

William Luttrell

Born 1908. Economist.

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Bill Luttrell as a young man.

1. Luttrell Ancestors

This chapter on Bill Luttrell's paternal ancestors was written by his sister Louisa Reid.



Dunster Castle, Somerset.

Starting with my father's family, the Luttrells. As 'landed gentry' they may be popularly known as having owned Dunster Castle in Somerset from the 14th century until it was given to the National Trust in 1976. As an instance of the Luttrell - Dunster link, I remember my Aunt May telling me the following story. She used to stay at a small hotel in Italy, the San Giorgio, at Lenno near Lake Como. On one occasion they sent her a letter addressed to Miss Luttrell, England. Presumably arriving at the GPO London, 'Try Dunster' was added and it was duly delivered!

Of general interest is the fact that Mrs Alexander, the writer of several hymns in our present hymn books was a friend of my grandmother and was staying at the Castle when she wrote 'All things bright and beautiful'. She was sitting on the terrace, describing Grabbist Hill and the river Avill nearby. The verse referring to the rich and poor is no more out-of-date than is 'gathering rushes', but the church authorities evidently took exception to it as denoting class distinction and have banished it from our hymn books.

The first recorded Luttrells were living at Irnham in Lincolnshire. Of these, Andrew was one of the knights entrusted with the defence of Windsor Castle after the battle of Lewes in 1264.

Sir Geoffrey Luttrell (1276-1345) is chiefly remembered as being responsible for the Luttrell Psalter with its fascinating illustrations of contemporary life. There are scenes of harvesting, preparing and cooking food and entertainments. Sir Geoffrey and his family are shown sitting at the high table at a banquet. It is now permanently on view at the British Museum. For a further description of the fourteenth century I will quote Sir

Geoffrey's will, made after his wife's death and shortly before his own. He bequeathed various sums of money to sixteen of his relations some of them members of religious communities, to his chaplain, his confessor, his chief esquire, and his chamberlain. The largest bequests were those to works of religion and charity. For his funeral at Irnham, twenty quarters of wheat and twenty of malt, wine, spices, and other condiments to the value of 20 pounds were to be provided for friends attending the service. A sum of 200 pounds to be distributed among the poor in three instalments within a month. The beggars of the parish were also to have forty quarters of wheat and on the anniversary a further sum of 20 pounds was to be given to the poor praying for him. For the first five years after his death, twenty chaplains were to say masses for his soul in the church at Irnham, dividing among them a hundred marks a year.



Sir Geoffrey Luttrell dining, from the 14th century Luttrell Psalter, now in the British Museum.

Skipping through the centuries, Hugh Luttrell of Dunster was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII in 1487. He was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset for a year beginning in November 1488. Nine years later he took the field against Perkin Warbeck under the Duke of Buckingham. When the Princess Catherine of Aragon came to England in 1501 in order to marry the Prince of Wales, Sir Hugh Luttrell was one of the seven knights and gentlemen of Somerset who were selected to escort her from Crewkerne to Sherborne. In 1513, he was serving in the Royal Navy ship of Leonard Fiscaballi.

On March 31st 1514 Sir Hugh entered into an agreement with Sir Thomas Wyndham as follows:

'Andrew Luttrell, sonne and heire apparent of the said Sir Hugh, by the grace of God, shall mary and take to his wiefe Margaret one of the daughters of the saied Sir Thomas, or any other of the daughters of the said

Sir Thomas such as the saied Andrew shall best lieke if the said Margaret or such of her sisters as the said Andrew shall best like thereunto will agree and the laws of holy church will permit and suffer.'

Andrew and Margaret duly married on April 22nd! Andrew's son John spent most of his time away from home, fighting both in Scotland and France. In 1544 he was at Boulogne in command of over two hundred men. In 1547, under the Duke of Somerset, he led three hundred men in the vanguard of the English army at the battle of Pinkie.

The Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, sometimes known as the Battle of Pinkie, took place on 10 September 1547 on the banks of the River Esk, near Musselburgh, Scotland. The last pitched battle between Scottish and English armies, it was part of the conflict known as the Rough Wooing. It was a catastrophic defeat for Scotland, where it became known as Black Saturday.

Enough of my early forbears. In 1867 my grandfather George Luttrell inherited Dunster Castle and the prosperity that went with it. This included most of Minehead, Luxborough, Wooten Courtenay and East Quantoxhead in Somerset. Also Wootton Fitzpaine Manor and land in Dorset and Nethway in Devon. The land, which included the ruins of Cleeve Abbey was bought in 1870. At that time the buildings were used for farming with pig sties in the cloisters!



Cleeve Abbey is now in the care of English Heritage.

My grandfather and later his son my Uncle Alec had the Abbey restored. I remember when visiting my uncle, seeing the work in progress. It was exciting to watch more tiles being discovered as the mounds of earth were

dug out. These were carefully re-laid as flooring with no original pattern of arrangement. We always had a talk with Cleeva Clapp, the custodian, who lived nearby and was devoted to the place.

My uncle used to tell the story of Cleeva's name, which seems typical of those Victorian days. My grandmother had called on her parents to see the new baby and asking what she was called was told Plevna, which was just in the news. 'It seems a pity to call her after a battle, why don't you call her Cleeva after the Abbey?' she suggested. When the christening came and the rector asked for the name and was given Cleeva, he objected to it's not being a Christian name. The godparent answered 'Mrs Luttrell ordained it so' and the rector duly complied!

Uncle Alec was the eldest of the sons, the next being my father Hugh, the youngest Claude and their sisters my Aunt May and Aunt Bee. They evidently took their religion seriously as children. Uncle Alec told me how once they were having a walk when one of them remembered that he hadn't said his prayers that morning so, then and there, he knelt on the path and did so, to the approval of the others. Uncle Claude remembered that when he was a small boy Gladstone, then Prime Minister, came to stay with his parents. Not realizing that Family Prayers took place each morning, Gladstone was half way down the main staircase leading to the hall where he could see that the Prayers had already started. Instead of disappearing upstairs again, Claude was impressed to see him kneel on the stairs and take part.

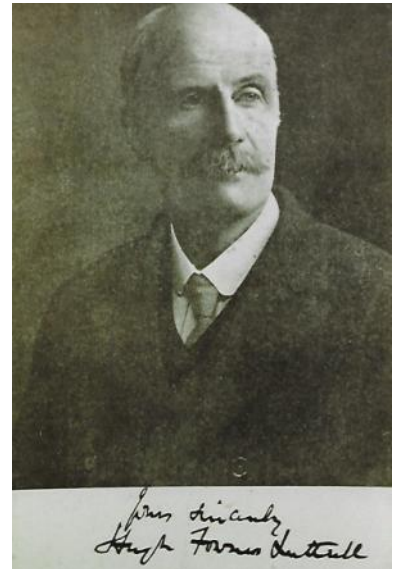
My grandfather was Master of the private pack of foxhounds without subscription known as 'Mr.Luttrell's'. The country hunted was later to become the West Somerset of which my grandfather became Master. All his children enjoyed hunting and riding.

My father is next in my list of ancestors. He chose an Army career, going into the Rifle Brigade. He as ADC to Lord Cowper and then Lord Spencer when each was Governor of Ireland. During his time there he enjoyed the hunting and polo. His next appointment was ADC to Sir John Adye, Governor of Gibraltar.

Here he was on the staff of the Calpe Hunt. While he was there, the Prince of Wales, later to become George V (right) stopped off on his way to India and had a game of polo. It always amuses me that my father lent him both his clothes and his polo ponies for this!



In the year 1892 at the age of 35 my father (right) stood as the Liberal candidate for the Tavistock Division of Devon, which included Dartmoor. Until then it had been Conservative. I remember Aunt Bee telling me how she stayed with her brother at the Bedford Hotel in Tavistock for the election. The sitting member and his wife were also staying there. Quite confident that they would win, they were very friendly, but as soon as my father's success was declared the Conservative pair were so surprised and angry that they would not speak to them again!



In 1904, my father married Dorothy Hope Wedderburn, aged 24, daughter of a fellow Liberal MP. They were married at Holy Trinity Church in Chelsea. Between 400 and 500 guests came and Campbell-Bannerman, the Prime Minister, was at the wedding reception.

2. Wedderburn Ancestors



Bill Luttrell's mother Dorothy (née Wedderburn).

The following chapter on Bill Luttrell's maternal ancestors was written by his sister Louisa Reid.

And now to my mother's family - the Wedderburn ancestors. Many of these who were well before my time are surprisingly familiar to me. I seem to know them as well as present-day friends who I seldom see! The reason is that I am surrounded by their faces in family portraits and have an insight into their lives by reading hand-written diaries and books that I have, written by and about them.

The pictures, diaries and books came to me in various ways. The oil-paintings were given to me by my mother. Her father, Sir William Wedderburn, 4th baronet of Ballindean, was in direct line from the earliest ancestors. He had no sons so the baronetcy went to a Wedderburn-Ogilvy cousin and the possessions to my mother. His elder brother, David, wrote

detailed diaries of his worldwide travels between 1866 and 1882. These were passed on to me after the death of my cousin David Percival.

A charming pair of water-colour portraits came to me by a lucky chance. They had been in the possession of my cousins Sir John and Lucilla Percival. His mother had been Louisa, the youngest sister of my grandfather. When I stayed with them I used to see the head-and-shoulder likenesses of the young couple in the room where I slept and I knew the sad story of how they and their baby son were murdered in the Indian Mutiny. The pictures were eventually in the sale of Kimsbury House. We were about to holiday in France at the time so I left a bid for them. On our return, finding that I had been outbid, I traced the buyer, hoping that if a dealer, he might part with them for a profit. The surprising outcome of this was that he had bought the pictures solely for their plain, gold, oval frames and intended throwing away the contents. Fortunately, I had contacted him just in time and instead of destroying them, he gave them to me!

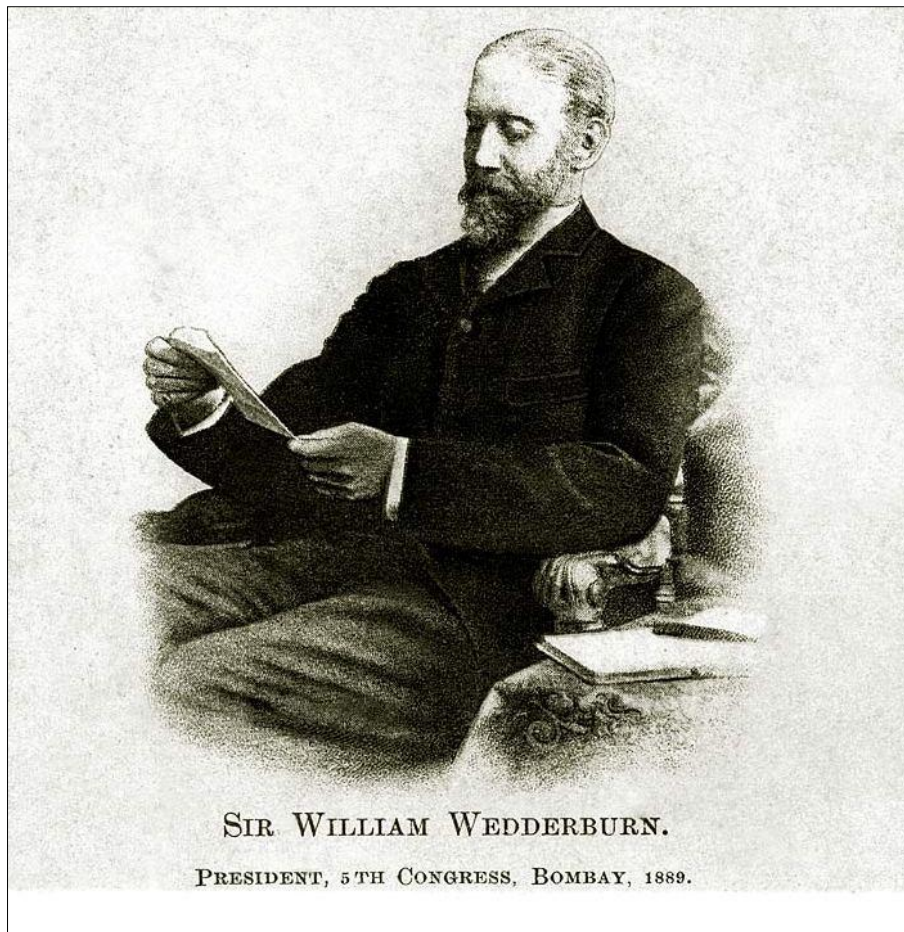
In recording my maternal forbears, I will skip quickly through the lives of some of the earlier ones and then give more detailed descriptions of those with whom I am familiar.

Walter de Wedderburn is named in the famous Ragman Roll that lists the barons, who swore fealty to Edward I on 28th August, 1296. Another Wedderburn of historical interest was Alexander, 1561-1626. He was certainly remarkable in his time and did much to increase the prosperity of his family. He sat in the Scottish Parliament for nearly thirty years from 1593 to 1621, representing Dundee. He was one of the Scottish commissioners to treat for Union between England and Scotland in 1604. He is said to have been on intimate terms with James VI who gave him the ring.

My earliest Wedderburn family portrait is of Dr. John Wedderburn of Idvies, 1678-1751. In the records, he is named on February 7th 1681 as a witness at the baptism of his cousin John Wedderburn, son of his uncle Peter, himself being less than three years old! He became a doctor of medicine and was 'for many years a physician of considerable eminence'. He lived in Dundee in 'a large mansion built by his father in 1684'. In 1733 he purchased the property of Idvies in Forfar. He died on the 3rd July, 1751, was buried in the Howff of Dundee under a tomb with an inscription recording 'his amiable character and professional skill'. He left his property to his great-nephew Sir John Wedderburn, who at his death was living in Jamaica. I have now given this picture to my grandson Theo Hobson.

My next portrait, in chronological order, is of my direct ancestor sir John Wedderburn, Bart 5th of Blackness, 1704-1746. He is wearing a coral red coat and waistcoat with gold buttons and braid. It was painted by his niece Katherine Read, from memory after his death. She was a celebrated artist

and at one time portrait painter to Queen Charlotte. Her work was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1773, 1774 and 1776. I have given the picture to my grandson Harry Hobson, but at the time of writing it is in my possession.



I now come to my grandfather Sir William Wedderburn (1838-1918) who I knew in his seventies. He was born in Edinburgh on March 25th 1838, after his parents' retirement from India. David, two years older, was his constant companion and they attended the same schools in Switzerland, England and Scotland, and Edinburgh University.

3. Early Childhood

This chapter on the early childhood of Bill Luttrell and his siblings was written by his sister Louisa Reid.



Bill Luttrell's sisters Louisa, Mary and Elizabeth as toddlers.

When my father was MP for the Tavistock Division he rented Ward House, Bere Alston. It was a square Georgian house belonging to Lord Mount Edgecombe who lived at Cotehele, the other side of the river. The nearest large village, or small town, was Calstock. To get there we walked down to the river, and for a penny were rowed across by a man in a navy blue jersey. Our cook, Mrs Grills, lived in Calstock and arrived in this way.



Calstock, with its railway viaduct.

On Monday, washing was done in the laundry - a room that formed the right hand side of the 'hard' at the back of the house. On Tuesday, ironing was done here, and we liked to watch the little bubbles on the iron when it was spat on to test its heat. We brought our own hair-ribbons and dolls' clothes to be ironed.

We got over a stile from the garden to walk up across a field to the railway, where the newspaper was thrown out to us by the guard. I don't remember now if this was a daily occurrence. Bere Alston is about two and half miles from Ward House and we went there in the pony trap with Miss Hands (who looked after us) or with my mother in the high, two-wheeled dog cart or on special occasions in the wagonette. This had cushioned seats all round it facing inwards, and was driven by Frost, the groom. All these were made of light-coloured varnished wood and had a long-handled whip slotted into a holder.

To give work to women in the neighbourhood my father started a fruit and flower farm. Raspberries were grown in rows and between them were planted narcissi. As far as I remember these were all 'pheasant eyes'. Early in the morning we heard 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and other songs of the time being sung by the pickers. We would watch the flowers being bunched neatly with flowers all facing one way, and packed into boxes. At raspberry time, these were loaded into barrels and weighed ready for the jam factory.

We spent most of our time 'playing in the garden'. This included climbing up into the laurel bushes, and talking amongst ourselves an invented 'double Dutch' language. We had our own pet rabbits and guinea pigs to look after. Each of us had an oblong patch of garden and our own wheelbarrow and tools. I remember taking my white turnips to the kitchen. We sometimes rode the pony and I remember falling off near a holly hedge and rolling onto the very prickly dry leaves.

On wet days we made things. These included kites made of brown paper fixed onto cross sticks and painted, with tails of cut up paper. Making scrapbooks was an everlasting pastime. These were made of brown paper and we cut out and pasted in pictures. We enjoyed paper chases through the surrounding fields, keeping to the edges. The excitements started the day before when we all sat round cutting up newspaper and filling the canvas satchel.

I don't remember any photograph albums of our own but we had post-card albums with slits to fit the cards into. There were five of us close in age - Mary, Louisa, Elizabeth, William and Anne. Two of us talking together would refer to the 'others'. 'I'll get/tell/find/ the others'. Mary probably kept the peace because I don't remember any quarrelling.

As well as Miss Hands, there was 'Mademoiselle'. There was probably a change of young French girl, but I just think of her now as a French speaking person. She would be there at meal-times when we had to say 'Puis je avoir quelque chose a manger' and would have a piece of bread and butter etc put on our empty plate. We always had to finish the food on our plate and if we were disinclined to would be told not to waste food and 'think of the poor Russians'. I didn't like runny boiled eggs and one occasion when I wouldn't eat one, it was kept until I did. It was much nastier cold. The only French I remember Mademoiselle saying to us was 'Depechez vous mes enfants' and 'Taisez vous mes enfants'.

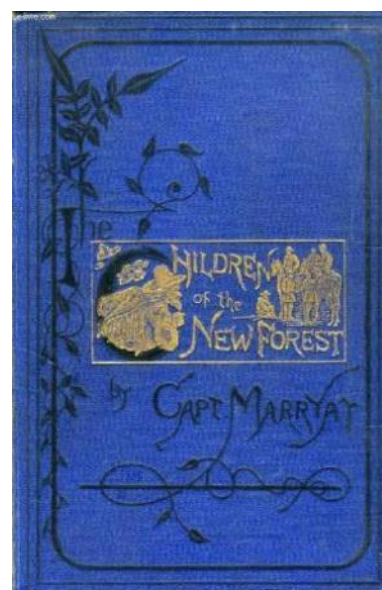
The Harness Room next to the stables was under the charge of Frost and we liked to visit him there and see everything so well polished. He had a notice there with the words 'A place for everything - and everything in its place'. Our father's sword hung in a place of honour! I suppose it was a relic of when he was in the Rifle Brigade before he was married.

The semi-basement floor was no longer in use as the pantry on the ground floor had been made into a kitchen. One of the rooms in the lower area had been made into a gym for us. The floor was covered with thick mattresses and a rope and rope ladder trapeze were hung from the ceiling. The old kitchen had a range which was lit when we had our hair washed and sat in a row with our backs to the tall guard to dry. Our hair was cut by a visiting hairdresser. This included singeing the ends, which produced a burning smell.

Our early education at Ward House was mostly from our mother. She taught us to read 'The cat sat on the mat' from a little green book and to write. We made the letters join up into words, unlike the script children learn today. Spelling was learnt as a game and I have never had any difficulty with it since.

My mother had been at Somerville College Oxford and at the Sorbonne in Paris. At twenty two she had married a fellow Liberal MP of her father's, who was double her age. Educating us was probably a career for her.

She read to us while we lay on the floor with our little red cushions for 'rest' or were having our hair brushed. The books were teaching us. They included 'Little Gera in Sweden', and all the 'Shown to Children' series. Picture books of nests, shells, stars etc, 'Children of the New Forest' and 'The Little Duke'.



As well as Ludo and Halma we had instructive games. We each had a jigsaw puzzle of England with our initial on the back of each piece and would race each other to complete them. I still remember the largest yellow piece of Yorkshire and little brown Rutland. The game of Lotto was foreign flags which we soon recognised.



A wagonette.

I remember family drives in the wagonette when our parents would ask us in turn arithmetical problems, such as 'If apples each cost one penny, how many would you get for two shillings?'. Spelling has always been easy, having it well taught to us as a game.



Plymouth in 1910.

We sometimes went shopping with Mama in Plymouth. The shops I remember were called Pophams, Spooner and Yeo. It always included tea

at Goodbody. Here we were each allowed to carry our plate to the counter and put on it a cake of our choice. Before Christmas, we went to the Penny Bazaar where our mother bought presents to put on the Christmas tree.

The Christmas party was at Bere Alston school for all the children of the village. There were steps up to the platform where the tree stood, sparkling with its lit candles. Two women, perhaps the schoolmistresses, stood beside it, one with a cane with a cone on the end to put out candles that bent over and might have set the tree on fire. The other took presents off the tree and handed them to Father Christmas. Two of us stood, dressed as fairies holding a wand in one hand, and with the other taking each toy from Father Christmas and giving it to the child who had mounted the steps.



Horrabridge.

For the next few days we visited the houses of babies or children who hadn't been able to come, to give them their presents. These walks would have been with Miss Hands, who looked after us most of the time. She also used to drive us in the pony trap with Topsy. I remember the scent of honeysuckle and the wild roses so near to us in the lanes as we went at a brisk trot.

My brother John was born when I was ten. We hadn't been told anything about it, but had gone to stay with Miss Hands at her parent's house. This happened sometimes and we always enjoyed it. They kept the Post Office at Horrabridge on Dartmoor.

Our stay would usually include a picnic at a Tor on Dartmoor, but perhaps not this time as John was born on December 31st! We liked to sit on the Post Office counter, presumably after office hours, and tap out messages on the telegraph machine. Our father's mother, Gran-at-Dunster, lived at Dunster Castle near Minehead in Somerset. Also there were her daughters

Aunt May and Aunt Bee. And sometimes Uncle Alec and Uncle Claude were there too. There were several staircases but the one that we used was a stone spiral one that took a long time to get to our nursery.

I remember being in the dining room while the grown-ups were having breakfast and my uncles walking round the table to eat their porridge. I was asked what we were going to do today and said 'We are going to the seashores'. I was told to say 'seaside' and however I tried I couldn't and felt so unhappy about it. I still remember what a relief it was when one of the uncles helped me with 'Louisa is quite right; the sea does have sides to it'. There was a gramophone in the hall; the records I liked best were a canary singing (or was it a nightingale?) and 'Angels, angels bright and fair, take oh take me to your care'.

Once when we were there, the Fire Brigade came to check the water pumps. Our nursery windows were closed as they were 'rained' on. The head gardener was called Thrush which we thought very funny. We used to go in the pony trap to Dunster beach.

Visits to Gran-at-Meredith were in Gloucestershire and there was no beach to go to. There were two swings next to each other from a pole fixed between elm trees. We called our grandfather Baba - perhaps this was from an Indian word. He had spent a long time in Bombay in the Indian Civil Service. He died in 1918. In 1923 his life was written by S.K.Ratcliffe and published by George Allen & Unwin. It is entitled 'Sir William Wedderburn and the Indian Reform Movement'.



Dining room at Meredith, Tibberton, Gloucestershire.

There was a large garden at Meredith with a long strip of mown lawn from the path outside the drawing room windows to where the sundial stood. This had been brought from Inveresk (now belonging to the Scottish National Trust) when my grandfather sold it and moved to Meredith. The lawns were laid out to be a golf course with unobtrusive 'holes' of sunken flower pots. I have read of gardens in India being treated in the same way, so perhaps Baba got the idea from there. I remember him with short, neat beard, wearing straight narrow silver grey silk tie that Gran knitted.



Bill Luttrell with his older sister Louisa.

At Meredith my grandfather said Family Prayers in the hall. The gong, hung on a stand made from a pair of elephant's tusks, was booming as we

hurried down the white-scrubbed back stairs. The maids also attended in a row. At a suitable age, Christian names changed to surnames. I remember when Gran's lady's maid who we had always known as Gertrude became Warren. Cooks were always given the courtesy title of Mrs. When my grandmother died, Hawkins had been working in the garden for 25 years; he had probably been known by his Christian name when garden boy. In those days there was a young boy who cleaned the lamps, shoes and knives.

Aunt Mable and Uncle Paget Hoskyns were our great aunt and great uncle. They lived at North Perrott Manor near Crewkerne which is now a prep school called Perrott Hill. They had one son, Hal, who was older than us and we never saw him. I expect we were there when he was at school. However we saw his toys, which were more elaborate than our own. I remember a gypsy caravan with little baskets etc hanging on its outside. We also saw some of his clothes which were sometimes sent to us at Ward House. These were mostly made of silk and I cannot remember William wearing them.

My childhood recollections of North Perrott were holding the basket while Aunt Mabel dead-headed in the rose garden. I have a snapshot of us all, sitting on the stone seat which is still there, with Miss Hands and Mademoiselle. I remember too, standing on arrival, wearing new shoes which hadn't been scratched underneath to avoid slipping. The stretch of polished floor ahead of me was like a skating rink and I was afraid to venture on to it, probably aged about four.

It may have been the first time we had been in a car that we drove into Crewkerne in a green one. As we stopped by a shop, the road sloped slightly near the pavement and I was frightened that it was turning over!

It was always summer when we stayed with our relations, so the gardens were full of summer flowers.

My father died aged 59 in January 1918, after being ill for only a fortnight, when I was eleven. Although we did not realize it, my mother must have had a great shock and a very sad time. Within a few months she had lost her only sister, our Aunt Griselda Freemantle, and her father. In both of these cases she had presumably been very involved as Gran-at-Meredith was now almost an invalid. She had been married for 14 years and was left with six children and another on the way. Ward House was rented and I suppose my mother vacated it soon after my father's death.

William was already at boarding school and within the year Mary, Elizabeth and I went to the Abbey Malvern Wells.

4. Guardian Obituary

The following obituary of Bill Luttrell was published in the Guardian on 3rd June 1999. It was written by Jonathan Glover, husband of his daughter Vivette, and was archived here, with acknowledgement and thanks, in 2021.

Bill Luttrell

He ran a flourishing capitalist firm on socialist lines

The economist Bill Luttrell, who has died aged 90, was an aristocrat, an atheist, a communist, a near-pacifist and a vegetarian. He had no reverence for conventional opinion and, after a period of unemployment - his politics didn't help - he set up his own economic consultancy. He obtained commissions from industrialists and later from government.

He had become a socialist with a flourishing capitalist firm on his hands. But he ran it in line with his own beliefs. He would take out a personal mortgage rather than lay people off. The company was involved in many projects, including the planning of Telford new town. He believed in rational economic planning. When that became unfashionable in Britain, the firm worked in Canada, Bangladesh, Malaysia and other countries.

He was born in Bere Alston, Devon. His family roots had strong radical traditions - his father was Liberal MP for Tavistock and a vegetarian campaigner; his mother, Dorothy Hope Wedderburn, was descended from William Wedderburn, one of the founders of the Congress Party in India. Bill was educated at Malvern and at New College, Oxford, and went on to work for Shell in the Middle East. In Jerusalem he met Margot Raitan, the painter, who came to England to marry him in 1940.

During the 1930s Bill joined the Communist Party, which he saw as the most determined opponent of Hitler, and he was an active communist throughout the second world war, which he spent working in the engineering firm CAV; he played a large part in unionising the company. Post-war he studied economics at the London School of Economics and worked at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, writing *Factory Location And Industrial Movement*. Later came his economic consultancy.

In his retirement, Bill refused to be old. He was active in the Town and Country Planning Association, passionately advocating devolution and regional government. The association made him a vice-president in his mid-eighties. About the same time he was nearly thrown out of his local Labour Party for advocating a local tactical voting scheme with the Liberal Democrats. Until diminished by a stroke aged 90, about the only

concession he made to being old was to spend more time enjoying his garden and the birds he had always loved. His family and friends will remember his very practical kindness, the way his conversation was not about him but about them, his calmness, his magnificent refusal to be anything other than himself.

5. Recollections of an Employee

The following recollections of his thirties by Keith Johnson includes a description of working at Economic Consultants Ltd, the firm founded and run by Bill Luttrell. The article was archived here, with acknowledgement and thanks, in 2021.

In the UK of the early 1970s it was not so hard to get a job if you had a university education and I soon started work with a small consulting group in London, Economic Consultants Limited (I still keep up with an old colleague Colin Fletcher).

They had an office in an old drum factory near Covent Garden and the company had been founded and run by a practical economist Bill Luttrell who had done some path-breaking work on industrial economics.

I was hired for 6 months to help with a Planning Appeal. 3M had wanted to relocate their HQ from Wigmore Street to Crawley in West Sussex – but this was opposed by West Sussex County Council on the grounds that 1,000 new jobs in the area would ‘overheat’ the local labour market (what is now known as a NIMBY – ‘not in my back yard’ reaction).

We didn’t win the Appeal but I stayed on with ECL when they won a contract with the British Overseas Development Agency to prepare the North Perak Regional Planning and Development Study. Maureen, Dani and I left our flat in Willesden Green and happily went off into the blue to live in Ipoh, Malaysia. It was here that I first started 'hashing' across the tin tailings and through rubber plantations and jungle. I met one of my old Ipoh Hasher friends, Malcolm Lambert years later in the 1980s when I joined ‘Manila’s Finest’ – the Manila Men’s Hash.

From Malaysia, we went on to Egypt to participate in the Suez Master Plan Study. The Canal Zone was being redeveloped after being opened following the 1974 peace. We lived in Dokki, Cairo and became absorbed into the large expatriate population that descended on Egypt at that time.

I always remember the Governor of Suez telling us that he was glad to have British consultants because we were from a poor country too!

Sadly my relationship with Maureen collapsed in Cairo and she and Dani returned to Australia. Shortly afterwards, the regulations on immigration into Australia changed making it much more difficult for me to return.

This meant that I became more determined to make a new life in South East England. Between the Malaysia and Egypt assignments, we had bought a house 22 Haddon Court, Shakespeare Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire and when I returned from Cairo, I set about refurbishing and

furnishing it (creepers had grown up between the floor boards in the lounge!).

The house had been sold when it was built in 1972 for GBP 8,000. I bought it for GBP 17,500 – but sold it in 1979 for GBP 42,000. These figures give some idea of the tremendous impact of inflation in the UK following the 1972 Oil Shock when petroleum went up from US \$8 to US\$30 per barrel and the western economies printed money to stave off economic collapse.

The other side of this coin was the fact that the Oil Economies were awash with cash and needed consultants to spend it for them (oops sorry to advise on their economic development). This also exacerbated political tensions in the affected countries and led on to the Lebanese Civil War. As a result Dar Al-Handasah (Arabic ‘House of Engineers’), a large Lebanese engineering group, decided to move most of its head office functions from Beirut to London.

When they advertised for British staff, I got the job of head of the Economics Section at double my previous salary. This led to a lot of overseas work in Nigeria and the Middle East. Crashing about up-country in Range Rovers in Nigeria was a good deal of fun - and I was very happy to be able to explore a country that I had always been interested in, after reading a marvelous geography by Buchanan and Pugh, ‘Land and People of Nigeria’.

I hope we did something useful – I was quite proud of the Social Cost-Benefit Analysis that I did for the Bauchi-Gombe Sites and Services and Slum Upgrading Project – this received direct praise from Alan Walters who was then with the World Bank. Walters later became Special Adviser to Mrs. Thatcher, the UK Prime Minister of the 1980s.

The work in the Middle East included some stopovers and an assignment in Beirut. These took place during lulls in the Civil War. I remember sitting having a coffee on the sidewalk of Hamra – the main street of West Beirut –when a colleague came by in an old souped-up sports car. At his insistence we crossed the Green Line and went off to Jounieh to sample some special French-style crepes. Twice crossing the apparently deserted and totally quiet front-line in a back-firing bomb was a complete nightmare – we were lucky to survive.

On another occasion, an English friend, Malcolm Moore, and I hired a car and went down to South Lebanon. We had just finished visiting the old Druze palace at Beit Eddine when we slowly circumnavigated the guards at a checkpoint and headed off – only to hear a burst of bullets in our direction. Fortunately, a convoy of Druze soldiers came up, the firing stopped and we were left to complete our journey after our passports had been inspected by the officer in charge.

Despite all the problems, and some reservations, I formed a strong affection for my colleagues in Dar Al-Handasah and for the Arab people in general. One of my staff in the London HQ Maher El-Masri is the Minister of Economy of the shadow state of Palestine – another Fuad Siniora, became head of the Central Bank of Lebanon. Not surprisingly, I have always supported the Palestinian cause – while trying very hard to remain objective about Israel.

This period of my life was, in many respect, my ‘prime’. I was earning very good money, had a 4-bedroom townhouse near London and was running a yellow Jensen Healey sports car (the ‘Swift Banana’) . I also had a number of local friends including Colin and Sylvia Fletcher (ex-ECL) with whom I am still in touch.

However, I was becoming very ground down by constant overseas work – which resulted among other things in me contracting Hepatitis A. I was also conscious that it would be nice to put something back into the overseas development field through teaching. Yet another strand was my feeling that it would be nice to have a normal family.

The latter impulse was very much enhanced by my meeting with Dianne Cunningham – a young blond architectural draughts-woman from New Zealand who was working at Dar Al-Handasah on her ‘OE’. She had persistently avoided being in the lift at the same time as me, believing that, with my moustache and flashy suits, I was another Arab manager who would pinch her bum.

However, we eventually started going out together and decided to start a family. We were married at St Alban’s Registry Office in 1979 and, when I secured an appointment as a University Lecturer with the Development and Project Planning Centre, University of Bradford, we moved to Yorkshire to ‘settle down’. We bought a house just across the road from the church in Bramhope, near Leeds (5 Church Hill).

CONSULTING ASSIGNMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

DAR AL-HANDASAH

Syria Syrian Government / Dar Al Handasah 1979 Development Economist for pre-appraisal mission to identify opportunities for road investment in North East Syria

Nigeria Nigerian Government 1979 Project Manager Project Manager for 12 person team preparing comprehensive planning blueprint for the development of Benue State, covering all sectors of the regional economy

Lebanon Lebanese Government / Dar Al Handasah 1978 Development Economist for appraisal of design options and economic implications of the reconstruction of the Central Business District of Beirut.

Bahrain Bahrain Government / Dar Al Handasah 1978 Development Economist for appraisal and financing / pricing of three industrial estates developed on reclaimed land

United Arab Emirates Ras Al Kheimah Government / Dar Al Handasah 1977 Development Economist Economist for the design, market development and economic / financial appraisal of a milk recombining factory

Nigeria World Bank / Dar Al-Handasah 1977 Development Economist Economist on design and appraisal team for the Bauchi / Gombe Sites and Services and Slum Upgrading Project - involved detailed local income surveys etc.

Jordan Jordan Valley Authority / World Bank 1976 Agricultural Economist / Development Economist Economist for the Jordan Valley Irrigation Project, Stage II, covering water demands, cropping patterns, farm budgets and economic and financial appraisal of options

Nigeria Nigerian Government / Dar Al Handasah 1976 Project Manager Team Leader for multi-disciplinary 12 person team preparing comprehensive review of development opportunities for Kwara State

ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS LTD

Egypt UKODA / Government of Egypt 1975 Development Economist Economist in multi-disciplinary team covering the planning and reconstruction of the city of Suez and the rehabilitation of adjoining agricultural land (Suez Masterplan)

Malaysia UKODA / Government of Malaysia 1975 Development Economist

Economist for the evaluation of the business case for the construction of a cement plant at Padang Rengas

Malaysia UKODA / Government of Malaysia 1974-5 Development Economist Economist in multi-disciplinary team conducting comprehensive review of resources and development opportunities for North Perak (North Perak Regional Planning and Development Study)

United Kingdom Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company 1974 Economist / Business Case Analyst Economist for evaluation of the merits/demerits of 3M moving its HQ from London to Crawley, West Sussex (for major planning appeal).

United Kingdom Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority 1973 Assistant Economist / Business Case Analyst Economist for evaluation of the potential for reclamation of land for industrial and port development at Seal Sands.

6. An Example of a Project

The following is the introductory section of the report Central Lancashire: Study for a City produced for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Several consultancy firms worked on the project, with Economic Consultants Ltd, Bill Luttrell's firm, being responsible for the work on demography, economics, and transportation.

1 .1 The terms of reference given to us by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government defined the work programme of the planning side of the project in two stages —

I. Within 12 months of the start to advise the Minister on the area to be designated for development under the New Towns Act 1965.

II. After a further 15 months to produce for the Development Corporation (when one is set up) a draft master plan.

Stage I started in January 1966. In accordance with the time-table this report summarises the work done during the first 12 months leading to a recommended boundary for the designated area. The report on Stage II — the master plan — is thus due for submission not later than April 1968. The terms of reference are reproduced in full in Appendix A.

1.2 We were given a study area within a broad band of territory embracing Preston, Leyland, Chorley and several smaller settlements. The limits, shown by the green lines on fig. 1.1, were defined by the agricultural belts on the north and west, the hills and moors on the east, and the Wigan coalfield on the south. Blackburn, Wigan and Garstang were expressly excluded although we were asked to examine the relationship of the study area to the wider region.

1 .3 Our brief described the aim of the proposed development as the formation of a growth zone in this part of Lancashire which would Improve the social and economic well-being of the whole region, contribute to its industrial revival and the renewal of the older towns, and provide for some of the housing and other development needs of the south east Lancashire conurbation and other congested areas. The provisional size in mind for the development was 150,000 additional to what is there now and growth by natural increase. We were left free to advise on whether this is the right size of population to provide for in this area.

1.4 We were asked to take account of four main criteria which the ultimate master plan would be expected to satisfy, and which would have a bearing on the choice of area to be designated. First the need to integrate new and existing development in such a way as to promote urban renewal where it was required to raise the quality of existing development. The new

development should also, of course, create a high standard of environment in itself with a clear contrast between town and countryside.

Secondly, building must be possible in reasonably self-contained and complete stages each of which can become socially established in the shortest possible time. It is important to aim at the maximum rate of building and population growth consistent with social integration.

1.1 The Study Area

The development must also have a coherent structure which can be easily appreciated by those who live in and visit it, and it must have an appropriate urban character. Thirdly, the communication system must have regard to a high level of car ownership, integrate all forms of public and private transport, and provide maximum segregation of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the main urban areas. Lastly, the use of land must be flexible enough to take account of changing circumstances and ensure the possibility of eventual growth beyond the planned population intake but not necessarily within the designated area.

We were specifically enjoined to propose areas for designation which took account of the relative agricultural values of land, existing amenity and landscape values, the presence of workable minerals, site stability and the presence of underground workings.

Methods study

1.5 Parallel with the work on Stage I (Designation) we were asked to make a study of all the processes involved in creating the new town at the very high rate of growth envisaged. In particular this methods study is to make proposals for ensuring an effective transition from planning to building, reducing the gap to the minimum between approval of the master plan and the start of large scale work on the site, and mobilising for this work the widest possible variety of design skills. The aim is to make recommendations that can be tested first in pilot development projects and then implemented at full scale in the main building programme of the town itself.

Industrial complex study

1.7 The Industrial Research Project mentioned in paragraph 28 of the terms of reference (see Appendix A) has been commissioned by the Department of Economic Affairs. Among other things, its purpose is to find out whether, by introducing particular new industrial activities, it would be possible to complement those already in the area and so help to obtain a more rapid rate of economic growth than would otherwise occur.

1.8 The progress of the study, which is being made by Economic Consultants Limited, is described in Section 10. Its conclusion is timed to synchronise with the completion of the draft master plan.

The next stage

1.9 The purpose of Stage I of the Planning Study is to recommend the land to be designated for the new town. Because of the size and complexity of the project, however, we have found it necessary to examine in broad terms the possible form and structure of the development which this land will contain before being able to draw a convincing boundary. Some of this process of exploration and testing is described in the body of the report which follows. This must not be regarded as a detailed preview of the master plan but rather as a description of the planning strategy which we have developed as a rational basis for designation. The master plan report will contain a much more precise and detailed working out of the physical layout of the new development as well as a programme for its construction and estimates of cost.

The study area and its context

2.1 Part Two of the report following this Introduction first examines in Section 3 the regional context of the project — its geography, communications, physical structure and population. Section 4 goes on to deal with the economic situation in the study area as a basis for industrial growth, and Sections 5, 6 and 7 describe its physical features, existing settlements and patterns of transportation and infrastructure.

Basis for growth

2.2 Part Three examines the conditions which will be necessary for the new town to succeed and concludes that they are present. There is more than enough suitable land within the study area to accommodate the population of the proposed designation area (Section 8) which, assuming a high rate of natural increase, will grow from its present 253,000 to 503,000 by 1991 (Section 9). The area has a sound economic base with considerable potential for the expansion of existing industries, it is excellently placed to attract new industry and it should be possible to ensure that the build-up of jobs keeps pace with the planned population growth (Section 10). So long as a comprehensive sub-regional building programme is organised on the basis of advanced building and management techniques there is no reason why the new town should not be built at the envisaged growth rate (Section 11).

Proposals

2.3 Sections 12 and 13 of Part Four set out strategic concepts for the form of the new city and establish the environmental standards which determine

its space needs. This part of the study will be re-examined in depth during Stage II, but the broad pointer which has emerged is that it is preferable to base the development on a linear structure linking the expanded towns with each other and with the new green field developments. We suggest that the community structure should be based on a hierarchy of neighbourhoods (4-5,000 people), districts (15-18,000) and townships (60-80,000) which, we believe, represent viable social and economic units of development. We regard the ultimate planned growth to half a million people as a tremendous advantage because of the major facilities which this size of city can support. These are at present available only in the congested and inaccessible centres of the two conurbations of the N.W. Region, The urban form we have proposed suggests a measure of dispersal of these city scale facilities within an integrated structure of land use and transportation channels planned to give a high level of accessibility for both public and private transport, and to bring character and goodness to every part of the whole.
