

### **Goodliffe Graves, Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge**

There are two Goodliffe graves recorded in the Mill Road Cemetery website.

<http://mrcweb.org.uk/?s=Goodliffe>

### **Charlotte Goodliffe; George Goodliffe; John Goodliffe; Thomas Goodliffe**

Inscription : In Memory of JOHN GOODLIFFE died April 1 1857 aged 40 also of CHARLOTTE widow of the above died October 13 1897 aged 87 also GEORGE & THOMAS sons of the above who died in their infancy

John & Charlotte Goodliffe were Martha Spalding's parents and grandparents of Percy J Spalding.

John Goodliffe, born 1817, described as a butcher, and Charlotte Beecher, born 1810, were married on 31 May 1843 at Hemingford Abbots near Huntingdon, where Charlotte was born. They were living at York Street, Cambridge when their children were born. The children were all baptised at the old All Saints Cambridge (the old church was demolished after being superceded by a new church in Jesus Lane in the 1860s):

- George Goodliffe was born in 1844, baptised on 17 March and buried soon after on 18 March 1844.
- Martha Goodliffe born 1845, baptised on 10 April. Married William Potter Spalding on 24 September 1873 - *see notes about Percy J Spalding*
- Thomas Goodliffe was born in 1847, baptised on 16 February and buried soon after on 24 February
- John Goodliffe born 1848, baptised on 29 March 1848 – *see below*
- George Goodliffe born 1850, baptised 7 July. In 1851 Census, but died in 1851
- Walter Goodliffe born 1851, baptised 29 February – *see below*

### **Alice Emily Goodliffe; John Goodliffe; Sydney John Goodliffe**

Inscription : In Loving Memory of JOHN GOODLIFFE died August 16 1881 aged 33, also of ALICE EMILY his wife died March 19 1884 aged 32 also of their son SYDNEY JOHN GOODLIFFE died March 15 1959 aged 82

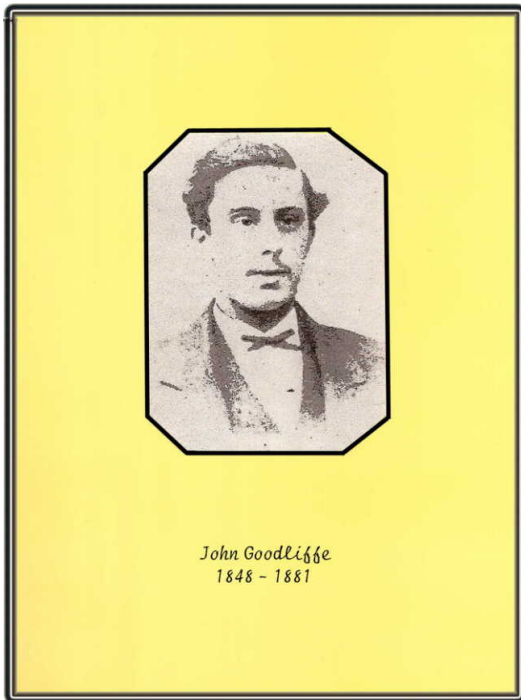
This stone relates to John Goodliffe, the brother of Martha Goodliffe Spalding, and his wife Alice Emily and their son Sydney John Goodliffe.

John Goodliffe, born in 1848 in Cambridge, was recorded in the 1871 Census, as aged 23, living at Sydney Street with his mother, Charlotte Goodliffe, his sister Martha (born 1845) and his only surviving brother Walter (born 1852). Both Charlotte and son, John, were described as "butchers". In 1871, all three children were unmarried in 1871. In 1873, Martha married William Potter Spalding, from Ipswich, who was a stationer's assistant in Cambridge. By 1881, William Potter Spalding was "a stationer, publisher and bookseller" and served as Lord Mayor of Cambridge in 1908-10.

John Goodliffe married Alice Emily Spalding in 1874. She was a younger sister of William Potter Spalding, so brother and sister married brother and sister. Alice Emily was born 9 Jun 1851 at Silent Street, Ipswich and baptised on 6 July at St Matthew, Ipswich. John and Alice Emily married in Ipswich on 8 April 1874 and banns had been read in Cambridge and Ipswich.

A daughter, Bessie, was born to John and Alice Emily on 9 February 1875. Son, Sydney John Goodliffe was born on 16 June 1876 and baptised on 16 July at All Saints Cambridge. The family address was given as Sydney Street and the father's occupation as butcher.

John Goodliffe died on 16 August 1881, aged only 33 and was buried on 19 August. The burial register entry records his residence as Northampton, not Cambridge. In the 1881 Census, made in April, Alice Emily was recorded as Head of Household and a butcher, living at 26 Sydney Street, with children, Bessie,6, and Sydney John,4, and two cousins, Honor and Fanny Jukes, from Brookford in Suffolk also in the household.

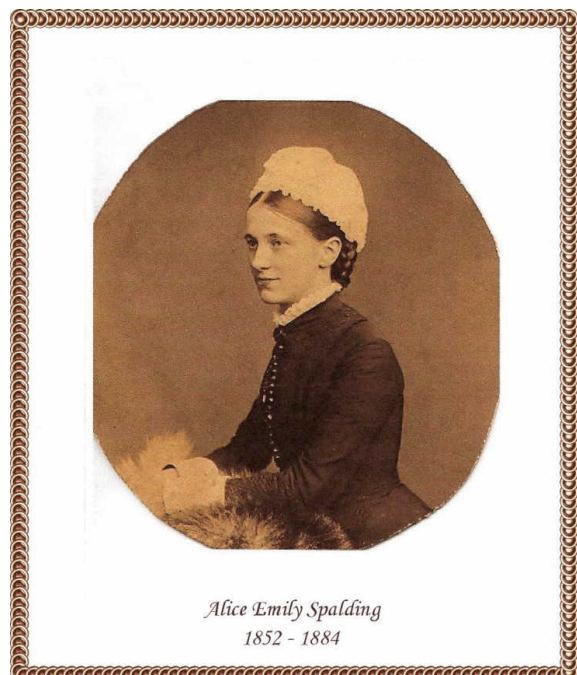


There is a hospital record in the 1881 Census for a J G, private patient at St Andrew's Hospital for Mental Diseases, Northampton (Parish of Priory of St Andrew) who was aged 33, born Cambridge, married and a butcher. This is almost certainly John Goodliffe. An index of "UK lunacy admissions" confirms him by name as admitted on 22 April 1876 and dying on 16 August 1881.

Picture from Ancestry tree of [EAScott53](#)

Alice Emily also died young on 19 March 1884 when she was only 32. Her executors were her brother, William Potter Spalding and her cousin, Fanny Jukes. Her estate was a substantial £4,706 13s 4d.

Picture from Ancestry tree of [margaretgorman11](#)



What happened to the children, having lost both their parents in the 1880s, when Bessie was about 10 and Sydney John about 8? In the 1891 Census, they were living at 8 Park Terrace, Cambridge, overlooking Parker's Piece. Referred to as "Wards", they were listed first, Bessie, only 16, and Sydney, 14, but no head of household was defined. A "boarder" called Ann Elizabeth Beecher who was a butcher's clerk from Hemingford Abbot's, a visitor and two servants were also listed in the household. In 1881, Ann Beecher had been living with her parents, James and Elizabeth Beecher and was recorded as "governess, unemployed".

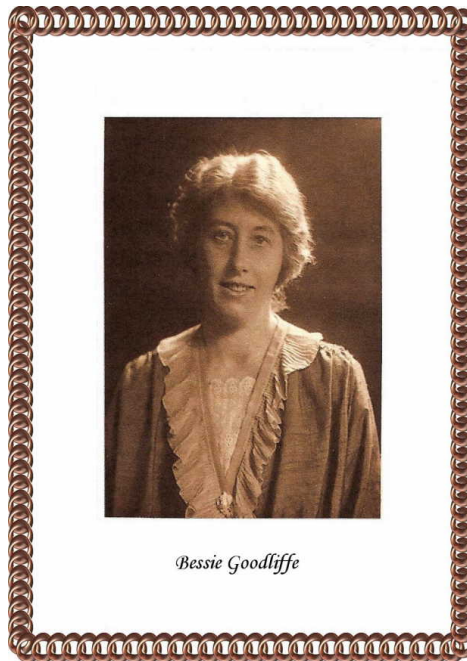
In 1891, the children's uncle and aunt, William Potter Spalding and Martha Goodliffe Spalding were living not far away at 43 Sidney Street. As one of his sister's executors, William Potter Spalding may have been the legal guardian of Bessie and Sydney John.

Grandmother Charlotte Beecher Goodliffe, aged 80, was living at 7 Park Side, close to Park Terrace. When Charlotte Goodliffe died on 13 October 1897, her estate was worth £2172 16s 8d. Probate was granted to William Clayton, gentleman. Uncle, Walter Goodliffe was living at 4 Park Side, aged 39, and was described as Clerk in Holy Orders and Classical Tutor. (By 1901, Walter Goodliffe had married and was living in Worthing, Sussex. He was described as both a Clerk in Holy Orders and a florist and fruit grower! By 1911, Walter and his wife Rosa had moved to Horsham and Walter was a cleric and Financial Advisor.)

In 1901, Bessie, aged only 26, was the head of household and "a butcher", with 4 maiden cousins all in their 40-50s living with her at Great Shelford, south of Cambridge. They included Honor & Fanny Jukes and Ann E Beecher, already mentioned, and a Carry E Harvey. Another interesting household!



Bessie Goodliffe From Ancestry tree of KennethJohnson1956



From Ancestry tree of [margaretgorman11](#)

Bessie did not remain a spinster but in 1905 married William Frederick Johnson, born 1877. In 1911 he was recorded as a retired army officer, but later served in World War One and Two. In 1911, they were living at Great Clacton in Essex and had had 2 daughters (one died in infancy) and a son. Another daughter was born in 1912. The 1939 Register recorded Bessie and the three children, living at The Grove, Bar Lane, Stapleford, near Cambridge, with 2 servants in the household. Bessie died in 1947 at Cambridge and William on 14 August 1950 at the Hospital for Officers, Brighton.

Sydney John Goodliffe was recorded in the 1901 Canadian Census as living in Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada. He married Angelina Augusta Rose Cooke at Guelph, Ontario in 1902. (She was born in Ontario, Canada, but family trees trace her ancestors to Rhode Island in the 1660s) They had 5 sons born in Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada. One died as an infant. Sydney John signed up on 26 February 1916 and was an officer in World War One.

The family appear to have returned to England by 1919. In 1939, Sydney John was a "nurseryman - own account - temporary market gardener"; youngest son, Frank Beecher Goodliffe, born 1912, was living with his parents at 17 Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford and assisting with the business. Sydney John died 15 March 1959 in Winchester, Hampshire, aged 82. It is surprising that he was buried back in Cambridge, as his wife had died in Bishop's Stortford in 1952.

Cousin, Ann Elizabeth Beecher, who helped to bring up Bessie and Sidney John, was by 1911, living at 37 Maid's Causeway, Cambridge and was still a butcher's clerk. She died on 6 January 1932 at Brunswick Nursing Home and was buried at Mill Road Cemetery on 8 January.

Several things are interesting about the records of the Goodliffe family:

- The number of women who were butchers in their own right, not just butcher's wives.
- The early deaths among men, Martha's father aged 40 and her brother John aged 33 suggests a possible constitutional weakness in the Goodliffe family. Percy J Spalding's very sudden death at 55, may also have been linked.
- However the early deaths of three butchers, including John's wife, Alice Emily at 32 years old might indicate an occupational hazard. Might John's mental health have been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease and to Mad Cow disease?

Rosalind Batchelor

January 2017