

Arthur Luckock

Born 1880. Vicar.

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The Reminiscences and Recollections of Arthur Mortimer Luckock, 1880-1948



Eton High Street during the great flood of 1894.

Source: This life story of Arthur Luckock is an extract archived from the book A Short History of the Descendants of Thomas Luckock of Coalbrookdale. The book was written by Arthur Luckock's brother Edward, and was privately published in 1949.

I was born on October 28th 1880 at Cambridge.

In 1890 I went to Wixenford, Wokingham, now called Ludgrove School, and had four years there under E. P. Arnold, playing for the School at Soccer and winning the Gymn medal in my last term.

In 1894 I went to Sidney James' at Eton, and in my first Half occurred the great flood (November 1894) when the whole school was sent home for a fortnight. I took Upper Fourth (E. W. Stone) and ended in the 3rd division of First Hundred (A. C. James). I won no prizes, and failed to get the Schools Certificate! I was, however, sent up twice "for Good" by A. C. J., and escaped having any serious trouble with the Head and the "Beaks" generally.

I was no good at games, with the exception perhaps of Fives. I spent much time in the workshop at carpentering with the aid of "Moses", and particularly at wood turning which I learnt from Dunkley, winning first prize for that, and second for carpentering in competitions which I think (from memory) were started by a master named Dyer.

In 1897 I took part in the Torchlight Procession etc., at the Castle, and serenaded the Queen at breakfast on her 80th birthday in 1899 with the whole school in the Great Quadrangle. In 1899, after "sapping" at Littlego through August and September with frequent exhortation from P, I went up to Trinity, Cambridge; passed 2nd and 3rd class in the two parts of Littlego, and then settled down to work for a Poll degree, not being regarded as likely to do any good with a "Trip". My scholastic attainments at Cambridge were not very notable, but I managed to obtain First Class right through, namely, in both parts of the General (thanks to the skill of a coach named Borissow who kept in Nevilles Court) and ditto in the Theological Special, with Distinction in Hebrew which I studied with Hermann of Corpus.

I took my B.A. in June, 1902, and M.A. later after my Ordination.

My amusements while I was up were "squash" and beagling in the winter, and tennis in the summer, with a large amount of bicycling, old uncle Ashton having given me a "Whippet" freewheel bicycle in 1899 with brakes working on the nickelled rims of the wheels, which were regarded as a great advance. By attending many dances I met and got to know C.G.F., and caused amazement to a Proctor when I applied before going down for leave to have a dance in my room at 36 Sidney Street to (amongst others) her honour! He was, however, amenable when I told him I had the wives of two Heads of Colleges coming to it as chaperones!

About October 1902 I went into residence at the Oxford House, Bethnal Green, to study social problems etc., and was one of the managers of a large Boys' Club called the Webbe Institute.

Then in October 1903 I set out on a Globe trot with an Eton and Cambridge friend named J. R. Wharton, and travelled in Palestine, Egypt, India, Burma, China and Japan, and so home across Canada after 8 months absence, June 1904. That summer I went abroad to Engelberg, Switzerland,



Ludgrove School in 1900.



A Whippet bicycle of 1895.

with P. (as on several previous occasions to Costabelle, Bad Nauheim etc.,) and Crampton, and in October, having decided to take Holy Orders, I went to Ely Theological College, under Randolph.

At the end of 1905 I was made a deacon at Peterborough by Bishop Carr Glyn (whose son Ralph had been at Wixenford with me), and became one of a large staff of Curates at Kettering under P. M. Smythe - an excellent place for a first Curacy, my home being 1 Northampton Road.

On May 17th 1906 I was married to Constance Gwendoline Fellowes, at All Saints, Cambridge. She was the younger daughter of the Rev. E. L. Fellowes, (a famous cricketer at Oxford in the '60's', being one of the fastest bowlers in England in the days of "W. G.", and playing three years in succession against Cambridge) and of Mrs. Fellowes of 9 Park Terrace, Cambridge.

In 1907 I was ordained Priest at Peterborough. Among other duties as Curate at Kettering, it fell to my lot to be especially associated with the Church Day Schools of the parish as correspondent of the Managers, and had much to do with the organizing of parochial life generally. I ran a large Palestine Exhibition in 1910, for which purpose knowledge obtained in travels in that country in 1903 proved very useful.

In 1912 I was offered the living of Tichmarsh, 11 miles from Kettering, by Lord Lilford, and was instituted and inducted there on July 26th. Tichmarsh is an agricultural village of 550 persons, with a fine Church. During my time here the Church Bells have been recast and rehung; the tower has been repaired from base to summit; the Oak Screen and Pulpit were given by us in 1926, and the Porch was restored as a thank-offering at the time of our Silver Wedding in 1931.

In 1913 I was appointed Hon. Secretary of the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (the Diocese then including the County of Leicester), an office which I held till the end of 1946. I am also particularly concerned with Church extension work, being Hon. Secretary of the Oakham Archidiaconal Church Extension Board, and am connected with most of the Diocesan Committees being Chairman of the Dilapidations Board. In 1924 I became an Honorary Canon of Peterborough. Ten years later Bishop Blagden offered me a Residentiary Canonry, but I decided to remain in the country, a decision which I have never regretted.

Tichmarsh Rectory has a good garden, with a very fine Cedar of Lebanon growing on its lawn, at one time before extensive damage by snow and storms regarded as one of the finest specimens in the country because of its wide spread of branches and symmetry. Gardening has for many years been one of my chief interests.

When the second world war came in 1939, the problems of Civil Defence, evacuated children, etc., were much the same in Tichmarsh as elsewhere. I became head warden for the village in October 1940, and almost immediately after my appointment many incendiary bombs were dropped on the village and surrounding fields by a lone airman who presumably thought he was over



Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Tichmarsh.



The Rectory at Tichmarsh.

Corby or perhaps Kettering! 10 incendiaries fell in the garden, but the Rectory was not hit, the nearest falling by the backdoor scraper. Farm buildings by my garage were burnt out, and several houses in the village.

Later on in the war I was made Chairman of the Invasion Committee,

My Diocesan work was carried on under considerable transport difficulties.

At the end of the fighting with Germany I announced the fact by ringing the same bell of the Church as I had done on November 11, 1918, its inscription being "God save the King".

ARTHUR M. LUCKOCK.

Tichmarsh Rectory,
KETTERING,
Northants.

January 1949.



Celebrations in London at the end of the First World War, 11th November 1918.