

= Eustace Balfour =

Colonel Eustace James Anthony Balfour (8 June 1854 ? 14 February 1911) was a London @-@ based Scottish architect . The brother of one British Prime Minister and nephew of another , his career was built on family connections . His mother was the daughter of a Marquess , and his wife Frances , a noted suffragist , was the daughter of a Duke . Frances 's sister in @-@ law was Princess Louise , daughter of the reigning Queen Victoria .

Balfour 's initial work was on English and Scottish country houses , but he won only one major commission in this field . However , his appointment as surveyor of the Grosvenor Estate in London gave him architectural control over much of Mayfair and Belgravia in the 1890s and 1900s , and the opportunity to design many buildings himself .

Balfour was a senior officer of the Volunteer Force in London . His outspokenness on military matters was a factor in his appointment as an aide @-@ de @-@ camp to King Edward VII .

A fastidious and somewhat withdrawn individual , Balfour succumbed to alcoholism in his fifties . This brought about his early death .

= = Early life = =

Balfour was born at Whittingehame House in East Lothian , the youngest of five sons son of James Maitland Balfour and his wife Lady Blanche Mary Harriet Gascoyne @-@ Cecil , daughter of James Gascoyne @-@ Cecil , 2nd Marquess of Salisbury . His paternal grandfather James Balfour was a nabob who had made the family 's fortune as a contractor supplying the Royal Navy in India and became a Tory Member of Parliament (MP) , while his mother 's father was a Conservative cabinet minister in the 1850s . Her brother , Robert Gascoyne @-@ Cecil , 3rd Lord Salisbury , was three times Prime Minister before being succeeded in 1902 by Eustace 's elder brother Arthur Balfour .

Eustace Balfour was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College , Cambridge , where he graduated in 1873 . He then studied architecture under Basil Champneys , the designer of Newnham College , Cambridge , before setting up his own practice in 1879 , with an office in Addison Road , North Kensington which was also his home until his death .

On 12 May 1879 he wed Lady Frances Campbell , the fifth daughter and tenth of twelve children of George Campbell , 8th Duke of Argyll . The couple had met at a ball given in London by Lord and Lady Goschen , and married soon afterwards in St John 's Presbyterian Church in London . Frances 's father was shocked at their haste . Out of respect for Balfour 's mother , who had died in 1878 , the wedding was modest , with no formal meal and no honeymoon .

= = Architecture = =

Balfour 's first years of architectural practice consisted of small projects for family and friends . These included the restoration of Inveraray Castle for his father @-@ in @-@ law the Duke of Argyll , an extension to his brother Arthur 's hunting lodge Strathconan House in Ross @-@ shire , and the church of St Mary Magdalene in the hamlet of Hatfield Hyde . The church , which is now in Welwyn Garden City , was originally known as Hyde Chapel . Built as a chapel of ease within the parish of Hatfield for Balfour 's uncle the Marquis of Salisbury , it became the parish church of Hatfield Hyde in 1928 .

In 1885 , Balfour began a professional partnership with Hugh Thackeray Turner , which lasted until Balfour 's death . Balfour had been a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings since his undergraduate days in Cambridge , and Turner was the Society 's secretary . Together the two men were engaged to rebuild Ampton Hall in Suffolk , which had been destroyed by fire Their design , in a restrained Jacobean style , was Balfour 's only major country house commission .

Work was scarce after Ampton 's completion in 1889 , and in 1890 Balfour applied for the post of surveyor for the 1st Duke of Westminster 's Grosvenor Estate , to succeed Thomas Cundy . He seemed unlikely to be selected , but Frances made a direct approach to the Duke (who was also her uncle) , and he got the job . Balfour 's social standing appears to have been a significant factor

in his appointment . He was the son @-@ in @-@ law of a Duke , nephew of a Marquess , and his wife was the sister @-@ in @-@ law of Queen Victoria 's 4th daughter Princess Louise (who had married her oldest brother John in 1871) . Balfour had a strong sense of social class , and Frances Balfour later described the 1st Duke of Westminster as having run the estate " not as today on commercial lines , but more as a Principality " . Even so , his brother Gerald 's wife Lady Elizabeth Balfour noted that when the surveyor called on the Duke in his professional role he was " never offered a chair and never expected one " .

The post involved a lot of design work for Balfour , who seems to have been able to take whatever commissions he wanted , often delegating them to Turner . In the 1890s , Balfour and Turner appear to have been the most prolific designers of private houses on the estate , and in 1892 Balfour was made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects . Their own work included most of the wholly redeveloped Balfour Place in Mayfair , formerly known as Portugal Street and renamed for the architect .

Balfour also supervised projects which were contracted to other designers . The Duke favoured the domestic revival style of architecture , and particularly insisted on red brick for dwelling houses . Balfour , who deplored the previously fashionable Gothic revivalism , laid down strict architectural guidelines , sometimes even redesigning the work of others .

Balfour and Turner also designed Aldford House on Park Lane , an " ornate but stunted " free @-@ standing stone mansion for the diamond magnate Alfred Beit which was replaced in 1932 by a modernist apartment block designed by Val Myer . Their other most notable work was St Anselm 's Church in Davies Street , believed to have been mostly Turner 's work , which was regarded as eccentric . Using an arts and crafts @-@ style blending of influences , it had a plain frontage with a basilican interior , and some gothic tracery . When its demolition was planned in 1938 , it was dismissed by H. S. Goodhart @-@ Rendel as " a purely personal record of Thackeray Turner 's particular tastes " . However , the building was not in fact demolished . Instead , it was dismantled and reconstructed in altered form at Uppingham Avenue in Belmont as the church of St Anselm Belmont . The parish describes it as " a genuinely recycled building " .

Balfour held the surveyor 's post until 1910 , when he was succeeded by Edmund Wimperis . His second decade in the role was less significant than the first , because the death in 1899 of the 1st Duke brought the estate a bill for £ 600 @,@ 000 in death duties (equivalent to £ 60 @.@ 9 million in 2016) . The resulting financial pressure meant that little rebuilding occurred until 1906 , and when it resumed Balfour 's influence was diminished . He had little affinity with the hedonistic young Hugh Grosvenor , 2nd Duke (grandson of the 1st) , who Edwin Lutyens and others had persuaded to adopt a less rigid architectural policy .

= = Volunteer = =

In 1882 , Balfour joined the Volunteer Force in 1882 , becoming a Lieutenant in 1883 , and Lieutenant @-@ Colonel in command of the London Scottish Regiment of Volunteers from 1894 to 1903 .

He began to take a wider interest in defence issues , writing extensively on the subject , such as The Conditions and Requirements of the Volunteer Force (1886) . In July 1899 , as the Second Boer War loomed , Balfour offered to raise a thousand men to go and fight , but it was considered too early to begin that effort . His offer to the minister George Wyndham was ignored by the War Office , and Balfour reacted angrily , complaining that volunteers were " expected to be fit for service while we are vigorously debarred from seeing any " .

Eventually 20 @,@ 000 volunteers were called up and fought in the war . However , Balfour 's need to liaise with the 2nd Duke of Westminster , who had just inherited the Grosvenor Estate , prevented him from joining his force when they travelled to South Africa at the end of 1899 . He remained in command of the London Scottish until 1900 , when he resigned in protest at financial controls that prevented payments to volunteers if there was an insufficient number of raised troops .

At the end of December 1902 , Balfour was awarded the Volunteer Officers ' Decoration . Despite his differences with government , or possibly because of them , King Edward VII appointed Balfour

in January 1903 as a military aide @-@ de @-@ camp for Volunteer Forces .

= = Personal life and family = =

Eustace and Frances Balfour had five children :

Blanche Elizabeth Campbell Dugdale (1880 ? 1948) , a biographer of her uncle the Prime Minister Arthur Balfour , and later a noted Zionist

Francis Cecil Campbell Balfour (1884 ? 1965) , who became a colonial Governor in Sudan in the 1920s

Oswald Herbert Campbell Balfour (1894 ? 1953) , Military Secretary to the Governor @-@ General of Canada , 1921 ? 23

Joan Eleanor Campbell Balfour (died 1939)

Alison Catherine Campbell Balfour (died 3 September 1955)

Accounts of their marriage diverge widely . Frances 's congenital hip dislocation left her in constant pain , and often irritable . The couple 's temperament and interests were opposites , France 's enthusiasm for politics and intellectual company contrasting with her husband 's lifelong passion for shooting and his later interest in the military .

Hartley writes that theirs was " not a particularly happy marriage " . Knox confirms this view , noting that neither Blanche Dugdale 's memoirs nor Frances Balfour 's autobiography write much about their relationship with Eustace , and that Frances wrote at length about his brother Arthur who she " far preferred to Eustace " .

Author Joan B. Huffman is more cautious , noting that crucial sources are unavailable since Frances destroyed all Eustace 's letters to her . However , Huffman records that she did support her husband when his sister Alice repeatedly challenged him over his drinking .

= = Death = =

Balfour 's drinking problem became serious around 1906 , and in 1909 his health began to deteriorate seriously . In December 1910 he returned to Whittingehame , where he died aged 56 at 6am on 14 February 1911 , surrounded by his family . Eustace was the third of the five Balfour brothers to die relatively young , Cecil and Francis having both been killed in accidents in the early 1880s .

Balfour was buried at Whittingehame , with his parents and grandparents . Frances survived him by 20 years (until 1931) , and was buried alongside him .

Rudyard Kipling , a member like Balfour of the Savile Club in London , described him as " a large , loveable man , and one of the best of talkers " .