

Lady Augusta Gordon Lennox's

Alexander Walker

strathspey

LADY AUGUSTA GORDON LENNOX

Walker: *A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Marches, &c.*, 1866; No. 187, pg. 64.

Scottish, Strathspey. G Minor, AAB.

i. Jerry Holland, cassette, 1987.



Lady Augusta Gordon-Lennox (1827-1904) was the daughter of Duke Charles Lennox of Richmond-Lennox and Lady Caroline Paget. Her Scottish Home was Gordon Castle in Fochabers. (See Tunes 'The Duchess of Richmond' 'Duke of Richmond's Birthday' 'Gordon Castle Waltz')

Lady Augusta Catherine Gordon Lennox was born at Goodwood on January 14th, 1827, the daughter of the 5th Duke of Richmond and his wife, Lady Caroline Paget. She married in London on November 27th, 1851, His Highness Prince Wilhelm August Eduard (Edward) of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach.

There was already a Royal connection as the Duchess of Richmond, Augusta's mother, was in charge of the train-bearers clothing for Queen Victoria's Coronation and who "had ordered the make of the dresses", according to Queen's Journal entry. Lady Caroline Gordon-Lennox, Augusta's sister, was one of the Queen's train-bearers.

Prince Edward, her husband, had been born at Bushey Park on October 11th, 1823, the son of Prince Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar by his wife, Princess Ida of Saxe-Meiningen. Princess Ida was the sister of Queen Adelaide, the Consort of King William IV. Having no children of their own, William and Adelaide brought up Edward as their own and he was, therefore, effectively regarded as a first-cousin to Queen Victoria. By coincidence, Elizabeth Brodie, Duchess of Gordon was a close friend of Queen Adelaide.

There is an interesting connection here, which may be relevant,

is that Sir Charles Forbes's wife Caroline's mother was Georgina Charlotte Wynyard. Her sister was lady in waiting to Princess Augusta

Although Augusta was the daughter of a Duke who was one of the richest landowners in Britain, the marriage was not regarded as being of equal status by Prince Edward's German family. The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar (Edward's uncle) strictly observed the rules of marriage and the concept of *ebenbürtigkeit* (equality of birth) which stated that members of reigning families could only marry amongst themselves. Consequently, the marriage was morganatic and the Grand Duke conferred the title of Countess von Dornburg on Augusta the day before the marriage. Queen Victoria regarded this as

absurd and decreed that, in Britain, Augusta should be styled Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

Prince Edward rose to the rank of Field Marshal in the British Army and was Colonel of the 1st Life Guards. He served as the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland for a time for which he was made a Knight of the Order of St Patrick.

Prince and Princess Edward were regular visitors to Gordon Castle and are affectionately mentioned in The Gordon Book. Prince Edward died in London on November 16th, 1902. Princess Edward died on April 3rd, 1904. They had no children.

Alexander Walker Connection

When Augusta was in Scotland she and her husband attended many of the highland gatherings and balls as the Forbes. Alexander, however, had also come in contact with them in his own right. In 1853 he was at the Strath Isla games when the Princess was there and he also played for her at Gordon Castle in October 1853

FESTIVITIES AT GORDON CASTLE.—The **Duke** and **Duchess of Richmond** have a number of distinguished guests partaking of their hospitality at the castle at present. Wednesday, 12th October, being the **birth-day** of Lady Cecilia, the youngest of this amiable family, it was as usual celebrated by a ball in the magnificent dining-room of the princely mansion. As usual the **Duke** and **Duchess** countenanced the ball-room, to the zest of the proceedings. Amongst the distinguished parties present were—the Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe Weimar, Prince Henry of Hesse, the Earl and Countess of March, Lord Settrington, Lord Arthur Lennox, the Countess of Bessborough, Lord Alex. G. Lennox, Lord George G. Lennox, Lady Cecilia G. Lennox, Sir James J. R. Mackenzie of Scatwell, Sir William Gordon Cumming of Altyre, Miss G. Cumming, Miss Pocock, Captain Mulcaster, Mrs Whatman, Mr Balmer, Mr Marquis, &c., &c. Dancing was carried on until 3 o'clock in the morning. The music was under the direction of Mr **Walker** Strathdon.