



The Devonshire Collection Archives

GB 2495 DF26

Papers of Lord John Spencer Cavendish (1875-1914)

1886 - 1914

Administrative/Biographical History:

Lord John Spencer Cavendish (1875-1914), soldier, was born on 25 March 1875, the 3rd son of Lord Edward Cavendish and Emma Elizabeth Lascelles. He was nephew of the 8th Duke of Devonshire, and the 9th Duke was his older brother. In November 1908 he was granted the rank of a Duke's younger son.

He joined the 1st Life Guards, a cavalry regiment, from the Militia in February 1897, becoming Lieutenant in April 1898. He served in the Boer War, as Divisional and Brigade Signalling Officer, from October 1899 to October 1900. He was present at the relief of Ladysmith, and at the actions at Colenso, Spion Kop and Vaal Kranz; operations on the Tugela Heights and action at Pieter's Hill; in the Orange Free State and at the action at Zand River; in the Transvaal and near Johannesburg, Pretoria and Diamond Hill; in the Transvaal, west of Pretoria, including actions at Elands River, and in the Orange River Colony, including actions at Bethlehem and Wittebergen. He was mentioned in Despatches (*London Gazette*, 1 February 1901); received the Queen's Medal with six clasps; and was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (*London Gazette*, 19 April 1901) for services during operations in South Africa.

He was promoted to Captain in August 1902, and from June 1907 to September 1910 was with the West African Frontier Force. There are a number of unlisted letters in the Devonshire Archives from him to his mother, written between 1900 and 1908, including some from the Boer War (1900), from Aden, Mombassa and Javeta (Mozambique) (1904), and from Nigeria (1907-10).

He was promoted to Major in April 1911, served in the First World War and was killed in action, aged 39, on 20 October 1914. He is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, (Plot XX1, Row C, Grave 26).

Principal source for Lord John Cavendish's military career: O'Moore Creagh & EM Humphris, *The V.C and D.S.O. Book, Distinguished Service Order, 1886-1915* (Naval and Military Press, 2001), p.134.

Custodial History:

Most of the material in the collection was created or accumulated by Lord John Cavendish. Its exact archival history is unknown.

Source of Acquisition:

The material was extant in The Devonshire Collection prior to 1 August 2011.

Scope and Content:

This small collection primarily consists of correspondence. There are letters sent to Lord John Cavendish by his mother and father, Lord and Lady Edward Cavendish. There are also letters he received from others between 1886 and 1914, which include, but are not limited to, letters from family members; letters of sympathy sent to John on the death of his father in 1891; and military telegraphs.

In addition to correspondence, the collection includes a small series of official papers, including: John Cavendish's birth and baptism certificates; a military medical certificate and a military certificate of appointment; and his death certificate.

There is also a small grouping of other papers, including a *Vanity Fair* cartoon of John Cavendish's brother, Lord Richard Cavendish, and other news cuttings; and a list of property of the Lord John Cavendish sent from Hyde Park Barracks after his death.

Appraisal:

Some material from the collection was transferred to other collections at the point of cataloguing, namely: a photograph [portrait of John Cavendish?] removed to Devonshire Archives' photographic collections; letters sent to Lady Edward Cavendish by John Cavendish removed to GB 2495 DF22, the Papers of Lady Edward Cavendish; and letters sent to Lord Richard Cavendish by his father, Lord Edward Cavendish, have been transferred to FB 2495 DF18, the Papers of Lord Edward Cavendish.

System of Arrangement:

The material has been arranged into three series, as follows:

- DF26/1: Correspondence (1886-1914)
- DF26/2: Official papers (1894-1908)
- DF26/3: Other papers (1900)

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for consultation. Access to the archive at Chatsworth is by appointment only. For more information please visit: <https://www.chatsworth.org/art-archives/access-the-collection/archives-and-works-of-art/>.

Conditions Governing Reproduction:

Copies of material in the archive can be supplied for private study and personal research purposes only, depending on the condition of the documents.

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Extent:

1 box

Language of Material:

English

Preferred Citation:

Devonshire MSS, Chatsworth, DF26/1/1 etc.

Related material:

For letters sent by John Cavendish to his family members see the following collections in the Devonshire Archives: GB 2495 DF22 (Papers of Lady Emma Cavendish, his mother); GB 2495 DF7 (Papers of his brother Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire) and GB 2495 CS9 (Correspondence series of Victor Cavendish).

<u>DF26/1</u>	<u>Correspondence of Major John Cavendish</u>	<u>1886 - 1914</u>	<u>Series</u>
	<p>This section consists of letters sent to John Cavendish by his mother and father, Lord and Lady Edward Cavendish; and general correspondence sent to John Cavendish between 1886 and 1914, which includes, but is not limited to: letters sent to John Cavendish by family members; letters of sympathy sent to John on the death of his father in 1891; and military telegraphs.</p> <p>49 letters</p>		
DF26/1/1	<p>Letters to Lord John Cavendish from his father, Lord Edward Cavendish</p> <p>Letters sent to John Cavendish by his father, Lord Edward Cavendish.</p> <p>16 letters</p>	26 October 1882 - 22 January 1891	Item
DF26/1/2	<p>Letter from Lady Edward Cavendish to Major John Cavendish</p> <p>A letter sent to John Cavendish by his mother, Emma (Lady Edward Cavendish).</p> <p>1 letter</p>	13 August 1914	Item
DF26/1/3	<p>General Correspondence of Major John Cavendish</p> <p>Letters sent to John Cavendish from a number of different correspondents, including: his uncle, Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire (letter dated 5 May 1907); the 8th Duke's wife Louise Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire (letter dated 26 July 1900); and his sister-in-law Lady Frederick Cavendish (letter dated 19 April 1891). Also includes letters of sympathy sent to John on the death of his father, Lord Edward Cavendish, in 1891. Includes 3 undated letters.</p> <p>18 letters</p>	1886 - 1914	Item
DF26/1/4	<p>Military Telegraphs kept by Major John Cavendish</p> <p>Military telegraphs sent during the Boer War, some of which are in code. The telegraphs do appear to have been sent directly to John Cavendish. Correspondents represented in the telegraphs include: Lord Kitchener, General Knox, General Broadwood, General White, Colonel Rawlinson, Colonel Bruce Hamilton and General Buller.</p> <p>Telegraphs were sent to and from Ladysmith, Weenan, Wilgabosch Drift, Frere Camp, and Pretoria.</p> <p>The file also includes a list of items compiled by John Cavendish</p>	[1899 - 1900]	Item

“required for the use of 10th Hussars to replace that lost on service” dated 28 August 1900.

14 items

<u>DF26/2</u>	<u>Official Papers of Major John Cavendish</u>	<u>1875-1908</u>	<u>Series</u>
	This section consists of John Cavendish's Birth, death and Baptism Certificates, a military medical certificate and a military appointment. 5 items		
DF26/2/1	Baptism Certificate of John Cavendish, 15 May 1875 An extract from the Baptism Register in the Parish of Christchurch, Mayfair, taken on 16 February 1894, recording the baptism of John Spencer Cavendish, which took place on 15 May 1875. 1 item	16 February 1894	Item
DF26/2/2	Military Medical Certificate, John Cavendish Medical report of John Cavendish prepared to accompany his Leave Papers. 1 item	7 July 1908	Item
DF26/2/3	Birth certificate of John Cavendish A certified copy of an entry of birth given at the General Register Office. 1 item	12 April 1875	Item
DF26/2/4	Death certificate of John Cavendish A certified copy of an entry of death for John S. Cavendish in the Army War Records of Deaths, 1914-1921. 1 item	20 October 1914	Item
DF26/2/5	Appointment of John Spencer Cavendish to the rank of 2 nd Lieutenant in the Militia Forces Appointment of John Spencer Cavendish to the rank of 2 nd Lieutenant in the Militia Forces, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment). 1 item	15 March 1894	Item
<u>DF26/3</u>	<u>Other Papers of Major John Cavendish</u>	<u>1900-1914</u>	<u>Series</u>

DF26: Papers of Lord John Spencer Cavendish (1875-1914)

This series consists of news cuttings, a caricature of John Cavendish's brother, Lord Richard Cavendish, and a list of property of Lord John Cavendish dating from after his death.

1 item

DF26/3/1	Caricature of Lord Richard Cavendish, from Vanity Fair	26 April 1900	Item
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Vanity Fair cartoon of John Cavendish's brother, Lord Richard Cavendish. Title of the piece 'North Lancashire', 26 April 1900. Drawn by Spy.

1 item

DF26/3/2	Newspaper cuttings, obituary and notice of the memorial service for Lord John Cavendish	October 1914	Item
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2 items

DF26/3/3	List of property of the late Lord John Cavendish sent from Hyde Park Barracks	26 November 1914	Item
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1 item