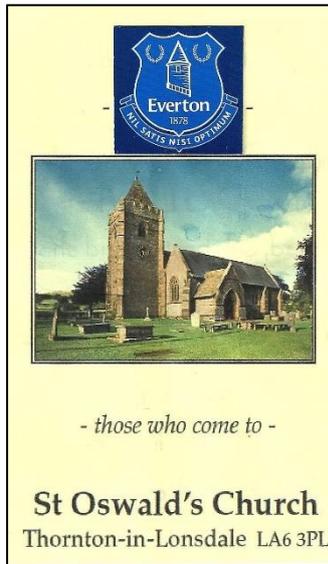


The Last resting Place of George and Anne Goodison

Some years ago, I published an article concerning the life of the man who gave his name to the home ground of Everton FC and made an unqualified assumption that he had died, and was buried, near the town of Cirencester in Gloucestershire. However, in the light of recent evidence, I was able to establish that George William Goodison did die there but was in fact buried, with his first Wife, in a small rural churchyard in North Yorkshire. Last weekend I set off to find their grave for myself.



The traffic on the M6 was light so, making steady progress, I stopped and had some breakfast, before leaving the Motorway at exit 34 and headed eastwards along the Lune Valley to-wards the small village church of St Oswald at Thornton-in Lonsdale. The location is frequently visited by the members of The Sherlock Holmes Society, formed in 1934, because it was here that his creator, Sir Arthur Conan – Doyle, (whose Mother once lived the village) was married to his first Wife Louise Hawkins. I found the church to be in a picturesque setting, beneath the shadow of Ingleborough Hill and that the location is a beauty spot that is popular with Fell Walkers. There was a cold Northerly wind blowing when I arrived so I quickly made my way inside the church and sheltered amongst the congregation one of whom was Rosemary Hartley, the Churchwarden, who I had contacted

earlier in week. When the service had ended, she helped me to identify the spot where George and Anne are buried and I took the pictures I have posted on this article. I thanked Rosemary for her kindness and headed back home determined to discover more about the life of this man who had laid, almost forgotten, for over one hundred years in this tiny rural churchyard.



Born 1843 in Leeds, George William Goodison moved to Merseyside when he signed articles to train as a Civil Engineer and Surveyor under the pupillage of Alfred Taylor and moved in to his family home in Kershaw Terrace, Great Crosby. Taylor however, died suddenly at the young age of thirty-four and George completed his articles under the supervision of Thomas Reade who took him in to partnership at his offices at Castle Street. The relation with Reade proved beneficial for the young Yorkshire who became the Civil Engineer for the local boards of both Walton-on-the-Hill and Much Woolton while purchasing for himself a fine house on Grange Lane in Gateacre. In 1871 he admitted to The Institution of Civil Engineers just two years after he had married a talented young Egyptologist who was herself a resident of Great Crosby

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The Institution of Civil Engineers,
ESTABLISHED 1818—INCORPORATED 1828.
25, GREAT GEORGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

George William Goodison

of *Gateacre House, Gateacre, near Liverpool*, being upwards of 25 years of age, and being desirous of admission into 'THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, I recommend him, from PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE, as a person in every respect worthy of that distinction.* *Because he served a pupillage of 5 years 1839-44 to the late Mr Alfred Taylor, C.E. Liverpool, and during that period was employed on various bridges, sewerage, land drainage, irrigation, and road works; was for a short time assistant to the Engineer to the Bridgewater Trust; and from 1844 to the present time has been in private practice, as a member of the firm of Reade and Goodison, Civil Engineers, engaged in designing and in carrying out numerous important works, including, amongst others, the Main Sewerage Works of Much Woolton, Walton on the Hill, ^{Birkdale} Blundell's Sands and Little Crosby, likewise street improvements, and public and private roads, and in laying out building estates at Blundell's Sands, Great Crosby, Little Crosby, Birkdale, and Beechfield, and in preparing plans for irrigation works at several of these places, and also for Gas Works at Birkdale.*

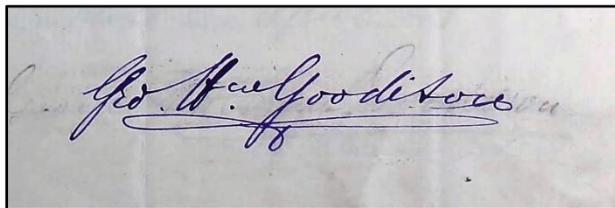
above grounds I beg leave to propose him to the Council as a proper person to be admitted into the

Signature of the Proposer *J. W. ...* M. Inst. C. E.

Anne Jane Padley was born, 5-11-1845, at Waterloo and brought up by an Aunt and Uncle who lived at Picton Cottage and the 1861 reveals that she is still living at this address. Ann however, for reasons that are as yet unclear, was living on Paradise Row in Chester when she married George Goodison, in 1868, at the local parish church of Holy Trinity. She took up residence with her new husband at Gateacre but is away from home on the night that the 1871 census was taken. Her Husband however, soon changed both his address and his circumstances.

On the 7th of August 1874 George Goodison dissolved his partnership with Thomas Reade and became a man of Leisure. He left his home in Gateacre and moved to a regency style building called Esthwaite Lodge, (today a YMCA Youth Hostel) that is situated, on an unnamed road, between Coniston and Hawkshead in the Lake District. Ann continued travelling to Egypt where she added more artefacts to her collection while George decided to invest his capital in the local slate industry. He also moved his home, presumably, to be nearer where his money was invested

Despite being missing from the 1891 census; local records tell us that George Goodison is now living at a house called Coniston Bank (today an outdoor centre.) near to the village of Tilberthwaite. He is now in a partner in Coniston Green Slate Company who employ most people in the village. George has now become a close associate of the poet John Ruskin and the signatures of both men may be found



amongst the Governors of the local school. In 1891 Goodison took Oaths and became a J P for the County Palatine of Lancashire before leaving Coniston Bank to its new tenant, Beatrix Potter. The Goodison couple now

travelled the world for a about four years before returning to Merseyside where they settled at Beech Lawn in Waterloo bringing with them two domestic servants, Sarah and Mary Newby who list their birthplace as being Coniston. George then returned to Civil Engineering.

He became part of Atkinson Ford and Goodison who rented offices at Castle Street in Liverpool town centre and he also occupied the bench at Liverpool County Sessions court in William Brown Street. The Goodison's then retired to the Yorkshire village of Thornton -in- Lonsdale where Ann Jane died, 7-2-1906, and was buried in parish churchyard of St Oswald's. George next moved to the village of Stratton near Cirencester in Gloucestershire where he married his servant Sarah Newby in 1908 who became his sole benefactor when he died, at Cirencester, on the 7th of February, 1913. His body was then transported back to Yorkshire and buried, next to his first wife, in the church yard at Thornton -in- Lonsdale. The Egyptian artefacts collected by Anne Goodison were later bought by a local dealer and may be seen today at the Atkinson Museum in Southport.



