

# Cosslett Herbert Waddell (1858–1919)

This is one in a series of articles by **Mark Lawley** about prominent British and Irish field bryologists of the past. Mark 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 online at [www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk](http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk)

## Botanical career

Waddell's most influential contribution to bryology was his role in launching the Moss Exchange Club (MEC) 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 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.

Of Waddell's bryological records held by the Biological Records Centre at Wallingford, most that are dated originate from Ireland or the English Lake District in the 1880s. In the Lake District near Kendal he found *Platydictya jungermannioides* in 1882, *Amblystegium confervoides* in 1885, and *Rhytidiadelphus subpinnatus* in 1886, as well as *Andreaea mutabilis* on Helvellyn in 1883/4, *Habrodon perpusillus* near Levens in 1884 and on Nab Scar near Rydal the following year. A later record was of *Pedinophyllum interruptum* in 1899.

In Ireland he found *Bryum uliginosum*, *Catoscopium nigrum* and *Petalophyllum ralfsii* at Magilligan near Portstewart, *Ceratodon conicus* at Mulranny in Co. Mayo, *Rhynchostegium megapolitanum* and *Petalophyllum ralfsii* at Malahide near Dublin, *Atrichum angustatum* at Saintfield in Co. Down, *Hageniella micans* and *Paraleptodontium recurvifolium* on Brandon

Mountain in Co. Kerry (with *H. micans* also at Cromaglan in Co. Kerry), *Scleropodium tourettii* at Sallagh Braes in Co. Antrim, *Lophozia longiflora* at Rostrevor near Ballyvalley in Co. Down in 1888 and on Clermont Mountain in Co. Louth in 1890, and *Marsupella sphacelata* at Slieve League in Co. Donegal.

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

Waddell also took interest in critical genera of flowering plants – brambles, roses, hawkweeds and knotweeds, and botanized quite widely 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 British Bryological Society's archive at National Museum and Gallery of Wales in Cardiff also holds Waddell's notebooks, papers and correspondence. 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. Liverpool Museum has 70 of his packets.

### Family background

Waddell was the eldest son and second child of seven born to Cosslett (or Coslett) Waddell (1827–1897) and Maria (*née* Langtry, 1829–1902). The family lived at Drumcro House, Maralin (or Magheralin or Moira), Co. Down, Ireland. Interestingly, the botanist John Macoun (1831–1920) was also born in Magheralin; he emigrated to Canada in 1851.

Maria Langtry was a cousin of Cosslett Waddell, for Cosslett's own mother was born Catherine Langtry (or Langtree, 1795–1867), daughter of George Langtry (1764–ca 1846), a business magnate of Fortwilliam, Moira, Belfast who owned mills and ships and imported goods from overseas. George Langtry was a cousin of the naturalist William Thompson (1805–1852), with whom he went on a Grand Tour in 1826, the year after George's wife died. She was born Frances Caldwell (or Callwell, or Calwell, 1772–1825). The Callwells or Caldwell's apparently intermarried on at least three occasions with the Langtrys and Thompsons, for George Langtry's son George (1803–1849, who was Cosslett Herbert Waddell's maternal grandfather) married Margaret Caldwell (1807–1876). Margaret was a daughter of Nathaniel Callwell (?1766–1832) of Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. And William Thompson's mother was born Elizabeth Callwell. The Callwells, Langtrys and Thompsons were all affluent families who made their money from merchandizing and trade, particularly linen and shipping.

Maria Langtry was also a cousin of Edward (Ned) Langtry, who married Emilie Charlotte de Breton ('Lillie') who as Lillie Langtry (see



△ Cosslett Herbert Waddell. Courtesy Caroline Bingley

*Dictionary of National Biography*) later became mistress to Edward, Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII.

The Waddells had held land in Co. 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 Islandderry 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 Mary or Margaret Douglas, whose family owned land at Maralin. The merchant and politician Waddell Cunningham (1729–1797, see *Dictionary of National Biography*) was a son of Jane Ross Cunningham (*née* Waddell) of Islandderry, and kinsman to another Robert Ross Waddell (perhaps a nephew of the Robert Ross Waddell who died in 1771) who joined Cunningham in business partnership in New York in the mid-18th century. The Stoddards, Langtrys, Cunninghams and Waddells of Antrim and Down all prospered through farming, milling, and overseas trade. The Waddells held the third largest estate in Co. Down.

Of Cosslett Herbert's siblings, Florence Catherine (1856–1903) and Clara Maria (1859–1928) died without issue. George (1862–1926) became a railway engineer, and went out 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 (1869–1947), 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 the Reverend Hugh Waddell (1840–1901), a missionary priest, 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. At that time William Henry Lett (another bryologist) was rector of Ardmore, only 4 miles away.

In 1883, Waddell moved to Warrenpoint, and then spent 4 years (1884–8) at Kendal,

Westmorland, where he met his future wife, Eleanor Maud Mary Monsarrat (1870–1934). She was a daughter of the Reverend Henry John Monsarrat (1822–1901) by his second wife Eleonora Jane (*née* Hallowes, who was able to claim descent from the Plantagenets via the Brabazon family). Nicholas Monsarrat (1910–1979, author of *The Cruel Sea* and other tales; see *Dictionary of National Biography*) was Eleanor's nephew.

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, Co. Down, where he remained for 22 years.

Cosslett's brother Alfred remarried after his first wife died in 1909, and Cosslett and Eleanor (who had no children of their own) adopted Alfred's two daughters Doreen (1907–1937) 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 8 June 1919.

### Acknowledgements

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