

My maternal grandfather, **John Theophilus Alterskye**,¹ was born in Romania in 1870.² There were reports that his surname was originally Alterescu, which he altered to Alterskye, and that he was a converted Jew. In that case Theophilus (Luke, i, 3) is a Christian name that he assumed. I remember him as being religious, and attending Church of England services.

1. His name on Violet Alterskye's marriage certificate, which he witnessed.

2. Mina, Cyril Alterskye's wife, told me that Cyril said his father died at the age of 62. I subtract this figure from 1932, the year of his death, to get the year of his birth.

Much of what follows about him is based on, or actually quoted from, a letter to the RAF by his son Cyril Alterskye, supporting the application by his own son John for entry. A few details are from Cyril's letter to the Home Office in 1938.¹

1. John Alterskye provided the text of these letters.

"He lived abroad, and was for many years a missionary in Palestine" (then part of the Turkish empire), where "he served with a London missionary society".¹ There he married Adelaide, and they had six children, born in Jerusalem. In 1912,² he transferred his family and his activities to Alexandria, where he was attached to the Church of Scotland Mission. There he died in 1932, and his widow in 1934.

1. The London Missionary Society did not operate in Palestine. The Church Missionary Society, which did, in its records has no missionary named Alterescu or Alterskye. My grandfather gave his occupation as missionary on Violet Alterskye's marriage certificate.

2. This year is obtained from that given by his son Cyril Alterskye, in his letter to the Home Office, as being that when he himself became resident in Alexandria.

Cyril said that his father, "though of Romanian origin, had purely British affiliations and loyalties and devoted his whole life to teaching the English language and to the spread of English literature and ideals."¹ He brought up his family to have "the same loyalties and affiliations as his", so much so that they were an apparently English family.² Indeed, Cyril observed that "it has never been possible for me to regard myself as anything but British".

1. On my birth certificate my grandfather gave his occupation as schoolteacher. I remember that he did some teaching of English in schools in Alexandria.

2. I always thought that they were an English family, until my recent research.

On his father's other activities in Alexandria, Cyril reported that "Well before the First World War, my father initiated personal welfare work for the British troops at Mustapha Barracks in Alexandria. When war broke out in 1914, he immediately arranged to extend this work and took over the Mission Hall at St Andrew's Church for this purpose. With other voluntary assistance he organised what, in fact, anticipated later developments, such as Ensa and the Naafi. He converted the Mission Hall into a 'home from home' for members of all the services, providing company, light meals, and daily entertainment. As far as I know, he never received official recognition of his work. But then he never sought it, the welfare for the men being his sole consideration..His work was always unsparing and entirely selfless."

By his will, and by that of his widow, money was left equally to all their children, with the wish expressed that it should be devoted to my education as well as that of Gladys. Those duly contributed who did not have children of their own.

For the children of John Theophilus and Adelaide Alterskye, see **First Generation** below.

The children of John Theophilus and Adelaide Alterskye were born in Jerusalem, and became resident in Alexandria from 1912.¹ They were Romanian citizens,² until marriage (for the women) or naturalisation through residence in England (for Ernest).

1. Cyril Alterskye resided in Alexandria from 1912, according to his letter to the Home Office, mentioned above.

2. On Violet Alterskye's marriage certificate there is a note on her name saying that she is a Romanian citizen. This therefore also applied to her brothers and sisters.

(1) Lucy Alterskye, b. 1891 ?, Jerusalem, m. Joe Blythe. When I knew him he had made his money (he spoke of Sarawak, and also of running a cigarette factory), and retired. They continued to live in Alexandria, and both died there after the Second World War..

(2) Ernest Alterskye, b. 1893, Jerusalem, emigrated to England in about 1923, m. Norleine Pembleton (b. Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 1900). He died in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, in 1949, and she there in 1966.

In the First World War he served in the Labour Corps in Egypt, and laid the pipeline bringing fresh water across the desert for Allenby's advance into Palestine. Later cleared dead bodies of Turkish soldiers from the passes where they had been trapped. Cyril's letter to the RAF, on behalf of his son John (see under John Theophilus Alterskye above), says that Ernest attained commissioned rank, but the record of his campaign medal on the Internet gives his rank as private. On emigrating to England he lived in London. Of his shops, one was a furniture shop, and another was a dress shop in Hammersmith. At the beginning of the Second World War he had a hotel in South Kensington. He volunteered for the British Expeditionary Force, became captain in the Pioneer Corps, was cut off from Dunkirk, marched to St Lazaire, refused to go on board the "Lancastria", and later got the entire company on board a fishing boat and returned to UK. Attached to the staff of General De Gaulle in Liverpool, because he spoke French, German, and Arabic.

Norleine was sent to Sweden at 16+ to learn to manufacture chlorine. Set up the poisonous gas works at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire.

For the children of Ernest and Norleine Alterskye, see **Second Generation (2)** below..

(3) Bertha Alterskye, b. 1895 ?, Jerusalem. Bertha was educated in England at a school run by Anglican nuns. She married Paul Schlatermund (German), and they both arrived in Alexandria from Europe about 1923 on Paul's appointment as General Manager, Middle East, of Universal Films. They administered the family fund for the education of Gladys and myself. During the Second World War they emigrated to the U.S.A, where they lived in New York, ran an export company, and died.

First Generation (continued)

(4) **Violet Irene Alterskye**, b. 1897 ?, Jerusalem. After becoming resident in Alexandria in 1912, she remained there for the rest of her life. She married William Luttrell in 1917, at the British Consulate, Alexandria. The marriage certificate notes that she was a Romanian subject.

William Luttrell was born in Dublin, with his birth certificate giving his father's name as Edward Luttrell. He added a middle name "Fisher" (his mother's maiden name), and an "e" to his surname, so that my birth certificate had "Luttrelle". This I eventually arranged to be corrected to "Luttrell" at the British consulate in Alexandria, where my birth was registered. Ireland being then still in the UK, my father was a British subject.

When the First World War was over, my father, who was in the British Forces in Egypt, as a 2nd lieutenant,¹ returned to England, but my mother refused to leave Alexandria, and she, together with Gladys and myself, remained with her parents. I was at most a year old, and so have no memory of my father. When I was 7, my mother went to live with Panelli (Italian), taking my sister Gladys with her, while I continued to be brought up by my maternal grandparents, now entirely by them. Panelli was interned in Egypt as an enemy alien during the Second World War, and no more was heard of him

1. This is his rank in the Internet record of his campaign medal..

Through a newspaper notice while I was in England after the Second World War, I became aware of my father's death (funeral at Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire), and my mother then married Freddy Sparks, who had retired as editor of the Egyptian Gazette, the English newspaper in Egypt. When they visited England, it was the first time for a quarter of a century that I saw my mother. They both died in Alexandria.

For the children of William and Violet Luttrell, see **Second Generation (4)** below.

(5) **Cyril George Alterskye**, b. Jerusalem, 1899. He made his living doing the English as well as the French correspondence for several firms in Alexandria. He was the nearest thing to a father that I had, and often took me with him on Sundays. He brought me to England in 1936, and settled there in 1938, working as partner in a stamp firm in the Strand in London, and marrying Mina Melsom. He died in Wimbledon in 1962, and she in Folkstone, Kent, in 1981.

For the son of Cyril and Mina Alterskye, see **Second Generation (5)** below.

(6) **Dorothy Alterskye**, b. Jerusalem, 1902. Married Fritz Zweifel (Swiss) in Alexandria, 1926. They emigrated to the U.S.A, and both died there, she in 1997. For the children of Fritz and Dorothy Zweifel, see **Second Generation (6)** below.

Second Generation

(2) The sons of **Ernest and Norleine Alterskye**, all born in England:

(2A) **James Leslie Alterskye**, b. 1924, London. Joined RAF in 1942, fought in Egypt and Italy, and married Caroline Ellis in 1946 in South Africa. They lived in Aminzantoti, a resort on the coast of Natal. There he was an eccentric personality, was mayor in 1975-76, and died. (Information obtained from the Internet.)

For the children of James and Caroline Alterskye, see **Third and Later Generations (2A)** below.

(2B) **Rupert Noel Alterskye**, b. London, m. Eileen, who has died. No information received, in spite of reminders.

For the children of Rupert and Eileen Alterskye, see **Third and Later Generations (2B)** below.

(2C) **Charles George Everard Alterskye**, b. 1933, London. Career: Adviser to Minister of Education, Brunei; Chargé d'affaires Brunei Hall, London; European Officer, North Yorkshire County Council. Information received from him, but he has not answered my queries on it.

Married 1: June Blythe (b. 1932, Mansfield Woodhouse) at Mansfield, 1953. Marriage dissolved 1976.

For the children of Charles and June Alterskye, see **Third and Later Generations (2C: 1)** below.

Married 2: Susan Suddart (b. 1947, Hull) 1977, at Quezon City, Phillippines. (Teacher, International School, Brunei. She has been auditor of Brunei Hall for Auditor-General of Brunei Government. Then bank employee.)

For the son of Charles and Susan Alterskye, see **Third and Later Generations (2C: 2)** below.

(4) The children of William and Violet Luttrell, a son and a daughter, born in Alexandria:

(4A) **Claude Alexander Luttrell**, b. 1918, Alexandria, m. Barbara Anne Phillips, 1951, Northwood, Middlesex. Claude died in Leicester, 2007. Email: cl_luttrell@yahoo.co.uk. For the children of Claude and Barbara Luttrell, see **Third and Later Generations (4A)** below.

I was born and brought up in Alexandria, from the age of seven entirely by my maternal grandparents. For several years I went to the nearest European school. At the age of six, to a French school. When we moved to another flat, at the age of seven I went to a German school. At the age of nine, when we moved to yet another flat, I went to a French school attached to the Roman Catholic cathedral, and was there for two years, during which time I sang Latin in the choir. At the age of eleven, I mentioned at home that I had just been taught at this school the names of two devils, namely Calvin and Luther. So the Church of England vicar saw to it that I should complete schooling at the recently founded British Boys' School.

Went to England in 1936 to go to King's College, University of London, for an Honours degree in English Language and Literature.

Joined a Territorial Army infantry regiment (Royal Fusiliers) in 1938, when the Second World War was approaching, and so was called up just before it began in 1939. Attended Intelligence School in 1941, was transferred to the Intelligence Corps, as a sergeant, and sent out to West Africa. Returned to take part in the Normandy landing in 1944, was at Eisenhower's headquarters at Versailles, at his advance headquarters at Rheims for the surrender there of the German forces, and finally at Nueremburg in 1945 for the International Tribunal, at which I daily saw Goering, Ribbentrop, Bormann, and the rest on trial.

On being demobbed, I returned in 1946 to King's College, London, under a government grant for servicemen, and completed my degree (B.A., English, with 1st Class Honours) in 1947. Three years as assistant-lecturer (the term then used for untenured lecturer) in colleges of the University of London, first in the Scandinavian dept at University College, teaching medieval Scandinavian, and then at Westfield College, teaching Old and Middle English. In 1951 became lecturer in English Language and Literature at the University of Leicester, received a PhD (London, 1960) for a thesis on Scandinavian Elements in Middle English, was promoted to Senior Lecturer, head of English medieval and linguistic studies, and retired in 1983.

Articles published in the field of medieval English alliterative poetry, and, from 1974, articles and two books on the 12th century French poet Chretien de Troyes, one being *The Creation of the First Arthurian Romance*, and the other an edition of an Arthurian romance by Chretien. Now preparing an article on a medieval Irish subject.

For the children of Claude and Barbara Luttrell, see **Third and Later Generations (4A)** below.

(4B) Gladys Adelaide Luttrell, b. 1920, Alexandria.

From the age of 5, Gladys was brought up in Alexandria separately from me, by our mother living with Panelli. She went to the Scottish School for Girls until she was 12, when Paul and Bertha decided to be responsible for her, and sent her to England to a school run by the same Church of England nuns as had educated Bertha. Gladys was eventually expelled from that school, came to London, and worked as an international telephonist.

In 1938 she decided to visit Alexandria and see our mother, obtained the money for the fare from Uncle Paul, but spent much of it on colourful clothes. She appeared in them at King's College, London, a startling vision for the students, and asked around until she found me there.

She travelled cheaply to Alexandria on a cargo ship, a lone woman in a male environment. The Second World War intervened in 1939, and in Alexandria she married (1) an Englishman in the British Forces. She stayed on in Alexandria when the War ended, and there married (2) Paul Themistocles Tsouros (Greek), 1947 ?.

For the children of Paul and Gladys Thouros, see **Third and Later Generations (4B)** below.

During the Suez affair (1956), when Great Britain and France temporarily landed forces in Egypt, because Nasser had nationalised the Suez Canal, Gladys was arrested on suspicion of being a spy, and spent many months in an Egyptian prison. On condition that I paid for her airfare, she was eventually released, and arrived at our house in Leicester very unlike herself, being exceedingly depressed. When she had fully recovered, she went to London, and eventually ran a restaurant in the West

Indies in which the customers did the cooking. There she married Breitung (American), and moved with him to Florida. After their break-up she retired to Thessaloniki, where her son Konstantin lives. There she died in 2002.

(5) The son of Cyril and Mina Alterskye:

John Alexander Alterskye, b. 1944, Raynes Park, London, and m. Pamela Christine (Tina) Jowett (b. 1944). Email: alterskye@westnet.com.au.

Joined the RAF as a boy apprentice in 1960 to train in aircraft electronics. Commissioned 1963 to train in aircraft control. Remained an air traffic controller for the rest of his working life. After postings in UK and Cyprus, left RAF in 1972 to work in control tower at Heathrow, from which he left in 1977 to work at airports in the Middle East (Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Sharjah, Dubai). Returned to UK in 1989: working at Stansted Airport, then Heathrow Radar (at London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton), and remained there until he retired in 2003. Emigrated with his wife to Australia.

She taught English in secondary schools (in the Middle East, English as a foreign language in the training departments of several large companies), until retirement in 2003.

(6) A son and a daughter of Fritz and Dorothy Zweifel, both born in the U.S.A.:

(A) **Paul Zweifel**, b. 1929, New York City. Email: zweifel@vt.edu.

Married 1: Constance Bailey in 1960, divorced in 1967.

Married 2: Kathleen McKay Benson in 1967, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. (She was born in 1940, Hornell, New York; m. David Benson, 1961, in Hornell, New York; divorced in 1967.)

Paul Zweifel's PhD is from Duke University, 1954. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. Formerly head of mathematical physics in its Dept of Physics.

Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Michigan 1960-68 (Associate Professor 1959-60). The Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award 1972, for his many outstanding contributions to the theory of the slowing down and thermalisation of neutrons, which have been of particular importance in the design and successful development of water-moderated reactors. Guggenheim fellowship 1974-75.

For the children of Paul and Constance Zweifel, as well as of Paul and Kathleen Zweifel, see **Third and Later Generations (6A: 1)** and **(6A: 2)**, below. Also for Paul's stepdaughter Christen Benson, who has always lived with Paul and Kathleen, and treated him as her own father.

(B) **Sylvia Zweifel**, b. 1935, Philadelphia, PA, m. John Rodgers, 1959, who died a couple of years ago. I asked her for information on her side of the family, but she has not provided any. My information is from Paul.

She has three children, all born in Northern Virginia, in order of birth John, Anne, and Marv, who all have children.

Third and Later Generations

(2A) The children of **James and Caroline Alterskye** (information on them obtained from the Internet). All born in South Africa. No information on their children.

(2Aa) **Anne Alterskye**

(2Ab) **Charles Alterskye**. Chairman of a South African property group

(2Ac) **Susan Alterskye**.

(2Ad) **Peter Alterskye**. Car rally driver.

(2B) A son and two daughters (Clovis and Dorcas) of **Rupert and Eileen Alterskye**, all born in England. No information received from Rupert, in spite of reminders).

In alphabetical order (dates of birth not known)

(2Ba) **Alister Alterskye**

(2Bb) **Clovis Alterskye**. Married, with children..

(2Bc) **Dorcas Alterskye**. Married, with children.

(2C: 1) The children of **Charles and June Alterskye**:

(2Ca) **Caroline Alterskye**, b. 1954, Warsop.

(2Cb) **Mark Alterskye**, b. 1959, Woolwich, London.

(2Cc) **Paul Alterskye**, adopted twin, b. 1968, Hull.

(2Cd) **Simon Alterskye**, adopted twin, b. 1968, Hull.

(2C: 2) The son of **Charles and Susan Alterskye**:

(2Ce) **Neil Alterskye**, b. 1978, London.

(4A) The children of **Claude and Barbara Luttrell**, all born in Leicester:

(4Aa) **Stephen Piers Luttrell**, b. 1956. Ph.D (Cambridge, 1983). Email: steve@luttrell.org.uk. Doing research at an establishment at Malvern, Worcestershire, in artificial intelligence, etc. Has published many papers, of which copies are available on the Internet (www.luttrell.org.uk/papers/). Plays the violin in a neighbourhood musical group that Nigel Kennedy also attends, and which performs as an orchestra.

(4Ab) **Julian Christopher Luttrell**, b. 1958, m. Clare Freeman. Email: julian@luttrell.co.uk. MA. (Cambridge, 1980). The Tyson medal in mathematics (Cambridge, 1981). Postgraduate research 1981-85, anisotropy in Euclidean quantum cosmology, supervised by Stephen Hawking. Published, with Hawking: "The Isotropy of the Universe", *Phys. Lett.* B143, 83 (1984), "Higher Derivatives in Quantum Cosmology", *Nucl. Phys.*, B247, 250 (1984). Julian has been self-employed, applying computer methods to industrial needs., but is now senior lecturer in computer science and media technology at de Montfort University, Leicester.

Their daughter:

Darsey Cornelia Luttrell, b. 1999

Third and Later Generations (continued)

(4Ac) Simon Francis Luttrell, b.1959, m. Carmel Molan. Email: simonluttrell@yahoo.com. BSc (North London Polytech, 1982), MSc (London, 1983, Microwaves and Modern Optics). Self-employed, and invents software for such purposes as he can think up, such as connecting mobile phones to the Internet (this software he sold for an enormous sum), and two-way conversation with a computer, which acts like a person.

Their children:

(I) Heidi Elise Siena Luttrell, b. 1997.

(II) Francesca Eleanor Maria Luttrell, b. 1999.

(III) Matthew William James Luttrell, b. 2002.

In 2002, Simon and Carmel separated, and Simon married Chawiwan Hawnjampa in 2005. They have two children, with another on the way (as of Aug. 2007):

(I) Pim (Adopted, b. 2000)

(II) Peter, b. 2006

(4B) The sons of Paul and Gladys Tsouros:

(4Ba) Constantine Claude Tsouros, b.1945, Alexandria. Email: tsouros@gen.auth.gr. He has been Head of the Dept of Informatics at the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, and is now in the Dept of Computational Mathematics and Computer Programming at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

Married 1: Glykeria Thoukididou, Thessaloniki 1969. Divorced in 1987.

Married 2: Glykeria Kalfakakou in 1992, a civil engineer and Associate Professor at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.:

1. The sons of **Constantine Tsouros and Glykeria Thoukididou:**

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(I) Paul Tsouros, b. 1969, Thessaloniki, m. Louize Mallouf in 1991. Separated, and living in London, working as a civil engineer.

Their son:

Alexandros Tsouros, b. 1992, Athens.

(II) Michael Angelo Tsouros, b. 1974, Thessaloniki, m. Olympia Chryssomalidou in 2003. He is a graduate in computer science, and is now a high college professor in this subject.

Their son:

Constantine Tsouros, b. 2003.

2. The son of **Constantine Tsouros and Glykeria Kalfakakou:**

Demosthenis Tsouros, b. 1992.

(4Bb) Alexander Byron Tsouros (second son of Paul and Gladys Tsouros), b. 1950, Alexandria. Lives in New York.

Third and Later Generations (continued)

Third and Later Generations (continued)

(6A: 1) The sons of Paul and Constance Zweifel:

(a) **Frederick Feza Zweifel**, b. 9 July, 1965, Ankara Turkey, m. Heather Shotts (b. 1972, Key West, Florida) in 1996, in Newport, Rhode Island. They live in Cleveland, Ohio. Both are active with a number of musical groups, including symphony orchestras and opera companies. Feza, as he is known, is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia, PA) and Heather of the Cleveland Institute of Music. They jointly formed a touring brass and percussion ensemble which gives concerts all over the United States and, in 2005, toured Taiwan.

(b) **Evan Rudolph Zweifel**, b. 14 Dec., 1966, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, m. Kelly Bowman (b. 8 July, 1958, in Frankfurt, Michigan) in 1988, in Lake George, New York. They live at Fort Collins, Colorado. He works for Hewlett Packard. A magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College of William and Mary (the second oldest university in the US after Harvard), Evan received his Ph.D. in computer science at the University of Colorado.

Their children:, both born in Boulder, Colorado:

- (i) **Bailey Bowman Zweifel** (a daughter), b.1992.
- (ii) **Spencer Zweifel**, b. 1995.

(6A: 2) The daughter of Paul and Kathleen Zweifel:

Kathryn Zweifel, b. Dec. 5, 1970, in Radford, Virginia, m. Timothy Clements, 13 March, 1993, in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Their children, both born in London, England:

- (i) **Zachary Clements**, b. 21 Sept., 1998.
- (ii) **Nicholas Clements**, b. 24 March, 2000.

Christen Benson, Paul's stepdaughter (daughter of Kathleen and previous husband, David Benson), b. 1962, Glen Falls, NY, m. Miles Whitten (b. 1962).

Their children, all born in Richmond, VA: James Benson Whitten, b. 1992, Sarah Kathleen Whitten, b. 1995, and Miles McKay Whitten, b. 2000.

Alexandria

When Gladys and I were brought up in Alexandria, it was almost as much a European city as it was Egyptian, with Europeans of many nationalities, Russian

refugees as tram-drivers, and Italians as the motor-cycle police, French as the language of culture, and English as the language of commerce, Alexandria being an important port. There were European schools, as well as European churches and two cathedrals, one being Greek Orthodox and the other Roman Catholic.

Alexander the Great was Macedonian and not Greek, but he bore Greek culture with him in his conquests, and Alexandria, from the time that it was founded by Alexander the Great until its conquest by the Moslems, was basically a Greek city with some Ancient Egyptian culture. With its famous Library, it was the university of the antique Mediterranean world. It was also a very early Christian centre, Mark writing his Gospel there, in Greek. The British Boys' School I went to from the age of eleven was built on a hillock that must have been an antique rubbish heap, as shards of pottery with Greek inscriptions kept on interfering with my marbles in the playground, and I collected quite a number of antique Greek coins which also emerged there as the winter winds blew away the sandy soil.

One was always conscious of the presence of the Mediterranean, and life in Alexandria was much out-of-doors and often spent on a beach and swimming in the sea. On Sundays, Uncle Cyril used to take me out sailing, or picknicking and swimming in Mamoura Bay, next to Aboukir Bay, where Nelson destroyed the French fleet in the "Battle of the Nile". We sometimes rowed round to Aboukir Bay, and I used to look down at the mass of seaweed below, imagining that I might see L'Orient, the French warship that in this battle blew up with such a blast that it was heard at Alexandria, 15 miles away.

Or Uncle Cyril used to take me on Sundays to the Albano-Greek Cortessi family. There I played with the Cortessi boy, Alec, in a ramshackle house with disagreeing floor levels and a large, wild garden. My protective grandmother objected to my going to the Cortessis, because I was so excited at being left off the leash that I often returned with grazes on my knees or a bump on my head, or having fallen out of a mulberry tree. In the evening, on these Sundays, an international and intellectual group of people -- sitting under overhanging bunches of grapes lit up by shining electric bulbs -- would be there engaged in cultural and philosophical discussions (in French, of course), in which my uncle took part. When my grandparents died, Uncle Cyril took me with him to share a flat with Koutitonskaya, a Russian refugee woman who was a member of that international group of people.