

Richard and Anna Goffe From Hook Norton to Valparaiso (Indiana)

There is a brass plaque in St Peter's Church, Hook Norton, dedicated to Theodore Littleboy who was killed in an accident in Valparaiso, Indiana, in June 1928. [See the article on "William Theodore Darby Littleboy" in this section.] While I was researching his story for a presentation to the village Local History Group, I came across a reference to the Goffe family from Hook Norton who had also emigrated to this part of the United States. There must have been a connection, and a little more time on the internet began to uncover the links between Theodore Littleboy and the Goffes.

In the 1911 Census we find a young Richard Goffe, aged 18, employed on his father's farm. His parents were Richard and Rebecca Goffe and they lived at Nil Farm, north of Hook Norton. Completing the family were Richard's two sisters, Mary, aged 21, and Kate, aged 16.

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 Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedules... 4
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after Census.)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (Check whether male and female)	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	Industry or Service with which work is connected	Whether Employer, whether Workman, or whether in One or Another	Whether in Public or Private			
Richard Goffe	Head	55	Married	23	5	3	2	Farmer	120	Employer	Radcliffe, Warwick	100	
Rebecca Goffe	Wife	54	Married	23	5	3	2			Employer	Radcliffe, Warwick	350	
Mary Goffe	Sister	21	Single								Hook Norton, Oxon		
Richard Goffe	Son	18	Single					Farmer's Servant working on Nil Farm	110	0	Hook Norton, Oxon		
Kate Goffe	Sister	16	Single								Hook Norton, Oxon		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Male	Female	Persons	Prevalence
3	3	5	0

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

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

Signature: *Richard Goffe*
 Postal Address: *Nil Farm, Hook Norton, Oxon.*

1911 Census for Hook Norton

H O O K N O R T O N L O C A L H I S T O R Y G R O U P

We move on a few years and pick up another story that I found on an internet message board posted by Carol Goffe, Richard and Anna's granddaughter. Carol told me that Anna Goffe was Danish, her maiden name being Lauritzen. She must have been an intrepid girl as in 1912 at the age of 18 she spent the winter in Tenerife.

Two years later she left Denmark for London. Anna then moved to Hook Norton where she worked as a maid for the Littleboy family. Whilst in their employ she met and subsequently married Richard Goffe (in 1920, in Copenhagen). The couple had two sons, Richard, born in 1921, and Martin, born in 1923.



Richard and Anna Goffe and their sons in Hook Norton

On 27 September 1929 the family left for the USA. They sailed from Southampton on the 16 November on the Cunard ship "Mauretania" bound for New York. Their immigration visas had been issued in London at the end of September. The ship's manifest reveals that both boys had been born in Hook Norton but their last permanent address had been Mariager in Denmark. Anna's last permanent address was also listed as being there. Perhaps she had taken her boys on a farewell visit to her family in Denmark.

The final sentence in Carol's message board posting said "They were issued a Certificate of Citizenship on September 6, 1935 at the Circuit Court of Porter County in Valparaiso, Indiana".

G 100

Family name: Goffe Given name or names: Richard Charles

Address: R # 4, Valparaiso, Ind.

Certificate no. (or vol. and page): P-578 Title and location of court: Cir. Porter Co., Valparaiso, Ind.

Country of birth or allegiance: England-Great Britain When born (or age): Jan. 9, 1893

Date and port of arrival in U. S.: _____ Date of naturalization: Sept. 6, 1935

Names and addresses of witnesses: _____

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 1-I-P.

I located the family in the 1930 US Census where they were listed as living on Valparaiso Road in Portage Township, Porter County, Indiana. Interestingly Martin Goffe was recorded as Basil Goffe: however, the General Register Office index for his birth named him as Martin T B Goffe, so he might well have used all his Christian names at different stages in his life. Richard's occupation in the Census was a farmer. The household was completed by Roe Shook, a farm labourer, presumably an employee.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State: Indiana Incorporated place: _____
County: Porter Ward of city: _____ Block No.: _____
Unincorporated place: _____
Township or other division of county: Portage Township Institution: _____
Enumerated by me on Apr. 25, 1930 Carlton Dickerson Enumerated 1930

AGE	SEX	RACE	RELATION	MARRIAGE DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH			LANGUAGES SPOKEN (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN)	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	SOURCES	COST	EMPLOYMENT	MIGRATION
							PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER							
233	M	White	Head	0 2 4 0 0			Germany	Germany	German	19 19	V 1917 Pa	Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
234	F	White	Wife				Germany	Germany	German	19 19	V 1917 Pa	Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
235	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	59		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
236	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	59		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
237	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
238	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
239	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
240	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
241	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
242	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
243	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
244	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
245	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
246	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
247	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
248	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
249	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
250	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
251	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
252	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
253	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
254	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
255	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
256	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
257	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
258	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
259	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
260	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
261	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
262	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
263	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
264	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
265	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
266	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
267	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
268	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
269	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
270	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
271	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
272	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
273	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
274	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
275	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
276	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
277	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
278	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
279	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
280	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
281	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
282	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
283	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
284	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
285	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
286	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
287	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
288	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
289	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
290	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
291	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
292	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
293	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
294	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
295	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
296	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
297	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
298	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
299	M	White	Son				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	
300	F	White	Daughter				Germany	Germany	German	60		Farmer	1000	10	Pa	

United States Census Bureau, 1930, Portage Township

From the research I had undertaken I had found a man from Hook Norton who had been tragically killed in 1928 and a young family moving from Hook Norton to the same area the following year. Was there a link or was it merely a coincidence?

When Theodore Littleboy was killed in 1928 he had been working on a farm owned by his uncle, Thomas Newton. A contemporary newspaper report said that he was shortly to have been married to a girl coming out from the UK and had recently undertaken extensive improvements to the farm.

I found an excellent web site covering the history of the area. Its webmaster is Steve Shook who turns out to be the grandson of Roe Shook who was living with the Goffes at the time of the 1930 Census. Steve very kindly gave me links to contemporary maps that feature on his web site. The Goffes did indeed farm as tenants on land owned by Thomas Newton, but it was not the same tract of land that Theodore Littleboy had. However, there is the likelihood that Theodore's father back in Hook Norton had been in contact with Thomas Newton, who was his brother-in-law, asking him to help the family of his former maid get off to a good start in their adopted country.



On the Newton Farm: Tom, Merle Schlobohm, Pete, Joan and Jean

Richard and Anna Goffe, as far as I have been able to establish, had three more children, a son and two daughters. May Jean Goffe was born in 1930 and married Herschel Maple in 1952. Herschel died in 2000, while May died in February

2011. At the time her obituary appeared in a local newspaper two of her brothers, John and Tom, and her sister, Joan, were still alive. Over the years it would seem that her brother Tom had been known by all of his Christian names at one point or another. May's other brother, Richard, predeceased her.

Richard Goffe died aged 73 in 1966, while Anna lived to the ripe old age of 98, dying in 1993. Descendants of Richard and Anna Goffe continue to live in the US fairly close to where the family first settled when they arrived from Hook Norton.

All of the research for this article has been undertaken online making full use of my subscriptions to Ancestry and Find my Past. In addition if it were not for Steve Shook's web site (<http://www.inportercounty.org/>) and the other links he has given me this article could never have been written. I am also grateful to Carol Goffe for the background information.

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