

Evan Charles Sutherland and family



The Sutherland family's links with Lightcliffe were started in

George Mackay Sutherland and family

ending with his death in 1847. He was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard. His first wife and mother of most of his children was Elizabeth Walker, the daughter of John and Mary Walker of Crow Nest and so the granddaughter of William Walker who had St. Matthew's old Church built in 1775.

This article continues the story of the Sutherlands, dealing with the family of the only surviving son Evan Charles Sutherland. He was just eleven years old when his father died, but he would eventually inherit his father's Scottish estate and his mother's part of the Crow Nest estate. His sisters were also provided for once they reached the age of majority. All three surviving Sutherland children also inherited when their great aunt, Ann Walker senior, died aged ninety at Cliffe Hill on 29th October 1847.

But what happened to them after that?

Eighteen-year-old Elizabeth Mackay Sutherland married David Sinclair Wemyss in Bower, Caithness on 22nd August 1850 as explained in [Elizabeth Mackay Sinclair Wemyss \(née Sutherland\) - In Search of Ann Walker](#)

The younger two siblings, Evan Charles Sutherland and Ann Walker Sutherland, were at boarding school for the 1851 census so may well have gone there not long after their father died. Evan was at Rugby School in Warwickshire and Ann (Annie) was at a school in Putney, London. Having lost both their parents, presumably they were under the guardianship of their stepmother and perhaps their paternal grandmother, Jean Sutherland née Mackay.

On census night 30th March 1851, the young widow Mary Elizabeth Sutherland and her four-year-old daughter of the same name were back with her parents, John and Elizabeth Haigh at Savile Hall, Halifax. Ann Walker had also left Shibden Hall and was back at Cliffe Hill, the house she was born in. Her friend, the widow Lydia Fenton née Wilkinson, was with her there as her housekeeper as explained in :-

Ann Walker and Anne Lister at Lightcliffe

Although George Sackville Sutherland had died in 1843, he was still named in Ann Walker's will as her heir. This was because she was unable to change her will, having been declared a lunatic. When she died in February 1854 the only surviving Sutherland son, Evan Charles Sutherland, inherited. Thus, the two parts of the Walker Lightcliffe estates around the Crow Nest and Cliffe Hill mansions were reunited. A condition of his inheritance was that he had to add Walker to his surname.

In an 1858 newspaper report Evan Charles Sutherland Walker was recorded as being a West Riding of Yorkshire Justice of the Peace living at Cliffe Hill mansion. But by 1861 the Foster family from Queensbury, owners of the Black Dyke Mills, were recorded on the census as residing there. Their second son would later buy Cliffe Hill mansion. It was Major Johnstone Jonas Foster of Cliffe Hill who funded the building of St. Matthew's new Church which was completed by 1875.

On the 6th November 1858 Ann Walker Sutherland married Henry William Stansfeld of Flockton Manor House, Thornhill, Yorkshire in Hastings. The Officiating Minister was Rev. Harry Tudor, M.A.. Just a few months later, on 3rd February 1859, he would take the marriage service for his sister Alice Sophia Tudor of Portland Place when she married Evan Charles Sutherland Walker in London as announced in various newspapers including the *Inverness Courier* on 10th February 1859.

MARRIAGES

At St. James's, Westbourne Terrace, London, on the 3rd inst., by the Rev. Harry Tudor, M.A. (brother of the bride), EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND WALKER, Esq., of Crow Nest, West Riding of Yorkshire, and Aberarder, Inverness-shire, to ALICE SOPHIA, youngest daughter of Henry Tudor, Esq., of Westbourne Terrace.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
204	February 3 rd 1859.	Evan Charles Sutherland Walker	full	Bachelor	Esquire	Halifax Yorkshire	George Mackay Sutherland	Officer in H.M. Service
		Alice Sophia Tudor	Minor	Spinster		Westbourne Terrace	Henry Tudor	Esquire

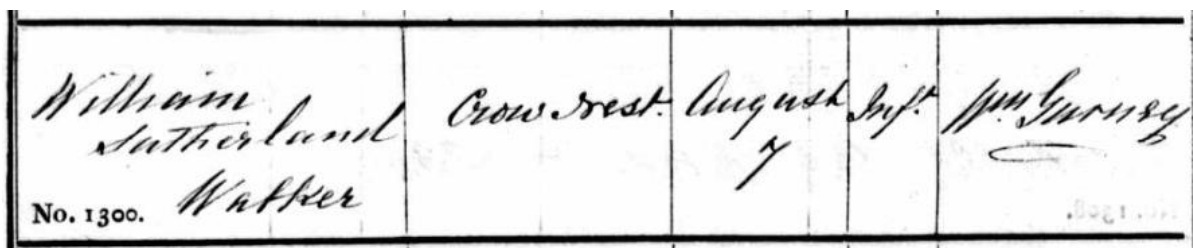
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence Harry Tudor M.A. by me, Harry Tudor M.A.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Evan C. Sutherland Walker in the Presence of us, Henry Tudor Harry Tudor M.A. Johnstone Jonas Foster

On census night 7th April 1861, the Sutherland Walkers were at an address in Mayfair, London. Their first born, a son named William - following the Walker naming tradition - , was born in London on the 17th June 1861. Again, this was reported in newspapers; the example here is from the *Inverness Advertiser and Ross-shire Chronicle* of 21st June 1861.

At 18 Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, London, on the 17th inst., the wife of Evan Charles Sutherland Walker Esq. of Aberarder, Inverness-shire, and Crow Nest, Yorkshire, of a son.

Ominously perhaps, the little boy was baptised three days later on the 20th June. The new parents must then have brought their newborn son back to Crow Nest where he died on 3rd August 1861. Again, this was announced in various newspapers. Little William Sutherland Walker was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe on 7th August 1861 with the Rev. William Gurney as the officiating minister.

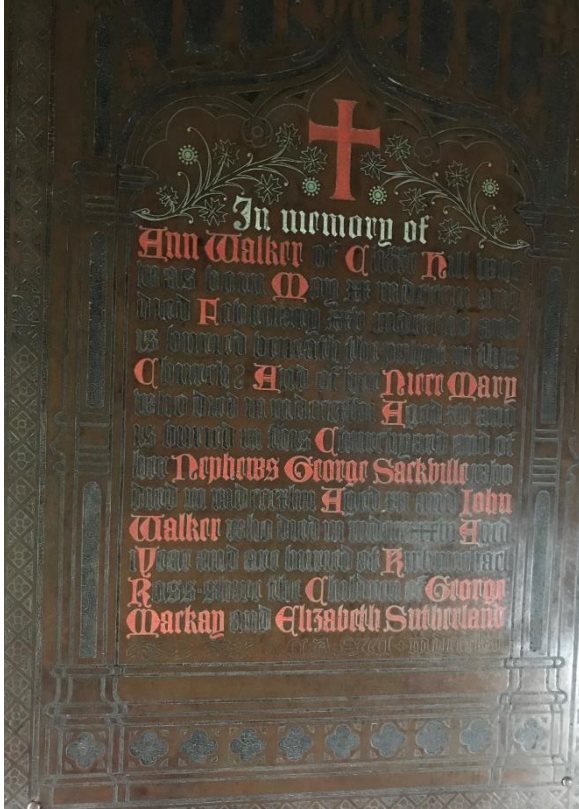


Just where he was buried is now unknown. It may have been somewhere in the area marked below near the chest tomb of his grandfather, George Mackay Sutherland.



There are some later clues – read on!

Not long after, in 1862, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, organised and paid for the refurbishing of St. Matthew's Church, the old church that his great grandfather William Walker had built in 1775. He dedicated a new east window, which was made in Edinburgh, to his parents and the young son he had lost. A reading pulpit was added above the Walker vault and a brass plaque in memory of his aunt Ann Walker and his siblings was placed in a nearby window recess. This plaque, now cleaned up, resides in Lightcliffe tower.



IN MEMORY OF
ANN WALKER OF CLIFFE HILL
WHO WAS BORN MAY 20TH 1803
AND DIED FEBRUARY 25TH 1854
AND IS BURIED BENEATH THE PULPIT
IN THIS CHURCH
AND OF HER NIECE MARY
WHO DIED JUNE 6TH 1845
AND IS BURIED IN THIS CHURCHYARD
AND OF HER NEPHEWS GEORGE SACKVILLE
WHO DIED IN 1843 AGED 12
JOHN WALKER WHO DIED IN 1836
AGED 1 YEAR
AND ARE BURIED IN KIRKMICHAEL ROSSHIRE
ECASW 1862

NB Dates in Roman Numerals

Apparently, there was another memorial, probably another brass plaque similarly inscribed. It was dedicated to his parents with this inscription on it.

IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE MACKAY SUTHERLAND OF ABERARDER, INVERNESS-SHIRE
CAPTAIN OF HIS MAJESTY'S 13TH REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS
WHO WAS BORN NOVEMBER 10TH 1798
DIED APRIL 22ND 1847 AND IS BURIED IN THE CHURCHYARD
AND OF ELIZABETH HIS WIFE
DAUGHTER OF JOHN WALKER OF CROW NEST
WHO WAS BORN NOVEMBER 10TH 1801
DIED DECEMBER 28TH 1844 AND IS BURIED IN WIMBLEDON, SURREY.

Unfortunately, the whereabouts of this plaque is not known. Perhaps it did not survive the demolition of the old church. Perhaps it disappeared before then. No one knows!

Their next son was named William Tudor Sutherland Walker. He was born on 11th October 1862 in London, as *the Elgin Courier and Morayshire Advertiser* along with many other newspapers reported on 17th October 1862.

At No 30, Great Cumberland Place, Hyde Park, London, on the 11th inst., the Wife of EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND WALKER, Esq., of Crow Nest, Yorkshire, and Aberarder, Inverness-shire, of a Son.

Another son, Alic Sutherland Walker was born in Lightcliffe at Crow Nest mansion on 20th September 1863 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 12th November 1863.

Inverness Courier 24th September 1863

At Crow Nest, near Halifax, on the 20th instant, the wife of EVAN C. SUTHERLAND WALKER, Esq., of a son

1863	Nov: 12	Alic	Evan Charles Sutherland Walker	Crow Nest	Lightcliffe	Wm. Sutherland
No. 1141						

A daughter Alice Sutherland Walker was also born at Crow Nest on 2nd April 1865.

John O'Groats Journal 13th April 1865

At Crow Nest, near Halifax, on the 2nd inst., the wife of Evan C. Sutherland-Walker, Esq., of a daughter.

The Vicar of Halifax Rev. Charles Musgrave took the baptism service at St. Matthew's Church on 28th May 1865. At the same service he baptised two other babies, as well as little Alice, including the daughter of the Crow Nest land steward, Scotsman John Smith.

Read [John Smith and family.pdf](#)

1865	May 28	Alice	Evan Charles Sutherland Walker	Crow Nest	Land Steward	Charles Musgrave (Vicar Halifax)
No. 1222						

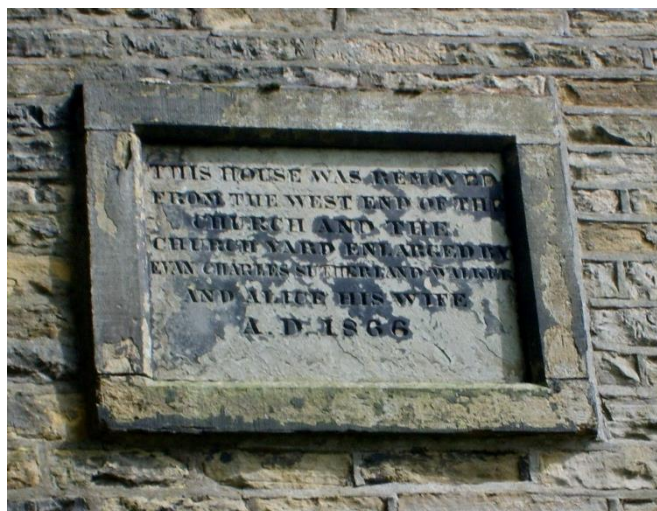
On 14th April 1866 the Venerable Dr. Charles Musgrave, Archdeacon of Craven, was able to announce to the St. Matthew's congregation that a new school was to be built in Lightcliffe and that :-

"The cost of the whole will be defrayed by Evan Charles Sutherland Walker Esq. of Crow Nest who has also given the land."

Interestingly, because of what subsequently transpired, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, on 30th July 1866, was given permission by an Act of Parliament to sell some of the Yorkshire properties he had inherited.

More details can be found at <https://vlex.co.uk/vid/sutherland-walker-estate-act-808492053>

Sometime in 1866 the Sunderland Walkers funded the moving - presumably stone by stone - of the sexton's cottage, built in 1634, to its present position on Till Carr Lane.



This plaque, which can be viewed from the churchyard, explains more

THIS HOUSE WAS REMOVED
FROM THE WEST END OF THE
CHURCH AND THE
CHURCH YARD ENLARGED
EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND-WALKER
AND ALICE HIS WIFE
A. D. 1866

The Sutherlands were in London for the birth of their next son, Ewan Mackay Sutherland Walker, on 21st February 1867. Again, the birth was announced in various newspapers.

Elgin Courier 1st March 1867

At 22 Hill Street, Berkley Square, London, on the 21st ult., the wife of EVAN C. SUTHERLAND WALKER, Esq. of Crow Nest, near Halifax, and Aberarder, near Inverness, of a son.

Then, just a few months later, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker put the whole Crow Nest estate up for sale. Most of the lots did not sell at the auction at the time but some would go later in private transactions. Cliffe Hill, where Ann Walker was born and died was bought by the sitting tenant Johnston Jonas Foster. Titus Salt, later a baronet, bought Crow Nest, having previously rented the mansion, from the Crow Nest estate. Read more in the article

[The sale of the Walker estate 1860 to 1890 update Dec2023.pdf](#)

After that the Sutherland Walker family appear to have split their time between the Scottish estate of Aberarder, another Highland residence, Brin House, and a London property. In the summer of 1868, Evan gave away his younger half sister Mary Elizabeth Sutherland when she married Gardiner Frederick Guyon Esq. in Brighton.

On Tuesday 12th January 1869, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker was in Lightcliffe again attending the celebration of the opening of Lightcliffe National School which he had fully funded. Speeches were made thanking him for *“providing such a handsome and commodious building for the religious, moral and intellectual training of the labouring classes amongst them.”* When he stood to reply he was greeted with *‘great cheering and applause’*.



Lightcliffe National School pre 1920

The already mentioned Crow Nest land agent, John Smith, was responsible for the design of the school building which still operates today as Lightcliffe Church of England Primary School. Over the years it has obviously been extended.

The crest of Evan Charles Sutherland Walker (ECSW) and the date 1866, which was when the school was originally planned, can still be seen at the front of the building.



Their next son, Kenneth, was born at No. 2 Grosvenor Crescent according to his baptism record from 27th May 1869. Then newspaper reports suggest that the Sutherland Walkers were in Aberarder in August 1869. The Belgravia address was where the family were on census night, 2nd April 1871 with a visitor, 33 year old Ann (Annie) Walker Stansfeld née Sutherland, i.e. Evan's sister.

In July 1872 numerous newspapers recorded the fact that Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, of Aberarder, Inverness-shire and Crow Nest near Halifax, had bought the Skibo Castle estate in Scotland for £130,000. Two months later seven-year-old Alice Sutherland Walker of Aberarder, died on 18th September 1872. She was buried in Dornoch Free Cemetery.

Another daughter, Marion Sutherland Walker, was born on 29th November 1872, again at No.2 Grosvenor Crescent. A son, Reay Mackay Sutherland Walker, would complete the family. He was born at Skibo Castle on 24th September 1875.

But the Sutherland Walkers continued to have connections with Lightcliffe as Evan Charles Sutherland Walker still owned land and property on the Crow Nest estate. In September 1875 the new St. Matthew's Church, largely funded by Major Johnston Jonas Foster, was due to open. Beforehand the bells had to be installed on site. The *Bradford Observer* on 21st June 1875 noted that:-

The second bell, which weighs about 17 cwt, is the gift of Mrs E .C. Sutherland Walker, and bears the following inscription :- "Alice Sophia Sutherland Walker, of Crow Nest, A.D., 1875"

For the 1881 census Evan Charles Sutherland Walker was at Skibo Castle. His wife Alice and the three younger children were at a hotel in Westminster, London. Fourteen-year-old Ewan Mackay Sutherland Walker was a scholar at a boarding school in Eastbourne. William Tudor Sutherland Walker may well have been serving with the Seaforth Highlanders. He was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1882.

From *The London Gazette* 30th May 1882

***3rd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire
Buffs, the Duke of Albany's), William Tudor
Sutherland-Walker, Gent., to be Lieutenant.
Dated 16th May, 1882.***

Most of the Sutherland Walker children had their births registered in the *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* under the surname Walker whether that was in the district of Marylebone, Halifax or St. George Hanover Square. The two exceptions were Kenneth Sutherland Walker registered under Sutherland-Walker and Reay Mackay Sutherland Walker whose civil birth registration has not been found probably because he was born in Scotland and not England or Wales.

But their surname was about to change – again in the case of Evan Charles.

The following notice appeared in various newspapers in October 1883.

Invergordon Times and General Advertiser 17th October 1883

NOTICE TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. WHEREAS, Her Majesty, by Warrant under Her Royal Signet and Sign Manual, bearing the date the Thirteenth day of December Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Six, signified that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to give and grant unto me EWEN [sic] CHARLES SUTHERLAND of Crow Nest, in the West Riding of the County of York, Her Royal Licence and Authority that I might assume and use the surname of WALKER in addition to and after that of Sutherland; and whereas the uses, intents, and purposes, for which the said permission was prayed for and used (as fully set forth in "Sutherland-Walker's Estate Act, 1866") have now been fulfilled and ended. Now, I, the said EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND of Skibo Castle in the County of Sutherland, and I, WILLIAM TUDOR, eldest son of the said EVAN CHARLES SUTHERLAND-WALKER give Notice that we intend to discontinue the use of the surname of Walker. In Witness Whereof we have, at London, this Thirteenth day of October Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-three, set our hands and seals to a Deed Poll (intended to be forthwith enrolled in the Chancery Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice), and subscribed these presents, (intended to be forthwith recorded in the Books of Council and Session At Edinburgh) written upon this page by Donald Gray, Clerk to Stewart, Rule, and Burns, Solicitors, Inverness, before these Witnesses --- John Heath Stubbs, solicitor, 14 Bloomsbury Square, London, and James Whitelock, clerk to Emmet, Son, and Stubbs, of 14 Bloomsbury Square aforesaid,

EVAN C. SUTHERLAND-WALKER

WILLIAM T. SUTHERLAND-WALKER

J. HEATH STUBBS, *Witness*

J. WHITELOCK, *Witness*

This notice coincided with the coming of age of William Tudor Sutherland Walker on 11th October 1883, so it was, no doubt, not a coincidence. The *Northern Chronicle and General Advertiser for the North of Scotland* on 31st October 1883 reported :-

MAJORITY OF THE LAIRD OF SKIBO

WILLIAM TUDOR SUTHERLAND, eldest son of Evan C. Sutherland, Esq., of Skibo, attained his majority on the 11th inst., and it was chronicled in our columns, the event was celebrated with great *eclat* and rejoicings, in thoroughly Highland fashion, on the estates of Skibo, in Sutherland, and Aberarder, Inverness-shire. In Yorkshire, where Evan C. Sutherland owns a landed estate, the congratulations were equally fervent, and, as in the North of Scotland, they were heartily reciprocated by the young heir of Skibo, and the honoured family to which he belongs.

Celebration dinners were belatedly held in Scotland and then Yorkshire. The *Inverness Advertiser and Ross-shire Chronicle* from 18th January 1864 reported on the Lightcliffe celebration in the National Schools buildings that his father had funded.

CELEBRATION OF THE COMING OF AGE OF THE YOUNG LAIRD OF SKIBO IN YORKSHIRE

On Tuesday evening, 10th inst., the coming of age of William Tudor Sutherland, the eldest son of Mr Sutherland of Skibo Castle, Sutherlandshire, was celebrated in an enthusiastic manner by the tenantry of Mr Sutherland's Yorkshire estates. The tenantry was entertained in the Lightcliffe National Schools by Mr and Mrs Sutherland in honour of the event. The schools were prettily decorated for the occasion. On entering the girls' school, where the dinner was served, were seen the words in white wool letters, on a red ground, "Welcome to my Laird:" and on the opposite end was "Success to the Heir of Skibo" whilst other suitable mottoes graced the walls in different parts of the room. The dinner was of a most substantial character, and a plentiful supply of venison was furnished from the deer park of Skibo. Mr Sutherland presided, and he was supported at the cross table by the Rev. V. R. Leonard, Messrs, G. Emmet, F. Walker, Major Jackson, Ald. R. Horsfall (Halifax) Mr F. Crowther (Shibden), Mr Woodhead (Mr Sutherland's agent), Mr Horne, and a number of ladies and gentlemen. The usual loyal toasts were proposed from the chair, after which, Mr G. Emmet, Craven Lodge, Halifax, one of the oldest of Mr

Sutherland's Yorkshire tenants, presented Mr William Tudor Sutherland with a splendid timepiece and two handsome vases, subscribed for by the tenants on the occasion of his coming of age. He had great pleasure in making the presentation, and in proposing Long Life and Happiness to the Young Laird. The toast was received with musical honours in a most hearty manner. The timepiece is a polished gilt drawing-room clock, striking on a gong the hours and half-hours. The two side pieces are in character. The time pieces bore the following inscription :- "To William Tudor Sutherland, Esq., Skibo Castle, Sutherland, in memory of his 21st birthday. Presented by his father's Yorkshire tenants, - Lightcliffe, January 10, 1884." Mr W. T. Sutherland, who on rising, was received with prolonged cheers, thanked them most heartily for the handsome present, and hoped he should have the pleasure in future of meeting them very often. (Applause) After several appropriate toasts had been proposed Health and Long Life to our Host, Mr Sutherland. (Applause) The Chairman, in response, said he was extremely obliged for their reception that evening. A more pleasant reception no one could have experienced, and he thought there was nothing like a Yorkshire reception. (Cheers) The rest of the evening was spent in dancing, the gathering being in every way pleasant and successful.

After buying Skibo Castle Evan Charles Sutherland had set about rebuilding and extending the castle and other buildings as well as improving the grounds of the estate. But all this cost money for which he had taken out loans. But then he ran into financial difficulties when trying to meet interest payments and paying off debts to creditors. There were also the costs of legal disputes with his tenants. By 1889 he was forced to leave Skibo Castle apparently moving to another house on the estate. The Aberarder estate was put up for sale and eventually sold in late 1889. In 1890 Evan Charles Sutherland was again trying to sell more of his Crow Nest estate.

On 5th April 1891 the address of 55-year-old Evan Charles Sutherland and his 52-year-old wife Alice Sophia Sutherland was 'Station Hotel', Inverness. The transcribed Scottish census data has Evan, a 'Landed Proprietor' as the head of the household. Also listed in the same household were 21-year-old Kenneth and 18-year-old Marion as well as two 'Commercial Travellers' and four servants.

The eldest son 28-year-old William Tudor Sutherland was one of many visitors including his future wife, Ethel Mary Garrard, staying with Stanley Dent and family at Fawley House, Bramshott, Hampshire for the 1891 census. It was recorded that he was living on his own means as was 24-year-old Ewan Mackay Sutherland who was a lodger at an address in Westminster. Their youngest brother Reay Mackay Sutherland was a 15-year-old boarder at Inverness College.

The *Morning Advertiser* for the 9th January 1893 had the following marriage announcement.

SUTHERLAND – GARRARD .—On the 2nd inst., William Tudor Sutherland, eldest son of Evan Charles Sutherland, vice-lieutenant of Sutherland, to Ethel Mary Garrard, elder daughter of James Mortimer Garrard, J.P., of Pinner.

They had two daughters Aileen Mary Sutherland (1893 – 1966) and Eveline Betty Sutherland.(1896 – 1961).

Then on 2nd October 1897 *The Morning Post* announced that :-

The trustees of Mr. E.C. Sutherland have disposed of Skibo Castle and the shooting in Sutherland-shire to Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

[The Scottish American millionaire Andrew Carnegie who made his fortune in the Pittsburgh steel industry rented the Skibo Castle estate in 1897. In 1898 he took up the option to buy although disputes were still rumbling on in 1902. In 1982 Skibo Castle was bought by the businessman Peter de Savary.]

A few days later on 26th October 1897 the only surviving Sutherland daughter, Marion, married a clerk in holy orders, Lawrence Gee, in York. Her address was still Inverness, N.B. Meanwhile some of her brothers, Alic and Reay, were following military careers. The siblings' stories continue in the article **The Sutherland Walker grandchildren**

Evan Charles Sutherland has not been found on the 1901 census. He may well have been in Scotland as on 31st March 1901 his wife Alice Sophia Sutherland and their son Kenneth Sutherland as well as their granddaughter, Aileen Mary Sutherland, were at this Inverness address Lethington, Damfield Road, Inverness, Inverness-shire, Scotland

By then his financial difficulties were mounting. In 1902 he lost an Edinburgh court case relating to the sale of Skibo Castle to Andrew Carnegie in 1898 and the sale of the Aberarder estate to a Mr Beckwith Smith in 1900. On the Scottish probate record for his son Reay, who was shot dead in South Africa in January 1910, Evan Charles Sutherland's address was given as No. 6 Campden Hill Court, Kensington, London.

But on census night 2nd April 1911 the Sutherlands were at No. 6 Cedar House, Marloes Road, Kensington, London with their 41-year-old son Kenneth Sutherland. By then they had lost four of their eight children. Ewan Mackay Sutherland had died on 18th April 1907 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



Evan Charles Sutherland died on 24th July 1913 at Falkland House, Cheniston Gardens, Kensington aged 78 years. His finances were in such disarray that his probate was not granted until 1922. Two years later, his oldest son William Tudor Sutherland died suddenly at Ramsey Hall, Essex, on 29th August 1915. His mother Alice Sophia Sutherland née Tudor died on 23rd December 1918, but her probate was not granted until 1923. Alic Sutherland and his sister, Marion Gee, were granted probate for both their parents.

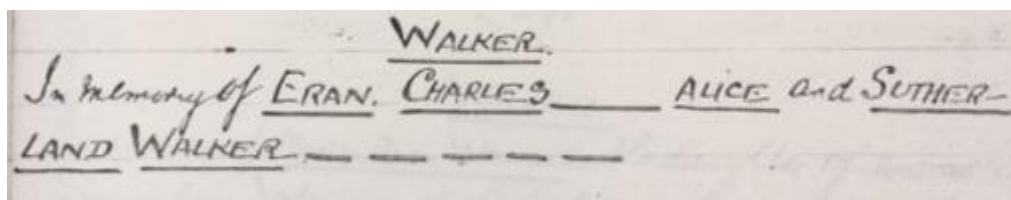
SUTHERLAND Evan Charles of 7 Falkland House Kensington Middlesex died 24 July 1913 Probate London 4 December [1922] to Alic Sutherland retired major H.M. Army. Effects £1030

SUTHERLAND Alice Sophia of 19 Fitz George-avenue Kensington Middlesex widow died 23 December 1918 Probate London 17 February [1923] to Alic Sutherland retired major H.M. Army and Marion Gee (wife of the reverend Lawrence Gee). Effects £4773 14s 6d. Resworn £1406 13s 3d

For the 1921 census their brother Kenneth Sutherland was visiting his sister Marion Gee and family at The Rectory, West Walton, Wisbech. However, his home address was apparently still in Inverness. The older brother Alic Sutherland, a retired major, was living at an address in South Kensington on 19th June 1921.

Kenneth Sutherland died on 5th January 1928 at 27, Bank Street, Inverness. His funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness two days later. Perhaps it was sometime after then that the surviving Sutherland siblings realised that the patch of ground in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe which had been reserved by their father for the exclusive use of his family would not be needed. (See letter below.)

The grave of their baby brother William Sutherland Walker, who obviously they had never known, was within this portion of the churchyard. Apparently, his grave had a headstone which is no longer visible. It was, however, there in the 1920s/1930s when a gentleman, Arthur Blackburn, transcribed the memorial inscriptions on the headstones and ledger stones he could see in about a hundred West Riding churchyards including Lightcliffe. This was what Arthur Blackburn recorded on what we assume was this little boy's headstone.



This does suggest that, by then, the headstone was not in a good condition. It may even have been broken or semi-buried, or the memorial inscription may simply have worn away. Whatever, the memorial inscription was difficult to read although it is clearly for Evan Charles and Alice Sutherland Walker's infant son, William Sutherland Walker.

Another clue as to the location of the infant's missing plot may be the Smith grave plot next to George Mackay Sutherland's chest tomb. At the very beginning of 1864 John Smith, a Scotsman and Evan Charles Sutherland Walker's Crow Nest land steward, lost three children to diphtheria on consecutive days. They were buried together in this marked plot on 5th January 1864. Their father, in 1882, and an adult brother, in 1895, would eventually also occupy this plot, now given the code JJ* 5.



Did Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, having previously reserved an area near his father's grave for his baby son, who died in 1861, and other family, let his land steward have a plot for his children after this 1864 family tragedy? Who knows!

10a Cannon Hill Lane,
Wimbledon,

LONDON S.W.20.

2nd April, 1935.

Dear Sirs,

In consideration of the Parochial Church Council of "St Matthews" Church Lightcliffe in the Ancient Parish of Halifax with the approval of the Vicar and Church wardens undertaking to keep the Grave of the Infant Son of the late Evan Charles Sutherland (at one time known as Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker) and the Headstone thereof in good order and to so maintain them in perpetuity WE and each of us consent to the portion of the Graveyard of the said Church containing one hundred and twenty nine and one third square yards (in which portion the said Grave is situate) and reserved by the said Evan Charles Sutherland Walker for the exclusive use as a Burial Ground or Cemetery for him and his Family in a Document entitled "Sentence of Consecration" and dated the 8th day of March 1867 under the hand of Robert Lord Bishop of Ripon and in which Document the plot of land so reserved is shewn upon a plan attached thereto and edged round with a red border line being thrown into and merged with the Graveyard of the said Church to be used as part thereof for the purpose of burial of persons entitled to be so buried therein but reserving nevertheless out of such consent the Grave of the said Infant son of the said Evan Charles Sutherland. It is a condition of the above consent that it involves no personal responsibility on our part

Yours faithfully,

ALIC SUTHERLAND
MARION GEE.

To/ The Parochial Church Council and
The Vicar and Churchwardens of
St Matthews Church,
Lightcliffe.

This letter, from widow Marion Gee's Wimbledon address, would appear to be the last connection that the Walkers of Crow Nest and then the Sutherlands had with the Lightcliffe area.

D.M.Barker

July 2025