

COSSLETT HERBERT WADDELL (1858-1919)

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This is one article in a series about prominent British and Irish field-bryologists of the past. The author would be very pleased to learn of any information which supplements its content.

A Social and Biographical History of British and Irish Field-bryologists is also available on-line at <http://britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>

Botanical career

Waddell's most important contribution to bryology was his role in launching the Moss Exchange Club in 1896, after advertising his proposal in the *Journal of Botany, Irish Naturalist* and the magazine *Science Gossip*. The MEC was the precursor of the British Bryological Society, which came into existence in 1923. Waddell also acted as secretary of the MEC from 1896 until 1903, and compiled a *Catalogue of British Hepaticae* (1897). He was also at one time president of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club.

S.A. Stewart refers to Waddell's notes on the bryophytes of Co. Down in the *Flora of the North-east of Ireland* (1888, page xii).

Waddell also took interest in critical genera of flowering plants – brambles, roses, hawkweeds and knotweeds, and botanised in Britain as well as Ireland; specimens survive that he collected in West Sussex, Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire, Anglesey, Yorkshire, Westmorland, the Isle of Man, Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire and West Perthshire.

Waddell bequeathed his mosses to the Royal College of Science in Dublin, and his flowering plants to Queen's College, Belfast. His plants are now at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, with additional plants, manuscripts and letters held at Ulster Museum in Belfast. The plants at Belfast include some from Saintfield in 1895, as well as from various British and Irish localities in the 1880s and 1890s. Further plants are at the University College at Galway, the Natural History Museum in London, Bolton, the City Museum and Art Gallery in Bristol, the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, Kew, Cardiff and Oxford.

Family background

Waddell was the eldest son and second child of seven born to Cosslett Waddell (1827-1897) and Maria (*née* Langtry, 1828/9-1902). The family lived at Drumcro House, Maralin, (or Magheralin or Moira), County Down, Ireland.

Maria Langtry was a cousin of Cosslett Waddell, for Cosslett's own mother was born Catherine Langtry, daughter of George Langtry, a business magnate of Belfast who owned mills and ships and imported goods from overseas. Maria was also a cousin of Edward (Ned) Langtry, who married Emilie Charlotte de Breton ("Lillie") who as Lillie Langtry later became mistress to Edward, Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII.

The Waddells had held land in County Down since the end of the 16th century, having come from near Airdrie in Lanarkshire, Scotland. Cosslett Herbert's paternal grandfather was also Cosslett (d. 1815), a son of Robert Ross Waddell (d. 1771) of Islanderry House, Dromore, Co. Down. Robert married Mary Stoddard (d. 1791), who was an only daughter of Sir Cosslett Stoddard (1717-1791), merchant of Dromore and Cologne in Germany, who married a Douglas whose family owned land at Maralin.

The Stoddards, Langtrys and Waddells all prospered through milling, and the Waddells had the third largest estate in County Down.

Of Cosslett Herbert's siblings, Florence Catherine (1856-1903) and Clara (b. 1859) died without issue. George (b. 1862) became an engineer with the Clogher Valley Railway, and went on to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) where he held an appointment with the government. Robert Alexander (1865-1902) remained a bachelor. Cosslett's third brother, Alfred (1867-1937) worked as an architect in Belfast and retired to Magheralin; he married twice. The youngest sibling, Edith Isabella (b. 1869) married the Reverend Charles Edward Quinn (d. 1933); their son Canon Cosslett Quin became a noted theological scholar for the Church of Ireland and eventually professor of biblical Greek at Dublin in the 1960s.

Other notable Irish Waddells who achieved prominence came from a family in Newry, Co. Down, who also originated from Lanarkshire. They included the missionary Hope Masterton Waddell (1804-1895); his paternal grandfather was Alexander Waddell (fl. 1782). From a subsequent era, the mediaeval scholar and translator Helen Jane Waddell (1889-1965) and her brother the playwright and actor Samuel John Waddell (1879-1967 whose pseudonym was Rutherford Mayne) were children of a missionary priest the Reverend Hugh Waddell (1840-1901) by his first wife. In addition, Martin Waddell (born in Belfast in 1941) has written under the name of Catherine Sefton as well as his own.

Biography

Cosslett Herbert graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1880 and entered the priesthood, taking up his first curacy at Lurgan, Shankhill in 1881. In 1883 he moved to Warrenpoint, and then spent four years (1884-8) at Kendal, Westmorland, where he met his future wife, Eleanor Maud Mary Monsarratt (1870-1934). She was a daughter of the Reverend Henry John Monsarratt (1822-1901) by his second wife Eleonora Jane (*née* Hallowes, who was able to claim descent from the Plantagenets *via* the Brabazon family). The Monsarratts were related to Nicholas Monsarratt, author of *The Cruel Sea*.

Waddell married Eleanor at Kendal in 1891, although by that time he had returned to work in Ireland, first to Carnamoney, and then in 1890 to Saintfield, County Down, where he remained for 22 years.

After his first wife died in 1909, Cosslett's brother Alfred remarried, and Cosslett and Eleanor (who had no children of their own) adopted Alfred's two daughters Doreen (c.1906-1937) and Eileen Beatrice (1905-1985). Doreen died soon after she married in 1936, but Eileen (who became a Norland nurse) married, emigrated to New Zealand, and raised a family there.

In 1912, following a fire at Saintfield, Waddell was appointed rector of Grey Abbey, north of Belfast, and also chaplain to the Marquis of Londonderry. All his incumbencies in Ireland were within 25 miles of Maralin, his birthplace, and Waddell lived the quiet life of a country clergyman. He died suddenly at Grey Abbey on June 8th 1919.

Acknowledgement

I thank Caraline W. Bingley for supplying information about Waddell and his relatives.