

LUTHBERTSON FAMILY LEGEND

(From the small amount of research that I have done, there does not appear to be any evidence that Lt. James Luthbertson was an officer in the "Rum Corps". However, my brother Alan remembers going (as a boy) with our grandfather ("Uncle") to a solicitor in Sydney to check whether there was claim to some property. Whatever the basis of the story it is an interesting bit of family legend.

The Story

Lieutenant James Luthbertson was an officer in the so-called "Rum Corps" - the New South Wales Corp during the times of Governor Bligh and Macquarie (i.e. within the period 1806-1821).

It was common for officers to be given grants of land in the new colony. The story is that Lt. Luthbertson received a "land grant" and, while drunk (not unusual) he was angry as he perceived the land to be useless. Because it was mainly very sandy. He threw the document into the fire.

The land involved is now known as the Sydney beach-side suburb of Boogee - one of the very desirable upper-class areas of Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Fred Luthbertson

FAMILY BACKGROUND

IMPORTANT DATES

24 SEP. 1927

Bert & Jess
married

Albert John Luthbertson (b. 30/9/1907)

m. Jessie Steward Twigg at 35 Knight Street,
Winclesse (Jessie's home) (Jessie b. 31/10/1906)

They lived initially with Bert's parents
(Bertons and Kathleen) until purchasing
24 Lloyd Street, Catley in May, 1931 for
£850.

Both Berts and Kathleen (& later Jessie) began
making leather baby shoes at their
home at 36 (later changed to 46) Rosa St. Catley.
In early '30sth built a small shed in
the backyard - employed two machinists
(who stayed for 25 years).

Over the years the business expanded (as
did the buildings) in the backyard
eventually employing about 25 people.
(Bertson) known as "Unc" to family & staff and
Kathleen "Kit" known as Aunt used their
lounge room as office, kitchen as tea room,
spare bedroom for storage, ^{and the} laundry &
backyard dunny were the staff "facilities".
They expanded into making "first walkers"
and later women's casual shoes.

↳ where they built a
factory

As they expanded in the early '50's
it was necessary to purchase land in
the industrial area of Mordale at
20 Bang Avenue & later renting an
adjoining factory premises as well.
Changes in import regulations made it
impossible to compete with cheap imports
mainly from India and were forced to close
suddenly on 15th January 1968 - leaving
about 100 employees unemployed (including
Alan and two cousins Blair & Jim)
unc eventually sold the factory in 1994.

12 Nov. 1937
my birth

Trevor Albert Luthbertson born
at 3.30 a.m. on Friday 12th November
1937 at "Athlone" Private Hospital,
(which later became Penshurst Post
Office) Penshurst.

9 Jan. 1938
Baptism

Baptised at Choist Church Bexley.

Nov. 1942 -
Dec. 1949
Primary School

Initially a few weeks at Catley School
then, from ^{the} beginning of 1943 Mordale
School - first 3 years in the
mixed "Infants" department, then
the next 4 years in the "boys"
department.

These were happy if
unspectacular years & I always
did quite well academically
(no memories of being in trouble).

Friends

We lived at 24 Lloyd Street
Catley and I was fortunate
to have at least 9 boys around
the same age in Lloyd St &
close-by streets.

Leisure Activities

Lloyd Street was adjacent to the huge
Catley Park. There did not seem
to be any security concerns when
we played in the bush there or
went swimming at "Sandy Beach"
within the park.

We also rode bikes around the
streets and in the park (no helmets
etc) and played informal cricket
or kicked a football on the park
oval or even on the street.

MY PARENTS

31 Oct. 1906
Jessie's birth

- Jessie Steward Twigg born.
(Parents Percy Cameron Twigg
& Jessie Edith Twigg (nee Steward))

10 Sep. 1907
Bert's birth

- Albert John Lanthbertson
(Parents Albert Ernest Lanthbertson
& Kathleen Lanthbertson (nee Lane))

24 Sep. 1927
Marriage

Bert & Jessie married at Jessie's home,
49 Knight Street, Arncliffe.
- After living with Bert's parents they
bought 24 Lloyd Street Otley in
May 1931 - This was my home
until leaving for college in 1959.
They lived there until their deaths in 1979.

I have been extraordinarily blessed
with loving parents who taught
me the moral and ethical standards
which they demonstrated in their
own lives. I have often said that my
Dad was the most ethical person I
have known in relation to his
business activities.

While my Mum did not go out to work
she helped in the family business in
many ways e.g. spending hours at
night sewing bows on to baby shoes.

I also enjoyed some of the "perks" of
being in a family that, through their
business, had, for example, one of the
few cars in our street. We were not
wealthy but could afford some of the
little luxuries that many could not afford.

On Sunday mornings, Mum & Dad slept in and we would often ride our bikes around the area. On one occasion (aged 11 or 12) we ventured out as far as Milperra. On returning we were met about a mile from home, by a frantic Dad who had been searching for us for quite some time. (not sure where Sunday School fitted in at that time)

Sunday School

Mum and Dad were not regular church-goers but we were sent to Sunday School from about age 3. I can remember "wagging" it once - I went to a mate's place by going over his back fence. I suspect it was around 11 or 12 that I convinced my parents that I didn't need to go to Sunday School any longer.

Holidays

Our annual holidays (Christmas time) were spent in the Blue Mountains - first at Blackheath and then for many years at "Felton Woods" guest house, Katoomba (Mum's idea of a holiday was to be waited on, and not have to cook). We hiked extensively through the mountain tracks, played Tennis and enjoyed entertainment in the Felton Woods' Ballroom.

30 July 1930
Alan's birth

Alan John Cuthbertson born.

Although $7\frac{1}{2}$ years older than me he was very good to me - including me in many of his activities such as going to motorcycle "scramble" meetings as well on occasion taking me with a group of friends & relatives to the Mount Panorama (Bathurst) motorcycle races.

14 June 1952
Alan's marriage

Alan married Elaine Mary Corbett

Alan undertook more adventurous activities than me including owning a motor bike and then a sports car (MG-TC). Having had fairly serious accidents in both, he felt that he might have spoilt things for me as Mum & Dad tried to instil in me the dangers of such pursuits. In fact the direction of my life didn't lead me to want these things.

Jan. 1950 -
Dec. 1954
HIGH SCHOOL
YEARS

High School was at Sydney Technical High School at Paddington in very run-down buildings.

I normally walked to Catley Station, got the train to Central and then either a bus or tram to Oxford Street near the school or walked up through the streets of Surry Hills.

In spite of the poor building facilities, STHS had a good reputation as a boys' selective high school.

Academically I did reasonably well in spite of doing very little private study - usually I came around 20th to 25th out of 120 students in the year.

Intermediate Certificate (1952) was in the following subjects: English; Mathematics I; Mathematics II; German; Combined Physics & Chemistry; Woodwork; Metalwork; Descriptive Geometry & Drawing

Leaving Certificate (1954) English, Mathematics I; Mathematics II
Applied Mathematics and Physics

(Hardly a typical background to study Arts and Theology but I was grateful for the background that a technical high school provides).

My reference on leaving stated: "A quiet, unassuming, industrious lad with a pleasant manner. Aptitude: suitable for mechanical or electrical engineering".

Sporting Activities

For some time I played tennis socially but also some not-very-serious competition tennis on Saturday mornings.

At school my only sport at a competitive level was athletics. In my final year I was the sprint champion. I actually equalled the school record (held by later Olympian George Gedge) for the 100 yard sprint. However it was in an inter-school carnival that did not count for record purposes.

(My most humiliating experience ever, was during the final of the 4 x 100 yards relay at the Combined High Schools Annual carnival at the Sydney Cricket Ground. I was the number 1 runner for our team in the outside lane. Immediately after the starter's gun sounded I heard a voice say "come back" - I stopped as all the runners inside me ran past. To say the least I was not popular with the team as my error meant that we had no chance of winning).

My real passion was in cycling. I began racing with the St. George Amateur Cycling Club at about 13 (maybe 14). My main success was at the "juvenile" (or under 16) level and primarily as a sprinter in track racing (our home ground was Hurstville Oval). However I did come fifth in a State.

Road Championship (only 8 miles for juveniles) in spite of having been in a multi-bike fall during the race.

Shortly before turning 16 I was no. 1 in the state juvenile rankings and set three records:

1) The St George club "220 yards" flyer; 13.6 secs; 2) The St George club $\frac{1}{4}$ mile standing start 31.4 seconds (not allowed for state records) & 3) State record for the same standing start time trial $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. 32.6. Note: These will

never be broken for two reasons:

a) they no longer race over yards or miles and b) there is no longer a "juvenile" division (under 16)

The Path to Faith

Around the age of 14 "the Lloyd Street boys" began attending the evening service at All Saints, Batley West and joined the youth group (no doubt walking the girls home afterwards was part of the attraction). I was becoming more aware of the claims of the Christian faith but I had always assumed that I was a Christian and had been brought up to believe the basic facts about Jesus. However a High School Scripture (a funny little man named Thordis Ford) taught me more clearly that Jesus died that we might be forgiven but we must personally accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour if we are to be in a personal relationship with God. On 24th April 1953, as a 15-year old I made that

1 teacher

24th April
1953

commitment - the most important decision of my life. - the commitment that has provided a life-long assurance that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. In spite of my numerous failures and shortcomings, I know that God's hand has been upon me and guided my path in every step throughout my life.

23 March
1954

Confirmation by Archbishop Howard
Mowll at All Saints, Catley West.

The verse he left with us was

Ephesians 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (KJV)

Nov. 1954 -
Feb. 1955.

On completing the Leaving Certificate I began a traineeship with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (at Carlton). When it was confirmed that I had matriculated, rather than sign up for a permanent position I left and worked for the rest of the holiday period at Nock and Kirby's Sydney hardware store.

Nov. 1954

As soon as I possibly could, I did my driving licence test. It was in the morning peak hours and commenced from the motor registry in the Domain in the city and went through the streets of Woolloomooloo and back to the Domain - I apparently impressed in the heavy traffic and gained my licence - beginning a life of love of driving

1955 -
1958

University

By the time I finished school I was convinced that God was leading me to prepare for full-time Christian ministry. Rather than pursuing studies in mathematical and science areas in accordance with what were clearly my academic strengths, I chose to do a Bachelor of Arts degree as I saw it as better preparation for theological study - possibly not the wisest move.

February
1955.
Sydney
University

I enrolled in ^{the} first year of a BA degree. My lack of aptitude for studies in the humanities fields was reflected in the results when I only passed in one of the four subjects attempted (that was "Psychology I"). The degree course required a total of 9 units.

My main interest in that year at University apart from academic studies was in the Evangelical Union, where I made many friends who were enthusiastic about their Christian faith.

Church About the same time my main church allegiance was transferred from All Saints Catley West to St Paul's Catley where a new young minister Reg Hanlon had commenced what was to be a fairly short but dynamic ministry.

1956-1958

In spite of the poor performance in the first year, I decided to persist with University studies but on a part-time basis while working to earn some money. (My parents were extremely generous in supporting me - I don't remember whether I ever paid "board" but I think that they continued to pay my university fees).

a very slow degree By the time I entered Moore College in 1959 I had successfully accumulated four units (towards the required 9) of my degree: Psychology I; Ancient History I; Physics I and Education I;

I was to complete three more units while in Moore College (Education II; Anthropology I and History II (Modern European)).

The final two units were completed in 1962 History III - (Asia & the Far East) and Anthropology II.

St. Paul's Church Catby

(Note: My grandfather "Bert senior" was one of the original trustees responsible for building the church).

My time at St. Paul's was to be very influential in my development as a young Christian.

Reg Hanlon was uncompromising in preaching the gospel of Jesus and was responsible for building up

a fledgeling "provisional parish" into a strong and enthusiastic church community. He and his wife Shirley welcomed us into their home at all times (in hindsight we were inconsiderate in the extent to which we imposed on their private and family life).

Our time in the youth fellowship was very influential in the lives of quite a few people in preparing us for a life of serving our Lord Jesus. Apart from social activities including tennis every Friday night, we often attended Christian rallies in the city and in our regular meetings there was a real emphasis on Bible teaching and discussion.

I developed a close friendship with Harold Milham - a friendship which has lasted to this day. One day - outside Harold's home in Yarran Road - Harold said "hello" to a young girl on a bike. She was obviously a few years younger than us (maybe 13 at the time). I asked "who is that?" He replied "Valmai Hickson - she lives across the street."

It was through the youth fellowship that I got to know Val and her friends better - possibly a couple of years later (she is $3\frac{1}{2}$ years younger than me). As I was attracted by this shy, quiet young girl, we began to do things together at

church and other activities - sometimes with his best friend Jan (Jeanette Downie) and my friend Harold.

The Olympic Driving School
Within two years of gaining my driver's licence (no "P plates" in those days) I registered a business name of the Olympic Driving School. My Dad (amazingly) allowed me to install "dual controls" (extra brake and clutch pedals) in his Holden which I used in some work for a local driving school. Then, after purchasing an Austin A30, I began to advertise for customers in my own business and then replaced the Austin with a new Holden.

One of my "clients" was Neil Matheson (a friend to this day) who accepted my invitation to come to our youth fellowship - which was to lead the way to a life of Christian commitment and service. Val was also one of my (non-paying) learner drivers. During this time (October 1958) I gained a "C class" (truck) license although I never used it for employment.

1959-1961

Moore Theological College

I entered Moore College in Newtown (adjacent to Sydney University). The principal during this time was Dr. Broughton Knox. I resided in college during the week and went home on the week-ends. The daily pattern was morning chapel service, lectures all morning, then study and/or recreation in the afternoon, then evening chapel before dinner. I also spent some time attending lectures at the nearby Sydney University.

For the first two years I was "catechist" in the parish of St. Paul's Wentworthville working with Rev. Rex Patfield. This was possible by the generosity of my parents giving me the use of a car. The work involved being in the parish for much of the weekend from Friday afternoon and participating in visiting, youth activities, leading services and preaching - mainly in the branch church at Pendle Hill. In effect this was a ministry apprenticeship.

November
1961

The qualification at the end of the three years was the diploma of ThL (Licentiate in Theology) from The Australian College of Theology - in the following subjects:

Old Testament I & II; New Testament I & II; Doctrine I & II; Church History I & II; Greek New Testament I & II; Prayer Book and Principles of Education.

Taxi Driving

I gained my taxi driving licence and during the Christmas (and sometimes other) holidays I drove "St. George" taxis, much of it being on night shifts. I met some very interesting people (passengers and other drivers), giving me some insight into the variety of people in our society.

A love story begins

Friendship with Val developed from doing things together (often with friends, especially Jan and Harold) to a more "steady" relationship where we enjoyed each other's company and wanting to do things as a couple. Val sometimes joined me in my activities as a catechist - mainly in Friday night youth activities.

For me there was no "light-bulb moment" but a gradual development from wanting to spend time with her to a growing appreciation of her qualities as a person and the realisation that my feelings for her had become true love of the kind that I wanted to share the rest of my life with her. My memories of the "proposal" are a bit vague (it was, perhaps unfortunately, ^{not} my style to get down on one knee) but we prayerfully agreed that we wished to be together as life partners. A most important factor was that she shared my faith in Jesus Christ and we wished to serve Him in Christian ministry.

I'm also a bit vague about seeking

her Dad's permission but both our
parents were very happy to give their blessing.
I have continued to this day to thank
God that he brought us together for
a life-time partnership

September
1960

Our engagement

We announced our engagement and
celebrated with a small party - mainly of
close relatives at Val's home at 3
Yarran Road, Catley.

As I was still living in college, our
time together for the next 16 months
was mainly limited to weekends.