November 1978. No death record has been identified for his mother Martha Elliot née Beanland.

D. M. Barker

April 2025