

150 years of Skye Terriers in Great Britain

1870 - 1920

Background

As the name implies, the Skye Terrier had its early home on the misty island of Skye; but this breed was also found in Lewis, Oronsay, Colonsay as well as on the mainland of Scotland. Dr Caius described these "Iseland dogges" as early as in 1570 and it is believed that these dogs stayed isolated from other dogs at least 300 years. These terriers were used to hunt fox, otter, wild cat, weasel and badger and they were courageous, untiring hunters full of spirit and Terrier fire.

W.J Nichols writes in 1910 Kennel Encyclopaedia: "At the period when Scotland was overrun with wild cats, foxes etc. it was practically impossible to let sheep roam at large on the moors; when they were attacked the aggressors were chased by larger dogs, and for shelter invariably took refuge in cairns and burrows. Here it was where the Skye came into practical use, by turning out or killing the quarry in their lairs. In the early part of the year 1700 the landlords and tenants in each district formed themselves into societies, appointing a man to keep four foxhounds and about a dozen Skye Terriers." These packs were so efficient in their task that almost all vermin were destroyed. These lines bred for hunting purposes were kept pure and crossings with other packs were not allowed. A type was fixed on – a game, hard-bitten terrier that weighed about 15 ½ lbs (7 kg) and its body length was about 18 inches (46 cm). The breeds we know today: the Skye, Cairn, Westie and Scottie were developed from this terrier breed. Famous breeders were Lady MacDonald and the duke of Argyll who kept large kennels of hunting terriers. In the mid 1800s the long-haired Skye was known in England mainly because of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Society ladies wanted a similar pet and quite a number of dogs were brought from Scotland to England.

First shows and founding of Stud Book

The first dog show with Terriers was held in Birmingham in 1860 and already the next year there was a separate class for Skye Terriers. In Manchester show the Skye winner was Punch (KCSB 3490), a drop ear owned by Mr E. Tiffany and was sired by Doormat ex Tiffany's Gypsy. Second in the class was Punch's sire, Mr Smeeton's Doormat, pedigree unknown. Mr Smeeton's other Skye Tyro (KCSB 3519) won the Skye class in Islington show in June 1862.

The Kennel Club was founded in 1873, and the first Stud Book contained dogs entered in shows between 1859 -1873 – including Skyes. The first dog registry was taken into use in 1880. The system was created to identify dogs, as there were many dogs that had the same name. Later it was noticed that the system could also be used to clarify pedigrees without the confusion of mixing up similar names.

Kennel Gazette issued in April 1880 was the first to publish the championship rules so the first official championships have been confirmed after that date. Some earlier dogs have been called "champions" but these were unofficial titles given by the dog owners and these are not listed in the Kennel Club files. The Kennel Gazette issued in August, 1883 published the first list of champions and on this list there is one Skye Terrier. That dog is James Pratt's homebred blue-gray drop-eared bitch Ch Janet (Donald – Haggis). She was thus the first Skye Terrier champion.

The reverend J.C. Macdona was a well known enthusiast and his Rook (Kerr's Billy – Brown's Vic) and Rook II (Rook – Kelpie) were big winners. J. Bowman owned Mona (Billy – Peck's Vic) who won first prizes in Birmingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1872 and in Birmingham, Nottingham and Crystal Palace

in 1873. He also had some drop-eared Skyes: cream dog Tartan (Fearig – Sinfie), grey dog Sweep (Tartan – Jessie) and dark gray Dandy (Toddy – Sinfie) that won several first prizes in drop-eared classes.

In the 1860s there were only a handful of shows and few exhibitors. In the 1870s the Skye gained a bit more popularity but it took another decade before the Skye began to emerge from obscurity into popularity, and that they did so was mainly due to the skill and energy of Mr Duncan Cunningham in the North, and Mr James Pratt in the South, the former being the father of the fancy as regards the prick-eared variety, while the drop-ears would certainly not be in existence today for the efforts of Mr Pratt, who in 1886, amid the storms of a raging controversy, founded the Skye Terrier Club, an institution which did much good and got very little thanks, but endless abuse for about then years. In the 19th century there were in fact three groups of fanciers and each group had a slightly different view on what was the perfect Skye. Duncan Cunningham led the group in Scotland; in North England Mark Gretton, Alderman Broadby and Abraham Boulton were the top names and in South England the most well known enthusiast was James Pratt and of course Queen Victoria.

Monarch ja Venus – foundation sire and dam

The two prick ears owned by Duncan Cunningham: Ch Monarch (KCSB 6691) and Venus (KCSB 7726) can be named the foundation stone of the modern Skye Terrier – so great was their influence in the Skye breeding. They were direct descendants of MacLeod's dogs bred on the Isle of Skye. Monarch was born in May 1875 and was dark grizzle with blue tint. His sire was Thomson's Tommy (Frisk – Muffy) and dam Cunningham's Queen Bess (Tommy Stair – Maggie). At four years of age he weighed 20 lbs (9 kg) and was 8 ¾ inches (22,2 cm) at withers. He had 52 offspring with 27 different mates. Venus was born in February 1876 and was light blue in colour. She was sired by Ben (Tommy – Tibby) ex Palmer's Topsy (Old Tommy – Old Topsy). Venus had several litters by Monarch and their best known offspring are Ch Kingston Roy, Argyle, Clyde, Empress and Perkie – Duncan Cunningham bred this line for over 50 years. Kingston Roy sired Ch Thurkill (born 1887 ex Claret) who was a well known winner owned by reverend T. Nolan.

Other Skyes bred by Duncan Cunningham were Ch Iron Duke (Prince George – Queen Bess II) who was born in 1889 and Roy of Aldivalloch (Lord Lennox – Queen Bess II).

Duncan Cunningham wrote the first Standard of the Breed that was issued by the Skye Terrier club of Scotland. He was fiercely opposing the fact that dogs were getting heavier and becoming pets.

"The sizes prevailing in olden times were – Dogs, from 18 lbs to 20 lbs; bitches from 15 lbs to 18 lbs; but there appears at the present moment amongst certain fanciers a desire to have dogs ranging from 25 lbs to 28 lbs, which weights are most ridiculous and out of all reason, both in appearance and from a utility point of view. How could such large dogs get into the narrow and small crevices to bait vermin, and, again, the extra long coats one now sees on the bench did not exist a few decades ago, when these Terriers were kept as outdoor companions and vermin killers."

James Pratt

James Pratt was a butler by profession but spent his spare time breeding and showing Skyes. He and his dogs were so well known in London that in 1885 he received a litter from Norway addressed to "The man with the Dogs, Paddington, London," with an excellent sketch of him and his Skye Terriers. The letter was delivered to him without delay.

He was also one of the first people to actively speak for animal welfare – in times when animal cruelty was very common. In 1869 James Pratt bred a blue-gray bitch Dunregan (Donald – Ness) and her litter sister Mist, who was said to be pure white in colour as was their sire Donald. Other well known dogs were also Piper (Toddy – Mist), born 1874, the first Skye Champion Ch Janet (Donald – Haggis), Witch (Piper –

Dunregan) and Boddach. It is claimed that Piper was the model upon which the Skye Terrier Club based its standard for the breed.

Boddach was trained to take letters to the post box, which of course was too high for him to reach, so he used to wait there patiently until some kind person put the letters into the box, only then returning to his master. Boddach's other duties included shopping. He would carry a shilling in his mouth and bring home a bag of eggs without cracking one of them; that is unless he spied a cat, whereupon all thoughts of duty flew out of his head! In the home he would collect the newspaper and carry various items to help his master with his chores, for example he could carry wine glasses one at a time by the stem.

On one occasion James Pratt loaned Donald and Boddach to a Bazaar to raise funds for the "Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs". The dogs were instructed to sit on a table until eight o'clock at night. A note above their heads read "Skye Terriers Donald and Boddach are perfectly quiet and will gladly receive donations on behalf of their needy friends, the starving dogs of London. Lent by J.P." The princely sum of £7, a lot of money in those days, was realised. (excerpt from Sine Threlfall's book, *the World of Dogs Skye Terrier*)

Of James Pratts' dogs Sandy Grant (Ch Sam – Gretton's Quick), born 1879 was maybe of lesser value in his owner's eyes because he was a prick ear, but he was one of the most important stud dogs of his era and produced both drop and prick eared offspring. His sire was Mark Gretton's dog Sam who was a perfect drop-ear. Sam and his son Sandy Grant were beautiful golden fawn in colour but few if any of their offspring inherited the same colour. James Pratt's favourite Piper was white, drop eared male and a popular stud who produced at least 16 litters.

In the famous book "*Dogs of the British Isles*" (1886) by Stonehenge shows a drawing of Piper ja Sandy Grant. Sir Claud Alexander told about these Skyes in his article: "Progress of the Skye Terrier" that was published in *Our Dogs*. "*Sandy Grant well show the ideal prick-eared head; the ears are large, heavily feathered and set at exactly the desired angle, both in relation to each other and to the skull. Note also the immense power of the jaw and the length of the foreface. This dog had remarkable well-sprung ribs, and I hope my readers will make a careful study of this point, which has been much neglected by judges in recent years. In this respect Piper was not quite his equal, but he is shown in a better attitude to illustrate the correct slope and position of the shoulder. In handling a dog of this build it will be found that, when one puts one's hand on his withers, the points of the shoulder lie close together; this is another point which is often overlooked. Piper's long shapely neck should also be noted; his head, as I have stated in a previous article, was marred by a pig jaw which the picture clearly shows; but the clean fine skull, which is often lacking in drop-ears, is equally noticeable. Incidentally, although pig jaws are a disqualification, they do not seem to give breeders much trouble. Piper was used a great deal and rarely transmitted this fault, and I know several good dogs at the present time whose dams or grand-dams had it. In colour Piper was medium blue, and Sandy Grant a beautiful golden fawn with black ears, nose and muzzle, and the usual black "wolf-mark" on his tail. The colour has become extinct, but breeders should try to get it back; it was very much liked in the early days, probably because it nearly always went with the hardest, straightest and best coats. I have always said that Ch Adel Monk was the best dog of all time but Sandy Grant was almost as good; and, as an impressive sire, the latter had no equal.*

Mr. Pratt's dogs, owing to the difficulties under which he laboured in keeping them, were never in coat, but lest those who say modern Skyes have too much coat be tempted to use them as an argument, there is a photograph of Piper's son out of Haggis, a bitch which was very much inbred to him. This dog, Ghillie, was my first Skye, and was never shown or even registered, nor had he any attention paid to his coat; he died young after serving one bitch, yet he became a pillar of the Stud Book, for in this litter were Mrs. Jacobson's celebrated Ch Cuthullin and Panda, which won some prizes for me and was the real founder of my kennel."

James Pratt argued that the larger, long-coated, prick-eared Skye Terriers were created in the Lothians (southeast part of Scotland) and had nothing to do with the true Skye. His view had a number of supporters, who maintained that this type was completely unsuitable for work, whereas Pratt's smaller dogs were. Of course, his detractors countered with their own ideas.

James Pratt bred Skyes in various colours: grey, brown, blue, fawn and cream. His partiality was for creams and fawns, with black points. He even carried samples of hair with him from dogs he had bred and exhibited. Mrs Percy Adams had in her possession a scrapbook maintained by Pratt from 1872 onward. It contained photographs and sketchings by its original owner.

James Pratt was granted an interview with the Royal Family and presented Queen Victoria with one of his Skyes.

On drop-eared bloodlines

In the 19th century and also in the beginning of the 20th century there were some pure drop eared blood lines which bred true and were never crossed with prick-ears. However, after the World War I these pure drop-ear lines were lost because in order to save the breed breeders had to use those Skyes that had survived the war, regardless of their ear carriage. Pure drop eared blood lines were then mixed with prick-ears and exist no more. The following gives a brief overview to breeders that valued the drop-eared variety before the War.

At the end of the 19th century when James Pratt and Mark Gretton gave up breeding and showing, came Mrs Jacobson, who owned the drop-ears Ch Cuthullin (Ghillie – Zulu) and Wiry Floss (Ch Sam – Cloudy) as well as their offspring Lord Burleigh and Lady Burleigh. Mr J. Henderson began Skye Terrier breeding with a prick-eared bitch Sheila (Sir William Wallace – Wollaston's Tibbie) in 1884. Sheila had three drop-eared offspring: Jeannie Bhan, Lilt and Pairig. Jeannie Bhan's son, the drop-eared Nigger (sire Mark Gretton's drop Touper) was a popular sire and frequently appeared in many drop pedigrees. Lilt, a drop male, gained some class wins. He was owned by his breeder, J. Henderson.

After the death of Mrs Jacobson, the drop-ears fell on evil days, for Mr Henderson gave up showing, and they were left to tender mercies of Miss Bowyer Smyth and Sir Claud Alexander. Miss Bowyer Smyth had dark gray male born in 1892 MacStephen (Medoc – Molly Bawn). MacStephen and his sons, b. 1897 Merry Tom and Bertie (ex Australian Violet) were the only drop-ears exhibited at shows when even Sir Claud changed his attention to prick-eared Skyes. Merry Tom was an important stud, especially for drop-eared breeding. He had 13 offspring and nine of them were drops, including Ch Perfection, Markington Queen, Merry Thought, Markington Sunshine and Lassikin. The countess of Aberdeen, Mrs Hugh Ripley (kennel Markington) and Mrs Burns were the breeders who saved the drop-eared Skye from falling into oblivion.

One of the most important breeders was Mrs Hugh Ripley (kennel Markington) who favoured the drop-eared variety in her breeding program. Her drop-ears included Ch Winsome Boy (Monarch of Haddo – Lauriston Queen) who was dark gray in colour and was born in 1900. He produced 18 puppies of which 12 were drop-ears. The most important of his sons was Ch Piper Grey, owned by Miss Whishaw. Homebred True Grit (born 1903) was by Ch Perfection ex Sweetie. A litter by Merry Tom ex Joyful produced a litter that contained five drop-ears: Ch Perfection, Markington Queen, Merry Thought, Markington Sunshine and Oran. Markington Sunshine was a good producer. She had three litters by drop-eared studs: one litter by Ch Piper Grey, one by Ch Winsome Boy and one by True Grit. All puppies were drop-ears. Of these, only Precious-named bitch bred on. She had two drop-eared puppies by True Grit: Sunshine of Valclusa and Silver Watch, born in 1910. They were bred by Mrs Ripley. Ch Perfection was a big winner in his time and collected 15 CCs in his show career that lasted eight years. He produced a litter in the Countess of Aberdeen's kennels, the dam of the litter was Feuriach. This litter included the drop-ears Ch Bodach, Cromar Kelpie and Wee Wifie. Pretty Correct and Fairfield Fairie, both drop-ears, were by Ch Perfection ex Ballochmyle Bashful.

Ch Sweet Brenda, born in 1903 by Ch Adel Monk ex Zentha was bred by Miss Fitzgerald and owned by Miss Briscoe. She was thought to be one of the best drop-ears ever, especially because of her excellent harsh coat quality. Miss Briscoe was one of the few Skye breeders in Ireland.

Miss Alice Whishaw was well-known for her excellent drop ears. One of her best Skyes was Ch Piper Grey (Winsome Boy – Ballochmyle Basful), born in 1902 and bred by Mrs Victor Bosanquet. He was widely admired and had among his credits a CC at Crufts in 1905. His litter sister Fairfield Fancy produced a good litter by drop-eared Ch Chiel (Ch Wolverley Chummie – Mollington Molly). Another litter mate Grizel Gray got some nice wins. Piper Gray was an excellent producer. He sired 15 puppies and four of them finished Championship: Ch Little Brenda, Ch The Pied Piper of Valclusa, Ch Piper's Son and Ch White Fang. All of them were ex Ch Sweet Brenda, who was also a drop ear. Piper Grey's pedigree is heavily "drop-eared". His sire, dam, paternal grandsire and paternal granddam are drops as well as paternal great grandsire. No wonder all his offspring were drop ears. The most important of his daughters was Ch Little Brenda, who produced Moonlight, Stormlight, Silver Mist and Grey Chiel of Yoxford. All of them except Moonlight were drop ears. Ch Little Brenda was owned by Miss Whishaw.

The grey drop-ear Gillian Mhore was bred by the Countess of Aberdeen. He was born in 1901 and was by Merry Tom – Feuriach. Litter mates Ch Aberdeen Jock and Aberdeen Aileen (born 1909 by Aberdeen Loon ex Coulaig) were prick ears and did not produce drop offspring. The most famous of Aileen's offspring was Ch Warcloud (sire: Ch Chiel).

Miss Whishaw's drop ears include Sir Roderick (Gillian Mhore – Leezie Lindsay), Ellen Douglas (Oxford Lad – Highland Queen) and Titterhill Girlie (Duncan Wallace – Faygate). However, her most famous Skye was Ch Silver Cloud, a gorgeous silver bitch, bred by Mrs E.H. Edmondson. Silver Cloud was born in 1907 by Ch Piper Grey ex Betty of Derwent Bank. She had one puppy, Ch Snowcloud, whose sire was Ch Chiel. Despite her drop-eared parents Snowcloud had prick ears. Snowcloud's daughter Smoke Cloud (born in 1915, sire Twilight) continued the line in Miss Whishaw's and lady Marcia Miles's kennels. Smoke Cloud had three litters for Miss Whishaw. By Searchlight (Moonlight – Silver Lining) she produced a bitch Netherby White Heather and another bitch Sally owned by Meerend kennels. A litter by Moonlight ex Smoke Cloud produced cream bitches Sunlight and Suncloud, born in 1921 and a year before Sheila, White Smoke, Ratcliffe Lightning and Stokesay Beau. Sunlight's daughter Yasmin was a brood bitch in both Miss Whishaw's and in Lady Marcia Miles's kennels.

Miss Whishaw bred a lovely drop male Ch Grey Dusk (Moonlight – Ch Warcloud) whose litter mates were Ch Grey Cloud, Grey Dawn and Ch Greylight. Grey Dusk is in the pedigrees of many fine Merrymounts. Searchlight had a good litter with Cardie of Merrymount, for example Meg of Merrymount. Another Searchlight daughter, the cream Priscilla (dam: Yellow Cloud) was owned by kennel Peace Haven and was the granddam of the first Arreton litter born in the United States. In the mid-1920s miss Whishaw teamed up with miss Tatham and bred excellent Skyes for about ten years using the Southernhills prefix.

Countess of Aberdeen

Ishbel Marjoribanks, the Countess of Aberdeen (1857 – 1939) became famous for a life-long career of social service, particularly for her accomplishments in improving the lives of women in Great Britain and in Canada. When living in Haddo House, Scotland, she had a large kennel where she bred, among other breeds, both prick and drop eared Skyes. Her ultimate favourites were drop litter brother and sister, Monarch of Haddo and Feuriach (Donald Munroe – Glasha), born in 1894 and bred by lady Tweedmouth. They were family favourites and lived in the house. They were inseparable all their life and when the 14-year-old Feuriach (from Gaelic meaning "Little Squirrel") was injured on a hunting trip and died of her injuries, her brother Monarch refused food and died of broken heart. A bronze statue of Monarch and Feuriach stands in the garden of Haddo House and a silver model in the dining room table. Haddo House is owned by the National Trust of Scotland and is open for public. For a Skye terrier fancier it is a must-see place when travelling in Eastern Scotland.

Some of the Countess's Skyes were the gray drop male Ch Gillie Glass, born in 1905, by Ch Bodach ex Millie who was entered in four shows and gained three CCs and Championship; the dark gray drop bitch Ch Buchan Meg, born in 1902 by Wolverley Duncan ex Royal Princess and gray prick male Ch Aberdeen Jock

by Aberdeen Loon ex Coulaig. The gray drop Ch Buchan Baillie (Angus Grey – Kelpie) was born in 1902 and his height at withers was 9 ¾ inches (24,7 cm) and weight 27 lbs (12, 2 kg). His offspring included Ch Aberdeen Mike, Ch Ballochmyle Panda, Ch Aberdeen Noreen (ex. Wee Wifie) and Queen Alexandra's breedings Sandringham Morey, Sandringham Kelpie, Sandringham Minnie, all drop ears.

Sir Claud Alexander, Laird of Ballochmyle

Sir Claud and Lady Alexander were one of the best known breeders of Skyes and Clydesdale terriers and owned the last known Clydesdales. Sir Claud's ancestors had created their fortune in India and purchased in 1776 the Ballochmyle Estate in Ayrshire, Scotland. Ballochmyle (from Gaelic beatach-maol "bare opening") was in those days the largest estate in the county. The first laird of Ballochmyle's (who was also called Sir Claud Alexander) sister, Wilhelmina, inspired Sir Robert Burns, the greatest poet in Scotland, to compose the poem The Bonnie Lass O'Ballochmyle. In 1899, after the death of the second laird of Ballochmyle (Sir Claud's father) the family moved to Sussex but kept the Ballochmyle name for dog breeding. Ballochmyle House was rented until it was sold to Scottish Home and Health Department in 1938 and became a hospital. It was closed in 2000.

Sir Claud's first Skye was Ghillie (Piper – Haggis) who was bred by James Pratt. He sired one litter with a bitch named Zulu in 1881. In this litter there were Ch Cuthullin and Panda. A puppy by Panda ex Nellie Grant, Ballochmyle Tum Tum stayed at Ballochmyle and later sired Ch Ballochmyle Beautiful (ex Ballochmyle Charming) and Ballochmyle May Queen (ex Ch Ballochmyle Length).

Ch Young Rosebery (Walter Scott – Crombie's Nellie) was a gorgeous dog but he had one big fault: an ugly tail curling over his back. However, he was trained to carry his tail correctly in the show ring and won easily five CCs. His daughter Ballochmyle Rosemary (ex Ballochmyle Molehill) had a few litters in the Countess of Aberdeen's kennels.

Some well-known Skyes belonging to the Alexanders were Ch Wee Mac of Adel (Ch Wolverley Chummie – Little Molly) who won the Group at Crufts in 1907, Ch Sally Scott (Ch Walter Scott – Mary Queen of Scots), Ch Ballochmyle Abbess (Ch Adel Monk – Coulaig), Ballochmyle Brilliant (Sandy Gibson – Daisy II), Ch Laird of Ballochmyle (Ch Wee Mac of Adel – Lass of Ballochmyle), Ch Ballochmyle Lightning (Searchlight – Cardie of Merrymount), Ch Wolverley Wallace (Wolverley Roe – Peterkin's Florrie), Ch Ballochmyle Length (Sandy Scott – Lomond Lass), Ch Olden Times (Royal Prince – Bara) and Ch Miss Billee (Ch Iron Will – Adel Trixie).

Abraham Boulton was one of those colourful characters who seem to crop up from time to time in canine social history. He was the original owner of Accrington Wonder. Boulton was a very large man adorned with a flowing white beard that fell below his waist. One gets the impression that he was a bit dishevelled, an inference corroborated somewhat by the way he presented his dogs. Apparently, Wonder always entered the show ring ungroomed and sat on old newspapers on the bench. Despite this, he did quite well in the ring, winning against stiff competition. The story goes that one day Boulton was in dire financial straits and therefore sold Wonder, at age ten, to the Alexanders. Lady Alexander tidied him up and gave him a new lease on life, and he continued to win for a number of years. Sir Claud Alexander gave Wonder this credit: *"Certainly he had no faults, but was not quite as powerfully built as Sandy Grant and Adel Monk, he was the very smartest dog in the ring; ideal ears and tail, medium size and he moved like clockwork – his record as a sire and in the show ring gives him some claim to being the best Skye ever."*

Sir Claud wrote several articles, letters and essays about Skyes. He was considered the greatest living authority on Skyes. The owner of Talisker kennels, Mrs Marjorie T. Adams had said that all she had learned about Skyes was from Sir Claud. In one of Sir Claud's articles about Skye Terrier (1906) advice is given to novices interested in showing. *"Learn the points of the breed thoroughly before you think at all about coats. When you have got the right dogs, feed them well, house them well, exercise them well; the coats will take*

care of themselves (always provided you are not incessantly breaking them with brushes and combs), and prizes galore will be added unto you."

Ballochmyle kennel first housed both drop and prick eared Skyes but later on focused on prick eared variety only. Sir Claud firmly believed that it was wrong to mate drop eared Skyes to prick eared ones because these matings would produce flop ears. In fact he hoped that the drop ears became extinct because he felt that the breed would never be numerous enough to stand two varieties.

The family also had a private zoo that had a large variety of animals from bison to owls. The railings were later used for their daughter Wilhelmina's (Mina) kennel when she began breeding Skyes under the prefix Faygate. Sir Claud was very interested in all kinds of animal breeding, and they had prize cattle, show cats and several breeds of horses.

Sir Claud Alexander, 3rd laird of Ballochmyle, died in 1947. He was the chairman and secretary of the Skye Terrier Club almost half a decade.

Breeders in the 1800s

Mrs H.S. Freeman bred both drop- and prick eared Skyes with excellent results. She had a popular stud Alister (Ch Walter Scott – Crombie's Nellie) who gained 2 CCs and Lorne Lassie (Young Prince – Todd's Bessie) who won the CC at Crufts in 1902.

The silver bitch Broomfield Lassie (Tar – Broomfield Duchess II) was owned by Mr T. Young was in Sir Claud Alexander's opinion one of the best bitches he had ever seen. The reverend Thomas Nolan was an important breeder and fancier. His best Skye was Ch Kingston Roy (Ch Monarch – Venus), bred by Duncan Cunningham in 1881. Other dogs of importance were Ch Kingston Tory, Ch Claret, Ch Thurkill and Ch Tackley Roy.

Miss Briscoe had also prick-eared Skyes in Ireland. Miss Chummie, a gray bitch was born in 1904. Her sire was the famous Ch Wolverley Chummie and dam Molly. She did well in the show ring. Valclusa Boy was bred by Mrs Hughes (Wolverley). His sire was Iron Leader and dam Wolverley Mopsey. In a kennel review that appeared in *Our Dogs* in 1907 it is said that Valclusa Boy was terribly handicapped in 1905 when a child cut off all his hair!

The Hon A. Jocelyn, (Countess of Roden), Lady Marcia Miles's mother, kept a large kennels of Skyes that had over 50 inmates. The best of her breedings was Ch Prince Donard, whom she later sold to William Millar, the owner of Prince Donard's famous sire Ch Walter Scott. Some other well-known Skyes from the Countess's kennels were hugely popular stud Sir Wallace, born in 1897 and litter mates Pamela Wallace and Ursula Wallace, born in 1901 by Sir Wallace ex Veronica Duncan.

William Millar bred excellent prick eared Skyes in his kennel Scott. Blue-gray male Ch Walter Scott was born in 1896 and was one of the most popular studs in his time. He was by Jonnie ex Florrie. Walter Scott produced Ch Young Walter Scott, Ch Sally Scott, Liz Scott and Highland Queen. Their dam was Mary Queen of Scots (Sandy Scott – Lomond Lass). Highland Queen in turn was the dam of Ch Ellen Douglas, whose descendants include the well known drop eared champions Ch Stormcloud and Ch Highland Lad. Ch Prince Donard and Ch Sir Edward (Sir Wallace – Deborah Duncan) were popular stud dogs. They were bred by Mrs Jocelyn and owned by William Millar.

Agnes Wilmer bred a few litters in her **Yoxford** kennel. Well known winners were the drop Ch Young Ivanhoe of Yoxford (Dougal Dalgetty – Lass of Ballochmyle), Yoxford Longfellow (Yoxford Wonder – Yoxford Lassie) and Ch Yoxford Jacobite (Cheyne Jan – Wendy of the Greenway). Agnes Wilmer wrote a small booklet *The Skye terrier: His coat management and his preparation for the show bench* published in 1907. This book is nowadays extremely rare.

Wolverley

In 1892 Mrs Hughes established Wolverley kennels. She was married to a wealthy textile manufacturer and had excellent means of funding her hobby. She had luxurious kennels that had wall to wall carpets so that not one hair would break from the coats of her precious Skyes. Leighton wrote: "It was to Wolverley kennels that one had to go to see what the Skye Terrier in show perfection was really like" and added that her Skyes were "of almost unbelievable beauty and quality." Mrs Hughes was referred to as the Queen of Skye. The kennel staff cooked meals for the dogs in the kennel's own kitchen and the coats were treated with the famous Wolverley oil. Its recipe was a well guarded secret. Years after Mrs Hughes' death Lady Miles received the recipe from Ethel McCheane.

The star of the kennel was of course Ch Wolverley Chummie, born in 1899 by Ch Wolverley Jock ex Wolverley Rosie. The foundation sire and dam Ch Monarch and Venus appear several times in his pedigree. Wolverley Chummie was unbeaten in shows. He was entered to 29 shows and won 27 CCs which makes him the breed record holder even today. Chummie was thought by many to be the ideal Skye terrier – although he was slightly larger than what was described in the first breed standard. Chummie weighed 26 lbs (11,8 kg) and was 9 ½ inches (24 cm) at withers.

Tom Horner states that Mrs Hughes was the most successful breeder at the turn of the century. In the Ladies Kennel Association show in 1900 the judge, Charles Hopton wrote: Here are the finest array of Skye Terriers in the world. I saw paraded before me a class of twelve bitches under twenty pounds that for soundness and type can never be surpassed. Here is breed type encased in truly sound bodies. Most of the coats were of excellent quality with profuse undercoats. Mrs Hughes had the distinction of winning three times the prize for Champion of Champions with Wolverley Duchess (Wolverley Fitz – Wolverley Bogie), Wolverley Roy (Ch Wolverley Jock – Wolverley Rosie) and Wolverley Jock (Ch Laird Duncan – Wolverley Cronie). The first of the trio to win this supreme triumph was Wolverley Duchess at the Ladies' Kennel Association show in 1896, and, by command Mrs Hughes was presented to the Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra). Duchess being a bitch of character had already snapped at one of the judges and Mrs Hughes was very apprehensive of the way it might respond to the royal caresses. But Duchess behaved well and allowed the Princess to handle her without problems.

Adel

Ethel McCheane's kennel **Adel** cooperated with Wolverley and bred some wonderful Skyes. One of her first Skyes was Ch Iron Will, a gray dog born in 1895 by Iron Monarch ex Dame Dorothy. Miss McCheane owned the widely admired Ch The Adel Monk (Iron Token – Dowager Duchess) as well as Ch Adel Victoria, Ch Wolverley Nanette, Ch Adel Bridget and Ch Chummie's Lad of Adel. The famous Ch Wolverley Chummie was obtained by Miss McCheane in 1903 and continued his show career until 1909. When Chummie died in 1911 his body was presented to the Natural History Museum in London.

Rosslyn Bruce

The reverend Rosslyn Bruce (1871 – 1956) was a colourful figure and a great animal lover. He became acquainted with Skyes when he lived with his uncle William Skene in Edinburgh in 1887. William Skene's father was James Skene who was a close friend to Sir Walter Scott. Rosslyn's uncle was a historian and had many visitors from literary circles, including Compton MacKenzie who wrote many stories about the life in the Highlands. BBC's popular drama series Monarch of the Glen is loosely based on Compton MacKenzie's writings. Since childhood, Rosslyn Bruce had loved animals and in Edinburgh he had quite a collection in his uncle's garden, including a Skye bitch named Rona (Ch Old Burgundy – Brown Sherry). Rona was only five weeks old when she came to Rosslyn's property and cost 35 shillings.

From Edinburgh Rosslyn moved to Oxford University where he continued keeping animals although the rules prohibited dogs in the campus. As a protest Rosslyn went and rented a cow! Finally he was permitted to keep his pets in the area. Queen Victoria wanted a daughter of Rona and asked Rosslyn to the court. Rona was in heat so Rosslyn did not consider it proper bringing her, so he took the sire of the litter, Lord Lennox (Caesar – Princess Maud) with him. When he entered the palace he was told to bow to the queen but say nothing until spoken to. When the Queen arrived, Rosslyn let Lord Lennox loose so that the Queen could see him better. The Queen smiled but said not a word. The dog went to her so the Queen petted him. After that Lord Lennox went to explore the ground and inspected the big flower arrangements. Rosslyn prayed fervently that Lord Lennox would not lift his leg on the Queen's flowers! Luckily his behaviour was impeccable. The Queen thanked Rosslyn for his visit and said that she would very much like to have this bitch. Then the meeting was over – and Rosslyn never got a chance to explain that he brought a male dog! In 1891 Rona whelped a litter under Rosslyn's bed and one of the puppies, Rona II was sent to Queen Victoria. Sir William Nicholson's famous woodcut "H.M. The Queen" portrays the Queen with her beloved Rona II. This drawing was donated to the Dog Museum of America by Walter Goodman.

Rosslyn Bruce's family was a group of interesting people. Captain Scott who with his men perished when trying to conquer the South Pole was married to Rosslyn's sister Kathleen. Rosslyn gave very colourful names to his children: – Merlin, Rhalou, Erroll, Verily and Lorema. When Merlin was born, one of the time's celebrities and well known Skye friend Martin Harvey came to visit he brought a gift – a Skye puppy who was a daughter of a dog Rosslyn had sold him. All his life Rosslyn was a dog enthusiast and his favourite breeds were the Skye and Smooth Fox Terriers. In addition, he bred exotic birds, goats and different coloured mice. His daughter Rhalou Kirkby Peace continued her father's career as a Skye breeder and bred some nice specimens in her **Kirkby** kennels. (Rosslyn claimed that he invented the name Rhalou from the name of the place where he served during the War: Royal Horse Artillery Liverpool Ordnance Unit!) Rosslyn Bruce's biography "*The Last of the Eccentrics*" gives an interesting insight to a lifestyle that does not exist any more.

The first Breed Standard

The first breed standard was issued by the Skye Terrier Club of Scotland (founded 1890) and it was also accepted by The Skye And Clydesdale Terrier Club.

The standard first gave a description of Skye Terrier characteristics:

"Wherever there are rocks, dens, burrows, cairns, or covers to explore, or waters to take to, his services should be called into requisition. The smallest of all the useful terrier tribe, the lowest set, the longest in body, the strongest proportionately in legs, feet, jaws, and chest, the most muscular and flexible in his whole frame, the best protected against weather, injury, or foes, with an unequalled acuteness of sight, scent and hearing, and unrivalled alacrity of action, and an indomitable pluck, he is possessed of pre-eminent qualifications for his special work. He needs only to have it put before him to prove that he is imbued with the spirit of his native master, who when taken from his hill to the battlefield and told:

*"There's the foe; he has nae thought but how to
Kill twa at a blow."*

No kennel can be complete without him.

As a domestic watch and pet companion he is unsurpassed. Centuries gone by he was 'greatly set up, esteemed, taken up, and made much of'; and down to more recent times even 'a duchess would almost be ashamed to be seen in the park unaccompanied by her long-coated Skye.' To the present day he remains as unchanged as any variety of the canine race, and has certainly lost none of his merits or attractions.

Exceptionally clean and sweet, less dependent on exercise than any other, his delicate sensibility, shrewd sagacity, exclusive attachment, and devoted courage, combined with his elegant form, graceful attire, and aristocratic air, render him, during his brief day –

A thing of beauty and a joy for ever."

The Standard gave the ideal measurements for a Skye Terrier. Dogs should be 9 inches at withers (about 23 cm), length from back of skull to root of the tail 22 1/2 inches (57 cm), head from muzzle to back of skull 8 1/2 inches (21,6 cm) and the tail from the root to the last joint 9 inches (23 cm). Total length: 40 inches (101,6 cm). Bitches half an inch lower and two and half inches shorter in proportion so the total length for a bitch was 37 1/2 inches (95,25 cm). Ideal weight for a dog was 18 lbs (8,1 kg) and for a bitch 16 lbs (7,2 kg). The Standard emphasises that a dog can not weigh over 20 lbs (9 kg) or less than 16 lbs, and a bitch should not be over 18 lbs or under 14 lbs (6,3 kg).

Size, height with length and proportions

10 inches high = 5 p.

9 inches high = 10 p.

8 1/2 inches high = 15 p.

Maximum points for height = 15 p.

Scale for bitches one-half inch lower throughout.

Head

Skull and eyes = 10 p.

Jaws and teeth = 5 p.

Maximum points for head = 15 p.

Ears (Carriage, with shape, size and feathers) = 10 p.

Body

Back and neck = 10 p.

Chest and ribs = 5 p.

Maximum points for body = 15 p.

Tail (carriage and feather) = 10 p.

Legs

Straightness and shortness = 5 p

Strength = 5 p.

Maximum points for legs = 10 p.

Coat

Hardness= 10 p.

Lankness = 5 p.

Length = 5 p.

Maximum points for coat = 20 p.

Colour and condition = 5 p.

Total = 100 p.

Disqualifying faults were over or undershot mouth and doctored ears or tail. It was also mentioned that no extra value was given for greater length of coat than 5 1/2 inches.

To be commended the dog had to obtain at least 60 points and a special should obtain at least 75 points.

Sir Claud Alexander criticized the Standard's weight limits: *"It is a well-known fact that age weighs, and a dog who weighs 18 lbs. At two years old will probably weigh 28 lbs at five. Added to this a weight standard always must tend to the glorification of weeds, at the expense of heavy-boned and muscular Terriers which we want to encourage. As a substitute for this weight standard, I should like to see all dogs over eleven inches at the shoulder and bitches over ten absolutely disqualified; but I fear this suggestion would entail the retirement of many winners into private life and would be proportionately unpopular."*

The reverend D. Dobbie, who was the honorary secretary to the Skye Terrier Club of Scotland stated that *“In judging Skye terriers I should put lowness and length first; head, chest and shoulders second; coat third; level back fourth; all other points being inferior and subordinate. Most of the older judges decide by length of coat alone – a most deceptive and injurious standard – the coat concealing faults and becoming softer the longer it is, and encouraging untypical breeding – 5 ½ inches of coat is ample.”*

From ca 1900 to post war years

The Manchester dog show in 1902 had an entry of 102 Skyes and the London show in the same year had 129 Skyes. In 1904 the breed was divided into prick and drop ears so that both varieties had their own sets of CCs. The breed stayed divided until 1922.

However, before the first World War there was considerably less interest in Skye Terriers, partly because new breeds came into spotlight, for example the Cairn and the Westie, but perhaps also because people were not interested in taking care of the even longer coats. 152 Skyes were registered in 1902 – only 31 Skyes in 1922. During WWI (1914-1918) breeders could keep only a few dogs in hope that they would survive to see the end of the war. It was not until the 1920s when new enthusiastic breeders took up breeding Skyes and there was a rekindled interest in Skye Terriers.

1920 – 1950

After the WWI the dog population in Britain was of varying quality and a lot less in numbers than what it had been in the beginning of the century. Skyes had lost their position as the favourite of the Terrier Group and only 20 or 30 puppies were born yearly. However, once again breeders began working hard for the benefit of the breed and the number of Skyes was steadily increasing until WWII ended this development.

Miss Alice Whishaw describes how low the breed had sunk in her report from the Kennel Club show in 1926: *“I was sorry to find the quality of the exhibits so far below standard and breeders will really have to study the correct points to aim at when mating up their bitches. When I think of dogs that used to be shown before the war, the deterioration is most apparent. Heads and eyes are the points in which almost every exhibit failed: heads are losing all true Skye character and becoming short in muzzle and coarse in skull. I believe some exhibitors (even those that have shown long enough to know better) admire what they call “the square head”. When this is the case, my advice to them is to keep their dogs at home and not ruin the breed by showing and breeding from them. The perfect head is fine in skull and long and powerful in foreface and breeders would do well to visit the Natural History Museum, at South Kensington, and study Ch Wolverley Chummie. I hardly think many people would question his right to be considered the most perfect Skye that has ever lived. Eyes are another pitfall apparently: there was not a dog in the show with really dark eyes and the majority had very light and very round staring, ugly eyes, which gave quite a foreign expression. Bodies and ears were, on the whole, good, as were coats. Fronts need improvement, and exhibitors should try to get their dogs more used to being handled as that is chiefly what is making Skyes unpopular.”*

She ends her report by shortly commenting the entry. The winner of the day was Luckie Faith.

A new club, The Skye Terrier Association, was founded in 1924 and there were about 40 members at that time. The Countess of Aberdeen was elected the first President and Lady Frances Balfour as the vice-President. Mr Robert Leighton, well known for his dog books, was the first Chairman. Miss Ethel McCheane (kennel Adel) was chosen as the Secretary and Mrs Ellerbeck as the Treasurer.

Merrymount

In this era between the two World Wars, the best known Skye kennel in the world began its breeding work. This was Merrymount, owned by Lady Marcia Miles. It can be noted that she chose the name as early as in

1906 but did not start breeding until the 1920s. Lady Miles grew up with Skyes. Her mother, the Hon. Mrs Jocelyn, Countess of Roden, bred Skyes with some success and had large kennels. However, Lady Marcia was most inspired by the leading kennel of the 19th century, Wolverley, and greatly admired their superb Skyes. She vowed that some day she too would bred Skyes that could match the Wolverleys in quality. In 1924 Lady Miles, who at that time was still Miss Marcia Black, judged a silver drop-eared Novice dog, Grey Dusk (Moonlight – War Cloud). This dog was bred by Miss Whishaw. Lady Marcia wrote in the Kennel Gazette that it is odd how a dog of such high quality can still be shown, at two years of age, in the Novice class. She concludes that the reason must be his drop ears: even though his ears were perfect, this type of ear carriage was not fashionable any more. Miss Black awarded Grey Dusk Best Dog and later in the year purchased him. Grey Dusk proved to be a great producer: in his litter ex Meg of Merrymount, born in 1925, there were the drop Jean of Merrymount, dam of four champions, and Piper of Merrymount who was exported to Germany and was an influential stud in kennel v.d. Heiligen Brucke. A litter by Grey Dusk ex Yasmin contained the important bitch Mystery of Montana (born 1926) who in turn produced Fiaray, Ch Prince of Quarrydale, Flora of Quarrydale, Hector of Gael, Diable of Peace Haven (formerly Jeannie of Gael) and Willie of Gael – all successful Skyes. Flora of Quarrydale was one of the most important brood bitches in Merrymount. Mated to three different studs, she produced 33 puppies. Ch Bill Merrymount gained his champion title at only 18 months of age. Ch Southernhills Smoke Cloud won Best of Breed four times in 1935 and Silver Merrymount won a CC in Birmingham. Ch Silver Rose was entered to only two shows in 1935 and won both times CC and BOB, at Crufts and in Glasgow.

The first champion bred by Merrymount kennel was Ch Chummie of Merrymount (born 1930) and the second champion his son Ch Rip of Merrymount (sire of Silver Lass). Ch Silver Lass of Merrymount was amongst the best three when choosing BIS in Scottish Kennel Club show in 1937. Ch Murdie and its sister Ch Silver Lass of Merrymount were bred by Mr Millar of Paisley, but their sire was a dog bred by Lady Miles, Ch Rip of Merrymount. Silver Lass (born 1935) won 8 CC:s in the U.K. and gained Belgian and French Championship. Murdie, Silver Lass and Int Ch Goldmine of Merrymount were exported to the French de Luchar-kennel in the 1930s. Ch Chummie of Merrymount exists in almost every Merrymount pedigree. He sired 30 litters and his offspring were successful all over the world.

Merrymount kennel bred or owned over 100 champions. 29 of these were U.K. champions. Merrymount kennel owned to top producing dam (number of U.K. champions produced) Merrymount Sunset who had 7 U.K. champion offspring- a remarkable achievement in any breed. There were several large Skye kennels in the 1930s but Merrymount was by far the largest. Promising puppies and youngsters as well as fully coated show-quality adults were always available for sale. In its heyday it was almost impossible to beat the Merrymounts in the show ring. In an advert dating from 1935 stated that of the 10 CC:s available for Skyes, Merrymounts won eight. In addition, Merrymounts were entered to five shows with no CC:s and they won BOB at every occasion.

When WWII ended, there was real shortage of everything in the U.K. and breeders had to work really hard to keep their bloodlines alive. Petrol control prevented travelling to shows and only a small number of shows were arranged in the first postwar years. Despite the extra difficult conditions, serious breeders continued. After the war there were only two dogs owned by kennel Merrymount: one dog and one bitch. The bitch was the beautiful Agatha of Merrymount (born 1940) by Ch Rip of Merrymount ex Ch Silver Merrymount. She was a full sister to Int Ch Silver Lass of Merrymount, Ch Murdie and Ch Silver Maid of Merrymount. The only dog was Wonder of Merrymount, living with a friend. It took five years to achieve the pre-war quality but the results were worth waiting for. On the 24th of April, 1948 a litter was born that was to be known world wide as the “Wonder-Beetle”-litter and almost every Skye today descends from dogs born in this litter.

“Wonder-Beetle”-litter – the foundation of modern Skye

The sire of the litter was Wonder of Merrmount who was born in the last litter sired by the famous Ch Chummie in 1941 (ex Ch Silver Merrymount). The dam was Merrymount Beetle (by Ch Challenger of Meerend – Rebecca of Merrymount). There were five puppies in the litter: GB & AM Ch Merrymount

You'll Do (of Iradell), Ch Merrymount Sunset, F Ch Merrymount Moonbeam, Can Ch Merrymount Silver's Chum (of Talisker) and Merrymount Chum's Lass. Lady Marcia kept the bitches Sunset and Chum's Lass.

Ch Merrymount Sunset is one of the most important brood bitches in the history of the breed. She won eight CC:s but her achievements in the whelping box were far more remarkable than her show wins: she produced 12 champions in five litters. Her champion offspring were: Merrymount Wot No Sun (by Ch Merrymount Happy Jack), Baron, Sun Chariot, Going Up, Sungleam (by Ch Challenger of Meerend), Sun Wise, Nizefela, Setting Sun, Sun Down (by Ch Gavin of Culsh), Mid-Day Sun (by Merrymount Albert), Old Andy and Sunflower (by GB&Am&Can Ch Rhosneigr Redoubtable). What is even more remarkable is that three of these champion offspring were drop ears: Merrymount Sungleam, Sun Chariot and Sun Down. Several of Sunset's offspring were exported to Europe, the United States and Canada. Mrs N. Clarkson Earl purchased the following offspring: Am Ch Merrymount Nizefela of Iradell, GB&Am Ch Merrymount Old Andy of Iradell, Merrymount Sun Wise of Iradell and Am Ch Merrymount Setting Sun of Iradell. They formed a very strong base for Iradell kennel. Mrs Marjorie Adams imported two of Sunset's puppies: Am Ch Talisker's Merrymount Sunflower and Merrymount Suncloud.

However, the most shining star of the Wonder-Beetle litter was without doubt Ch Merrymount You'll Do of Iradell. Lady Miles considered him the best of the over 40 champions she had owned. You'll Do gained his first CC at the age of 9,5 months and won the Terrier Group in Blackpool in 1950. In total he won 11 CCs. The U.S. breeders Mr and Mrs N. Clarkson Earl purchased You'll Do for a princely sum of 5000 USD. For some reason he was shown only a few times in his new home country but nevertheless is remembered as the first Skye to win the Terrier Group in Westminster (1953). He was unfortunately not used much at stud in the USA but sired 10 litters in the U.K. His offspring include Ch Merrymount Desdemona, Ch Merrymount Mary Jane and the good brood Merrymount Desire – best known for her sons Merrymount Happy Jack and Merrymount What's Wanted, all of them good producers. However the best known of You'll Do's offspring born in the U.K. was GB & Can Ch Alison of the Mynd (ex Rita of the Mynd) who was exported at three years of age to Canada and produced three litters in kennel Talisker. Dozens of champions in Canada and USA descend from her.

Merrymount Silver's Chum was exported to Canada where he gained championship and produced two litters for Talisker kennel. There were two champions in his first litter: Ch Talisker's Superman and Ch Talisker's Silver Duchess. The second litter, ex Merrymount Talisker's Dream, contained the drop Ch Dreams Wonder of Talisker and the famous Dream's Boy of Talisker. Dream's Boy had one prick ear and one drop ear but he sired some excellent offspring. One of the most remarkable studs in the Northern America, Ch Talisker's Black Prince, was by Dream's Boy of Talisker ex the aforementioned Alison of the Mynd.

Merrymount Moonbeam was exported to Mme Williamson's de Luchar kennel in France. Almost all top winning and top producing Skyes in the USA descend from Moonbeam, mainly through her sons Int&F Ch Earl de Luchar, Am Ch You'll Do de Luchar and her daughter Am Ch Evening Star de Luchar. They were sired by Int&F Ch Valere du Clos de L'Ill. You'll Do de Luchar was the first superstar and had enormous success in the USA and Europe. Evening Star de Luchar broke all show win records by winning 23 BIS and 76 Groups. Earl de Luchar stayed with his breeder Mme Williamson and produced several top winning offspring; the most famous of them was the lovely Ch Jacinthe de Ricelaine, who is still the breed record holder. Jackie won 36 all-breed BIS and 97 Terrier Groups. No other Skye has come ever near her achievements. Jackie had one litter by Ch Glamoor Going Up, and all nine puppies gained champion titles. One of the puppies, Ch Glamoor Go Go Go was the grandsire of the Top Producing Sire in the USA, Am Ch Gleanntan Coming At Ya (47 champion offspring) and the sire of the 2. Top Producing Dam in the USA, Am Ch JoJac's Rise And Shine (16 champion offspring). Gleanntan Coming At Ya's sire Ch Glamoor Gang Buster was BOB in the STCA Specialty five times (1970-1974) – another unbroken record. Jacinthe de Ricelaine's daughter Ch Glamoor Good News is the only Skye to win BIS in Westminster. Good News won in total 14 BIS and 49 Groups. The line that began from Merrymount Moonbeam has been very influential also in the Central Europe, especially through de Luchar and de Mandane lines. Olga Smid obtained a daughter of Moonbeam, Chin Up de Luchar, in 1954 to her kennel Olivia. The kennel also housed two grandchildren of Merrymount Sunset: Eike v. Seehaus and Elfe de Mandane. All present day Olivias descend from these dogs.

To list some of the best known winners bred by Merrymount kennels: Ch Royalist of Merrymount, Ch Merrymount You'll Do, Ch Merrymount Mid-Day Sun, Ch Merrymount Sunset and the drops Sun Chariot, Sungleam and Sundown. Almost 500 Skyes carried the Merrymount affix. The last Merrymount champion was Ch Merrymount His Majesty who gained his crown at Crufts in 1971 and was also BOB.

One of the corner stones of the Skyes in Finland was Fin Ch Kavillan Tytti. Tytti was the foundation dam of Hjärdis Westerholm's of Skyeline kennels and almost all Finnish Skyes descend from her. She was the granddaughter of Merrymount Queen Ann, imported to Finland in 1958 and was sired by Rhosneigr Redoubtable ex Merrymount Sunsets Ann.

Lady Marcia Miles worked very hard for the Skye Club and put in a lot of effort when the Skye Terrier Association and Skye and Clydesdale Terrier Club were merged and the present Skye Terrier Club was formed in 1946. Lady Miles served as the Editor of the Stud and Result Books for several years and she wrote two little books of the breed she loved. A booklet Skye Terriers Today, published in 1926, contained 21 photos of famous dogs, as well as articles and pedigrees. The Skye Terrier, published in 1951, contained also overseas kennel adverts and information about kennels in the U.K. and abroad. She wrote an article on Skyes that appeared in Capt Jocelyn Lucas's book Pedigree Dog Breeding (1925) and commented on the long coats the following way: *"I should like to point out that a Skye Terrier's coat does not grow long without the greatest care and trouble, and with its short coat very little attention is necessary to keep it in good order. If a Skye is allowed to play with other dogs, hunt rats etc. there will be no difficulty about the long coat, because it will not be present."*

Lady Miles passed away in March 1972. She was 81 years old. She acted as the Chairman for several years and her follower in this position was Mrs Kirkby Peace.

Southernhills

Miss Alice Wishaw was a well known and successful Skye breeder already in the beginning of the 20th century. Her dogs did not carry an affix, but were quite easily recognisable: the often had words Light, Moon, Sun, Cloud or Grey in their names, for example Searchlight, Stormlight, Warcloud, Twilight, Sunlight, Raincloud, Moonlight, Smokecloud, Greylight etc. Her dogs were of excellent quality and many kennels used them for breeding. After the war, Miss Wishaw teamed with Miss Tatham and began using the affix Southernhills. They bred Skyes for about ten years, starting in 1926. Ch Southernhills Dust Storm (Togo of Merrymount – Southernhills Mistral), Ch Southernhills Moonglow (Bracadale Harvest Moon – Southernhills Stardust) and Ch Southernhills Smoke Cloud (Greylight – Southernhills Shadow) finished U.K. championship. Smoke Cloud was later owned by de Luchar kennel in France and won the World Winner title in 1937. Smoke Cloud's offspring have had major influence also in the U.S. Skyes, mainly through Smoke Cloud's granddaughter M-Go Nowhere de Bazizoo, whose descendants Am Ch Beau Geste du Bazizoo and Am Ch Celeste du Bazizoo were important producers.

Faygate and Kirkby

Lady Miles was not the only one second generation Skye breeder! Sir Claud and Lady Alexander's (kennel Ballochmyle) daughter Mina (Wilhelmina) Alexander had owned Skyes since childhood but began breeding Skyes in 1957 using the Faygate affix. It is said that she was a very colourful person. She owned Ch Merrymount Sundown, Merrymount Wot Airs, Ch Faygate Dusk, Ch Faygate Twilight and Ch Faygate Miss Spiv. Several of her dogs were exported to Talisker kennels in Canada.

Another breeder to follow her father's footsteps was Rhalou Kirkby Peace, the daughter of the Rev. Rosslyn Bruce. She is best remembered by the dogs sent across the pond: Am Ch Kirkby American of Iradell, Am Ch Kirkby Hailstorm of Talisker, Am Ch Kirkby Longago of Talisker and Am Ch Kirkby Silver Tip of Merrybrac. Kirkby Kelpie was a CC-winner in her home country. Kirkby-Skyes were born from 1943 to 1967. Mrs Peace was a member of the Skye Terrier Club for more than 50 years. She served as a member of the Committee for several years and was the President of the Club for the last four years of her life. She too, like her father, was a championship show judge and judged Skyes at Crufts in 1953. Mina Alexander writes

the following about Mrs Peace in her obituary: *“When very ill, her interest in the breed never flagged, and when she had to be in and out of hospital, she still went on judging Championship shows. Only ten days before she died, she rang me up, as she had read my report in the dog press that the Kirkleyditch Kennels had exhibited a very promising drop-ear puppy and suggested that if she bought it and went into partnership with me, would I keep it and show it, as she wasn’t well enough to do so. I don’t think I need to say anything more than, if this was not a lifelong interest I don’t know what is.”*

O’Craigmohr

Miss B. Murdoch enjoyed much respect with her O’Craigmohr dogs based in Blane, Stirlingshire. She was one of the few breeders who kept the breed alive during the WWI. Even though she seldom showed her dogs in England her dogs were virtually unbeatable in their home turf. The O’Craigmohr kennel was for years the leading Skye breeder in Scotland. Miss Murdoch owned the well known winners Para Handy and Ch Catriona. In the Edinburgh show Catriona was best Skye bitch four years in a row. Allander was a dark gray male with very straight and hard coat and really prick ears. He mated the bitch Spey and the result was a quality litter. Supplement to Our Dogs in 1926 states that “all the dogs she owns or sells win when shown, and all the dogs off her stock are winners and nearly every winner of today goes back to her stock.”

O’Craigmohr Skyes were at home in the heather moors of Scotland and it was told that they were very keen hunters of vermin, strong, healthy and full of Terrier fire. Miss Murdoch exported several Skyes, for example to France and Germany where they were widely used for breeding. A daughter of Para Handy, The Cuttie, was one of the foundation dams for the breed in Sweden.

Mrs Ellerbeck, kennel Mizbrooke, had the well-known male Merrieweather Dear Toby, born in 1922. She also bred a litter out of the drop-eared bitch Cardie of Merrymount and in 1922 a litter by Luckie Jim – Sweet Lassie of Mizbrooke. The daughter of the aforementioned, Tiny Wee of Mizbrooke, had three litters by Merrieweather Dear Toby. Mary Kendall owned the cream male Robert, born in 1920. He was bred by Alice Whishaw by Moonlight ex Silver Lining. Mary Kendall bred Grey Judy, a res-CC winner and Grey Punch, Jean and Timothy (a drop ear). They all won well at shows.

Bracadale

Mrs Axtell and her daughter Miss V. Axtell bred Skyes under the prefix Bracadale. Their best known dog was Ch Bracadale Henry who was exported to the USA. In his new country he won the Group once and was placed second in the Group at Westminster – in that day it was so far the best placement for Skyes at Westminster. Ch Bracadale Nanette and Ch Bracadale Marguerite gained championships in 1938 and 1939. It is probably worth mentioning here that the first Skye litters born in Finland were by Bracadale Pompey ex Bracadale Henrietta, owned by Mrs Jeanette Oldenburg. The dogs were registered in 1937. The pair produced a litter already in the same year and another in the next year.

Luckie

Rosabel Watson bred some really lovely Skyes. She became acquainted with the breed when Mrs Mabel Dearmer travelled to Serbia to do some work for the Red Cross there and asked Miss Watson to look after her Skyes while she was away. In 1915 Mabel Dearmer died in Serbia and her husband gave all Skyes to Rosabel Watson. The foundation dam of the kennel was Dolly, bred by Miss Whishaw, born in 1912. A daughter of Dolly, Luckie Ann, was the first postwar CC-winner and by 1922 she had won more prizes at shows than any other Skye after the War. Luckie Ann had two litters and the bloodline continues even today. From Luckie Ann and Luckie Jim descend the previously mentioned Miss Murdoch’s dog, Para Handy, who is behind the oldest Swedish bloodlines, Ch Dusk and Luckie Jane. Another Ann daughter, Luckie Bess (by Rafflekins) produced a litter by Luckie Jim, resulting in Ch Luckie Faith, The Hairy Oubit and Luckie Edward. Ch Luckie Henry (Luckie Denis – Luckie Jane) was a well known winner. Luckie Jim, previously called Prince Rufus, was born in 1916 by Donachaach Liath ex Wee Wee. He was widely used at stud although he was brownish-red in colour and had the disqualifying brown nose. However, only a few of his offspring had the same “wrong” colour. Four of his children finished UK championship. Ch Luckie Cronie

(Moonlight – Silver Lining) was bred by Miss Wishaw. She sold her as a puppy to a miss Greenwood who was a sister to Mrs Hughes (Wolverley kennels). Miss Greenwood in turn sold Luckie Cronie to Rosabel Watson. Luckie Cronie won five CCs.

Of The Mynd (1935 – 1954)

Mrs Harold Eaden bred Skyes and Shih Tzus in her of the Mynd kennel in Worcestershire. Over a hundred Skye puppies were born when the kennel was active. The foundation dam was Ch Ann of Meerend (Mars – Una of Meerend). She was born in 1929 was silver in colour. She had one litter with her breeder and in 1933 she produced the first litter for the Mynd kennels. The sire of the litter was Ch Luckie Henry. The next litters in the kennel were by Luckie Robin ex Annette of the Mynd, Ann of Meerend's daughter. Of these puppies Carol of the Mynd was sold to Iradell kennels in USA. The grey dog Toby of the Mynd (Punch of the Mynd – Rita of the Mynd) won the CC at Crufts in 1950 and gained also three Res-CC:s before moving to Iradell kennels. Ch Alison of the Mynd, winner of five CCs was sold to Talisker kennels in Canada. Before her departure she produced a litter by Merrymount Monarch of the Mynd. Of these puppies Chuffy of the Mynd won one CC, Comus of the Mynd of Iradell was exported to USA and Talisker's Clove of the Mynd to Canada. Merrymount Monarch of the Mynd (Challenger of Meerend – Merrymount Sunset) was bred by Lady Miles and he was a bit unlucky in the show ring – he won two CCs and six res-CCs. Ch Ida of the Mynd (Bingo of the Mynd – Altavona) did very well by attending a total of five shows and gaining five CCs! She was not bred from. Bettine of the Mynd (Punch of the Mynd – Zerlina of the Mynd) produced some litters in Merrymount kennel and was then exported to Germany to Seehaus kennel of Sylvia May. Bettine became an International Champion and her best known offspring on the continent are Sui Ch Edda v. Seehaus and Cz Ch ClubW-60 Eike v. Seehaus. Eike was one of kennel Olivia's important broods: her bloodline can be found all over the world through her sons and daughters Ch Olivia Zinien, Olivia Zorongo, Ch Acheo Olivia Whist, Olivia Allo, Olivia Unikum and Ch Olivia Crystal.

Meerend (1921 – 1950)

The first Skye Mrs Cuthbert owned was a silver bitch Nancy of Meerend, born in 1921. She was bred by Lady Marcia Miles and her parents were Moonlight and Lassie of Merrymount. Nancy's daughter Ch Sheila of Meerend had two litters. In 1924 she produced the dog Julian of Meerend and the bitch Yasmin by Sunlight (a stud bred by Miss Wishaw) and in 1925 Sheila produced four puppies by Ch Grey Boy. Julian of Meerend was a remarkable stud. He sired 30 puppies in Meerend kennels, amongst them were Ch Laurie of Meerend, Ch Becky of Meerend and Ch Nan of Meerend. The cream bitch Yasmin was a good brood. The black dog Ch Laurie of Meerend was a popular stud. He produced 14 litters in total, mostly out of the Meerend's own bitches. The light grey son of Laurie, Jacob of Meerend (born 1931 ex Lavina of Meerend) was exported to Germany and was really a strong stud force there producing the massive number of 40 litters. He had offspring in almost every German Skye kennel. An important litter was born in 1925 by Merchiston Garry – Jenny Nettles. One of the puppies was The Demon of Meerend who had five litters. Of these puppies Onapproval of Meerend, Jean of Meerend and Lucy of Meerend bred on. Our Dogs writes in 1925 about Mrs Cuthbert's dogs: *"Mrs Cuthbert is very much against any exaggeration of coat, and her own Skyes are born workers, and adepts at rat and rabbit, while they round up the poultry and pick out any bird which their owner desires to handle. A very economical and ideal country dog,"* is Mrs Cuthbert's summing up of the Skye. *She has had a keen demand for stock and while the majority of the "Meer End" puppies have gone to people who are, as yet, non-exhibitors, Mrs Cuthbert hopes to see a lot of them in the ring ere long."*

The grey dog born in 1943, Ch Challenger of Meerend was a well known winner and a popular stud. He sired over 70 puppies in 12 litters. The best known of his offspring were the Merrymount champions, Ch Sunchariot, Ch Baron and Ch Sungleam as well as Ch Royalist of Merrymount and Iradell. Of his daughters, the beautiful bitches Ch Juno of Meerend and Ch Janet of Meerend remained as brood bitches in Meerend kennel. Our Dogs tells in the 1933 December issue that *"Mrs Cuthbert has been obliged to refrain from showing on account of all her available stock having to be devoted to breeding purposes in order to cope with the everlasting demand. [...] There has recently been much controversy regarding the red strain or Dudley noses, from which no Skye kennel can claim to be immune. Mrs Cuthbert thinks this defect has been*

very much exaggerated, as out of 50-odd puppies bred in the kennel this year she has only had two instances, although in most cases stock up to four generations on both sides have been direct descendants of the much-discussed "red" dog."

After the WWII the number of Skye breeders went down and in the beginning of the 1960s there were no Skye breeders in Scotland. Only a handful of breeders continued with Skyes in England. The biggest kennel was of course Merrymount but other important kennels still bred Skyes, for example of the Mynd, Meerend, Faygate and Rhosneigr. It was because of the determination of two women, Mary MacDonald (Acheo) and Margaret MacDonald (Tarskavaig) that Skye Terriers were returned to their native Isle.