

The soldier descendants of George Mackay Sutherland



Captain George Mackay Sutherland (10 November 1798 – 22 April 1847) was a military man who reputedly met his wife Elizabeth Walker (10 November 1901 - 28 December 1844) at a ball at the Walker home Cliffe Hill, Lightcliffe. They married on 29th October 1828.

Not surprisingly some of his descendants followed military and naval careers.

First of all, the **Sutherland Walker grandsons.**

The only surviving son of George Mackay and Elizabeth Sutherland was Evan Charles Sutherland. He inherited the Crow Nest Walker estate in Lightcliffe from his aunt Ann Walker on the condition that he added the name Walker. He and his wife Alice Sophia Tudor had six sons and two daughters.

Their eldest surviving son – the first-born infant William Sutherland Walker was interred in an unknown grave in St. Matthew's churchyard in 1861 – **Captain William Tudor Sutherland Walker** (11 December 1863 – 9 August 1915) served in the 3rd Division of the Seaforth Highlanders.

The next son **Major Alic Sutherland Walker** was born at Crow Nest on 20 September 1863 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 12th November 1863. He attended Eton College and then served as an officer with the 3rd Militia Battalion 93rd (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders including spells in Ceylon, Hong Kong, India and Egypt. Major Alic Sutherland – they had all dropped the name Walker by then – was present when his father died on 24th July 1913. Evan Charles Sutherland's finances were in such disarray that his probate was not granted until 1922. And although his wife had died on 23rd December 1918 her probate was not granted until 1923. Alic Sutherland and his only surviving sister, Marion Gee, were granted probate for both their parents.

Two other sons **Evan Mackay Sutherland Walker**, born 21st February 1867, and **Lieutenant Reay Mackay Sutherland Walker**, born 23rd September 1875, predeceased their father. Both died abroad. Apart from his death date of 18th April 1907 no further information has been found about Evan junior. However, Reay Mackay Sutherland was a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery before joining the Basutoland Mounted Police. Below is his death announcement in a South African journal from 1910.

SUTHERLAND - On January 20, at Maseru, Basutoland, shot dead by a native criminal whom he was endeavouring to arrest, Reay Mackay Sutherland, Basutoland Mounted Police, late Royal Artillery, aged 34, youngest son of Evan Charles Sutherland, of Skibo and Aberarder.

There was another son Kenneth Sutherland Walker born 21st May 1869. Apparently, he was disabled and lived with his parents until their deaths. A family tree shows that he died in 1930 but no death nor burial record has been found to confirm this.

A Stansfield grandson and great grandson

Captain Logan Sutherland Stansfield (29 March 1859 – 28 March 1936), portrait right, was the son of Henry William Stansfield and his wife Ann Walker Sutherland. He was born in Rome, Italy and obviously never knew his maternal grandparents, Captain George Mackay Sutherland and his wife Elizabeth Walker. He rose through the ranks in the Royal Navy serving through the Anglo Boer War and the Great War.

His son, thus great grandson of Capt. G.M Sutherland, **Lieutenant Henry William Stansfield** (before 13 April 1896 – 18 October 1969) served in the Royal Field Artillery in WW1. He sustained a gunshot wound to the head but survived.



Two other descendants of Captain George Mackay Sutherland. would be killed in action in the Great War. But their descent comes through the daughter born to his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Haigh, who he married on 5th May 1846 in St.John's Church, Halifax. Mary Elizabeth Sutherland was born on the 17th March 1847 at Shibden Hall just a month before her 48-year-old father George Mackay Sutherland died on 22nd April 1847 also at Shibden Hall. He was buried in St.Matthew's churchyard in plot II*4 on 28th April 1847. She was baptised in St.John's Church, Halifax on 12th August 1847. Mary Elizabeth Sutherland married Colonel Gardiner Frederic Guyon on 23rd June 1868.

One of their sons was **Lieutenant Colonel George Sutherland Guyon** (29 January 1876 – 1 July 1916). A daughter Mary Haigh Guyon married Colonel Edward Horace Lynden Lynden-Bell – yes that really was his name. He was an army surgeon who became Assistant Director of Medical Services in the Great War. They had a son **Lieutenant Colin Sutherland Lynden-Bell** (6 July 1894 – 21 February 1918).

Notice how the name Sutherland keeps reappearing.

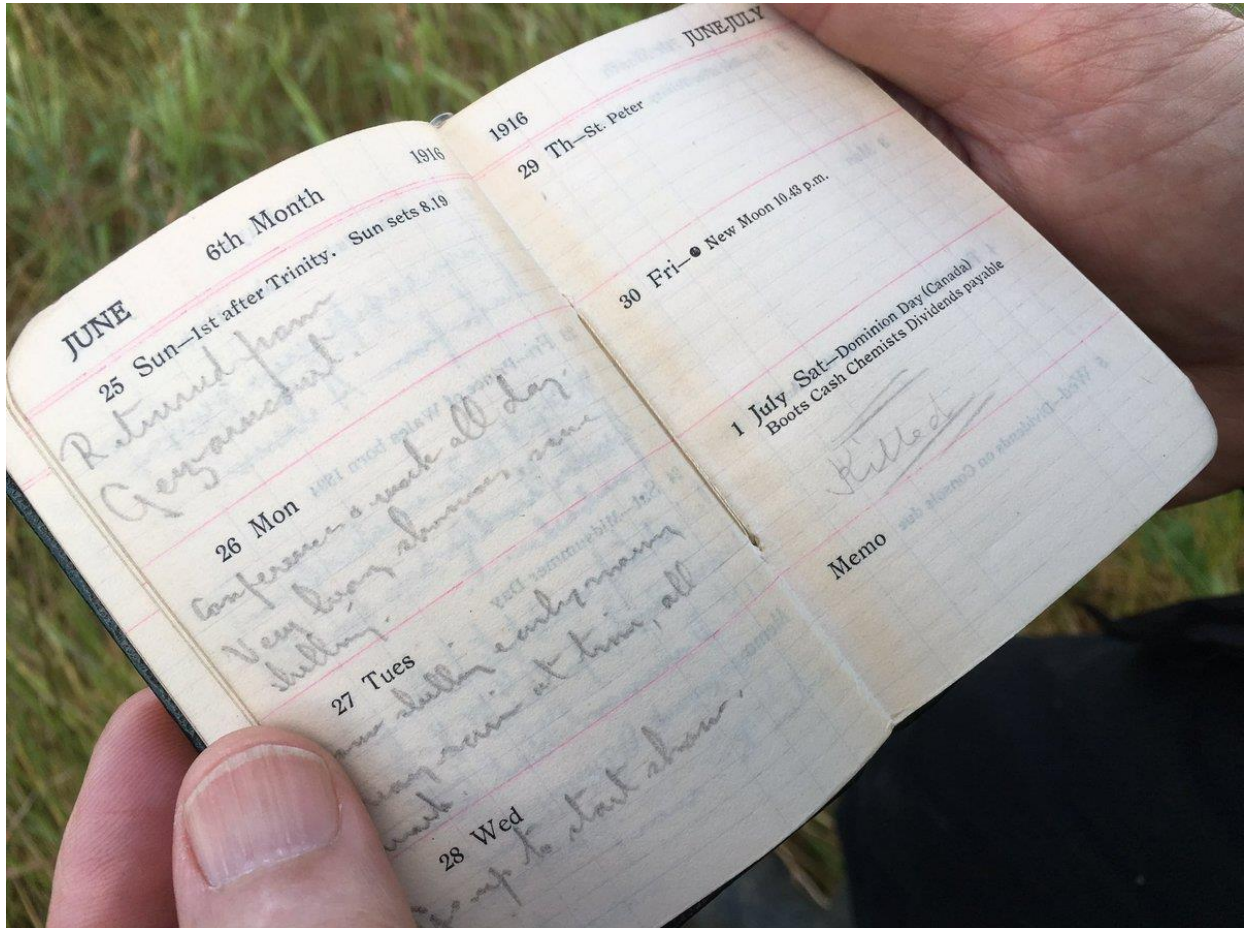
Lieutenant Colonel George Sutherland Guyon

(29 January 1876 – 1 July 1916)

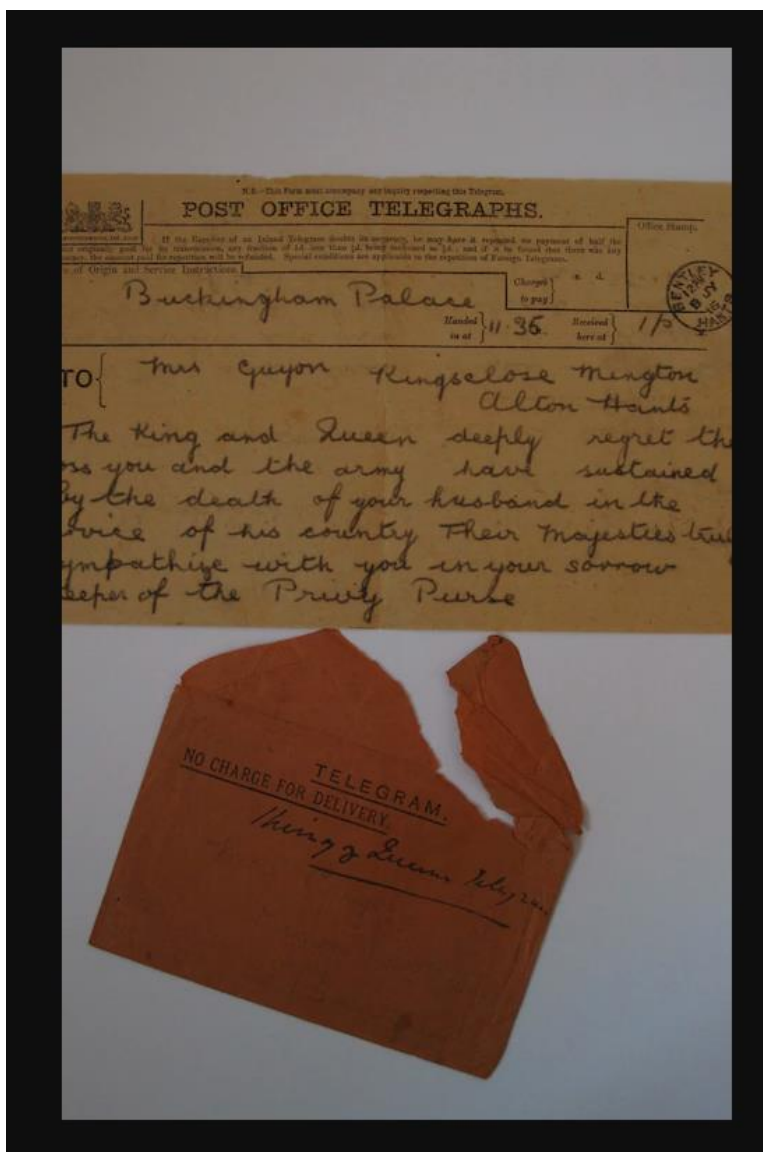


Like his father George Sutherland Guyon was a career soldier with the Royal Fusiliers seeing action at Ruidam during the Boer War. Then he was posted to India. In 1915 in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey he suffered a gunshot wound to the head but made a full recovery and returned to his regiment. He was later drafted at very short notice to lead the 16th Battalion West Yorkshire regiment, better known as the "1st Bradford Pals".

His diary records part of that hectic week at the end of June 1916.



On the 1st July 1916 the Bradford Pals were to capture the village of Sierre in the opening attack of the Somme Offensive. Like hundreds of other men George Sutherland Guyon went over the top and within minutes was shot through his helmet most probably by a German sniper. His body has never been found and so he is one of the missing remembered on the Thiepval memorial.



His widow received this telegram from Buckingham Palace.

Their son George Edmund Guyon born 22nd October 1916, after his father had been killed, served in WW2. First of all, in the Royal Fusiliers, the family's regiment, and then the Parachute Regiment – Army Air Corps. Whilst commanding the Mortar Platoon (HQ Company), 1st Parachute Battalion he was captured at Arnhem and made a prisoner of war. POW (No. 2183) in German captivity (Oflag IX-A/Z, Rotenburg an der Fulda, Hessen)

He passed away in the year 2000.

Lieutenant Colin Sutherland Lynden-Bell

(6 July 1894 – 21 February 1918)



Colin Sutherland Lynden-Bell was born on 6th July 1894 in Bermuda where his father was stationed as a Surgeon Captain with the Army Medical Staff. After attending Harrow School, he went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and then received a commission in the Indian Army.

On 8th March 1915 he was wounded at Kemmel, Belgium whilst attached to the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He recovered and was sent to India serving on the Frontier with the 99th Deccan Infantry. After that he was sent to Mesopotamia where he was accidentally killed on 21st February 1918. He was buried in plot V.N.1. of the CWGC Basra cemetery, which is now, very understandably, almost impossible to visit.



There may well be other direct descendants, who followed military careers, yet to be found.

To find out more about Captain Sutherland and the Walker family read the articles under

[Ann Walker, family & Friends](#)

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