

Chapter 11

1869-1889 Guy Cuthbert Dawnay
But let to Marchioness Cholmondeley
between at least c1871-c1874

26.7.1848 -
22.2.1889

10.4.1804 -
4.2.1886

In which we learn about a link with Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia; the 2nd documented burglary at the house; the 4th known tenant in the property; big game shooting; David Livingstone and the Victoria Falls; Zulu wars; 'he who outstrips the ostrich'; an Egyptian curse; and death by water buffalo!

It is not clear exactly when Guy Cuthbert Dawnay took on Bookham Grove from his mother, Mary Isabel; it could have been when he attained his 21st birthday in July 1869, which is the age when a male seemed to take on inheritances and responsibilities, or perhaps more likely in 1875. It certainly happened at some point between these dates.

The first concrete reference to Guy Dawnay as the owner of Bookham Grove is an article in the Thame Gazette of 27th April 1875, reporting the wedding of his younger brother, William Frederick:

'The happy couple left the castle in a chariot and pair about half past two o'clock, amidst a perfect shower of slippers and parting good wishes, for Bookham Grove, Leatherhead, the seat of the Hon. Guy Dawnay, brother of the bridegroom, to spend the honeymoon.' ¹⁻⁴

Note that Mary Isabel is noted as the owner in 1876 by James Thorne in his 'Handbook of the Environs of London', Vol 1, p53 ⁵. However, this is likely to be an old entry (the book is dated 1815-1881), so it does not help us verify the date of transfer of ownership.

In Guy's obituary ⁶ it is noted that after Eton he was awarded his BA and MA degrees at Oxford on 18th June 1875 ⁷, then became a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the North Riding of Yorkshire, 'but in the course of the succeeding years', it is stated, 'he took an estate called Bookham'. (Although this vague statement is not borne out by the newspaper reports of it being his seat already in 1875).

Guy was actually an adventurer and also a big game hunter, and spent a good deal of his time in Africa, and perhaps little, if any, time at Bookham Grove.

Guy Dawnay apparently sailed out to South Africa with the Rhodes brothers in 1870 ⁸

Cecil John Rhodes PC (5 July 1853 – 26 March 1902) was a British mining magnate, and politician in southern Africa who served as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony from 1890 to 1896. An ardent believer in British imperialism, Rhodes and his British South Africa Company founded the southern African territory of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia), which the company named after him in 1895. The son of a vicar, Rhodes was born at Netteswell House, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. A sickly child, he was sent to South Africa by his family when he was 17 years old along with his older brother, Herbert, in the hope that the climate might improve his health. ⁹

On the 6th May 1871 a meeting of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Club was reported in the York Herald:

'Mr Graham also exhibited a fine head of a buffalo, shot in Africa by the Hon. Guy Dawnay of Baldersby Park' ¹⁰

And again on the 10th June 1871 the York Herald reports:

'YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB.....Mr Graham exhibited a beautiful series of horns, including the horns and scalp of the Koodoo antelope (*Strepsiceros Koodoo*); the horns and scalp of the springbok (*Gasella Euchore*); and the horns of the two-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros Bicornis*), shot in Africa by the Hon. Guy C. Dawnay, of Baldersby Park, near Thirsk, and sent by him for preservation.' ¹¹

These animals had obviously been shot by Guy on his first trip to South Africa in 1870.

Note that his address is given here as Baldersby Park, where he was presumably living with his mother.

Note that Guy was awarded his BA and MA degrees in June 1875 ⁷ this seems a little confusing as it is after he had travelled widely in Africa, but remember that at Oxford a medieval tradition (which continues to this day) allows a student who has attained a BA degree to convert this into an MA degree 21 terms after entering university (ie 7 years) without further study ¹².

Guy was only 22 years old when he first sailed out to Africa. He had left Eton and had just completed his BA degree at Christchurch college, Oxford.

BURGLARY AND ROBBERY OF JEWELS.—A few nights ago the house of the Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley near Great Bookham, Surrey, was entered by burglars, and a large quantity of jewels and other property stolen. It appears that between eight and nine o'clock, while the inmates were in the drawing-room, the thieves brought a ladder from a neighbouring farm, ascended, and forced the window of the marchioness's bedroom, and fastened the door. The robbery was discovered in the course of the evening, but it was not until the next morning that the police received information. Two suspicious-looking strangers had been noticed leaving Leatherhead by the 10.40 train for London. The thieves missed about £100 in money, but secured several watches, a diamond ring, a bracelet with the portrait of the Marquis of Cholmondeley, a chain bracelet, and locket and other articles.

2nd March 1874 Morning Post ¹⁶

So if Guy already had possession of the house by 1869 had he rented it out to fund his travels?

Between at least 1871 to 1874

Bookham Grove was rented out to Dowager

Marchioness Susan Cholmondeley ¹³⁻¹⁷. Indeed in 1874 a large quantity of jewellery belonging to her was stolen from Bookham Grove by burglars.

Her maiden name was Lady Susan Caroline Somerset. She died at Thorncroft Manor in Leatherhead ^{18,19}. She was 81 years old when 'the much esteemed and very liberal Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley'. 'Gently fell asleep' on the 4th February 1886 ²⁰



Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire in 1880 ^{26, 27}



Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1847 ²⁸

The 1871 census shows the head of Bookham Grove to be a 66 year old widowed Marchioness called Susan C Cholmondeley along with her niece, a 40 year old widow, Isabel Martin, along with 11 servants, including a housekeeper, cook, laundry maid, butler, footman, page and coachman. Living in some style! ¹⁷.

She was the second wife (married 11.5.1830) ²¹ of the second Marquess of Cholmondeley, George Horatio, of Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire and Houghton Hall in Norfolk. He died in 1870 ²². He left her his town house and furniture (12 Carlton Terrace, London) in his will ²³. She sold the property and furniture later that same year ²⁴. She was very well off as witnessed by the sale of her property, Thorncroft Manor, after her death in 1886 ²⁵.

67	Grove House	1	Susan Cholmondeley	Head	Widow	66	Book Marchioness	London
			Isabel Martland	Widow	40			Bathampton Poston
			Catherine Smith	Housekeeper	52	Housekeeper (Domestic Serv)		Houghton Regis
			Hannah Smith	Do	54	Still Rm Maid - Do		Do Do
			Margate Meacock	Do	28	Cook - Do		Marrick Regis
			Sophia Hayes	Do	54	Laundry maid - Do		Bathampton Poston
			Elizabeth Hayes	Do	14	Under housemaid - Do		London
			Sarah Smith	Do	22	Kitchen maid - Do		Huntingdon
			Hannah Johnson	Do	28	Housemaid - Do		Farley, Bedford
			John Hamer	Butler	32	Butler - Do		London

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners District of	Electoral Division	1. D	2. B
Bookham					Bookham				
ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (12. 3. or Building ed. (11))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. D	2. B
Grove House		Alfred Byner	Footman	Widow	25	Footman (Domestic Serv)	London (St. James's)		
High Street		Robert Beaumont	Page	Widow	14	Page - Do	London		
Stables (over) to do		Eliza Meacock	Ladies Maid - Do	Widow	24	Ladies Maid - Do	Marrick Regis		
		Robert Beaumont	Coachman	Widow	41	Coachman - Do	London		
		Ann do		Widow	44		London		
		Mary do	Scholar	Widow	12	Scholar	London		

Guy was at Baldersby Hall at the 1871 census ¹⁷

Bookham Grove House

Name	Occupation	Age
Susan C Cholmondeley	(Widow) Marchioness	66
Isabel Martian	Widow	40
Catherine Smith	Housekeeper (domestic servant)	52
Hannah Smith	Still room maid?	54
Margate Meacock	Cook	28
Sophia Hayes	Laundry maid	54
Elizabeth Hayes	Under housemaid	14
Sarah Smith	Kitchen maid	22
Hannah Johnson	Housemaid	28
John Hamer	Butler	32
Alfred Byner	Footman	25
Robert Beaumont	Page	14
Eliza Meacock	Ladies maid	24

Rooms over the Stables

Name	Occupation	Age
Robert Beaumont	Coachman	41
Ann Beaumont		44
Mary Beaumont	Scholar	12

His mother, Mary Isabel had remarried to Sidney Levenson in 1863. So presumably Guy would have spent his time with his mother at Baldersby Park until his coming of age

He set out on his second hunting trip to Africa in March 1872, planning to hunt 'in the Amazarzi country' before returning to Natal and then going on to see 'the Victoria Falls of the Zambezi, and unexplored country beyond.' ²⁹
This trip lasted 2 years

'..but the restless, adventurous spirit which was so strongly marked in him as to amount almost to a passion, did not allow him to remain long in England, pursuing the somewhat unexciting life of a country gentleman and he entered upon an expedition of exploration in climes which afforded congenial fields of adventure and scientific research. The Equator seemed to exercise a remarkable fascination over him, and he penetrated into the interior of Africa to many points which had never previously been reached by the white man.

In temperament and physique alike he was admirably fitted for travel. Endowed with indomitable spirit, an enormous faculty for application, quick perception, and a keen love of sport, he roved about the African Continent carefully amassing information, sedulously devoting himself to such scientific pursuits as the circumstances suggested, and gradually acquiring that unique experience to which we have already made reference....' ⁶

On this second trip Guy tracked to the Victoria Falls which he reached in 1873 (this was shortly after the falls were seen and named by the explorer David Livingstone in November 1855. Very few Europeans visited and Guy was one of the few to do so) ^{30, 31}.

Guy Dawnay was the 34th European to visit the Victoria Falls
32

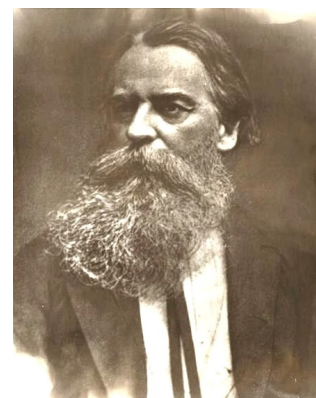
He met up with other European explorers, including William Oates, in the autumn of 1873 at the Marico river and went hunting in the Nwasha Pan ¹⁸⁶.

'In coming from Mangwato we had to stop a week at the Marico as the river was very high with the rains and we couldn't cross. I had some thoughts of taking my waggon in pieces and floating the things across on rafts, but the water kept subsiding and at last we got over, the water only just taking the oxen off their feet. In dry weather there is hardly any water, but after the rains the river gets tremendously swollen and there are very steep banks" William Oates, 2nd December 1873 ³³

At the start of this trip Guy had met a painter whom he greatly admired, Thomas Baines, in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa:

'I was lucky in Maritzburg in coming across Baines the Traveller, who did those pictures we saw at the Crystal Palace before I started here last time ... He's such a jolly old man, and has promised to do me 9 or 10 pictures of different subjects I chose, animals or that sort of thing ... He wants to go from the South and go look for Livingstone if the expedition just sent fails as he thinks probable. It was rare luck coming across him.'

Letter to his mother, Mary Isabel, 1872 ^{29, 34}



Thomas Baines 1860's ³⁵

'... having heard that Baines the explorer was in town having just come from the Gold Fields, I went and called on him, and stayed a long time finding out all I could about the route to the Victoria Falls, etc, and finishing by getting him to promise to do nine or ten pictures of animals chiefly - Eland, Buffalo, etc, etc - one of them to be a picture of my own adventure last time with a rhinoceros. As getting some of his pictures has been my very great wish for two years now, I think myself very lucky to have met him.'

Volume 1 of Guy Dawnay's Journals ^{29, 34}

He would have liked Baines to accompany him to the Zambesi. Such companionship had never come Baines' way before.' ³⁶

The Dawnay commission came towards the end of Baines' career at a time when he was beset with debts from the failure of the South African Gold Fields Exploration Company and had reverted to the practice of painting on commission and lecturing to raise funds. Baines died of dysentery in Durban on 8 May 1875 ²⁹.

Guy was back in Durban, South Africa in January 1874, and recounted that he:

'went in the afternoon, and saw Baines, and found he had finished two more pictures for me and was in the middle of two others - all beautiful ones I needn't say.'

On the 31st January he reports further:

'Baines has finished two pictures he has been painting for me - a Koodoo and an Eland - and is going to do some more now, and I have given him some beautiful subjects.' ^{29, 34}

NOTES

The works illustrated in the album are as follows: (The numbers in brackets relate to the numbering in the album). Where known the original owner and the present owner of the work are noted.

- 1 PORTRAIT OF THOMAS BAINES
- 2 (1) 'LION FAMILY IN THE TSETSE FLY COUNTRY....' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✗
- 3 (2) 'DEAD BUFFALO ZULU LAND' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✓
- 4 (3) 'THE BLACK RHINOCEROS THE VICIOUS SPECIES....' ✓
- 5 (4) 'THE WHITE RHINOCEROS THE QUIET SPECIES....' Guy Dawney collection original watercolour. ✗
- 6 (5) 'THE LADIES VISIT TO THE GIRAFFE OLIFANTS RIVER' Edmund Bryon collection. This painting was destroyed in a fire. ✓
- 7 (6) 'HIPPOPOTAMUS IN A POOL ON THE OLIFANTS RIVER....' Edmund Bryon collection now in a private collection in Johannesburg. ✓
- 8 (7) 'THE ELAND DRIVEN HOME TO MANGW RIVER....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection in South Africa. ✗
- 9 (8) 'THE KOODOO ZULU LAND....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection in South Africa. ✓
- 10 (9) 'A DISTANT VIEW OF THE VICTORIA FALLS ZAMBEZI RIVER....' ✓
- 11 (10) 'VEGA CAMP MONOTI RIVER....' ✓
- 12 (11) 'RENDEZVOUS CAMP TUGELA RIVER....' ✓
- 13 (12) 'THE RIVAL ISIMBONGI ZULU LAND....' ✓
- 14 (13) 'KWAMAGWASA OR ST. MARY'S, MACKENZIE MEMORIAL....' ✗
- 15 (14) 'THE NATAL CARBINEERS OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF THE REBEL TRIBE OF LANGALIBALELE....' Arnold, M and Carruthers J, *The Life and Work of Thomas Baines*, Fernwood Press, Vlaeberg, 1995, page 75. There is a long description of this painting which is now in the Kwazulu Archives. ✓
- 16 (15) 'D'URBAN AND PORT NATAL FROM MR CURRIES RESIDENCE....' Now in the Local History Museum Durban.
- 17 (16) 'THE VICTORIA MOUNTED RIFLES IN THEIR TENT AT RENDEZVOUS CAMP TUGELA RIVER....' ✓
- 18 (17) 'LEOPARD BEKRUYPING A GROUP OF PALLAHS....' ✓
- 19 (18) 'A HERD OF BUFFALOES CROSSING THE MACLOUTSIE RIVER....' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✓
- 20 (19) 'LIONS CROSSING THE LIMPOPO RIVER AT WEGDRAAI....' Now in the Brenthurst library.
- 21 (20) 'DYING AVENGED, THE SABLE ANTELOPE CEASED BY A LION....' ✓
- 22 (21) 'THE MOSI-O-A-TUNYA (SMOKE RESOUNDING)....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection in Cape Town. ✓
- 23 (22) 'VICTORIA FALLS, HERD OF BUFFALOS DRIVEN TO THE EDGE OF THE CHASM....' ✗
- 24 (23) 'A LAKE OR EXPANSION OF A RIVER IN ZULU LAND....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection in Cape Town. ✗
- 25 (24) 'FIVE LIONS EATING A QUAGGA ZULU LAND....' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✓
- 26 (25) 'THE BLACK RHINOCEROS CHARGING OUT OF A DENSE BUSH ZULU LAND....' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✓
- 27 (28) 'DRINKING TIME, A GROUP OF KOODOOS....' ✓
- 28 (29) 'OUTSPAN BY MOONLIGHT ZULU LAND....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection South Africa. ✗
- 29 (30) 'GOLDEN AND IVORY, ELEPHANTS CHARGING....' Guy Dawney collection now in the Sanlam collection. ✓
- 30 (30A) 'A DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF NO30....'
- 31 (31) 'UNION COMPANY'S ROYAL MAIN STEAMER KAFIR CROSSING THE BAR FROM PORT NATAL....'
- 32 (32) 'VAN REENENS PASS IN THE DRAKENSBERG....'
- 33 (33) 'ALOE BAINESII SOUTH OF THE TUGELA GOLD FIELDS NATAL....'
- 34 (34) 'WHAT LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE GOLD FIELDS....' Now in the National Archives in Zimbabwe.
- 35 (35) 'WAGON CROSSING THE RIVER AMAZINTOTE NEAR THE COAST OF NATAL....' Now in the South African National Gallery Cape Town.
36. 'MRS HART'S PONY 'GINGER' DEVoured BY A LIONESS....'
- 37 (36) 'A KRAAL IN ZULU LAND....'
- 38 'PIRACY IN THE AIR....' Guy Dawney collection now in a private collection Johannesburg. ✗
- 39 'WEST AFRICAN FETISH OR WAR GOD ON THE CONGO RIVER....'
- 40 'THE BLUFF CHANNEL AND INNER BAY OF NATAL....'
- 41 'HIPPOPOTAMUS IN THE SHALLOWS....'
- 42 'A OX SEIZED BY A CROCODILE AT THE IMPOPOMENE LIMPOPO RIVER....' The Late Frank Bradlow collection.
- 43 'WRECK OF THE FRENCH BRAQUE ANNE OF NANTES NEAR ZWARTKOP RIVER....'
- 44 'WRECK OF THE BRITISH BARQUE LYTTLETON IN ALGOA BAY....'
- 45 'LANDING OF THE BRITISH SETTLERS OF 1820 IN ALGOA BAY....'
- 46 'PORT ELIZABETH ALGOA BAY 1874....'
- 47 'RUINS OF ZIMBABYE OR ZIMBAOE....'
- 48 'THE RUINS OF ZIMBABYE. THE INTERIOR OF THE GREAT RONDEAU....'

Lists most of the pictures commissioned by Guy Dawney, who admired Baines' work. Guy wanted animal paintings and stipulated the subjects he desired. He commissioned 15 paintings which were then painted by Baines in Durban between October 1872 and October 1874. The subjects were taken from incidents in Guy's travels on the whole. Most of the pictures were sold at Christie's in 1984 and 1992

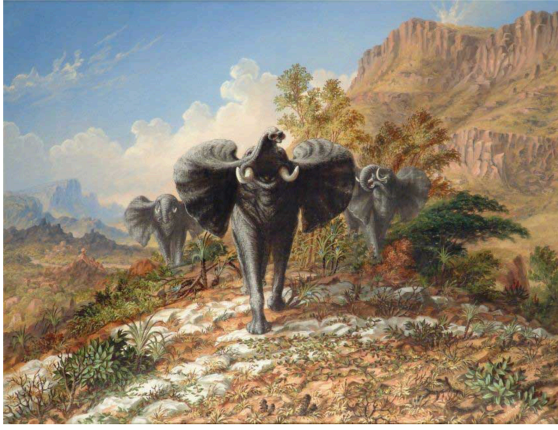
29, 37-39



The black rhinoceros (1874) ⁴⁰



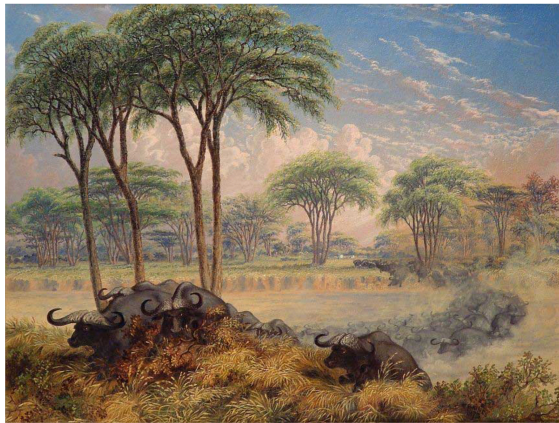
Lion and dead Quagga, Zululand. 1874. ⁴¹



1873 Gold and Ivory Elephants charging over quartose country.
1873 ⁴²



Eland killed in Mangwe river, Matabili land, August 5th 1871 ^{38,43}



Herd of Buffalo chased across the Macloutsie River 1871 ⁴⁴



The Mosi-O-A-Tonya (Smoke resounding, Victoria Falls, Zambesi River.

This painting was painted to commemorate Guy's own journey to the Victoria Falls in 1873. It sold for £187 500 in 2017 at Christies ³⁹



Dead Buffalo (full grown but not old bull) King Vulture and Common Vultures. 1873. ⁴⁵



Koodoos, Luisi River, Zambesi Valley 1874 . Sold for £149 000 in 2016 ²⁹
This is one of the last of his commissions, when Dawnay had returned from the Victoria Falls, reached in December 1873.

10 of Guy's pictures were exhibited in the artist's native town in August 1975 (King's Lynn Museum, Thomas Baines 1820-1875: Traveller and Pictureman) and 13 of the 15 pictures commissioned by Dawnay were subsequently sold by his heirs at Christie's (27th October 1982, lots 116-121; 29th May 1984, lots 93-98; 22nd October 1991, lot 56). ²⁹

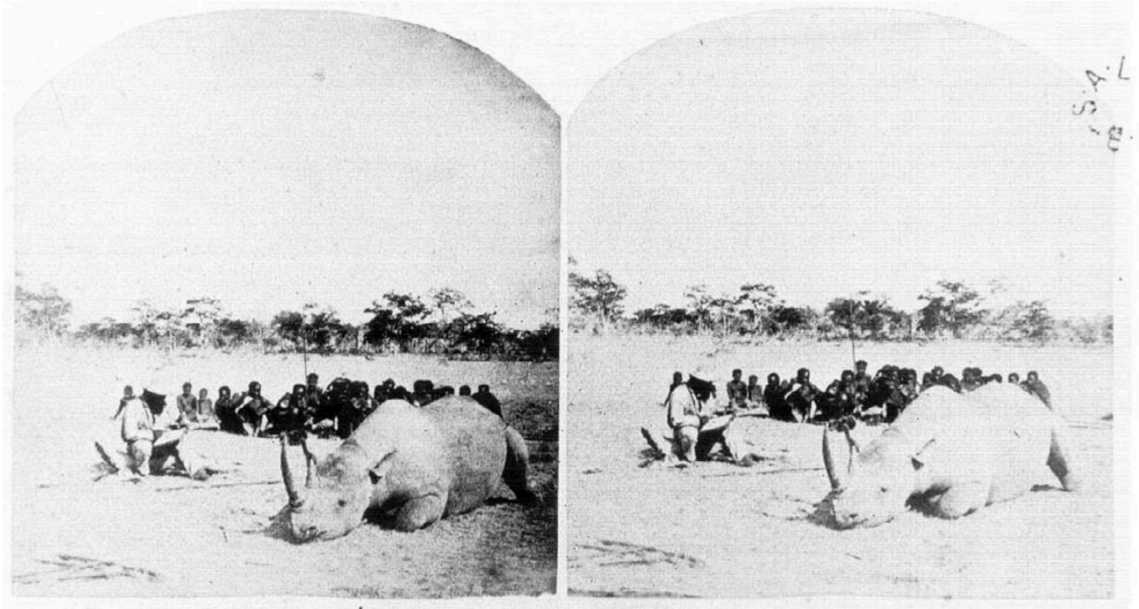


Figure 106. James Chapman. Black rhinoceros at Mutu Mabe, including Thomas Baines sketching (National Library of South Africa, P.H.A. - INIL 11060, no. 80).

Page 133 in *Encounters with the African rhinoceros: A chronological survey of bibliographical and iconographical sources on rhinoceroses in Southern Africa from 1795 to 1875*. Rookmaaker L C ⁴⁶

'Tall and athletic - the Zulus called Guy Madhluimshe, 'he who outstrips the ostrich' - he was a man of rare nobility of character, of wide and varied interests and with a zest for romantic and chivalrous adventure that his means enabled him to gratify freely.' ^{29, 36}

Guy was back in England for May 2nd 1874 when he was presented, along with his brother William, to Albert, Prince of Wales on behalf of Queen Victoria at St James's Palace by his elder brother Hugh, who by then was the 8th Viscount Downe ⁴⁷. This is the level of society that they moved in.

Bookham Grove was noted as his seat in April 1875 ¹⁻⁴. But it was put up for let in September of the same year for a 4 year lease, suggesting that he had little interest in living there.

The Standard Newspaper published an advertisement on the 30th September 1875 to let the 9 acre estate of Bookham Grove along with a productive paddock of 12 acres, until Lady Day or Midsummer 1879 ⁴⁸.

SURREY.—Bookham-grove, three and a half miles from Dorking and two and a half from Leatherhead Railway Stations, with daily omnibus conveyance to Leatherhead.—To be LET, FURNISHED, until Lady-day or Midsummer, 1879, the above desirable PROPERTY, containing entrance hall, drawing-room, 23ft. by 17ft. 8in. (exclusive of large bow window), dining-room, 27ft. 3 in. by 17ft. 6in., morning-room, 15ft. by 13ft. 6in., library, 17ft. by 17ft., seven best bed-rooms and two dressing-rooms, six good attics, two nurseries, two store-rooms, and water-closets, capital attached and detached offices; stabling for nine horses, coach-houses, and men-servants' rooms, pleasure grounds, lawn, flower-garden, conservatory, grapery, and walled kitchen gardens, in all nine acres, and a productive paddock of 12 acres.—For terms and orders to view (available on week days only) apply to Messrs. White and Sons, auctioneers, land agents, and surveyors, Dorking; or Messrs. Trollope, Halkin-street West, London, S.W.

Standard Newspaper, 30th Sept 1875, ⁴⁸

This helps us identify the rooms as they are in the existing house, since sizes are given:

Entrance Hall
Drawing Room (23ft x 17ft 9inches - exclusive of large bow window) (Flat 2)
Dining room (27ft 3inches x 17ft 6inches) (Flat 3)
Morning room (15ft x 13ft 6inches) (Flat 4)
Library (17ft x 17ft) (Flat 1)
7 best bedrooms + 2 dressing rooms
6 good attics
2 nurseries
2 store rooms and water closets
Capital attached and detached offices
Stabling for 9 horses
Coach houses and men-servant's rooms
Pleasure grounds, lawn, flower garden
Conservatory
Grapery
Walled kitchen gardens

By the Spring of 1876 Guy was on his 3rd trip to Africa, hunting and shooting at the river Sellite in Sudan.

It was during this trip that his companion, Mr Russel, was trampled to death by buffaloes ³⁰.

He was back in England by the summer of 1876 attending a family wedding on the 1st June in London ⁴⁹ and also an agricultural show in Yorkshire on the 17th August ⁵⁰.

It also appears that he had ridden his horses in the local hunts in Yorkshire during 1876-1877, and 5 of his horses (named: Cossack, The Leper, Qui Hai, Kangaroo and Shannon) were put up for sale on 28th May 1877 ⁵⁰.

However he may have been elsewhere later in 1876 as he did not attend another family wedding in early December ⁵².

He departed for Africa again on the 10th November 1877, on what was intended to be a 3 year expedition to Souakim, Sudan. He was accompanied by a friend and 3 European servants, with a large Arab caravan ³⁰:

Suakin or Sawakin or Souakim is a port city in northeastern Sudan, on the west coast of the Red Sea. It was formerly the region's chief port ⁵³

'From Souakim they proceed through Kassala and Gedarif to the city of Sennaar, thence, without calling at Khartum, they go up the blue Nile as far as Famaka. Early in 1878 they propose to follow the route taken by Ernest Marné in 1870 as far as Fadasi, in the centre of the Gallas country, where they will organise and arrange their plans for the exploration of almost unknown regions as far south as the Victoria Nyanza' ³⁰.

Guy is registered as the owner of Bookham Grove in the Post Office Directory of 1878 ⁵⁴

However, this expedition was cut short by the Zulu War of 1879, for which he volunteered ³⁰. (this can be read about here ²³); he was involved in riding on horseback to deliver despatches to the right people ⁵⁶, having been appointed Intelligence Officer on the staff, for which he received the medal with clasps ^{29, 30, 55-67}

The Anglo-Zulu War was fought in 1879 between the British Empire and the Zulu Kingdom. The British eventually won the war, ending the Zulu nation's dominance of the region ⁶⁸.

On the 6th September 1879, Guy returned to the family seat at Danby in Yorkshire with his brother Hugh (who had also been engaged in the Zulu war), amid heartfelt jubilations from the locals and tenants ⁶⁹.

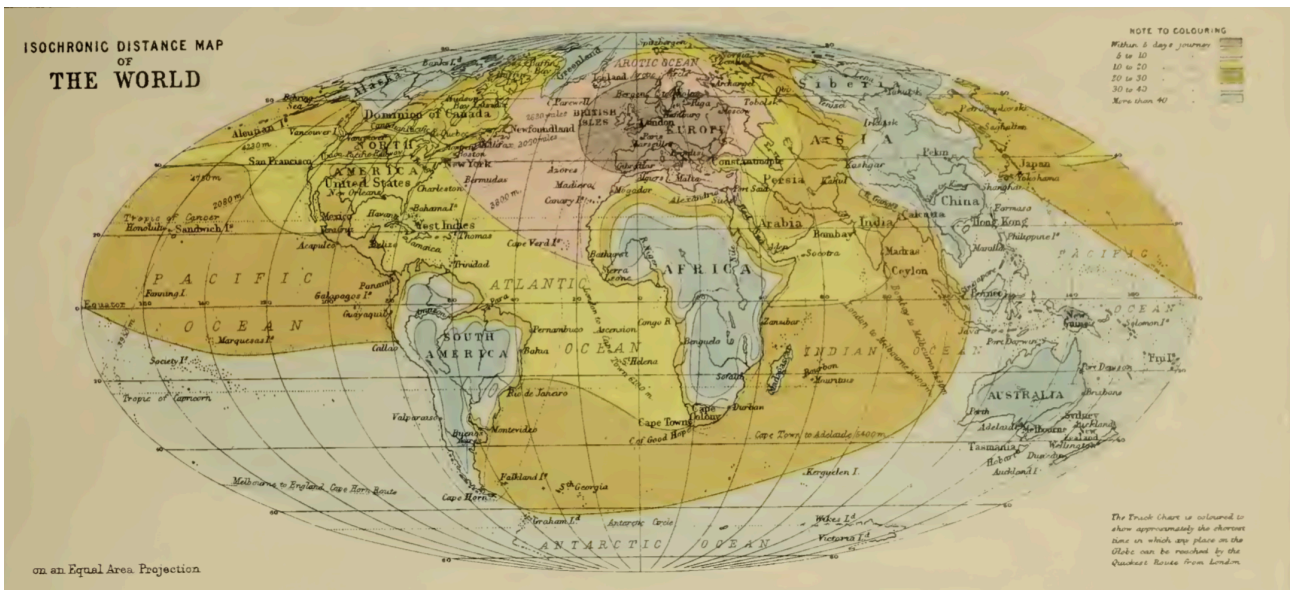


Hugh Dawnay, 8th Viscount
Downe. Ogden's Cigarette Card,
1889 ⁷⁰

“I say, under such circumstances as these, it is extra pleasant to come home - (cheers) - it is pleasant to come home with my brother safely back - it is pleasant to come home and find my wife and children all well after the anxiety which they have gone through. To come home and meet all my friends here, as I meet you today, is enough to make any one feel more than he can say” ⁶⁹

'Loud cheers were then given for Lady Downe and the Hon Guy Dawnay... After these proceedings Lord Downe, Lady Downe and the Hon Guy Dawnay then stepped into their private carriage, which was dragged by willing hands all the way to the lodge...the carriage was followed by the tenantry on the estate, the villagers generally, and the children from the schools for miles around. At the lodge there was great rejoicing in the evening, the people entered into all kinds of festivities. When darkness began to fall a large number of bonfires were lit, and the magnificent hills and dales for miles and miles about were overcast with their lurid glare.'⁶⁹

But he did not stay in England long; in the autumn of 1880 he went to the Rocky Mountains, in January 1881 to India, and back to the Rocky Mountains in the autumn of 1881 ^{71, 72}. This seems like a lot of travel in a short space of time, but travel times in the 1880's can be viewed on this isochronic map published in 1889 ⁷³:



'The time in days required to travel by the fastest route from London is indicated by the colouring. It will be observed that over 40 days is only needed to reach the interior of continents in which railways have not yet been built. This map supplies a rough memorandum of the greatest time required to send a letter from London to any place; but as shorter routes are frequently opened and the rate of travelling is increased the time is in many cases considerably less than is shown' ⁷³

NOTE TO COLOURING

Within 6 days journey	
6 to 10	
10 to 20	
20 to 30	
30 to 40	
More than 40	

The York Herald of 15th October 1880, reports that Lewis Payan Dawnay of Bookham Grove, became a member of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society through paying his annual subscription ^{74,75}. Guy was on his first trip to the Rockies Mountains, USA at this time, so Lewis was probably staying at Bookham Grove for the winter or longer.

This indicates Guy could have travelled to the Rockies within 10-30 days depending on where he went, and the same amount of time to travel to India. Note that the interior of Africa is listed as taking more than 40 days.

Guy is noted as the owner of Bookham Grove in 1881 ⁷⁶. There are no entries for the 1881 census for Bookham Grove.

In January 1882 he began canvassing to become the representative in Parliament for the North Riding of Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Gazette and Yorkshire Post report his first speeches at Malton, Thirsk and Middlesbrough, fulsomely ^{77, 78}.

He comes across as being eloquent, passionate and informed, well respected, and very much in support of the farmers:

Malton: 'I have spent some years in Natal, the Transvaal, and the Free States. I have myself driven a waggon and eight yoke of oxen - which is perhaps more than any farmer here has done - across the Ingogo; I have slept under the shadow of the Majnba Hill; and I have driven the waggon over the ridge of Laing's Nek.' ⁷⁷

Sir W M Worsley, who was loudly cheered on stepping forward, said the meeting had had a gentleman before them who had spoken like a gentleman. He had spoken thoughtfully; he had spoken unassumingly; he had spoken with consideration and carefulness, and had told them what he meant ⁷⁷.

Thirsk: 'Mr Dawnay had a most flattering reception' ⁷⁷

Interestingly, in his own words, he reported that 'he was in America a few months ago' and that 'He had been twice in America, and had seen the harm that isolated free trade was doing us there. He had distributed more free trade pacts in the Far West and had left more in the wooden cabins in the prairies than he cared to confess to.' ⁷⁷

Middlesbrough: 'Mr Dawnay was received with loud and prolonged cheering' ⁷⁷

He was elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for the North Riding of Yorkshire ^{71, 72}, and remained in that position until 1885.

He appeared to take his responsibilities seriously and to be a good orator and champion of his beliefs ⁷⁹⁻⁹¹; he addressed a meeting of between 5-600 in Northallerton in early January 1882, at which he was popular 'greeted with cheering and waving of hats' at his address which criticised the then prime minister, Gladstone, concerning the Land Act of Ireland and how unfair it was on the tenants ⁹²⁻⁹⁶.

'When the return of Mr Dawnay (as MP) was declared at York shortly before 3 o'clock yesterday there was an enthusiastic display of satisfaction by a great crowd of persons who had assembled to learn the result. Mr Dawnay, in thanking the electors for returning him to Parliament, said he was rejoiced that the North Riding had remained faithful to its old traditions, and that the battle had been fought on no false issue, but on the old grounds of party principles....that voice had proclaimed aloud that England had awakened from her lethargy and summoned to her tribunal those who had betrayed her power' ⁹⁷

In January and February 1882 celebrating his appointment as an MP his place of residence is given as Bookham Grove House and Baldersby Park, Yorkshire ^{57, 98}.

He gave his first speech in Parliament at the start of July 1882, as reported on the 8th July in the Northern Echo ⁹⁹. The article sings praise (rather sarcastically - note the 8 oxen has been expanded to 80 for instance) on his adventurous spirit, but is also critical of his skills as an MP (The Newspaper is no doubt a Liberal Party mouthpiece since Guy was arguing against the government proposed Arrears Bill for Ireland):



1882 ⁹⁸

Guy appeared to be generally well regarded in most places he went:

'Mr Guy Dawnay volunteered for service in the Zulu war, where he greatly distinguished himself, riding at imminent risk through the camp and conveying important dispatches. While he was in South Africa he was an intrepid sportsman.' ^{57-63, 67}

And the warmth and generosity of his character is revealed:

'The new member, on standing forward to move a vote of thanks to the sheriff, received a warm welcome....He took the opportunity of placing on record the exceedingly chivalrous, courteous, manly and fair way in which throughout Mr Rowlandson (with whom he was contesting the election) had conducted that election, and he trusted that they parted now as good friends. ... Mr Rowlandson said...he was exceedingly obliged for the kind, courteous and generous manner in which his opponent had treated him.' ¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰²

The Hon Guy Dawnay has at last mustered courage to open his mouth in the House of Commons. Such an effort in the dog days is a feat worthy of the hero who drove 80 yoke of oxen tandem in the Transvaal and blazed away at naked Zulus quite regardless of consequences. The performance - we use the word in its complimentary sense - has been somewhat delayed, doubtless by the modesty of the hero of a hundred African adventures; and the hearts of North Riding Tories grew sick with the heaviness of hope long deferred. Opportunities have been many and frequent and on these topics concerning which the hot bloods of the party require little provocation to furiously rage and imagine vain things. Yet did the Hon Guy maintain that silence which is so excellent a substitute for wisdom. Nevertheless the farmer who voted him into Parliament - to his own surprise as much as to theirs - could hardly believe they had elected a dummy. According to himself, he contested the Riding for the fun of the thing; he was full of anecdotes about oxen; he knew next to nothing about politics, and therefore could discuss them most impartially....

Like many preachers, Mr Dawnay wandered from his text. Without excuse or provocation he became abusive and impertinent...Mr Dawnay will find in his experience of Parliamentary life, whether that be brief or lengthy, that it will not help him to screech abuse at a great political party. When he was not offensive, he was talking nonsense.' ⁹⁹

Even lauded by some as being single handedly responsible for the rescue of the British Empire:

'So convinced was Mr Atkinson that only the return of Mr Guy Dawnay could save the Empire from ruin that he broke through the rule of his life quite recently in order to get that hopeful young gentleman sent to Parliament. Seeing as he succeeded it is rather ungenerous of Earl Cadogan and the rest of them still to talk as if the Empire was going to ruin and Mr Guy Dawnay in Parliament! Any Empire which would do anything of the sort deserves no better fate say we! If Mr Guy Dawnay cannot save it, who can?' ¹⁰⁰

Guy was not universally popular, especially with the Liberal party members ^{84, 85, 91, 103-108}, but he did have the public backing of Earl Grey who transferred from the Liberals to the Tories at this point ^{96, 109}.

'When brave men were wanted to volunteer for Zululand while the British arms were under the cloud of Isandula, Guy Dawnay volunteered for service, and did deeds which made veterans proud of him. His "grey hairs" which are spoken of by the Echo with such rudeness, were caused by exposure which he voluntarily underwent. And so long as military records are deemed worth the telling, and that will be while England continues to exist, his famous ride through the very middle of the Zulu camp with despatches of the most vital importance will be remembered. If he had adopted a military career, his bravery and ability during the Zulu war would have carried him to high promotion. But he did all the work and sought none of the reward. He was one of those volunteers of whom England at many a critical period of her history has had reason to be proud. And let it be said, too, that the man who has slain lions and tigers in the jungle is no fool. The qualities of high personal courage and limitless endurance are not so common that they need be sneered at.' ⁶⁴

Guy was still drawn to Africa, having spent his first summer parliamentary recess in Egypt; his departure there along with a fellow MP, John Fitzwilliam, was reported on 5th August ¹¹⁰ and his return was reported on 24th October in 1882 ¹¹¹. This was during the Anglo Egyptian war in which he volunteered ^{29, 71, 72}.

The British conquest of Egypt in 1882, also known as the Anglo-Egyptian War was fought between Egyptian and Sudanese forces and the United Kingdom. It established firm British influence over Egypt at the expense of the Egyptians, the French and the Ottoman Empire ¹¹².

The Surrey Advertiser of 5th August 1882 suggests that possibly Bookham Grove was rented out at this point since a Mr R H Clarke reportedly gave permission to the Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage Gardeners' Society for their annual show to be held in the grounds of the estate. In addition his wife gave away the prizes ¹¹³

So had the lease been taken by Mr and Mrs RH Clarke for Bookham Grove around this time 1882?

Guy was in the UK in Yorkshire in March 1883 addressing a Conservative meeting in Kirbymoorside ⁸⁹. But abroad again around April 1883 (probably in Europe ¹¹⁴)

'Dear Sir - I am exceedingly sorry that my absence abroad at Whitsuntide should have so long delayed my acknowledgement of the resolution passed at the meeting of the Malton Working Men's Conservative Association, which in consequence, I only received yesterday..' ¹¹⁵

The Dundee Courier of 21st May 1883 reports: 'According to the St Stephen's Reviews, Mr Guy Dawnay, M.P., is lying ill on the Continent, of African fever.' ¹¹⁴

Written in the House of Commons in May 1883

But he was back in Yorkshire again by September, so presumably this travel was again during the Parliamentary summer recess.

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph of 3rd September 1883 reports that Guy spoke at a Conservative meeting at Danby, Yorkshire that week ¹¹⁷.

The Yorkshire Gazette of 19th May 1883 publishes a politically charged hero song about Guy, entitled 'Songs for the People' ¹¹⁶:

'We're proud of our Member, Guy Dawnay.
He stood up and spoke like a man,
Spoke out for the faith of our fathers
'Gainst the atheist's treacherous clan.
Hooray for Guy Dawnay!.....

May he lead, as a powerful Statesman,
True to Right, and indignant to wrong.
And we'll give him a name in old England,
A place in our hearts, and our song.
Hooray for Guy Dawnay!'

A. Eadon, Fangfoss Hall

In the Yorkshire Gazette of 13th October 1883 a report was given of the Conservative Party Banquet held near Ripon in Yorkshire the preceding weekend, at which Sir W Worsley said:

'Mr Guy Dawnay has more than justified the confidence we reposed in him. He has taken very great pains and never spared himself in doing his duty as MP for the North Riding. But I can say more than this, for I say that he has brought to bear upon his duty and work, as member for the North Riding, a clear head and an honest heart, and that he has won a name and made a mark in that capacity of which we may well be proud, and on which he may well be congratulated.' - this is all with reference to his memorable speech on the Affirmation Bill, which he helped to defeat the government on ¹¹⁸.

The Yorkshire Gazette of 17th November 1883 reports Guy's speech at 'one of the most enthusiastic public meetings of electors that has ever been seen in York' ¹¹⁹. On rising he was received with cheers. He was highly critical of the Liberal Government, led by Mr Gladstone, with regard to the wars waged and lost to the Boers in South Africa and the Egyptian War, amongst other things.

He was at Malton, Yorkshire in January 1884 ⁸⁶.

Guy acted as 'Best Man' at his sister, Edith's wedding on the 2nd February 1884 ¹²⁰ and his wedding present to her was a diamond and sapphire bracelet.

Guy was at Baldersby Park, Thirsk, Yorkshire on April 14th 1884 since he wrote a letter to the Yorkshire Gazette on that date ⁸⁰.

The Yorkshire Gazette of 19th August 1884 reported on a speech by Geo E Lascelles - speaking at the Conservative Gathering in Hovingham Park, in which he talks about Guy Dawnay:

'He (Geo E Lascelles) would guarantee that there was no Member of Parliament of his age and of such short experience who gained in the Commons such a great name there.' ⁸⁴

He was still in Yorkshire at Guisborough on the 18th October 1884 when he addressed a meeting of the electors ⁸¹

He was at Loftus, Yorkshire on the 11th February 1885 ¹²¹.

By mid February 1885 he had volunteered for the Suakin campaign in Sudan (which lasted until May) ^{71, 72, 122, 123}:

'I am off to Suakim tonight. I thought myself under the circumstances bound to offer my services, having gained some experience of camel transport in two starts from Suakim and two years' travelling with the animal'

But he was back in Yorkshire by the end of April 1885 ¹²⁵:

The Souakin Expedition refers to 2 military expeditions to Suakin in Sudan with the intention of destroying the power of the Sudanese military commander Osman Digna and his troops. The first expedition took place in February 1884 and the second in March 1885. Gladstone, the liberal PM, decided to abandon this military campaign after 2 months and forces were evacuated on 17th May 1885, although the British maintained a presence in Suakin between 1886 and 1888 ¹²⁴.

'Mr Guy Dawnay has returned, browned, and all the better fitted for his work here because of his devotion to duty in Africa. His pluck in this connection is characteristic of the man; he is a Yorkshire gentleman of whom we are all proud; welcome home!'

He still owned Bookham Grove:

he is registered as the owner of Bookham Grove in the Court Directory of 1885 ¹²⁶, and in the 1885 Parliamentary Directory he is noted as the MP for North Riding of Yorkshire, living at 8 Belgrave Square, London; Carlton & Travellers Clubs, London; & Bookham Grove, Leatherhead ¹²⁷.

The Carlton Club is a private members' club in St James's, London. It was the original home of the Conservative Party before the creation of Conservative Central Office. [1] Membership of the club is by nomination and election only. Founded in 1832 ¹²⁸

The Travellers Club The Travellers Club was founded in 1819 by a cohort led by Lord Castlereagh and in 1832 moved to its present purpose-built clubhouse designed by Charles Barry. The Club's founding ethos was to establish a meeting place for like-minded gentlemen who had travelled abroad, and where they could also entertain foreign visitors and diplomats posted to London. ¹²⁹

He then began canvassing for reelection.

His candidature was hard and closely fought with a stance that was critical of the liberal views of Mr Gladstone, and anti-war ⁸⁵:

In addressing the Conservative Association Annual Dinner in Middlesbrough in April 1884:

'They knew that the interest of anything bearing on North Africa or South Africa was to him especially intense. The tribes they had been fighting were tribes that had served him in his travels, and the land they had announced their intention of handing back to anarchy was a land associated with adventures, the interest of which stood out strong in the history of his own life. (Cheers). ¹³⁰

He addressed his constituents at a lively meeting in Cleveland ⁹⁰ on the 24th June 1885.

By July 1885 he was noted as the Surveyor General of Ordnance and was speaking at the House of Commons on the 27th ¹³¹⁻¹³³.

He addressed another 'excited and uproarious' meeting of mainly Liberal electors at Brotton as reported on the 5th September 1885 ¹³⁴ and at Redcar that same evening ¹³⁵.

He addressed another meeting at Yarm on the 11th September 1885 in which report a summary of his political views was given as follows ⁹¹:

He would not vote for: Local Option, Free Education, The Sunday closing of pubs (in a later speech ¹³⁶ he explained that this was so he did not wish to prevent the working classes from getting a healthy drink on a Sunday, and he thought, too, that it would lead to the consumption of spirit instead of beer),

The Sunday opening of museums, The Affirmation Bill, The abolition of permanent pensions, The compulsory cultivation of land, and The Allotments Bill

He would vote for: A duty on corn

He was in favour of: The best measures of county government that could be devised, The introduction of life peerages

He was not in favour of: The abolition of entail and primogeniture, The abolition of the House of Lords

In the 30th March edition of the Yorkshire Gazette the reporter describes Guy's reelection campaign in 1885, casting a very favourable light on Guy's character and commitment ⁶⁶:

'When under the Reform Bill of 1885 the Cleveland Division was formed into one of the constituencies of the North Riding, the Conservative party naturally selected as their champion Mr Guy Dawnay. The popularity of the Liberal candidate, Mr H F Pease, combined with the undeniable Radical leanings of a most important section of the electorate, made it a practical certainty that Mr Pease would be returned, but Mr Guy Dawnay, with that loyalty to the party and to the cause which he espoused, threw himself into the contest with the consciousness that he was fighting a forlorn hope. And so the events proved. In the summer of 1885, on the accession of Lord Salisbury's Government to office, Mr Dawnay was appointed Surveyor-General of Ordnance, a position which enabled him to show that great administrative ability for which he had already distinguished himself in a variety of ways. Shortly after the conclusion of his last electioneering campaign in North Yorkshire Mr Dawnay left this country for a prolonged visit to South Africa. On 2 previous occasions Mr Dawnay went out to Africa on behalf of the Government to purchase camels and to superintend the Camel Corps in the Soudan Campaign, and on each occasion the wisdom and energy which he displayed won for him golden opinions in official quarters. During these 2 visits he seems to have been imbued with a love of travel, if not of adventure, and he was no sooner free from the trammels of political work in Yorkshire than he set out for the colony in which he appears to have spent a considerable portion of a life of which unbounded energy was the distinguishing characteristic. Mr Dawnay was as thorough a sportsman as well as a politician. With hounds in Yorkshire he was generally in the first flight, being a hard rider. The same trait showed itself when, with characteristic zest and daring, he gave chase to the tiger, the buffalo and other African beast of prey....he quailed at nothing, being as dashing in everything connected with sport as he was gentle in his domestic and social relationships.'

He was obviously doing the rounds at this point since he was speaking again to a group of unsympathetic electors on the 19th September in Eston ¹³⁷ and then on the 19th again in Cleveland ¹³⁸.

At each of these meetings he appeared to be working on rallying support for the Conservative party against the ruling Liberal party under Mr Gladstone - and he was not always well appreciated for this:

On the 1st October 1885 he addressed a meeting at Guisborough ^{139, 140} at which he says he had been carrying on an electioneering tour during the last month.

He addressed another meeting on the 30th October in Loftus ¹⁴¹ where he was received with 'hisses and some cheers' at which he laid out further political views he held:

He would vote for or was in favour of:
Granting annuities to the Prince of Wales's family

He would not vote for or was not in favour of:

The abolition of the laws of primogeniture and entail and to simplify the transfer of land, The abolition of the London coal dues, A thorough review of the pensions list, The payment of Members of Parliament, The abolition of the Game Laws, Manhood suffrage

This was a tough meeting: 'the candidate and his supporters beat a hasty retreat into the hotel' due to being met by such a storm of hisses and groans at the end of his speech! Guy obviously held strong beliefs and had tough skin.

Another address in South Stockton was reported for the 7th November 1885 ¹⁴² where he rose to speak 'amid tumult' to an audience who were 'a disorderly lot of people, some of whom were under the influence of drink, and shouted and yelled in the most tumultuous manner...Several questions were put, and Mr Dawnay succeeded in answering a few; but so great was the tumult that he was obliged to desist, those who refused to hear him taunting him with not having answered all the questions.' His oratory skills, grasp on the issues of the day, and personal clearly laid out principles were fine and well argued in the face of such a negatively predisposed group.

On the 28th November he spoke again at Skinninggrove and Loftus ¹⁴³.

He addressed two more meetings in Cleveland on the 1st December 1885 ¹⁴⁴ after the first of which he 'drove away amidst the cheers of the villagers', but at the second of which 'he was hailed with a storm of cheers and groans.. and 'was subjected to unseemly and even vulgar interruptions'.

He also addressed another meeting at Loftus on the 2nd December where he was 'very cordially received', and after that busy day continued onto another meeting at Redcar where he was again 'enthusiastically received' ¹⁴⁴.

As an aside here it is interesting to note that the railway arrived at Great Bookham, in 1885 on the London and South Western line. The station was positioned outside the village to the north-west. The area became a tourist destination and beauty spot with visitors coming by train and walking to Ranmore ¹⁴⁵.

He lost his seat though, despite all these brave and eloquent attempts to convince his electors to reelect him, but it is reported on January 13th 1886 that he would continue to hold the office of Surveyor General of Ordnance ¹⁴⁶, and in addition that 'Mr Dawnay is understood to be engaged on very important work in connection with his department.' ¹⁴⁷

On the 8th May 1886 a Primrose League meeting was conducted at Bookham, with support but apologies for not being able to personally attend from Guy ¹⁴⁸. The Primrose League was an organisation set up to promote the principles of the Conservative Party in Great Britain.

Despite losing his seat Guy continued to be in active support of the Conservative Party, having spoken 'during the last 10 days..in 3 different counties' ¹⁴⁹. (This was in July 1886).

He was travelling again in autumn 1886:

But was back in England by the summer of 1887:

On the 18th August 1887 he attended the marriage of his younger brother, Geoffrey Nicholas, in Holbeton, Devon ¹⁵³

His will was dated 12th November 1886 with his residence given as Bookham Grove ¹⁵² although it is of note that it was written and witnessed aboard the SS Mendoza in the Red Sea!.

However, no doubt hankering for his life of adventure, he departed for Africa in February 1888 on what was planned as an extended trip, due to return in June 1889 ^{6, 66, 154-158}

The Yorkshire Gazette of 24th November 1888 reports that Guy's name had been put forward as a parliamentary candidate again, but he had written to the Conservative Association that he would be unable to do this 'as he had pressing reasons for not wishing to re-enter Parliament. Mr Guy Dawnay had since gone to Africa.' ¹⁵⁹. According to the York Herald his name had been put forward for 3 different divisions at this time as 'it was felt on all hands that Mr Dawnay was the strongest possible candidate' and was likely to win, 'but circumstances over which he had no control compelled him to decline, and he has now left England to resume his travels in Africa' ¹⁵⁵⁻¹⁵⁷

He is noted as the owner of Bookham Grove in August 1888, since he lent a meadow for the Great Bookham annual athletic sports day held on August 4th ^{150, 151}

He embarked from Mombasa on an Emin Pasha relief expedition in January 1889, believing he might relieve Stanley's expedition. ²⁹

Emin Pasha was the governor of the Egyptian province of Equatoria on the upper Nile. The **Emin Pasha Relief Expedition** of 1886 to 1889 was one of the last major European expeditions into the interior of Africa in the nineteenth century, ostensibly to the relief of Emin Pasha, General Charles Gordon's besieged governor of Equatoria, threatened by Mahdist forces. The expedition was led by Henry Morton Stanley and came to be both celebrated for its ambition in crossing "darkest Africa", and notorious for the deaths of so many of its members and the disease unwittingly left in its wake ¹⁶⁰.

'Mr Dawnay's insatiable love of travel was not in the least quenched by the Soudan expedition, and in the autumn of last year he again left England for Africa, bent on scientific research, and on the gratification of his weakness for "big sport." He was exceptionally fond of pursuing large game, and was a very skilful hunter.' ⁶

The scientific research mentioned here may well have focused on guns and ordnance as he was for a short time the Master of the Ordnance and on the committee as a valuable member of the Ordnance Committee, which was engaged in conducting a series of important experiments on the guns and ammunition supplied to the army ⁶.



1889 Guy Cuthbert portrait from a photo taken by Messrs Russell and Sons 17 Bakers St ¹⁶⁸

By 18th February 1889 Guy was safely arrived at Taveta, Kenya en route for Masai Land ^{154, 161}

But Guy died on the 28th February 1889 ^{162, 163} in Ngiri, Kenya (on the border with Tanzania), whilst hunting - killed by a wounded buffalo ^{29, 71, 72}. His death was widely reported in local newspapers around Great Britain, attesting to his fame, and judging by what was written, his popularity e.g ¹⁶⁴⁻¹⁶⁷

'The death of our mightiest hunter of big game while on a shooting expedition to Masailand will scarcely occasion surprise to those who are acquainted with the daring of Guy Dawnay. Possessing in a very high degree the good looks and peculiar charm of manners which have distinguished the Dawnays for generations, Guy Dawnay was the most popular boy of his time at Eton, and afterwards enjoyed a similarly enviable reputation at Christ Church. He was as clever as he was courageous. No one was more impressed by the ability he showed while Surveyor-General of Ordnance than his successor, Mr Woodall, and he once tried to correct Mr Gladstone in making a quotation from Lucretius.' ¹⁶⁶

He was exceptionally fond of pursuing large game, and was a very skilful hunter. There is too much reason to believe that it was whilst indulging this taste that he met his death. ' ⁶

'Authentic news reached Zanzibar yesterday evening that the Hon Guy Dawnay had been killed by a wounded buffalo at Ngiri, in Masailand, on the 28th February. The details given prove that he was unaccompanied at the time of the accident, of which the only witnesses were two Masai. These men climbed up a tree at some distance and ultimately escaped. Mr Dawnay seems to have approached the fallen buffalo, believing him to be dead, but the animal rose and killed him, it is believed, instantaneously, smashing his rifle into two parts...the news has been received with immense sorrow in Zanzibar, where Mr Dawnay had during his stay made himself much beloved' Warminster and Westbury Journal, and Wilts County Advertiser, Saturday 30th March 1889 ¹⁶⁹.

'Mr Dawnay was a typical Yorkshireman, and he was no less proud of his county than the county was proud of him. Even the Gladstonians, who were bitterly opposed to him, and who feared his strength in the political arena, could not but admire the many sterling qualities which formed his character. As a soldier he was brave to a fault - knowing no fear, recognising no danger. As a man he was generous and large-hearted; strong in his sympathies with any cause which required human aid, and vigorous and thorough in the performance of any duties in which he was engaged....in politics, as in all other matters in which he became engaged, Mr Dawnay exhibited high qualities; and it is indeed sad that a man of such good parts should have met with such a terrible fate in the prime of his life.' ¹⁷⁰

The 1st April edition of the Yorkshire Evening Press reports on a speech given at the Malton Conservative Working Men's Club by the chairman ¹⁷¹:

'The name of Guy Dawnay was absolutely a household word in their own county (Yorkshire) because he was the personification of what a local English gentleman should be. He was devoted to his country, and they all knew what he did for it when he went out to purchase the camels necessary for the recent African expedition. They knew also that he was devoted to everything a Yorkshireman usually was devoted to - sport of every kind. He was absolutely fearless, and most probably that very trait caused his death....he was perfectly certain that when they (his family) thought of Guy Dawnay they thought of the embodiment of all that was plucky in the English nature. Most of them were present when he began the campaign against Mr Rowlandson in the North Riding in 1882. He well remembered the plucky way in which he went into it (Hear.) It was not only that he represented them in Parliament, but he did so much good work for the country at large; and he spoke with such force and eloquence that his words were always listened to with marked respect in the House. His death was a great loss to the Conservative party. If he had chosen to stick to politics he would have risen to the foremost place in future Conservative Governments.'

The 2nd April edition of the Lincolnshire Free Press stated ¹⁷²:

'The Hon Guy Dawnay, who has been killed by a buffalo in Africa, has had an adventurous life, the tragic end of which will be deeply regretted by the many friends he has had in the House of Commons, in the army, and in society. He was a remarkably handsome and athletic man, and when he was at the War Office as Surveyor General of the Ordnance, he created a marked impression by the great ability and capacity for work he displayed. It is well known that he had caught the eye of Lord Salisbury, and might have made rapid headway had he cared for political life. But he did not. He preferred war and sport to the humdrum occupation of Parliament and the desk. When Sir Charles Warren resigned the Commissionership of Police, Mr Guy Dawnay might have succeeded him; but here again his incurable aversion to settling down stood in his way.'

The Essex Standard of 30th March said 'he was a very popular man and noted for his courage and love of sport' ¹⁷³.

The 30th March edition of the Bridlington and Quay Gazette offers a good summary of his political career

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‘About 7 years ago the Hon Guy Cuthbert Dawnay, who up to that time had been content to win laurels as a volunteer in the Transvaal war, sprang into notice in the political world. 2 years after the wave of political feeling which carried Mr Gladstone to power by such a signal majority had begun to subside, Mr Dawnay was selected by the Conservatives in the North Riding to contest the vacancy in the representation of the division caused by the death of Viscount Helmsley (in Madeira). The contest was one of more than ordinary interest. Mr Dawnay was asked to secure the retention of a seat for his party in a constituency where political opinion was supposed to be fairly divided, and against an exceptionally strong candidate in the person of Mr Samuel Rowlandson, who came forward as a Liberal, and especially as the champion of the tenant farmers. Mr Dawnay who was a fluent speaker, threw himself heart and soul into the conflict, and was most unrelenting in his attacks on Mr Gladstone, he professing to dread the rapidity with which the then Premier had “embarked on the push which, under the name of Liberalism, had tended down to Radicalism, and would descend at last to sheer democracy.” Having taken part with honour in the Transvaal war, he could speak with some authority on the subject and he severely condemned the Government policy there. In the end the views he expressed met with the favour of the majority of the electors, and after a fortnights struggle the third son of the seventh Viscount Downe was elected to sit with Sir Frederick Millbank as member for the North Riding of Yorkshire with 336 votes to spare.’

The 30th March edition of the Yorkshire Gazette reports ⁶⁶:

‘Mr Dawnay in 1880 volunteered for service in the Zulu War, in which he greatly distinguished himself. He then held a commission in the Yorkshire Hussars, and was attached to the staff of General Marshall (who was in command of the Cavalry Brigade), in the capacity of intelligencer. He was engaged at the battle of Ulundi...he served with the late Sir Herbert Stewart, who then was Brigade Major to the Cavalry Brigade under the command of the General. It will be remembered that at imminent risk he rode through the Zulu camp with important documents, for which he was spoken of in high praise in despatches, and was subsequently awarded the medal with clasp. Whilst in South Africa he was an intrepid sportsman, and the vestibule and staircase of the Yorkshire Club, York, bear numerous trophies of his hunting expeditions in the shape of heads and horns of the rhinoceros, of tigers, and other animals...In the [Parliamentary] sessions of 1882, 1883, 1884 and 1885, Mr Dawnay took on several occasions a prominent part in the debates in the House of Commons, especially on matters relating to affairs in Africa, on questions bearing upon agriculture and the landed interests, and the defence of our own shores and our Colonial possessions. Mr Guy Dawnay addressed the House of Commons on the subject of General Gordon in the middle of 1884. He urged the Government to lend their countenance and give slight and inexpensive assistance to a voluntary effort for the immediate relief of Gordon. He asked the permission to purchase Government stores, arms and ammunition and that a Government transport should be granted as far as Suakim. This gallant officer was greeted with enthusiastic cheering from his own side of the House. If, said Mr Dawnay, the Government were to send English troops the necessity for such a proposal as his would fall to the ground; but failing that, he thought it would be almost criminal to refuse sanction to the proposal. The expedition would entail no responsibility on the Government; but its refusal would entail a very heavy responsibility on them for the security of General Gordon. Sir Charles Dilke, who spoke on behalf of the Government, expressed their feeling of the gallantry which had prompted the suggestion made by the hon. Member. The next is matter of history. The suggestion was not adopted, the British expedition was sent out too late, and General Gordon was sacrificed....

It is noted in one newspaper that he had hunted in India, Persia, Abyssinia, the Soudan and Zululand ¹⁷⁵, and ‘owing to the knowledge that he had of the last named territory, where he had been out with John Dunn, he was appointed intelligence officer on the staff during the Zulu war (1879), for which he received the medal with clasps’ ⁶⁵

Further details of his adventures and death were published in the Whitby Gazette of Friday May 31st 1889 ¹⁷⁶:

‘THE HON. GUY C. DAWNAY’S DEATH.
A THRILLING NARRATIVE.

A correspondent sends us the following adventures connected with the death of the Hon. Guy Cuthbert Dawnay. As will be seen, they are of an extraordinary nature: but fact often proves more strange than fiction, and the late Mr. Dawnay was the last man in the world to deviate one hair’s breadth from strict accuracy in narrating any of his feats. As told to us the tale runs as follows: -

On February 26th Mr. Dawnay went out for a few hours shooting by himself. He soon came on a herd of buffalo, one of which he wounded, and followed up in long grass. When in the act of reloading the animal chased him, and catching him fair on the chest with lowered head, tossed him some fifteen feet in the air and then fell dead. Mr. Dawnay, beyond having all the wind knocked out of him, and being somewhat shaken, was uninjured. As is well known, the horns of the African buffalo curve inward, the space between the tips being insufficient to admit of a man’s body being inserted between them. This would account for Mr. Dawnay’s escape. Mr Dawnay then went on and shot several other head of game, eland &c.

On the 27th he went out again. Again came across some buffalo and again wounded one, which charged him in the act of reloading. He managed, however, to elude the animal by dodging on one side, and it also fell dead. Following up the herd, he wounded another, which he tracked through some long grass into a little clearing. Here the animal suddenly charged out at him across the open and as it did so a lion sprang on the buffalo’s back. Mr Dawnay fired at the lion and killed it, and this buffalo, after staggering a few yards, also fell dead. On his return to camp Mr. Dawnay, in narrating his adventure to his companions, remarked that such good luck could not go on, and that he had a presentiment of coming evil regarding himself. As is usual in such cases, the matter was laughed at, but how correct was the presentiment the events of the following day proved, alas! Only too truly.

On the 28th Mr Dawnay took with him several “blacks” not Kaffirs. Having on previous occasions been much annoyed by their noise and chatter, as well as by their reckless shooting when he was stalking game, he, on viewing some, sent them all up trees and gave them strict orders that they were not to come down to him unless they heard a double shot. Two or three times they disregarded his instructions, at which he was much annoyed. Sighting a herd of buffalo near some long grass, he again sent the men out of the way, threatening them with his severest displeasure if they again disobeyed his commands. He then stalked and wounded a bull buffalo, which retreated into some high grass. This animal he was seen to follow up, and a single shot was heard by his attendants. Not hearing a second shot and having a dread of punishment if they went to him too soon, they remained quiet for a considerable time, till at last anxiety and curiosity prevailed, and they followed his tracks into the dense vegetation. A short way in they came upon his lifeless body. The African buffalo always trusts to scent more than sight to detect his enemy, and if he loses the scent will often retrace his steps to get the wind. It is presumed that in Mr. Dawnay’s case, the animal did this, and charged out so suddenly that he had not time to fire his left barrel. One horn of the buffalo had penetrated his temple, whilst the other had ripped his body nearly in half. The animal must have evidently knocked him down senseless, and then inflicted the ghastly wounds by goring him.

It is strange that such an experienced hunter of big game as Mr. Dawnay was well known to be should have been so reckless as to follow the acknowledged most dangerous of African big game into such dense covert, for the grass was over ten feet high. We can only suppose that the old Latin adage, “Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat,” [those whom a god wishes to destroy he first drives mad] held good in this case.

We believe it was only last year that Mr. Dawnay brought home the body of his friend, Mr. Richardson, who was also killed by a buffalo.’

Interestingly within the context of that Latin quote it was noted in the York Herald published on the 8th November 1890:

‘During the last few years his health had been much impaired by bad fevers contracted in unhealthy climates, in which he had suffered from much exposure and hardship’ ¹⁷⁷

So possibly his killing bloodlust, his irritation with his men and his unsound judgement around a very dangerous animal could have been connected to this - possibly a fever?

The Carmarthen Journal of 19th April 1889 ¹⁷⁸ describes what Guy Dawnay was facing, the Cape Buffalo:

'Concerning the animal to whose treacherous and ferocious nature the Hon Guy Dawnay recently fell victim in Africa, there can hardly be a better authority in London than Mr Rowland Ward, F.Z.S, the eminent naturalist of Piccadilly...."I dare say," said the great taxidermist, 'a great many people think that the buffalo which killed poor Guy Dawnay was like a North American bison; but it is a good deal more like an English bull.'....these Cape buffaloes, as they are called, exist all over Africa in large numbers. They are common enough everywhere, and they are, as every hunter will tell you, about the most dangerous and treacherous of any kind of African game. In that part of East Africa in which the Hon Mr Dawnay was hunting, game of every kind is exceedingly plentiful- antelopes, rhinoceri, lions, in any quantity.'

His violent death is later connected in 1923 to the superstitions around Lord Carnarvon's death following the opening of a tomb in Egypt ¹⁷⁹ in which it is cited that Guy 'did rifle an Egyptian tomb and died thereafter a violent death as a papyrus in the tomb predicted.'

A true Indiana Jones style figure!

On the 3rd November 1890 a window was unveiled in York Minster 'without any ceremony to the memory of the late Hon Guy Dawnay...the window, which is placed in the east side of the south transcript, bears the following inscription: - "Remember in the Lord, Guy Cuthbert Dawnay, who died in mid-Africa, February, 1889. A token of regard from friends to a friend." Two figures appear in the window, St George of England, and St Oswald, King of Northumbria. The window, which is by the first glass-painter of the day, cannot fail to be admired ^{72, 180}. It is further reported that the window was by Mr C E Kempe of Nottingham Place, London (a famous stained glass artist ¹⁸³). The two figures in the window are 'both of them brave and adventurous men, and the latter intimately associated with St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne ¹⁸⁵.

It appears that he was due to return to England in June 1889 ¹⁵⁸, according to a letter written to the paper by Colonel C G Slade, and his work at the War Office is described:

'A more capable and popular official never entered the doors of the War Office. For the last 3 years he devoted himself exclusively to thrashing out the question of the new magazine rifle, and his colleagues on the Special Committee fully endorse what fell from Lord Harris in the House of Lords on Friday last, when he said, 'That if the new rifle came up to the expectations that were formed concerning it, the credit would be largely due to Mr Dawnay.' A leading trait in his character was his sense of duty. Passionately fond of field sports of every kind, he would cheerfully give up the best shoot in England to attend a committee meeting at Enfield of possibly little or no importance, and his services were rendered without receiving any remuneration from the State. It was not, however, these attributes which endeared him so much to his friends, but rather his noble character and the sweetness of his disposition and nature, added to the irresistible charms of his personality, which caused all who knew him to love him'

'On the news of his death, early last year, a Guy Dawnay Memorial Fund was started, and resulted in donations coming in from his many friends to the amount of £750' this was used to place a boy each year in the Gordon Boy's Home (now Gordon's School, near Lightwater in Surrey) 'providing for the admission, maintenance and education for the Army of one boy always in that Home', and the surplus devoted to the placing of a memorial window in the Minster ¹⁸⁰⁻¹⁸³. There are further details of his military career in this piece also ¹⁸⁰.

In 1893 it is reported that 3 stained glass windows painted by the students at Wimbledon Art College were installed in memorial to Guy Dawnay at St Nicholas' church in Great Bookham ¹⁸⁶.

The Hull Daily Mail of the 4th April ¹⁸⁷ reports that 'the remains of the late Mr Guy Dawnay are being brought to England and will be interred in the churchyard at Yarm in Yorkshire where the family seat is situate'.



Memorial Cross for Guy Dawnay, St Nicholas Churchyard, Great Bookham, Surrey, England

The inscription reads: "To the memory of Guy Cuthbert Dawnay who was killed by a buffalo while on a hunting expedition in Masailand, E. Africa, February 28 1889.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day
Neither for brightness shall the moon give
Light unto thee, but the Lord shall be unto
Thee an everlasting light and thy God thy glory"



Memorial Cross for Guy Dawnay, St Peter Churchyard Langdale End, Scarborough Borough, North Yorkshire, England

The inscription reads: "to the glory of god, and in loving memory of Guy Cuthbert Dawnay, 4th son of William Henry, 7th Viscount Downe, who fell asleep at Ngiri in Africa, Feb 28th 1889 aged 40 years. This cross is erected by his mother, Mary Isabel Downe and Sidney L Lane. The Lord shall be there everlasting light" 188, 189

In his will he left Bookham Grove to his brother:

'Colonel the Hon. Lewis Payan Dawnay, for life, or until the expiration of one year after he succeeds to the Beningborough estate, then to the Hon. Eustace Henry Dawnay, for life.' 152, 190, 191.

He is noted as the 'Hon. Guy Cuthbert Dawnay of Bookham Grove, Surrey' in the 7th June 1889 edition of the Daily Gazette for Middlesborough¹⁹¹ indicating that this was his seat and thus suggesting that he did spend some time at Bookham Grove in between expeditions, canvassing in the North and whatever tenants rented the property.

His estate was valued at £33 260 and was written about all over the UK, again a testament to his fame 192-201.

Worth between £3.5 million - £26 million depending on how the value is worked out, at today's prices²⁰².

He did not own property other than at Bookham so Bookham Grove was his main personal residence. But note that this included Sole Farm, which he leaves to his brother Eustace^{152, 190}. In his will it is clear that both Sole Farm and Bookham Grove comprised the Bookham Grove Estate, and he clearly splits it with very explicit geographical instructions into the two components.

Guy Dawnay's Travels 1870-1889

Age	Date	Place	What he was doing	Reference
22	1870	1st trip to South Africa	Guy sailed out with the Rhodes brothers. He shot a Buffalo, a Koodoo Antelope, a Springbok and a 2-horned Rhinoceros	8, 10, 11
23	1871	Baldersby Hall, Yorkshire	1871 Census	17
23-25	March 1872-January 1874	2nd trip to Africa	2 year expedition, planning to hunt in the Amazarzi country, before returning to Natal, South Africa and then going to see the Victoria Falls of the Zambezi and unexplored country beyond (he reached the falls in 1873); Guy met up with other explorers in the autumn of 1873 at the Marico river, South Africa, hunting at the Nwasha Pan. He ended up in Durban, South Africa in January 1874	29, 31-33
25	2nd May 1874	London	Presented to the Albert, Prince of Wales on behalf of Queen Victoria at St James's Palace	47
26	18th June 1875	Oxford	Awarded his BA and MA degrees - assuming he was present for this	7
27	Spring 1876	Sudan, river Sellite	Hunting and Shooting. His companion, Mr Russel, trampled to death by buffaloes	30
27	1st June 1876	London	Attended a family wedding	49
28	17th August 1876	Yorkshire	Attended an agricultural show	50
27-28	1876-1877	Yorkshire	Riding his horses in the local hunts	51
29	10th November 1877	Souakim	3 year expedition planned, accompanied by a friend and 3 European servants and a large Arab caravan - but cut short by Zulu War. Souakim is a port city in northeastern Sudan, on the west coast of the Red Sea. The British Army was involved at Suakin in 1883-1885 and Lord Kitchener was there in this period leading the Egyptian Army contingent. Souakim was his headquarters and his force survived a lengthy siege there. ¹⁸⁸	30, 53
30	1879		Delivered despatches by horseback during the Zulu War, for which he volunteered. He had been appointed Intelligence Officer on the staff for which he received the medal with clasps	29, 30, 55-67
31	6th September 1879	Danby, Yorkshire	Returned with his brother Hugh from the Zulu War	69
32	Autumn 1880	The Rockies, North America		71, 72
32	January 1881	India		71, 72
33	Autumn 1881	The Rockies, North America		71, 72
34	July-24th October 1882	Egypt	Anglo Egyptian War, for which he volunteered during the summer parliamentary recess	29, 71, 72, 110, 111
34-37	1882-1885	Yorkshire	MP for North Riding Yorkshire between these Egypt and Souakim campaigns	29, 71, 72, 79-91
34	March 1883	Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	89
34	April-May 1883	Europe	Lying ill in Europe of African fever	114, 115
35	1st September 1883	Danby, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	117
35	16th November 1883	York, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	119
35	January 1884	Malton, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	86
35	2nd February 1884	Baldersby Hall, Yorkshire	Acted as best man at his sister Edith's wedding,, giving her a diamond and sapphire bracelet	120
35	14th April 1884	Baldersby Hall, Yorkshire	Wrote a letter to the Yorkshire Gazette	80
36	18th October 1884	Guisborough, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	81
36	11th February 1885	Loftus, Yorkshire	Speaking at a Conservative meeting	121
36	Mid February - May 1885	Souakim, Sudan	For which he volunteered	29, 71, 72, 122, 123
36	25th April 1885	Yorkshire	Returned from Sudan	125
37	June-December 1885	Yorkshire	Speaking to constituents, fighting his seat as an MP for Yorkshire	90, 91, 134, 135, 137, 144
37	27th July 1885	London	Speaking at the House of Commons, as the Surveyor General of Ordnance	131-133
37	10th July 1886	Kilham, Yorkshire	Speaking at an electoral meeting	149
38	12th November 1886	Red Sea	En route - he wrote and signed his will on board a ship, SS Mendoza, in the Red Sea	152
39	18th August 1887	Holbeton, Devon	Attended the marriage of his younger brother, Geoffrey	153
39	February 1888	Africa	Departed for Africa for an extended trip, due to return in June 1889	6, 66, 154-158
39-40	January- 28th February 1889	Ngiri, Kenya	Embarked from Mombasa on an Emin Pasha relief expedition, believing he might relieve Stanley's expedition, but was killed by a wounded buffalo whilst out hunting in Masailand	29, 71, 72, 176
			Also reported that he had hunted in Persia and Abyssinia	175

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