

The Titanic's "Unknown Child"

1912

Whenever the name of the ill-fated ship Titanic is mentioned it conjures up so many different feelings and thoughts - horror, disbelief, overwhelming sadness amongst them. Some families had to face even more heartache when it was announced officially that their relatives bodies had not been recovered. Many however even 100 years on can take hope from the story of the Goodwin family from Melksham and hope that one day DNA testing may find their loved ones and a name may be added to their memorial stone.

The Goodwin family from Canon Square Melksham were accustomed to moving to pastures new to make new lives for themselves. The family had moved from their home in the South East to Wiltshire a few years prior to making the decision of starting a new life at Niagara Falls.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedules will be treated as confidential. Entries given will be taken as information in disclosure with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person (To be filled up by the Enumerator and Valuer).	INFIRMITY.
			Single, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive in previous Marriage. (If an elderly lady also write "Widow" in Column 3.)				
1. Frederick Joseph Goodwin	Head	42	Married		General Labourer	London, Westminster		
2. Augusta Goodwin	Wife	43	Married	16		London, Westminster		
3. Lilian Augusta Goodwin	Daughter	16	Single		Employment (Domestic)	London, Westminster		
4. Charles Edward Goodwin	Son	14			School, Wiltshire	Wiltshire, Melksham		
5. William Frederick Goodwin	Son	11			School, Wiltshire	Wiltshire, Melksham		
6. Jessie Alice Mary Goodwin	Daughter	10			School	Wiltshire, Melksham		
7. Harold Victor Goodwin	Son	9			School	Wiltshire, Melksham		
8. Sidney Leslie Goodwin	Son	2				Wiltshire, Melksham		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of the dwelling)

I certify that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Frederick Joseph Goodwin
 Post Office Address: Victoria Road, High St. Melksham, Wiltshire.

The 1911 Census Return for the Goodwin Family

The family, Frederick and Augusta Goodwin and their six children were to join Frederick's brother Thomas who had secured Fred a job at the large power station nearby and had found them accommodation. Fred resigned his position at a Trowbridge printer where he was employed as a compositor.

Fred booked 3rd class tickets for himself and family to sail from Southampton aboard the vessel "New York" but due to the miner's strike the New York's departure was held up and so the family were transferred to the R.M.S. Titanic, a cruel twist of fate.

The family, Fred aged 42, Augusta 43, Lilian 16, Charles 14, William 11, Jessie 10, Harold 9 and toddler Sidney 2 (Sidney in fact was just 17 months old having been born on 9th September 1910), boarded The Titanic and set sail for New York on 10th April 1912 from Southampton.

4

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1906, and ALIENS ACT, 1905.

OUT-GOING PASSENGERS.

22

Returns of Passengers leaving the United Kingdom in ships bound for places out of Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea.

Note.—All Passengers carried by mail ships are to be included, whether proceeding to European or non-European Ports. 1st Class, 2nd Class, and 3rd Class Passengers are to be entered in separate groups. Children born of alien parents in the United Kingdom should be entered in the alien portion of the Returns, and the fact that they were in born should be stated in the nationality column.

Ship's Name.	Official Number.	Steamship Line.	Master's Name.	Registered Tonnage.	Aggregate Tonnage or Total Number of Persons carried by the ship, including those carried by the crew, passengers, mail, and other persons on board.	Where Bound.
TITANIC.	121128	WHITE STAR LINE.	S. J. Smith <i>46228</i> <i>21821</i>	26972	<i>1735</i>	NEW YORK

I hereby certify that the Provisions actually taken on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the Merchant Shipping Act.

for 1150 Statute Tonnage for a voyage of 17 days.

Date *10th April 1912* (Signature) *[Handwritten Signature]* Master.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF *Southampton*

Certificate No.	NAME OF PASSENGER	Sex	Age	Class	Port of embarkation	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger	AGE OF PASSENGERS, when they last departed from the United Kingdom					Country of Birth	Country of Usual Residence
							In the case of First Class Passengers this column need not be filled up						
							Males	Females	Infants	Under 16	Over 16		
<i>451</i>	<i>Edward Willey</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>U.S.A.</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Joseph Dugan</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Steamfitter</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
<i>1720</i>	<i>Edward Lockyer</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Engineer</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
<i>1730</i>	<i>Owen G. Allison</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
<i>1633</i>	<i>Arthur Ford</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
<i>1638</i>	<i>Harry Sadowitz</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
<i>1644</i>	<i>Richard Goodwin</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>Augusta</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>Keliam</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>Charles</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>William</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>John</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>Harold</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			
	<i>Danny</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>THIRD CLASS</i>	<i>NEW YORK</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>			

The Titanic passenger list showing the Goodwin family as having embarked.

Five days later on 15th April 1912 at 2.40 a.m. GMT the ship struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic about 600 kilometres south of Newfoundland. The ship sunk two and a half hours later with the loss of 1,514 lives including those of the Goodwin family. Their bodies never having been recovered.

The White Star Line chartered a small fleet of vessels to go to the wreck site to recover as many victim's bodies as possible, one of these the Mackay-Bennett recovered 306 bodies between 17th and 23rd April. One hundred and sixteen were given a burial at sea, and only 56 of the bodies recovered were identified. The fourth body recovered by the Mackay-Bennett was that of a male child. Recorded as follows:-

NO. 4 - MALE - ESTIMATED AGE, 2 - HAIR, FAIR

CLOTHING - Grey coat with fur on collar and cuffs; brown serge frock; petticoat; flannel garment; pink woollen singlet - brown shoes and stockings.

NO MARKS WHATEVER

PROBABLY THIRD CLASS

The ship's crew were overwhelmed by the sight of this little boy and as the body had been unclaimed by family it was assumed that his parents had also lost their lives. The crew of the Mackay-Bennett took it

upon themselves to see this “Unknown Child” laid to rest. They made a collection and paid for the burial and arranged for a memorial stone to be erected at Fairview Lawn Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia .

The inscription reads “Erected to the memory of an unknown child whose remains were recovered after the disaster to the “Titanic” April 15th 1912.



The memorial came to represent all 50 children who lost their lives that fateful night.

In May 2001 two Canadian men, Dr. Ryan Parr and historian Alan Ruffman were given leave to exhume the remains of the “Unknown Child” in order to carry out DNA testing on descendants of 5 boys who could possibly have been the child buried in 1912. Three of the five were ruled out fairly quickly leaving Eino Viljam Panula (age thirteen months, from Finland) and Sidney Goodwin (age 19 months, from England). In 2002 it was in the opinion of Dr. Parr that

the teeth samples did not match those expected in a child of 19 months and therefore identified the child as probably being Eino Panula.

Later Dr. Parr announced that they had made a mistake in identifying the remains as those of Eino and as a final identification named the child as being Sidney Leslie Goodwin.

Further evidence substantiated this when a pair of brown leather shoes were examined that have been on public display in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. The shoes were donated in 2002 by the family of Clarence Northover a Halifax Police Department Sergeant who in 1912 had helped guard the bodies and the belongings of the Titanic victims. An extract from a letter by Earle Northover, grandson of Clarence explained “Clothing was burned to stop souvenir hunters but he was too emotional when he saw the little pair of brown, leather shoes about fourteen centimeters long, and didn’t have the heart to burn them. When no relatives came to claim the shoes, he placed them in his desk drawer at the police station and there they remained for the next six years, until he retired in 1918.”

The shoes were identified as those of Sidney Goodwin



Sidney Leslie Goodwin born 9th September 1910



In Memoriam



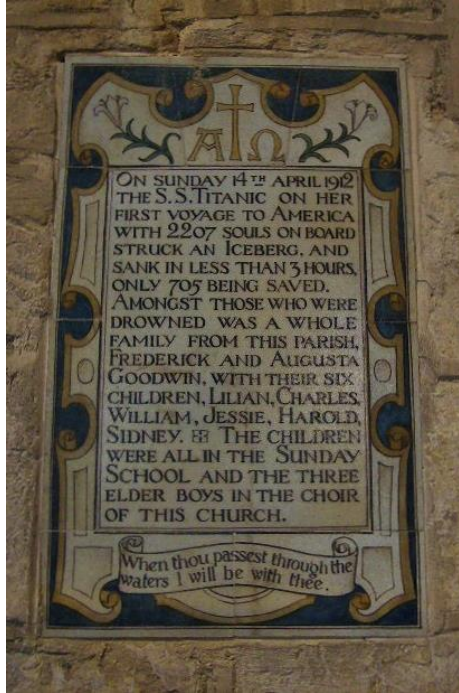
Sidney Leslie Goodwin

Wiltshire band Sackful of Sovereigns penned a song 'An Unknown Child' dedicated to baby Sidney, and 'Bound for the Promised Land', a song about the whole Goodwin family.

The bodies of Mr. Frederick Joseph Goodwin, Mrs. Augusta Goodwin (née Tyler), Miss Lillian Amy Goodwin, Mr. Charles Edward Goodwin, Master William Frederick Goodwin, Miss Jessie Allis Goodwin, Master Harold Victor Goodwin were never recovered.

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A plaque has been erected in their memory in St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Melksham. It reads

“On Sunday 14th April 1912 the S.S. Titanic on her first voyage to America with 2,207 souls on board struck an iceberg, and sank in less than 3 hours. Only 705 being saved. Amongst those who were drowned was a whole family from this parish, Frederick and Augusta Goodwin, with their six children, Lilian, Charles, William, Jessie, Harold, Sidney. The children were all in the Sunday School and the three elder boys in the choir of this church. “When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee”.



An Unknown Child

Dark dark night, cold cold sea, Dark dark night, cold cold sea,
 Where are all my family, why have they left me?
 I still hear their voices call, I hear them in my head,
 “Daddy when will we be there?” that is what they said,
 Dark dark night, and I must sleep,
 cold cold sea, and I must sleep.

Floating on the sea, for six whole days from when the ship they said could not be sunk, went down.
 Rescued from the sea, too late for life, and no-one there to tell the waiting world, your name.
 The hands that came to pull you up, they placed their coins into a passing cup,
 So the world would not forget how you came here,
 A final place for you to rest, a marker stone, the very best, Carved with the simple words - "An Unknown Child".

And so you came to lie, in a Fairview Lawn while family and friends all thought you lost, at sea.
 And it came to be, you represented fifty three young lives that all were drowned, that night.

Your small brown shoes, compassion saved, returned by children of another age,
But still they gave no clues to who you were,
For those that tried to find your name, a never-ending guessing game,
And so you would remain - "An Unknown Child".

You traveled on the ocean for a new life across the sea, along with those who loved and held you dear.
But this became a dream that was not meant to be,
A journey that would end, in fear.
The arrogance of men conspired to take you to your fate,
An innocent, a consequence of those who could not wait,
When will we be there?

The years have passed on by, and in that time technology has shaped the world we know, today.
They came to where you lie, with tiny clues from family that spanned the years from then to now.
At first they called you by another name, misidentified, unknown again,
And so you had to wait for six more years.
Then they came again, dispelled their doubts, revealed your name
No Longer to be called - "An Unknown Child".

Dark dark night, cold cold sea, Dark dark night, cold cold sea,
Sidney Leslie Goodwin now you're back with family.

OTHER FAMILY MEMEBERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES



Augusta Goodwin nee Tyler born c 1869



Frederick Joseph born c 1872



Lilian Amy born c 1896



Charles Edward born c 1898



William Frederick born c1901



Jessie Alice born c1902



Harold Victor born c 1903

This article has been pieced together using several sources and special thanks to the [Encyclopedia Titanica](#) for their painstaking recording of details surrounding the disaster and for the use of images within this piece.