

# John Rigby & Co.

ESTABLISHED 1735

April 1st, 2013

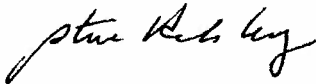
DEAR MR. CHRISTIANSEN,

I researched your request and located the following information.

Our ledger indicates that Rigby rifle No. 15769 (action number 1507) was sold to the Duke of Sutherland on August 10th, 1889. It was described as a "Best Double Rifle" in .450 bore. The barrel length is shown as "2ft2" and that the rifle weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces. The stock length was 14 5/8 inches and it is noted that the rifle was equipped with "Rebounding bolted locks." Finally, there is a notation that the rifle was in the Dublin store as of March 16th, 1886 but was subsequently shipped to London on November 21st, 1888.

I hope you find this information useful.

Best Regards,



STEVE HELSLEY

Historian

LONDON, ENGLAND



DALLAS, TEXAS

WWW.JOHNRIGBYANDCO.COM

# George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 3rd Duke of Sutherland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**George Granville William Sutherland Leveson-Gower, 3rd Duke of Sutherland** KG FRS (19 December 1828 – 22 September 1892), styled **Viscount Trentham** until 1833, **Earl Gower** in 1833 and **Marquess of Stafford** between 1833 and 1861, was a British politician from the Leveson-Gower family.



George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 3rd Duke of Sutherland

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## Background

Sutherland was the son of George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 2nd Duke of Sutherland. He was born at Hamilton Place, London,<sup>[1]</sup> and was educated at Eton College and King's College London.

## Political career

Sutherland was Liberal<sup>[1]</sup> Member of Parliament for Sutherland from 1852 until he succeeded his father as Duke in 1861.

He took part in a number of state occasions. He was one of the British delegation to the coronation of Tsar Alexander II of Russia in 1856, hosted the public visit by Garibaldi to Britain in 1864, attended the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, and accompanied the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) on his state visit to India in 1876.<sup>[1]</sup>

He was Lord Lieutenant for the county of Cromarty from 1852 to his death.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Military positions and honours

Sutherland was Colonel of the Sutherland Regiment of Highland Volunteers from 1864 to 1882, and of the 20th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers in 1867. He was awarded Honorary Membership of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland in 1859.<sup>[2]</sup> He was made KG in 1864, and FRS in 1870. He was a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer of Greece.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Stafford House committee

Sutherland chaired a committee that organised charitable work to help those involved with the Turko-Russian and Zulu wars.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Role in the Highland Railway

The Third Duke played a key role in the early history of the Highland Railway, being a founder board member of the company and contributing extensively towards the Sutherland Railway, building the Duke of Sutherland's Railway out of his own pocket and also supporting the Sutherland and Caithness Railway. The Highland Railway operated these lines, absorbing them in 1884.

## Mont Cenis Railway Company

He was President of the Mont Cenis Railway Company which built the first Fell railway and operated it from 1868-1871 to provide a temporary route over the Alps for rail passengers from Calais to Brindisi until the completion of the Fréjus Rail Tunnel.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Family

He married, firstly, Anne Hay-Mackenzie (1829–1888), later created Countess of Cromartie in her own right, on 27 June 1849, at Cliveden House in Buckinghamshire. They had five children:

- George Granville Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (27 July 1850 – 5 July 1858), died young.
- Cromartie Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 4th Duke of Sutherland (20 July 1851 – 27 June 1913)
- Francis Mackenzie Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl of Cromartie (3 August 1852 – 24 November 1893)
- Lady Florence Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (17 April 1855 – 10 October 1881), married Henry Chaplin, 1st Viscount Chaplin and had issue.
- Lady Alexandra Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (13 April 1866 – 16 April 1891), died unmarried.

On the death of Anne in November 1888, Sutherland married, in February 1889, Mary Caroline Blair, nee Michell ([http://www.gogmsite.net/\\_Media/duchess\\_mary\\_caroline\\_blair.jpg](http://www.gogmsite.net/_Media/duchess_mary_caroline_blair.jpg)),<sup>[5]</sup> the daughter of Rev. Richard Michell, DD,<sup>[6]</sup> and widow of Captain Arthur Kindersley Blair, formerly of the 71st Highland Light Infantry. Blair resigned his commission in the Highlanders in 1861 and worked as a land agent and business manager for Sutherland; Mrs. Blair became Sutherland's mistress, and although Blair's death in 1883 was officially recorded as accidental, there was considerable speculation, at the time and later, that it may have been suicide or even murder.<sup>[7]</sup>

Sutherland was estranged from Anne for many years before her death, and the marriage, less than four months after her death in November 1888, caused a scandal, the conventional minimum period between the death of a spouse and remarriage being one year. The Duke and Mrs. Blair were married on 4 March 1889 at 11:00 a.m., with the Bishop of Florida, Edwin Garner Weed, officiating.<sup>[8]</sup> The 3rd Duke of Sutherland died, aged sixty-three, at Dunrobin Castle, and was buried on 29 September 1892 at Trentham in Staffordshire. Shortly before his death, Sutherland effectively disinherited his natural heirs and tried to leave all his money to his second wife, who was later found guilty of destroying documents and was imprisoned for six weeks. The family later made a substantial settlement in her favour, enabling her to build Carbisdale Castle between 1906 and 1917.<sup>[9]</sup> Prior to this, she had resided at Sutherland Grange at Dedworth adjoining Windsor in Berkshire.

Sutherland's widow, known as Duchess Blair, married thirdly on 12 November 1896 (sep 1904) as his second wife Sir Albert Kaye Rollit (1842–1922), MP for Islington South. She enjoyed an income of 100,000 pounds until her death according to one source.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Historical trivia

In 1871, the Duke of Sutherland sent a wild cat, with a badly injured foreleg, trapped in Sutherlandshire to the first

Crystal Palace Cat Show, held in July and organized by Harrison Weir.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

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- "IESIS Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland". *Iesis.org*. Retrieved 2016-03-31.
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- "Rev. Dr. Richard MICHELL, D.D. b. 10 Mar 1805 Bruton, Somerset. England d. 29 Mar 1877 Oxford, Oxfordshire. England". Devon Mitchells. Retrieved 2016-03-31.
- "Papers Past — North Otago Times — 1 June 1889 — NEWSPAPER CRITICISM". *Paperspast.natlib.govt.nz*. Retrieved 2016-03-31.
- "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 6 December 2010. Retrieved 4 February 2013.
- "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 17 May 2006. Retrieved 17 May 2006.
- Scots Peerage* ([https://archive.org/stream/scotspeeragefoun08pauluoft/scotspeeragefoun08pauluoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/scotspeeragefoun08pauluoft/scotspeeragefoun08pauluoft_djvu.txt)), p. 364 online. Also see "Huddersfield Titled Classes" (<http://homepage.eircom.net/~lawedd/TITLESM-Z.htm>) for Rollit's background; he was knighted in 1885.
- [2] (<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1846640970>)

## External links

- Hansard 1803–2005: contributions in Parliament by the Duke of Sutherland (<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/people/marquess-of-stafford-1>)
- The Leveson-Gower Family (<http://freespace.virgin.net/john.elkin/levgower002.htm#ref37>)
- thePeerage.com (<http://www.thepeerage.com/p995.htm>)
- His second Duchess Mary Caroline (<http://www.jamd.com/image/g/73161164>)

Parliament of the United Kingdom		
Preceded by <b>Sir David Dundas</b>	<b>Member of Parliament for Sutherland</b> 1852–1861	Succeeded by <b>Sir David Dundas</b>
Honorary titles		
Preceded by <b>Roderick McLeod</b>	<b>Lord Lieutenant of Cromarty</b> 1853–1891	<b>Office abolished</b>
Preceded by <b>The 2nd Duke of Sutherland</b>	<b>Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland</b> 1861–1892	Succeeded by <b>The 4th Duke of Sutherland</b>
Peerage of the United Kingdom		
Preceded by <b>George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower</b>	<b>Duke of Sutherland</b> 1861–1892	Succeeded by <b>Cromartie Sutherland-Leveson-Gower</b>

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Categories: 1828 births | 1892 deaths | People educated at Eton College | Leveson-Gower family | Alumni of King's College London | Dukes of Sutherland | Earls of Sutherland | Members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom for Scottish constituencies | Liberal Party (UK) MPs | Lord-Lieutenants of Cromarty | Lord-Lieutenants of Sutherland | UK MPs 1852–57 | UK MPs 1857–59 | UK MPs 1859–65 | Fellows of the Royal Society

one wad, 750-gr. factory bullet, MV 1950.  
 22.\*\* 577/3 Nitro Express. 59/2400/  
 one OP wad, another at bullet base with a  
 thin layer of melted bullet lube atop; Lyman  
 bullet #585213-S, solid-base version  
 weighing 588 grains when cast from type  
 metal, MV 1735.

23. 577/3 Nitro for Black. 75 to 78/  
 3031/one OP wad, case filled with Wheati-  
 na, 580-gr. cast bullet.

24. 577/3 Nitro for Black. 35/4759  
 blended in the case with 37 grains 4895.  
 One OP wad, another .220" thick at bullet  
 base with thin layer of melted bullet lube  
 atop. Lyman bullet #585213-S, cast from  
 medium alloy, weight 600 grains, MV 1690.

25. 12-bore Westley Richards Explora.  
 37/4756/74-gr. bullet.

26. 12-bore Rigby Paradox. 26/Unique/  
 two .135" card wads, two 3/8" felt wads,  
 .735" 580-gr. round ball in paper or plastic  
 cases, MV 1250.

27. 12-bore Turner full double rifle. 90/  
 3031/Alcan 2 3/4" brass cases, case full of  
 10-gauge wads, 860-gr. cast bullet, MV  
 1200.

\*Loads 13 and 14 may have powder charge safely  
 increased to 39 grains in quest for most accurate  
 load.

†Some shooters may prefer to use Nylon or De-  
 cron filler. In some cases this will be as satis-  
 factory as Wheatina or other cereal filler. Also  
 be reminded that 32-gauge shotshell wads are  
 perfect for use in all 50-cal. rifles, 24-gauge  
 wads in 577 rifles.

\*\*Developed as a reduced load for Cordite rifles.  
 Testing in several rifles showed that best ac-  
 curacy and proper grouping required 56 to 62  
 grains of 2400. In several rifles tested this load  
 was more accurate than the full-power Cordite  
 loads.

The following firms offer reload-  
 ing components, equipment, custom  
 loads or gunsmithing for double  
 rifles:

Custom gunsmithing  
 Iver Henriksen, 1211 S. Second St.,  
 Missoula, Mont. 59801  
 Purcell's Gun Shop, 915 Main St.,  
 Boise, Idaho 83702

Bullet moulds, reloading tools, lubes, etc.  
 Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Mid-  
 dlefield, Conn. 06455  
 RCBS, Inc., P.O. Box 1919, Oroville,  
 Calif. 95965

Ohaus, 29 Hanover Rd., Florham  
 Park, N.J. 07932

Javelina Products, Box 337, San Ber-  
 nardino, Calif. 92402

Rechambering  
 Snapp's Gunshop, 6911 E. Washing-  
 ton Rd., Clare, Mich. 48617

Alcan wads, RWS Berdan primers, etc.  
 Godfrey Reloading Supply, R.R. 1,  
 Box 688, Brighton, Ill. 62012

Components, English and other foreign factory  
 ammo.

Oregon Ammunition Service, P.O.  
 Box 19341, Portland, Ore. 97219  
 James Tillinghast, Box 568, Marlow,  
 N.H. 03456

Berdan decapping tools  
 Lachmiller Co., Box 97,  
 Parkesburg, Pa. 19365

Reboring or rebarreling of double rifles  
 Westley Richards & Co., Ltd.,  
 Grange Road, Bournbrook, Bir-  
 mingham 29, England

For reliable information and en-  
 joyable reading these books are  
 highly recommended:

*Cartridges of the World* by F. C.  
 Barnes, edited by J. T. Amber.

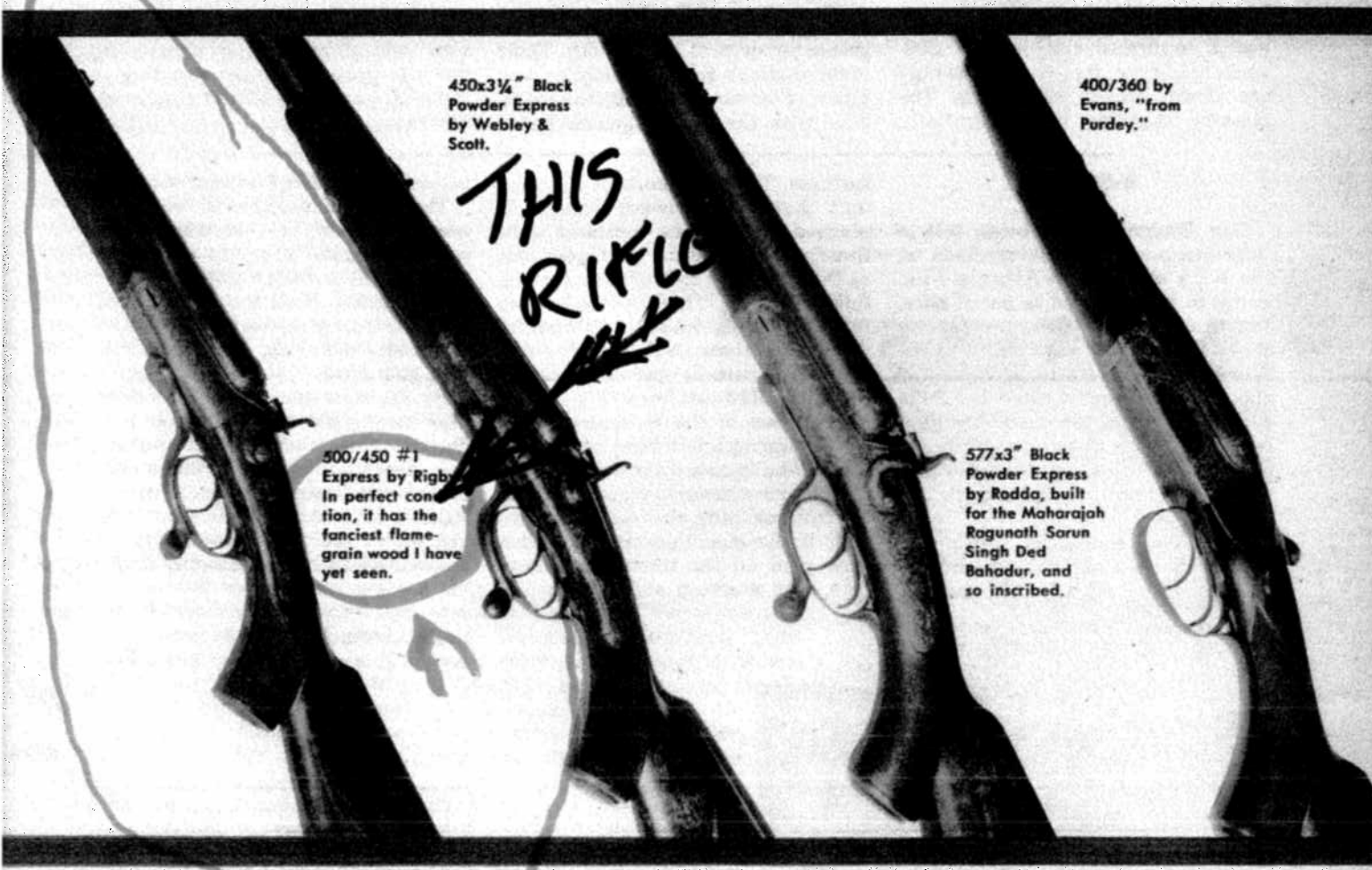
*African Rifles and Cartridges* by  
 John Taylor.

*The Gun and Its Development* by  
 W. W. Greener.

*Cartridge Conversions* by George  
 C. Nonte.

*English Guns and Rifles* by J. N.  
 Greener.

Finally, if an early Kynoch cata-  
 log can be located, especially one  
 printed between World Wars I and  
 II, prior to the discontinuation of  
 so many cartridges, this will prove  
 to be a highly valuable reference.  
 These catalogs list the powder  
 charges used, the weights of bullets  
 and their style, the velocities and  
 energies for various ranges and the  
 breech pressures generated by all  
 loadings listed. Unfortunately these  
 catalogs are scarce and quite diffi-  
 cult to find.



450x3 1/4" Black  
 Powder Express  
 by Webley &  
 Scott.

400/360 by  
 Evans, "from  
 Purdey."

500/450 #1  
 Express by Rigby  
 In perfect con-  
 dition, it has the  
 fanciest flame-  
 grain wood I have  
 yet seen.

577x3" Black  
 Powder Express  
 by Rodda, built  
 for the Maharajah  
 Ragunath Sorun  
 Singh Ded  
 Bahadur, and  
 so inscribed.



Five big bore rifles from the collection of Maynard P. Buehler, scope mount maker of Orinda, California. From the top—a 4-bore double by R. Hughes & Son, London. Next, a double-barreled 4-bore by Holland and Holland, London. Third down, an 8-gauge single by Manton, London. Fourth, a W. W. Greener 8-bore double and, last, a 600 Nitro Express 3-inch from W. J. Jeffery.

were tested, but for best accuracy in other rifles, slight variations of these loads should be tried. While these suggested loads were definitely safe to fire *in the test rifles*, that does not positively establish they would be equally safe to use in *all* rifles.

All of the test rifles were in excellent condition and none had Damascus barrels. However, quite a few double rifles were built with twist barrels and most of these are upwards of 80 years old. If the owners of such elderly rifles insist on using them the ammunition should be restricted to black powder loads—and even then they're not really safe.

#### Nitro Load Table

1. 6.5x53R (256 Mannlicher). 36/4064/160-gr. jacketed bullet, muzzle

velocity (MV) 2350, muzzle energy (ME) 1960.

2. 333 Flanged Nitro Express. 64/4064/300-gr. bullet, MV 2150, ME 3090.

3. 400/350 Nitro Express. 45/3031/310-gr. bullet, MV 2000, ME 2752.

4. 400/360 Nitro Express. 50/3031/286-gr. Norma 9.3 bullet, MV 2132.

5. 360 Nitro Express. 30/Hi-Vel 2/300-gr. bullet.

6. 360 #2 Nitro Express. 58/4064/300-gr. bullet.

7. 9.3x74R. 57/4064/286-gr. bullet, MV 2360.

8. 375 Flanged Nitro Express. 42/3031/270-gr. bullet, MV 1975, ME 2340.

9. 450/400/3¼ Nitro Express. 62/4064/400-gr. bullet, MV 2150, ME 4110.

10. 450 3¼ Nitro Express. 71/3031, one wad, case filled with Wheatina, 500-gr. bullet, MV 1930.

11. 450/3¼ Nitro for Black. 53/3031/300-gr. Hornady S.J. bullet. One wad, case filled with Wheatina.

12. 450/3¼ Nitro for Black. 55/Hi-Vel

2/300-gr. Hornady S.J. bullet. One wad, case filled with Wheatina.

13.\* 450/3¼ Nitro for Black. 35/4759/350-gr. cast bullet, MV 1550.

14.\* 450/3¼ Nitro for Black. 35/4759/400-gr. cast bullet, MV 1500.

15. 500/450 #1 Nitro for Black. 43/3031, one wad, case full of Wheatina, 300-gr. bullet.

16. 500/3 Nitro for Black. 36/3031/ blended in case with 6 grains 700-X shot-shell powder. One OP wad, another wad at base of bullet; Lyman #509133, 428-gr. cast hollow-point bullet, MV 1600.

17. 500/3 Nitro for Black. 58/3031/ with one wad, fill case with Wheatina, 440-gr. bullet.

18. 500/3 Nitro Express. 84/3031/one wad, fill case with Wheatina, 570-gr. bullet.

19.† 577/500 #2 Nitro for Black. 56/3031/one wad, fill case with Wheatina, 440-gr. bullet.

20. 577/3 Nitro Express. 105/3031/ one wad, 750-gr. factory bullet, MV 1962.

21. 577/3 Nitro Express. 140/4831/