



L

LUTTRELLSTOWN CASTLE

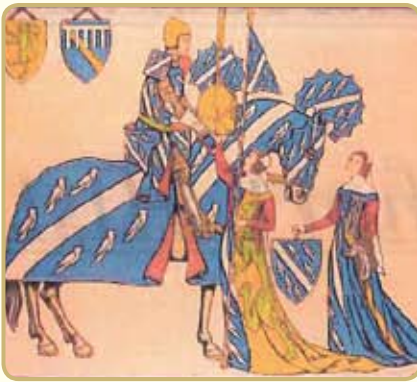
RESORT

★★★★★

*A brief history of
Luttrellstown Castle.*



Battle of Hastings from Bayeux Tapestry



Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, his Wife and Daughter

The history of the Luttrell family in Ireland can be traced back to one Geoffrey Luttrell who was a member of a royal commission appointed by King John in 1204.

Indeed, there is a legend that King John stayed at Luttrellstown Castle. There are parts of the ancient fabric of the Castle that could date back to the late 13th century.

The Luttrells arrived in England with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. They derived their surname from the French 'l'outré' meaning an otter and an otter appears on their coat of arms.

As a reward for their loyalty they received vast tracts of land in Somerset and Lincolnshire and owned the Isle of Lundy. Their family seat was Dunster Castle in Somerset.

Geoffrey Luttrell purchased his Luttrellstown Estate for 20 ounces of gold but did not enjoy it for long, dying while on a royal mission from King John to the Pope.

In 1287 there is a record of one Robert Luttrell settling a legal debt to John de Kerdiff of Kerdiff's Castle, Finglas. Simon Luttrell has been recorded as having the lease of the salmon weir at Leixlip in 1349.



Salmon Weir at St. Wolstan's, Leixlip

The Luttrells married into the wealthy Anglo Norman families that owned the rich rural lands surrounding the city. These families included Plunketts, Bellews, Sarsfields, Travers, Fitz Lyon, Barnewell, Aylmer, Bathe, Dillon, Finglas, Seagrave, St. Laurence, Fitzwilliam and Goulding.

During the reformation the Luttrells remained Roman Catholic but were not averse to sharing the spoils from the dissolution of the monasteries and acquired lands of Coolmine from St Mary's Abbey.

Twice King James I imprisoned Thomas Luttrell for his involvement in the Irish Catholic cause. When he died in 1635 he left his wife Diswellstown House, twenty cows, three hundred sheep, six rams, fifteen farm horses, four riding horses and a huge amount of silver plate. His younger children were left gold and silver coins of immense value and his eldest son Simon inherited the Castle and Demesne.

Simon sided with King Charles I against Parliament in the Civil War and at the end of hostilities Oliver Cromwell seized the lands of Luttrellstown and gave them to Colonel Hewson, Governor of Dublin, who had started off in life as a humble shoemaker. At this stage Simon was dead and his son Thomas who should have been the heir was allowed to live in the stables with his wife Barbara Seagrave.

When the restoration of the monarchy occurred in 1660 King Charles II returned Thomas to his estate. At this period Luttrellstown was described as a great mansion house with twelve chimneys.

We move forward now to the wars between King James II and King William of Orange and find Simon and Henry Luttrell supporting King James. Simon remained and stayed loyal to the Jacobite cause until his death abroad in Europe in 1698.

Henry, however was very much different and did not remain loyal. He performed very well and fought bravely along side his near neighbour Patrick Sarsfield of Lucan when he took Sligo and conducted himself well at the Battle of the Boyne.



Henry Luttrell



Siege of Limerick

However, he withdrew his cavalry at a crucial stage at the Battle of Aughrim. At the siege of Limerick he was court marshalled for treachery and was saved from execution owing to the commencement of negotiations that would culminate in the Treaty of Limerick.

He eventually met his death at the hands of an unknown assailant who shot him in his sedan chair at Cork Hill Dublin.

Next in succession was another Simon Luttrell who was raised to the peerage as Earl of Carhampton. He was a member of the Hellfire Club and was a notorious rake. It was said locally that he sold his soul to the devil and in return the devil was supposed to have built him a mill in the course of one night on the Liffey near Lucan.

His son Henry Lawes Luttrell the second Earl of Carhampton did much to provoke the 1798 rising. As Adjutant General of the land forces in Ireland he travelled around Westmeath, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon with his 'redcoats' press-gangng people into the British forces, pitch capping suspected united Irishmen and burning their homes. During this period he was also carrying out extensive work on his Luttrellstown residence and much of the present Castle's appearance and architecture dates back to then.

In 1797 a farmer and blacksmith James Dunne and Patrick Carthy a labourer, both workers on the Luttrellstown Estate attempted to assassinate Luttrell but were betrayed beforehand and were hanged. Luttrell sold the estate in 1811 and decamped to Painshill in Surrey where he died in 1821.



*The hell Fire Club by James Worsdale
- Courtesy of National Gallery. (Simon
Luttrell is the man on the extreme right)*



*Henry Lawes Luttrell, Second Earl of Carhampton by H.D. Hamilton
- Courtesy of National Gallery*



The Devil's Mill near Lucan - Courtesy of Fingal Co Council

An amusing story concerning Luttrell's mortality is worth relating. The Dublin Post newspaper of the 2nd May 1811 reported the death of Henry Lawes Luttrell. Luttrell being very much alive called into the newspaper in a foul temper demanding an immediate retraction. Their following edition corrected their earlier death notice confirming that Luttrell was alive and well under the heading "Public Disappointment".

The Lady Anne Luttrell who was Henry Lawes Luttrell's sister had a reputation for using her undoubted beauty to her advantage. Horace Walpole described her as 'having eyelashes half a yard long as a coquette beyond measure'. She was a widow when she lured the Duke of Cumberland's brother King George III into marriage. George III subsequently had Parliament enact a law prohibiting those in the royal succession from marrying without the permission of the monarch. The law is still in force. Another sister of the Lady Elizabeth lost so much money at the gambling tables that she was imprisoned for debt. She was later arrested as a pickpocket and died by self-administered poisoning.



*Lady Anne Luttrell by Thomas Gainsborough
- Courtesy of National Gallery*



*Lord Annaly circa: 1890's
- Courtesy of Vanity Fair*

The new owner of Luttrellstown was Luke White a native of the Isle of Man and a bookseller who achieved his great wealth by his involvement with the lottery i.e. selling tickets not buying them. According to stories in circulation at the time he stopped the Belfast coach and bought unsold tickets believing that one of them had to be the winning ticket - he was correct and so fell into his fortune. He changed the name of the Demesne to Woodlands and continued the improvements to the Castle and its surroundings.

In August 1849 during her Royal Visit, Queen Victoria dropped into Woodlands (Luttrellstown) wearing a green Irish poplin dress embroidered with gold shamrocks.

Henry White, Luke's son was raised to the peerage as Lord Annaly in 1863 having served in the Peninsular War. Queen Victoria dropped back again for a visit in 1900 where she took tea in the Glen. There was a monument erected in honour of her visit and this obelisk is situated at the entrance to the Glen.

There is a local story that Lord Annaly refused the local priest a site for the building of a school. The story goes that the National school in Porterstown, now under restoration was built high in an attempt to thwart him, it being visible from the Castle. In fact Lord Annaly was generous to all religious denominations.



Porterstown National School

He built, endowed and supported a school beside the then Catholic chapel in Porterstown. Unfortunately a dispute between the Protestant and Catholic clergy developed concerning the management of the school. Lord Annaly eventually put the school under the control of Fr Dungan.

Lord Annaly sold the Estate and Castle in 1915 to Major Hamilton. He then moved to Holdenby House in North Hampshire.

Major Hamilton died in 1918 and his widow sold it to Arthur Ernest Guinness, brother of Lord Iveagh who made a present of the house to his daughter Aileen as a gift on her marriage to Brinsley Plunkett. Plunkett was an airman who was killed during the Second World War. Story has it that Aileen, as a young girl used to explore the grounds of Luttrellstown, as they lived nearby. One afternoon she sat on the wishing chair and wished for Luttrellstown to be hers one day, so her wish came true!



Hon. Aileen Plunkett

In 1953 the motion picture *The Knights of the Round Table* starring Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner and Mel Ferrer used the Estate and Castle as a location for some of the stirring action scenes.

Aileen Plunkett's daughter Doon married Lord Granville, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and moved to the United Kingdom.

The Primwest Group purchased Luttrellstown in 1983 and carried out lavish restoration work on the Castle and its twelve exquisitely furnished rooms. There are four reception rooms, a magnificent ballroom and facilities for fishing, shooting on its grounds and golfing on one of the finest championship courses in Ireland.



Rev. Paul Colton, David Beckham and Victoria Adams

Visitors to Luttrellstown included President Regan, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, the King and Queen of Denmark. David and Victoria Beckham married at Luttrellstown in 1999.

In 2006 the Castle was sold to the current owners Mr J.P. McManus and Mr John Magnier. The Castle is now a well known venue available to rent to private groups and parties. Luttrellstown Castle is the perfect setting for private residential bookings, family celebrations, weddings, sporting events or corporate occasions. When you take the key to this Castle you unlock a world that will captivate and charm you. Experience the warmth, the historic grandeur and relaxed atmosphere of this unique castle estate- a place where gracious living is combined with a timeless sense of calm and tranquility.



LUTTRELLSTOWN CASTLE
RESORT

Telephone: 01-8609600 | Email: enquiries@luttrellstown.ie
Web: www.luttrellstowncastle.com

