If there is one thing you need to remember about the Lethbridge-Stewarts it is this; they have a very proud heritage, one that goes back over four hundred years to the days when they were two very different families.

The first recorded Lethbridge-Stewart was William Stewart, born in 1567. He was of the Clan Stewart, a relative of the Stuart Kings of Scotland. He grew up to be friends with James VI, and was with him when the young king claimed the English throne after the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. By this time William had already met and married Mary Lethbridge, the daughter of the influential Lethbridge family in England – a marriage that was only approved on the condition that the Lethbridge name be maintained in conjunction with the Stewart name.

While the future of the Clan Stewart and the Stuart Kings is well-documented, what is less known is the future of the Lethbridges. Indeed, their origins are also somewhat obscure. The name is believed to be derived from a location in Devon than no longer exists, with the earliest iteration of the name being Lethebridge, and is of Anglo-Saxon origin. The Lethbridges spread out, with a large percentage of them migrating to the US and Australia. However, those that remained in England soon inherited a proud tradition of their own, as a result of John Lethbridge who became the first Lethbridge Baronet in 1804. The Lethbridge Baronetcy of Devonshire continues unto this day with Sir Thomas
Lethbridge and his son, John Francis Lethbridge who is heir apparent to the baronetcy.

The Lethbridge-Stewarts continued to uphold their own noble traditions, with many notable characters proving to have some importance in not only British history, but world history.

Major General Fergus Lethbridge-Stewart served alongside the Duke of Wellington and was there by his side during the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, while the first Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart served in Military Intelligence during the First World War, and was in Russia during the Russian Revolution of 1917. His son, Gordon Conall Lethbridge-Stewart (1902-1945), also had a distinguished military career, serving with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, until he was reported missing in action in 1945.

Of course, the most well-known Lethbridge-Stewart was Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart (1929-2014), who went on to do more for the UK and the world than any member of his family. His acts outweighed those of his famous
predecessors by some measure. To the world at large, he was a nobody, just a colonel in the Scots Guards who happened to know the right people and be called to the wrong place at the right time. But it was his mission to protect London at the end of the 1960s that led him to become one of the UK’s greatest protectors, first as commander of the Fifth Operational Corp and then, latterly, as commander of the British arm of UNIT – the United Nations Intelligence Taskforce (for a detailed account of Sir Alistair’s life, see We Don’t Let Him Down: The Memoirs of a British Knight). Such roles led him to eventually become a Commander of the British Empire in the late 1990s.

The Lethbridge-Stewart name remains synonymous with the protection of the United Kingdom, now in the shape of

![Image of Kate Lethbridge-Stewart](image)

Sir Alistair’s daughter, Kate Lethbridge-Stewart (although for some time she dropped the Lethbridge part of her name so as not to curry favour during her rise through UNIT to her current post as Chief Scientific Officer). She joined UNIT in 2004, at the behest of her father after helping
ex-UNIT Captain Douglas Cavendish in an event that still remains classified. Since her lineage has come out, and following the death of her father, she has proudly acknowledged her connection to Sir Alistair, realising the weight his name carries not only in UNIT (now reformed as the UNified Intelligence Taskforce, with the scientists leading the way) but also far beyond.

What lies in the future for the Lethbridge-Stewarts? It is a question worth pondering. They had a noble and worth history, from their roots as part of the Clan Stewart and blood connection to the Stuart Kings, and in their blood kin the Lethbridge Baronets. Noble heritage that the Lethbridge-Stewarts have honoured since William Lethbridge-Stewart stood by the side of James I in 1603. There is no doubt that such honour and nobility will remain with them right until the end. Indeed, there are mutterings that Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart III, Kate’s eldest child (born 1990), is making waves of his own…

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Lethbridge-Stewart: The Forgotten Son can purchased direct from: http://tinyurl.com/m9kgy3h