

Alfred Peter Constable Maxwell and Lucy Harvey Maxwell

Namesakes for Gordon Maxwell Howard and Lucie Howard

Written by Cecile James Scribner (6 June 2017)

Ever since I was a little girl I've been interested in family history. I loved the story of the sinking of the *Birkenhead* in 1852 when my great great grandfather, Richard Howard, lost his life, but was first able to save the life of his son, John Richards Howard (aged 10), by throwing him overboard into a lifeboat. John Richards Howard met some Mormon missionaries on a ship while he was serving in the Royal Navy, and was afterwards baptized in England. He then made his way to Salt Lake City to join the Latter-day Saints there. He became very interested in his own family history and because of



Lucie Howard



Gordon Maxwell Howard

him, our Howard Family Line has been given a personal touch with the careful recording of names and dates he has handed down to us. After he was married and had some children, he was called on a mission back to Great Britain in 1880-1882. Before that mission, however, he had kept contact with many of his cousins both on the Richards side of the family and the Howard side of the family (his father, Richard Howard was married to Martha Richards). In fact, our family is in possession of many personal letters that are from these family members (cousins, aunts and uncles) in England as they wrote to John Richards Howard. John was determined to uncover the *mystery in the Howard family* – a mystery that must've been talked about in the family for many years previous. He firmly believed that our direct line of Howards went back to royalty – to the Fitz Alan family who lived in the Arundel Castle (specifically Mary Fitz Alan) and to the Dukes of Norfolk (specifically Thomas Howard whose first wife was Mary Fitz Alan of Arundel and eventually, after he had lost three wives in death, was engaged to Mary Queen of Scots). This possible union of Mary Queen of Scots and Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk, was a threat to the throne of Queen Elizabeth, and so, of course, she had them both beheaded! Who wouldn't want to have this fabulous history as part of their own family history! Some of my family and I have travelled back to those roads in England and Scotland and have visited the absolutely gorgeous grounds surrounding the Arundel Castle and have followed many of the glorious and sorrowful paths of Mary Queen of Scots in Scotland. These lands



Cecile on grounds of Arundel Castle 1987

reek with history that seems to be in our blood. But alas and alack, there seems to be a glitch in our family tree, and we can't find the final proof that puts us in this line of royalty. That glitch could possibly be that our grandfather back in the early 1700's came from an unmarried priest as his bastard child. That's just a guess. Although, bastard children were not uncommon among English royalty!

Surprisingly, those letters that were sent to John Richards Howard by his cousins and family in England, did not lead to royalty, but opened the path to their own personal lives in England. They would tell John that they had heard of the *mystery* in the family, but they only thought it was hearsay – and then they would tell him about their own family – about how “*young Caroline Loton was drowned with Uncle Joseph Richards on the ship Avalanche as they headed for New Zealand,*” or that “*it's been 16 years now since cousin Charles was drowned at sea when his ship went down,*” etc. These letters led us to find family members and to connect them to us – eternally!



Of all things, there was another *mystery* in the family that I was looking for – something I've wondered about for years and years and never found the answer until this week! Along with the story of possible royalty in our family, we've all known of another very interesting story. My grandfather, John Fitz Alan Howard (yes, he was named after the Fitz Alan's of Arundel Castle because his father was so convinced that we will one day connect) was called on a mission to Switzerland in 1895. He married Sarah Drucilla Sears the day before he went and was gone for three years! On his way home he visited family members - aunts, uncles and cousins who had been a great part of his own father's life. And here lies the mystery.

John Fitz Alan Howard

He visited an aunt by the name of Lucy. My mother Lucie Howard in her journal wrote: “*On his way home from his mission he visited an Aunt in England who gave him \$2500 and asked for the privilege of naming his first son and first daughter. She also came to Utah about the time the first two children were born (in 1900). Mother said that she had fourteen black taffeta dresses, and was quite a tea drinker. Her husband's name was Maxwell and he was Captain of the Gordon Highlanders. Her name was Lucie (Lucy).*” Who was this relative who had the financial ability to give away \$2500 in the late 1890's? When John and Drucilla's first son was born, he was named Gordon Maxwell Howard, and when their first daughter (my mother) was born, she was given the name of Lucie.

For the past four years or so I've finally dug into family research. I haven't tried to connect our family to the Dukes of Norfolk or to Mary Queen of Scots – I'm a novice at research. Instead I just started finding aunts and cousins that the letters and records of John Richards Howard have led me to. I've always thought that one day I would find a cousin by the name of Lucy who was rich and famous and generous. Who was this couple that my mother and Uncle Gordon were named after? This mystery has bugged me as much as the royalty mystery. What was the man's name? Was Maxwell his first name or his last name? Who were the Gordon Highlanders? Where did their wealth come from? Hundreds of family members have now been found and have been connected to our family. I've been so involved in their histories and their descendants and their joys and sorrow, that I had quite forgotten that I was out to solve a mystery.

Just last year some distant relative in Colorado put the missionary journal of John Richards Howard on the Family Tree (familysearch.org). This was the mission I was referring to earlier – he went back to England in 1880-82. And here on the Tree was his daily detailed journal of that mission! The first part of his mission was spent in Fareham,



Hampshire, England where he visited many of his cousins. I was thrilled as he mentioned their names because I now knew who they were! I read the journal rather quickly the first time. Then, last week, I started reading it again – a little more carefully. On Feb 10, 1881 he wrote: “Aunt is getting feeble, uncle is about the same as he was 20 years ago. Chatted with Aunt respecting family affairs and read the account of Capt. Alfred Peter Constable Maxwell and his wife Lucy, going home to their estates at Terregles in Dumfries: he was formerly a captain the 92 Highlanders. The proceedings were very interesting and showed the high esteem the tenantry had for Capt. Maxwell. Raining hard today as accompanied with thunder.”

There it was – a name – something to begin my search! So now, the results of my last three days of researching . . . It was easy to research the name, Alfred Peter Constable Maxwell. The internet has all kinds of references to him, so I will try to sum up his life and describe what I now know about him. He did serve in the 92nd Highlanders, Regiment of Foot, which is also known as the Gordon Highlanders. A regiment was raised by General George Gordon, 5th Duke of Gordon in response to the threat posed by the French Revolution in 1794. They fought in many battles, including Waterloo. Alfred Peter Constable Maxwell became one of the Captains of the Gordon Highlanders. He was an Ensign on 6 September 1861, a Lieutenant on 31 Jan 1865, and a Captain on 15 December 1869. He was born to Peter Constable Maxwell and Helena Mary Bowdon in Richmond, Yorkshire, England on 25 November 1841 (the same year as John Richards Howard was born and 100 years before I was born).

The first Census where he is listed is the 1851 England Census, and he and his siblings are living with his Mother’s brother, Henry Bowdon, and also his grandmother, Mary M. Bowdon. Alfred is 9 years old. His parents both died in 1851 (father in February and mother in June), so it appears that his Uncle took the family in. His Uncle Henry is a county magistrate and there are also nine servants living with them. In 1861, at age 19, Alfred is living with his father’s brother, Marmaduke Constable Maxwell, at Terregles Mansion Home in the county of Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. There were sixteen servants living there as well. This was the same year that he joined the Gordon Highlanders.

The very same year that Alfred joined the 92nd Regiment, was the year that Her Majesty had graciously authorized the 92nd to be designated “*The Gordon Highlanders*,” by which name it was then and forever after popularly known. At this time the regiment was in India but left for England in January of 1863 and was in Gosport, Hampshire, England in May. This was the first time the regiment had been quartered in England since 1816 and they weren’t there long. I was wondering how we were ever going to tie Albert Maxwell to a Howard girl who was born in Hampshire. But in researching, I found a marriage for Albert Maxwell and Lucy Harvey in Fareham, Hampshire in 1864! This was what I was looking for! I don’t know how they met, but his regiment was in Gosport in 1863. Lucy was born in Gosport in 1840 (just one year before Albert was born). She was 23 and he was 22 in 1863, so there must have been a wonderful attraction between the two – it doesn’t take long to fall in love. Lucy is the daughter of Elizabeth Howard and John Harvey, a seaman. Elizabeth is the sister of Richard Howard, my great great grandfather who lost his life when the *Birkenhead* sank in 1852, so that makes Lucy and John Richards Howard, cousins. I know very little of Lucy’s father, John Harvey, but he must have died at sea because Lucy’s mother, Elizabeth married John Turner in 1850 and her name is listed as “Elizabeth Harvey.” Another girl was born to this family. . . Emily Turner, born in 1850.



Richard Howard, Lucy’s Uncle

We personally have many letters that were written by Emily Turner to her cousin, John Richards Howard, so naturally her family was one that he desired to see when he was on his mission in 1880. Unfortunately, Emily had died in childbirth just a few months before he arrived. Nevertheless, a description of Cousin Lucy, begins to emerge as we read John Richards' missionary journal: *"Feb 9, 1881. . . Arrived at last after many delays at my Aunt Elizabeth Howard's (Turner). She was very pleased to see me. Agnes (a cousin from a different family) was pleased as a kitten and Uncle Turner gave me a right hearty welcome. The house and surroundings is an evidence of someone's kindness and liberality, and that one is my cousin Lucy, and everything shows forth her kindness and love to her mother and may the God of our fathers bless and protect her for her kindness and liberality and protecting care towards her parent. Slept in a good bed, which luxury is not always enjoyed by God's servants."*

And then on Feb. 11, 1881, he wrote: *"Visited Emily's grave today in company with Agnes. It is a beautiful granite cross polished with an inscription that speaks for itself, 'To an only sister.' By this I discovered it was Lucy, who had been to the expense of marking the resting place of my fair correspondent. . ."*

The answer to this mystery was right in front of us all the time. I had Lucy Harvey on the family tree, but she always seemed insignificant, and they seemed like a poor family, so I had never imagined her to be the one with wealth. I knew next to nothing about her. But whether she was rich or not, she certainly married into wealth when she married Alfred Maxwell, who, four years later would be a captain of the Gordon Highlanders.

Now to finish this story. . . I read a small portion of a book online about the great landowners of Scotland. Alfred's grandfather, Marmaduke William Constable Maxwell, born in 1763, succeeded his father in owning property which is part of Everingham Park and Caerlaverock Castle in Dumfries – this ownership by Maxwells goes back many generations. When *grandfather Maxwell*, died the property, particularly the property of Terregles, went to his son Marmaduke, Master of Herries. He had no children and died in 1872. The property would have gone to the next son in line, Peter, Alfred's father, but he had died in 1851, so the property went to Peter's oldest son and Alfred's older brother, Frederick Henry Constable Maxwell. He died the year later in 1873 at 34 years of age and was succeeded by his brother Alfred Peter Constable Maxwell (only 32 years of age), and now Esquire of Terregles. In short, that's how Lucy Harvey Maxwell, was able to give her nephew, John Fitz Alan Howard, \$2500 in exchange for the privilege of naming his first two children.



Caerlaverock Castle in Dumfries, Scotland - 1900

Oh no, the story does not end yet. . .If the Howard Family does not reach royalty through a direct line, it certainly has reached it through Cousin Lucy married to Captain Alfred Maxwell of the Gordon Highlanders! Just listen to this. Alfred's uncle, William Constable Maxwell, had a son by the name of Marmaduke Francis Constable Maxwell who married Angela Mary Charlotte Fitz Alan Howard, and her direct ancestors, ten generations back, are none other than Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk and Mary Fitz Alan of Arundel. So, yes, that ties us (in a way) to Mary Queen of Scots (and all those beheadings) and her son who became James the First of England, who succeeded Queen Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry the VIII and Ann Boelyn, who was also beheaded. There's another interesting tie-in and this is with the direct ancestor of Alfred Maxwell, John Maxwell. He was known as John Maxwell, fourth Lord Herries. Although a Protestant, he was a staunch supporter of Mary, Queen of Scots. He joined the Queen after her escape from Lochleven, was present at the Battle of Langside, and accompanied her in her flight to England. He was also involved in the Norfolk plot (the engagement of Mary and Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk). And just one other rich relative we

should mention is Philip Henry Howard. He was the brother in law of Alfred and Lucy – he was married to Alfred's sister, Alice Clare Constable Maxwell, and he was also an executor of Alfred's estate when he died in 1889. But his family's ancestral home was Corby Castle situated on the southern edge of the village of Great Corby in Northern Cumbria, England. It was sold to Lord William Howard, the third son of Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk and his second wife, Margaret Audley.

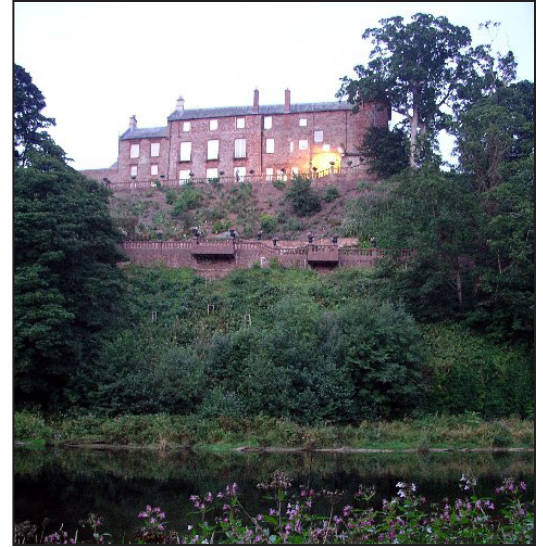
We can claim all these stories! And all this because I wanted to find out who was my mother Lucie Howard's namesake! And not only that, we have more castles to claim.



Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk



Portrait of George Gordon, 5th Duke of Gordon, founder of the 92nd regiment (Gordon Highlanders), by Thomas Lawrence



Corby Castle in Cumberland, England



This is the home that John Fitz Alan Howard built in Sandy, Utah with the \$2500 that his Aunt Lucy Maxwell gave him in exchange for the honor of naming his first two children - Gordon Maxwell after her husband, and Lucie after herself. He started a chicken farm here.



The Gordon Highlanders at Edinburgh Castle