

DNHHL 2006.055
22, Whalley Ave
Penkhill

Stoke-on-Trent.

ST4 5NE

16.10.05.

Dear Peta Wild,

Thanks for your letter (14.9.05) and the enclosed information regarding the Sutherland family tree up to 1892 and the Cathedral data of 1926.

We went to the Millicent Duchess of Sutherland lecture arranged by the Friends of Staffs. & S.O.T Archive Service. It was quite short and a little disappointing — it really was a fund-raising event as the Sutherland Papers on loan to Stafford Archives are about to be sold for £65,000. It appears the Sutherland family have put a deadline of Jan-Mar 2006 on this. Because the Papers contain a great deal of historical information for Staffordshire there seems to be a wish to keep / purchase them and make them more available to the public.

Monies have been promised from outside — Heritage, City, Staffs sources but most will have to come from the Public. To us it seems an impossible task! Apparently the Index of titles of the Papers is on the Internet but again we believe this does not list the contents. We were told that the complete Papers occupy the length of an average room.

We made a few notes during the lecture so I have enclosed them — forgive any inaccuracies! Graham Belsington did not give out any transcripts but he took your name and address. Whether or not he writes to you remains to be seen.

A book "Dear Duchess" by Denis Stewart lists a complete family tree. It is in Newcastle-under-Lyme Reference Library.

It seems at some point the Sutherland family split into the female line through the Countesses and the male line through the Dukes. You probably know more about this than us.

Anyway thanks again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Don & Pauline Michael.

P.F.O

P.S.

The Mausoleum land is the only part of Stiffordshire owned by the Sutherlands. (on the A.34 opposite the old gates to Trentham Gardens)

The building itself is listed but Stoke-on-Trent / Staffordshire seem to be responsible for its Restoration.

Millicent Fanny Sinclair Erskine.

Born in Fife.

20/10/1867 - 20/8/1955.

married Cromartie Leveson-Gore. 1884

She was 19. He much older.

He became the 4th Duke of Sutherland. He died Dec 1913.

Millicent was a keen sportswoman - shooting; angling; hunting; riding.

She took an interest in crippled children.

She tried to ban lead-based materials in the pottery industry.

Arnold Bennett referred to her as the "Countess of Chell" in his books.

She possessed literary skills - books & poems.

"How I spent 1867-1889 - my early years."

"One hour in the next 1899 - working class life."

An article in the "Staffs Potter"

"The Whims of the world" (love)

1904 An Anthology of Poetry"

1905 a play - "The Conqueror"

1914-18 War she established an overseas hospital under the auspices of the Red Cross.

1918 She set up a unit to transport wounded soldiers from France.

— a hospital on the outskirts of Dunkirk - and after the war she spent most of her life in France.

Book: - "Six weeks at the War".

1925 "That Fool of a Woman".

written after Cromartie's death.

She had 2 other unsuccessful marriages.

"Dear Duchess" by Denis Stewart is in Newcastle-under-Lyme Reference Library.
