



EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND

1835 - 1913

Evan Charles Sutherland

Evan Charles Sutherland was born in October 1835, the third son of George Mackay Sutherland of Rhives and Elizabeth Walker of Crow Nest, Halifax.

When Lt. George Mackay Sutherland came to Halifax as a recruiting officer of the 93rd Highlanders, it is said that he met his future bride, Elizabeth Walker, at a ball in the town. Perhaps the attraction of beauty and wealth was overwhelming. A £32,000 marriage settlement was agreed and the wedding took place on the 19th October 1828 in Halifax Parish Church.

The Walkers, originally of yeoman stock, were farmers and industrialists, who had acquired land, property, influence and status in the area. William Walker, Elizabeth's grandfather chartered a vessel, which sailed to the Baltic and Russia, with him on board, to purchase the timber for his two mansions, Cliffe Hill and Crow Nest. The latter was designed by the famous Yorkshire architect, John Carr, and had a lodge gatehouse at one end of the long carriage-way and a triumphal arch at the other. Many people said that stepping into John Walker, her father's office at his bank, was like entering the "lion's den"!

Elizabeth inherited these estates when her brother died in Italy in 1830, and her first child was born at Crow Nest. But when George Mackay bought a 500 acre estate, "Udale", on the Black Isle, the family moved to Scotland, and George, now a captain in the Light Dragoons, left the army to run the estate. Sadly a second son born in 1833, John, died in infancy and was buried at Kirk Michael. Tragedy struck again, when George Sackville, named after his paternal grandfather, died aged twelve in 1843. So, the future destiny of the Sutherland-Walker estates now lay "full square" on the shoulders of the seven year old Evan Charles.

During Evan Charles' formative years, his mother became pre-occupied by the wayward behaviour and mental instability of her unmarried sister, Ann Walker, of Cliffe Hill. She frequently travelled by packet boat, train and coach to Halifax and London to consult with doctors, solicitors and lawyers, regarding "her poor dear sister", so described in numerous letters. Supported by her husband, together they were present when her sister was taken from Shibden Hall (which her sister had inherited) to the "Retreat" in York. The constant worry sorely enfeebled the mental and physical strength of Elizabeth and led to her untimely death in 1844. George was obliged to take up residence at Shibden to run his wife's and sister-in-law's estates. He also had the task of ensuring that his son would become the sole beneficiary on Ann Walker's death. Not surprisingly he remarried in 1846 and Evan Charles and his sisters acquired a step-mother in Mary Elizabeth, the daughter of John Haigh of Savile Hall, Halifax. In March 1847 a step-sister, named after her mother, was born and a month later, after a three day illness, their father was dead. George Mackay was interred at Lightcliffe alongside his eldest daughter, who died the previous year aged fifteen.

1846

It is difficult to assess what impact these tragic events had on the young Evan Charles, aged eleven, and his sisters, Elizabeth, aged fourteen, and Ann, a child of nine years. They were placed in the care of their step-mother, her father, their uncle, Henry Edwards of Pye Nest, the family solicitor, Robert Parker and Major Honeyman Macqueen Mackay of Coates House, Edinburgh.

Fortuitously, just before his death, George Mackay had finally persuaded his sister-in-law, Ann Walker, to bequeath all the family estates in Halifax to his son. She had agreed, on condition that Evan Charles adopt the family name of Walker (as well as his own) and take up the Walker coat of Arms, which he did, though later he dropped the Walker name. This was known as the "Sutherland-Walker Estates Act" of 1866. On the death of his first wife, George Mackay sold the Udale Estate and purchased the estate of "Aberarder" in Strathnairn, with its shooting lodge and the House of Brin on its 12,000 acres.

(1850)

In 1850 Evan's sister, Elizabeth, married in Inverness David Sinclair Wemyss, who had inherited the estates of "Southdun" in Caithness. Their grandmothers Jean and Janet Mackay were sisters. They brought up their family at the castle, Ackergill Tower, where they lived with David's bachelor uncle, Sir George Sutherland Dunbar, the son of the 6th Lord Duffus.

Evan's younger sister, Ann Walker Sutherland, married in 1856 Captain Henry William Stansfeld, a coal proprietor, of Flockton Manor House, near Wakefield. The Stansteids of Hope Hall, Halifax, had a lineage dating back to the Norman Conquest, with Warin and Jordan de Stansfeld. Later wealth came from the textile industry and several Stansfelds were barristers, judges, politicians and military men with distinguished service.

When Evan Charles came of age, there were great rejoicings and celebrations in Lightcliffe and on the Aberarder estate. He was now a young man of substantial means with three large estates to his name. In 1854 he sold Cliffe Hill to the Foster family of Black Dyke Mills, after which a famous Brass Band was named and which won many National Championships. Then on the third of February 1859, he married Alice Sophia Tudor, daughter of Henry Tudor, stock-broker of Portland Place, London. That same year he terminated Sir Titus Salt's lease on Crow Nest so he could set up home there. His first five children were born in Halifax.

During this period the more benevolent nature of Evan Charles was quite evident. He provided land and money for the erection of a large day school, which bears his initials and still stands today. At the opening ceremony, in response to the address of gratitude, he responded that, "he had built the school, not for personal glorification, but from an honest desire to do good." In light of the evidence of his tenure of "Skibo Castle", it is possible that his motives were somewhat a mixture of the two sentiments.

Sir Titus Salt, the former tenant, purchased Crow Nest in 1867, when Evan Charles decided to take up residency at Aberarder. Sir Titus, whose wealth came from the manufacture of alpaca cloth, is famous for building a model village for his workers at Saltaire, near Bradford. His mills were the largest in Yorkshire and he provided 800 homes for his workers, as well as schools, a hospital, library, baths and almshouses.

While Alice Sophia bore three more children at Aberarder, Evan Charles busied himself with improvements on the estate. He set about enlarging and refurbishing the shooting lodge. He purchased extra land so he could fish in the waters of Lake Ruthven, adding to the profitability of the estate. Family letters show how frequently close and distant relatives made visits to Brin House and how much they enjoyed the hospitality of their hosts. Others arrived seeking advice and money, which seem to have been given readily on both counts. He became the guardian of his sister Elizabeth's children when their parents died and he ensured they were well educated and he managed their trust funds. Similarly he helped manage the Forss Trust of his Sinclair relatives. He appears to have been a pivot, around which his extended family revolved.

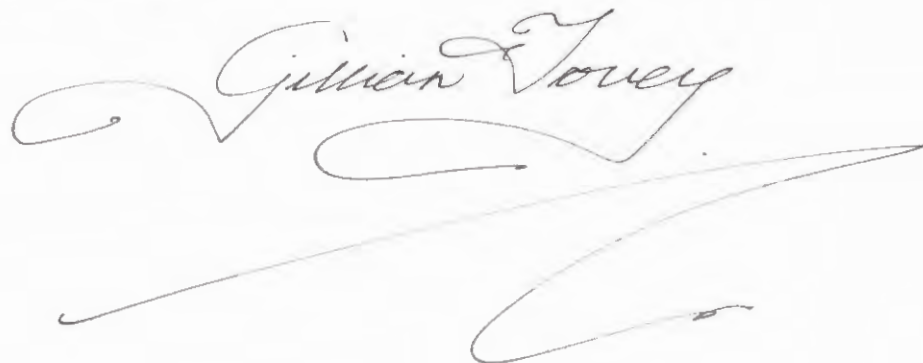
One has to wonder why, in middle age, he wished to take on the challenge of the reconstruction and refurbishment of the estate and castle at "Skibo". Was he gradually blighted by the madness which affected his aunt? Whatever it was that deluded him to treat his estate tenants so shabbily, it certainly cost him his wealth and reputation. Meantime his heir, William Tudor, disgraced himself so badly that no-one in the family ever spoke about him, and even his father finally refused to countenance him as a beneficiary of his will. Evan Charles showed more concern and compassion towards his childhood nurse. He set aside money for the upkeep of her grave.

On the 24th July 1913, Evan Charles died of an aneurysm of the aorta at 7 Falkland Place, Cheniston Gardens, London, with his son Major Alic Sutherland of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in attendance. The complexities of the innumerable law-suits revolving around his tenure of Skibo Castle meant that it was 9 years after his death when his last will and testament was finally proved on the fourth of September 1922. Surprisingly, his last wish was to be buried, without ceremony, at Dornoch. I wonder if he was!

3.

Gillian Tovey

February 2002



THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF INSANITY

Gillian Lovey

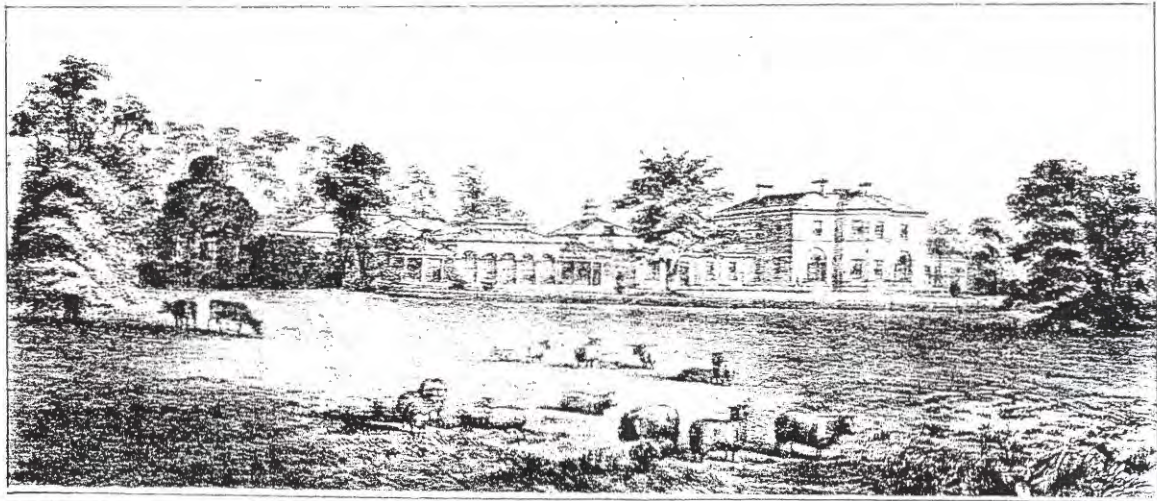
Two years ago I finally located my aunt's house in Flockton, Yorkshire, where my paternal grandfather died in 1948.

Greenhead House was such an unusual property that I wished to know more about its former occupants and history. My research began in earnest with the names of two Scottish girls, Janet Mackay Sinclair Wemyss and her sister, Mary, whose names appeared on the 1881 census returns.

From five cottages the house had been converted for their arrival by Captain Henry William Stansfeld of Flockton Manor. His wife's nieces were made "wards of court" on the death of their parents. Previously they had lived at Ackergill Tower, a castle in Caithness with their great uncle Sir George Sutherland, of the Dunbar / Duffus line.

Their mother, Elizabeth Sutherland, had married David Sinclair Wemyss of Southdun in 1851. Their aunt in Flockton was Ann Walker Sutherland, before her marriage, and their uncle was Evan Charles Sutherland, later of Skibo Castle.

These Sutherlands with Yorkshire estates in Halifax was an intriguing notion and required further investigation. Janet and Mary's grandfather was George Mackay Sutherland who came to Halifax as a recruiting officer, and at a ball in the town he met a local wealthy heiress. Perhaps he was not only attracted by her beauty but swayed by the prospect of her £32,000 wedding settlement. They were duly married at Halifax Parish Church on the 29th October in 1828.

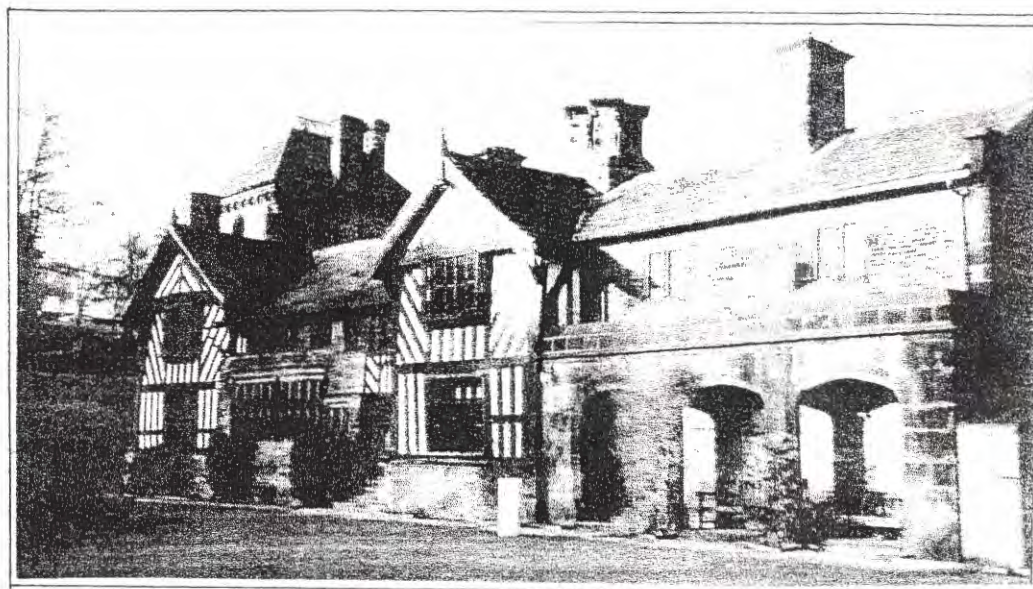


CROW NEST - LIGHTCLIFFE NR. HALIFAX

George's new wife, Elizabeth Walker was the daughter of John and Mary, whose family wealth initially came from farming and later from woolstapling and the manufacture of cloth. The family acquired land, property and status. One of their mansions, complete with lodge, carriage drive and triumphal arch was Crow Nest, designed by the famous architect John Carr in Palladian style. Their second mansion, Cliffe Hill, was situated on adjoining parkland.

George and Elizabeth raised six children on the 500 acre estate in Udale on the Black Isle. Sadly their youngest son, John, a sickly child, died in 1836 and was buried at Kirk Michael. But it was the next decade which brought in its wake, heartbreak and tragedy, which finally took its toll on the family.

Ann Walker, Elizabeth's unmarried younger sister, began to show disturbing signs of instability and insanity. For many years Ann had been the constant companion of Anne Lister, a lady of overt lesbian disposition and the owner of Shibden Hall in Halifax. The pair frequently travelled abroad, but in 1840 Anne Lister died during their return journey from Russia. In her will she left Ann Walker "a life interest" in Shibden Hall.



SHIBDEN HALL HALIFAX

When writs were issued on Ann Walker by the Lister family, concerning unpaid travelling expenses incurred during the Russian tour, the legal wrangling became bitter and court action was threatened. Ann's management of her estate became erratic and wayward and her mental state disturbed. Robert Parker, the family solicitor in Halifax warned George and Elizabeth of possible dire consequences, that Ann was being manipulated by "bad hands" and that "misery and trouble" may ensue.

This prognosis caused great distress and sorrow in Udale. Ann was also showing dissatisfaction with advice from her family and "coolness" to her advisers, and began to disassociate herself from them. Touching letters from Scotland, often written in haste to catch the mail, were sent by Elizabeth to her uncle Henry Edwards of Pye Nest and to her solicitor, Robert Parker, as her concern for her "poor dear sister" grew.

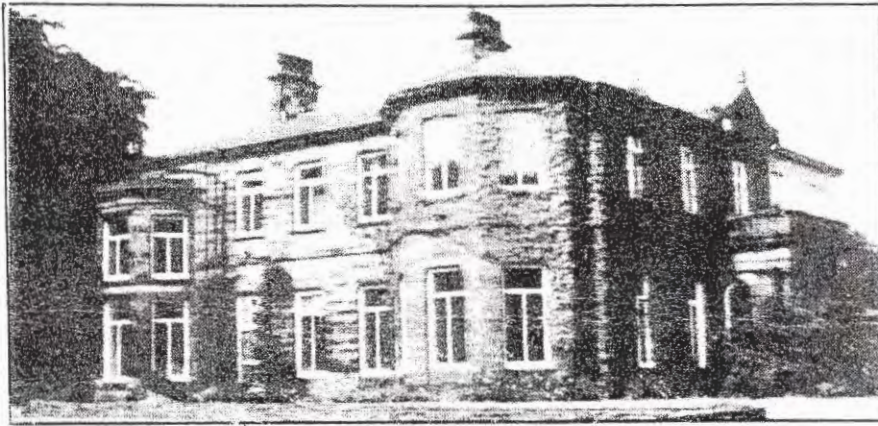
In 1843 George and Elizabeth's eldest son, George Sackville, known as "Sack" by the family, died at the tender age of twelve. Elizabeth's maternal grief was compounded by reports in the press about her sister, who had become a "laughing stock" in the town of Halifax. In a letter, edged in black, (denoting mourning) Elizabeth woefully admits that she "can no longer be blind" to her poor dear sister's antics, and "as an act of kindness", she must place her "in the care of some eminent medical man to prevent further exposure".

An immediate reply from the solicitor warns of Ann's imminent plans to travel by rail to London, where there is every possibility of more outrageous behaviour. Elizabeth travels to Halifax and to London to consult with the advisers, but then her own poor health confines her to bed.

Meanwhile George, anxious about his wife's physical health, caused by the incessant worry and anxiety, endeavours to ease the stress. He intervenes by settling bills and sorting out the complexities of the rents and the business affairs of his sister-in-law. His support is crucial in securing the necessary medical attention required.

Finally on the 9th September 1843 Ann Walker is taken by carriage from Shibden to the Retreat in York under the care of Dr Belcombe and Dr Short. When George and Elizabeth arrive at the hall a few hours later they are greeted by anxious servants. They find all the doors inside the hall locked and the local constable has to unhinge Ann's bedroom door. The rooms are filthy and undusted, with shutters closed. Robert Parker writes in his memorandum of the scene that "papers were strewn about in a state of confusion and a dirty candlestick near the bed (and pistols) was covered in tallow, as if the candle had melted away on it".

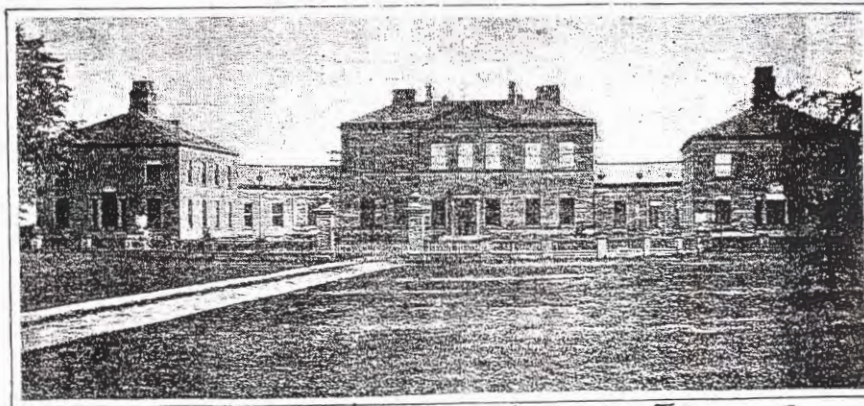
A year later, enfeebled by constant worry for her "poor dear sister", Elizabeth is dead, and George, now a widower with four young children, returns to Halifax and Shibden. There are pressing "matters of estates" to deal with. He also wishes to secure his son's inheritance of the Walker's estates. His wife's aunt, a spinster in her ninetieth year, must be persuaded to leave her fortune to Evan Charles. With his children needing maternal support, he remarries in May 1846. But tragedy strikes again immediately when his eldest daughter, Mary, dies.



CLIFFE HILL LIGHTCLIFFE

In March 1847 a daughter is born, named Mary Elizabeth, but a month later fate intervenes once more when George himself falls ill. Quickly a new will is written, but George is so weak that he signs it with a shaky cross. Three days later he is dead in his bed at Shibden.

My husband and I often visit Shibden Hall, but these tragic circumstances which blighted the lives of George and Elizabeth will for ever give our visits an added poignancy!



CROW NEST - NORTH FRONT

*Gillian
Tovey*

May I thank Mrs. J Leggett, Mrs. P Peterson and the archivists at Halifax Public Library for their contributions to my research.

3.
This is the story of Evan Charles Sutherland's family



Scott, Brothers Ltd Halifax

SOUTH WEST VIEW OF BRIN HOUSE.

ON THE "ABERARBER" ESTATE.

INHERITED BY EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND-WALKER.

([?] Walkers
or Sutherlands)

FIRDENE,
SUNNINGDALE,
BERKS.

Grave and Stone of my Great Grandfather
at Goltree (LT. COL. JAMES SUTHERLAND)

Graves and Stones of my Grandfather his
wife and children at Kilburnie ^{GEORGE}
^{SACKVILLE}
^{SUTHERLAND}

Graves and Stones of my brothers at
Kilburnie ^{GEORGE SACKVILLE SUTHERLAND}
^{& JOHN WALKER SUTHERLAND}

Grave and Stone of my Mother at
Wimbledon Parish Church. (Sleigh bell ^{SUTHERLAND (NEE}
~~Walker~~ ^{WALKER})

Graves Stones Railings and Brasses of the
Walker Family of my Father and Sister at
Lightcliffe Church and Churchyard. ^{MARY SUTHERLAND}

Graves Stones and Brasses of the Walker
family in Halifax Parish Church.

Window in St Pauls Church Southampton to my father
Grave ~~and~~ of my nephew G. M. Sutherland
^{EVAN MACKAY SUTHERLAND}
(SON OF EVAN CHARLES)

L1x n in the Mount Royal Cemetery
Montreal.

Grave and Stone of my nephew R. M.
Sutherland in the burial ground at
Masere Basutoland S.A.

REMY MACKAY SUTHERLAND
(SON OF EIAN CHARLES).

Information written by the son of
Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker.

REFORM CLUB, LONDON,
4th March, 1846.

To the Tenants on the Estate of Aberarder.

GENTLEMEN,

As I have only very recently become the proprietor of Aberarder, on which many of you hold lands under unexpired leases,—and as I have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with any of you,—and as a measure has within the last few days passed one stage in one branch of the Legislature, and which measure, it is in my humble opinion most erroneously represented, will prove utterly ruinous to the tenants of the United Kingdom,—I think, under the circumstances stated, I am justified in assuming that you will be desirous to know my sentiments on the subject, and what appears to me the legitimate mode of assisting you, and meeting the anticipated difficulties, should they present themselves.

In early life, but after due consideration, I attached myself to the party called Liberal: consequently my conclusions have not been hastily drawn. They are, in fact, the result of attentive observation and some experience as a practical agriculturist.

Any reference to the original enactment of the Corn Laws, or to the arguments maintained by landlords and monopolists, is clearly needless; they have been condemned by a majority of 97 in the Commons House of Parliament, on the proposition of one of the clearest-headed and most practical statesmen now living, who, I ardently hope, will continue to despise the prejudices of party, while directing his unquestionable talents and powerful influence to the removal and reform of every existing abuse, whether in Church or State, and to the extension of our commercial intercourse, our civil and religious liberty, and the inestimable blessing of moral and religious education. Public meetings at various places have been called, as you know, on the subject, where, instead of the question being calmly and rationally discussed, abuse of the present administration has, for obvious reasons, been indulged in. Should any such meetings be called in Inverness-shire, permit me to tell you (though I doubt not most of you are aware) that, while Protection to Agriculturists is the cry, Monopoly and High Rents are the objects.

It has been asserted that the tenantry of the Kingdom will be ruined, should Sir Robert Peel's measure pass the House of Lords, and much sympathy has been pretended for the supposed victims. Let not those who hold such arguments distress themselves: an easy remedy exists for the apprehended evil. The plan I allude to may be at once adopted by all the landed proprietors who are truly anxious about their tenantry,—it has already been adopted by the Honorable Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie, with that goodness of heart and liberal consideration for others which characterize that Lady's conduct on all occasions. I mean also to adopt it; and therefore beg to submit it for your information.

It consists simply of a system of averages for determining the amount of rent which the tenants are to pay.

The averages adopted on the Seaforth Estates are, of course, those of Ross and Cromarty, and are as follow:—

	1843.	1844.	1845.	Average.
Wheat	£2 8s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	£2 0s. 1d.	£2 1s. 0d.	£2 3s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
Barley	1 7 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 6 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 6 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	0 18 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 19 6	0 19 6	0 19 3 $\frac{3}{4}$

The practical working of the plan simply consists in a conversion of the *money-rents* in the leases into equivalent quantities of *corn*, taking a third for each kind. Let us take, for convenience, a rent in even money, say £300. We have thus £100 for wheat, £100 for barley, and £100 for oats. According to the averages above stated, the quantities of grain which would stand for the money-rent in the lease would be as follow: viz. £100 worth of wheat at 43s. 1¼*d.* would give 46 qrs. 3 b. 1 p.; £100 worth of barley at 26s. 11½*d.* would give 74 qrs. 1 b. 2 p.; £100 worth of oats at 19s. 3¾*d.* would give 103 qrs. 4 b. 1 p.; and calculating the rent to be paid on these quantities according to the Fiars' prices of last year, the above supposed rent of £300 a year would have been for—

	£.	s.	d.
Wheat.....	95	2	7¾
Barley.....	97	15	1¾
Oats	100	18	10
In all	293	16	7½

being just £6. 3s. 4½*d.* less than the money-rent in the tenant's lease.

In short, at any time during the currency of the existing leases, when the Fiars' prices fall below the average of the three years 1843, 1844, and 1845, the rents payable will be less than the rents in the leases. When prices exceed this average the rents will be higher.

The three years in question have been selected as being those during which the present Corn Law has been in operation. The protectionists, and all who are against the change now proposed, allege as a reason, that prices *must* fall. If they do, the tenants will, by Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie's plan, be relieved from any loss consequent on this fall, because the rents she will demand will be reduced in proportion.

If you approve of this plan, the rents in our case would be calculated on the averages of Inverness-shire.

However, I merely offer this remedy or relief to you: should you not like it, you can adhere to the rents in your leases.

But none of the tenants on my estate can hereafter have reason to object to the change now being made in the Corn Laws.

The above plan is surely clear and intelligible; it is I think fair for all parties, and one that will, I hope, satisfy you, and must, in the long run, all the landlords of the United Kingdom.

Opposed to the impending modification of the Corn Laws are several noblemen, distinguished for their exalted rank and great wealth, and many of our landholders.

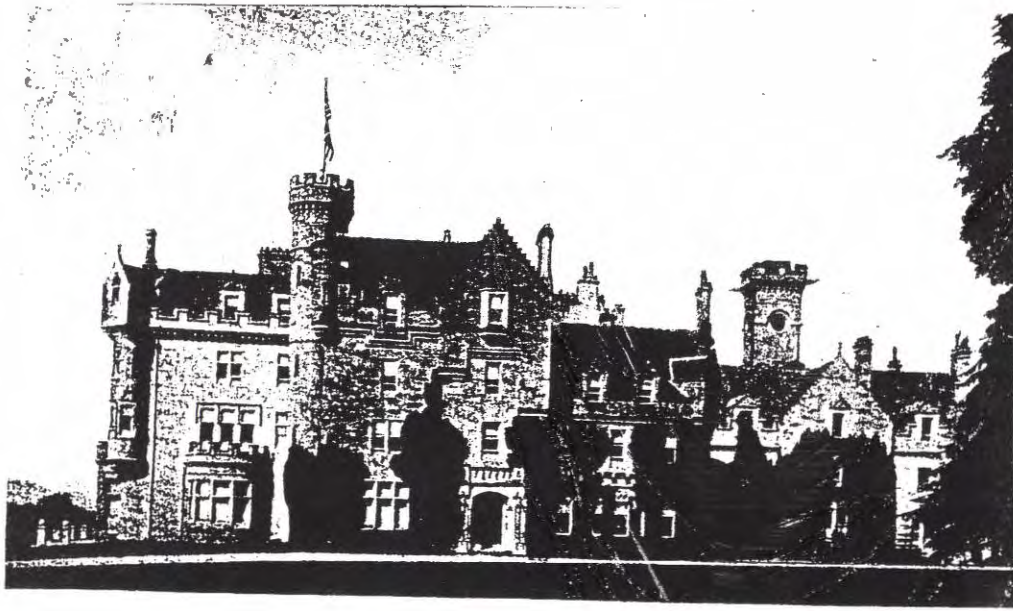
I pray you to attach no importance to the speeches attributed to them. I would advise you to concern yourselves only about your farming operations; to get the seed into the ground as fast as you can; and to disregard statements and speeches, which are not only not worth listening to, but in many instances are so extremely absurd, that to bestow any attention on them would be a loss of valuable time.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. MACKAY SUTHERLAND.

*Father of Evan Charles Sutherland
Walker (later of Skibo)*



No one would ever so summarily dismiss his immediate successor, Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker, who purchased Skibo estate from the obscure Chirnside in 1872. This dapper, pugnacious little man came from a distinguished family of the Highlands, the grandson of Captain George Sackville Sutherland, laird of Uppat and also of Aberadar in Inverness-shire. Evan Sutherland-Walker appears to have been a curious amalgam of the traditional and the modern. In respect to dress and sought-after social status, he was a traditionalist, who took as his model the first Constable of Skibo, John Gray, the man who had first feued the lands of Skibo from Sutherland-Walker's remote ancestor, the Earl of Sutherland. Much to the amusement of the local inhabitants, Evan Sutherland-Walker almost always dressed in kilt, balmoral bonnet, and buckled shoes, while proudly displaying the tartan of the Sutherlands. How he revelled in the title, Laird of Skibo, and how bitterly he resented the fact that his predecessor, George Dempster, had so cavalierly dispensed with the ancient feudal rights that had once belonged to that title. He longed to return to an age when crofters were little more than serfs bound

to the land and farm tenants were obsequious vassals. Like Edwin Arlington Robinson's Miniver Cheevy, Evan Sutherland-Walker "loved the days of old when swords were bright and steeds were prancing." He too "dreamed of Thebes and Camelot and Priam's neighbors" . . . and "cursed the commonplace and eyed a khaki suit with loathing; He missed the medieval grace / Of iron clothing."⁶

In other respects, however, Sutherland-Walker was a modernist who insisted upon the latest improvements in agricultural methods and who sought to make his gardens look as if they had been lifted directly out of the latest issue of *Stately Estates of England*. He built many new farm buildings at Skibo: stables, coachhouses, barns, and granaries. Sutherland-Walker also wanted the latest and most ostentatious style in his own living quarters. His romantic yearning for the past did not extend to the ancient castle keep, or to the graceful and simple Georgian houses which Mackay had built. His plans for the laird's manor house were more on the order of the late Victorian merchant princes of London, Birmingham, and New York, great piles of masonry that advertised their owner's wealth and social standing in every cornice and cupola. The old castle keep, or what remained of it, must go. Some of the older natives of the Skibo area today like to think that a part of Bishop Gilbert's castle still remains, incorporated into the massive structure that Sutherland-Walker erected, but that seems unlikely. It would have been more in character for him to raze to the ground what remained of that ancient historic structure and in its place build the castle of his dreams. What arose was an impressive semi-Gothic mansion of steeply pitched Flemish-style gables, ornate bay windows, and third-story cupolas. Initial impression was all-important to Sutherland-Walker, and no visitor to his home in passing through the vestibule could fail to be overwhelmed by the great baronial entry hall with its sweeping staircase at the rear leading to the floors above. Here before the large open fire-

place in this great hall, little Evan Sutherland-Walker could sit in his high-backed carved-oak chair feeling every bit as regal as any Stewart monarch in his traditional royal Highland garb and knowing that he had the most currently fashionable residence that money and modern architectural skills could provide.

It was this extravagant quest for both modernity and traditionalism that finally undid Sutherland-Walker. Even though of distinguished and ancient lineage, he himself was not a man of great wealth. It had been necessary for him to borrow heavily in order to purchase Skibo, and that initial debt was multiplied many times over by his modernization of the farms and the building of his palatial residence. Modernity had plunged him deeply in debt.

But what finally destroyed him financially was his equally frantic effort to reverse the present economic and legal status of the estate and to bring feudalism back to Skibo. Fancying himself an expert in feudal law, Sutherland-Walker was determined to undo the land reforms of George Dempster by bringing suit against these tenants who for the past century had held the perpetual feu charters granted them by Dempster. Sutherland-Walker, to be sure, was motivated to take this action not only by his personal vanity of wanting to be a true feudal laird but also by the very pragmatic need for ready cash. He desperately needed to pay the architects, the contractors, and the suppliers of building material for his barns and mansion. To do so he must get more income from the estate. So off to court he went, confident in his claim that this was entailed land forever feued by the first Earl of Sutherland and by the bishops of Caithness under terms which could not be altered or revoked. George Dempster, he insisted, had acted illegally when he had unilaterally granted charters of perpetual feu. These charters must now be declared null and void.

But the Court of Sessions in Edinburgh in these last years

of the nineteenth century was not prepared to roll history back to the twelfth century. Sutherland-Walker lost his first case. Returning to Skibo in a fury, he gave orders to place a high fence around the victorious tenant's farm and to plant a dense, prickly hedge alongside the fence to box in the victorious tenant. Angry and frustrated but undaunted in losing his first case, Sutherland-Walker proceeded to take, one by one, each charter-holding tenant to court, only to lose each and every suit. To his former debts he was now obliged to add the staggeringly high legal costs of these fruitless court actions. In order to meet these new obligations, he turned his attention to those unlucky tenants who were not fortunate enough to hold Dempster's charters of perpetual feu. He raised the rental fees on these lands so high as to justify a new Peasants' Revolt. There was no revolt, but his tenants, unable to pay the increased rental fees, left the land. With no tenants, there was no production and no income.

In desperation, Sutherland-Walker drastically cut his own family's living expenses. He sold his fine carriages and horses, dismissed his liveried coachmen and grooms, and finally reduced his household staff to one or two servants. But it was to no avail. The tenants and servants were gone, but the creditors were still there unappeased. The only escape was through the ignominious door of bankruptcy. By court order, he was forced to leave Skibo. He sought temporary refuge at Pulrossie farm, which he had earlier deeded to his son. From there, after turning all that remained of his personal property over to the court-appointed trustees, he and his wife went south to Inverness. Out of respect for his family, the Estate Trustees granted him a small annuity which allowed him to rent a small cottage in Inverness. Here in his two or three rooms that would easily have fit within the confines of the great entry hall at Skibo, the Laird's grandiose dreams came to their pitiful end.

In the century and a half since the last battles were fought

1882 to June 1922 Probate London 3 August to Sarah Jane Knight (wife of John Knight) Clara Knight spinster and Herbert Davy warp dresser. Effects £1882 os. 10d.

UTHERLAND Elizabeth of The Hollies Royal-street Sandown Isle of Wight widow died 30 August 1922 Probate Winchester. 10 October to William Henry New pork butcher. Effects £303 16s. 2d.

UTHERLAND or **MCLACHLAN** Elizabeth of 4 Crosshill-drive Rutherglen (wife of Robert McLachlan) died 12 July 1922 Confirmation of the said Robert McLachlan, Sealed London 29 December.

* **UTHERLAND** Evan Charles of 7 Falkland House Kensington Middlesex died 24 July 1913 Probate London 4 December to Alic Sutherland retired major H.M. Army. Effects £1030.

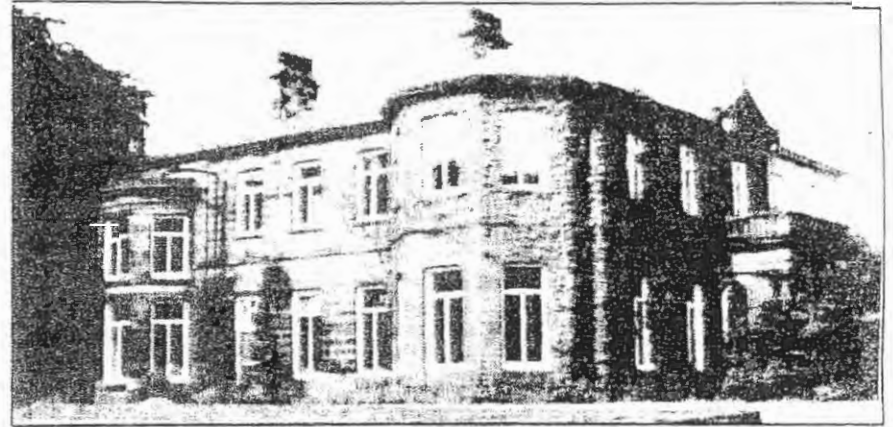
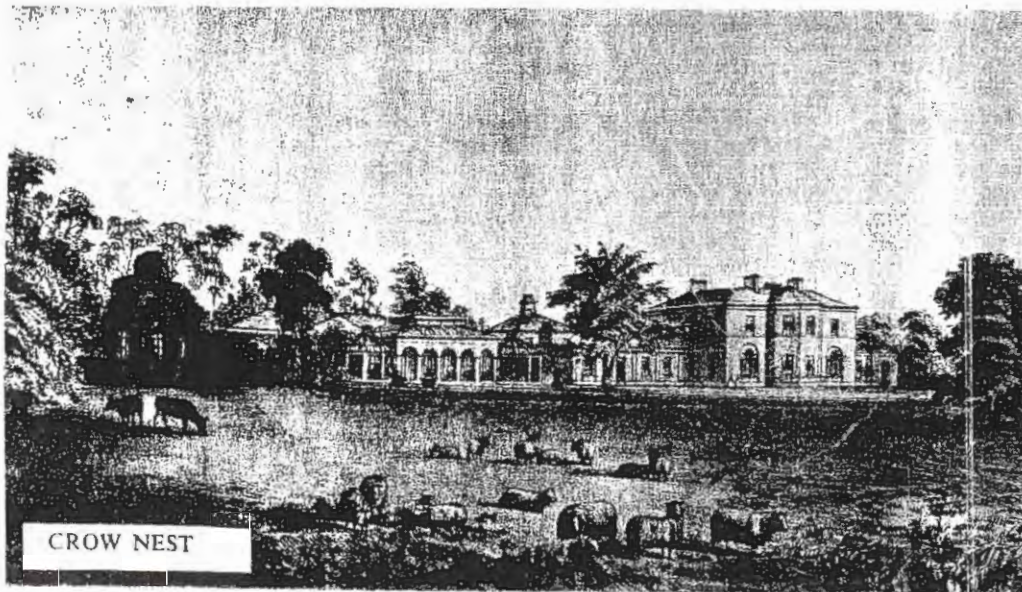
UTHERLAND George of 30a Cowbridge-road Cardiff died 30 July 1922 Probate Llandaff 19 October to Edward Pimm Locoek stonemason. Effects £11 2s.

UTHERLAND James Young Simpson of Woodlea York-drive Inverness died 9 February 1922 at Tor-na-Dec Sanatorium Murtle Aberdeenshire Confirmation of Jessie MacNaughton spinster and Colin Outram Morris solicitor. Sealed London 1 July.

UTHERLAND Jane of 41 Stuart-street Docks Cardiff widow died 4 January 1922 Administration Llandaff 20 February to Mabel Lydia Davies (wife of Shem Davies). Effects £165 1s. 1d.

UTHERLAND John James of Blue Hall Linthorpe Middlesbrough died 28 January 1922 Administration London 9 November to Mr. Frank...

on her soil, Skibo may have been tamed and domesticated, but she still required expert handling. This was no place for the amateur. Pettifoggery and costume charades would not suffice. Skibo, as always, still demanded from her lairds love for her lands and respect for her people. She was soon to find a new laird who would give both in abundance and Skibo would know a greater glory than she had ever known before.



CLIFFE Hill at Lightcliffe, a Georgian mansion built in 1775, stands on the site of a settlement dating back more than 700 years.

From the 13th century it was the residence of the Cliffe family, which was prominent in local affairs for four centuries. Richard Cliffe was one of the promoters of the first Lightcliffe Chapel in 1529.

In the 1760s, the property was bought by William Walker of Crow Nest, who rebuilt the house in its current style, incorporating timber specially imported from Russia. The last member of the Walker family to live in the house was Miss Ann Walker, a close friend and travelling companion of Miss Lister of Shibden Hall.