A biography of Robert Goodwin

This document, (version 6.1) collated by Tony Goodwin 1st April 2013, brings together many sources. All copyright is acknowledged, and the kindness of all contributors is much appreciated.

I just wanted a brief biography arranged in a chronological order with which I and others can identify. Early work on this was encouraged by Robb Gorr, but I’m sure he will complete his work soon and put an end to this feeble attempt – in the meantime it grows slowly…..

The basic chronology was supplied from HBCo via a note sent to me by Patty Frost, which was written and researched by Mabel Hykaway, Lynne Dollis and Joanna Martin.

Mabel has been very kind and recently reviewed my web site and the information about Robert and relations surrounding him, and kindly provided feedback to take our knowledge further. My thanks to her nephew, Robert Quirk for his time and trouble to facilitate this and also to scan her comments and send them to me.

Much information was added from internet surfing, and correspondence most particularly with Robb Gorr, who is writing a much-anticipated book on this subject, and knows far more that I ever will.

I’m indebted in this version to Anon Maguire, Becky Johnson, and Scott Saulnier for new material

There are areas where I disagree with the HBCo account – Goodwins parents; some dates and the order of his children, and details of Puckethwanish and Jenny. They come out in the narrative. If anyone has any comments to make I’d be glad to read them.

Early History

Filename: Goodwin, Robert (b. ca. 1761) (fl. 1781-1805); HBCo Ref filename JHB/ek, June 1987 (rev. 1997/02)
Search File “Goodwin, Robert” includes lists of descendants, summaries of letters in the Guildhall among the papers of Fishmongers’ Company, London (Ms 06481)

NAME: GOODWIN, Robert also GOODWYN born [Norfolk ?] (A.32/3, fo.61)
PARISH: Yoxford, ENGLAND
ENTERED SERVICE: 3 May 1781
DATES: b. March 1761, d. 22 June 1805
PARENTS: John Goodwin of Wortwell, b 18 Sep 1820 and Ann. This also agrees with The Goodwins of the Waveney Valley – MW Goodwin. Mabel has updated her early research to match this now and her view matches Patty Frost’s who updated HBC. Both of these wills are available. Early research (attributed to a submission by Mabel to HBC) said Robert Goodwin and Margaret Cupper.
It is worth noting here that Roberts’ father married again, to Elizabeth Punt, and they had three children; John, Elizabeth and William, half-brothers and sisters to Robert. Recent correspondence between Mabel and myself confirms this thinking. Anyone with Margaret Cupper in their records should review them! The internet still contains references to red herrings in this area.
Robert was apprenticed to Goodwin Wilson, surgeon, Towcester, 1771. age 10. (M W Goodwin)

Goodwin Wilson’s will is available should anyone want it. Robert witnessed other wills in Towcester at a young age (15 and 12 years!). Towcester is about 130 miles from Yoxford. Beccles is about 15 miles from Yoxford.

In a letter dated 1778 she (Mary Hunter) refers to time they had spent together at Beccles and there is talk of the love between them. They would both have been quite young at the time, Goodwin at least 17 years old. Robb Gorr
Suffolk area

Suffolk is a coastal county on the east coast of England, north of the Thames Estuary and south of The Wash and Norfolk.

Courtesy of Multimap.
Yoxford Parish Church April 2005

The churchyard to the south is 1.5 meters above the original foundations. Lots of time has passed!

Charlotte Barmby, wife of Robert’s heir William Adolphus is buried here.

Inherited lands etc. from his Uncle Robert “The Grocer” 19th May 1779. age 18.

Uncle Roberts will is on my web site at www.tgoodwin.f2s.com

"This is the last will and testament of me, Robert Goodwin of Yoxford. in the county of Suffolk, GROCER,....... 
.....First I give and devise unto MY NEPHEW ROBERT GOODWIN of Beccles in the county of Suffolk SURGEON his heirs and assigns for ever all and every my messuages and tenements lands hereditaments and premises as the same are situate lying and being in YOXFORD aforesaid, Bungay, Wortwell, Pulham, Spexhall, Wisset and Rumburgh in the said county of Suffolk or in any other town parish........ ........(Also I give and bequeath all the residue and remainder of my personal estate after payment of all my just debts funeral and other incidental charges and the probate of this my will, to the said ROBERT GOODWIN my nephew. But nevertheless my mind and will further is that Thomas Alexander of Yoxford aforesaid woollen draper do and shall from time to time for and until the said ROBERT GOODWIN my nephew SHALL ARRIVE OR ATTAIN TO THE AGE OF TWENTY FIVE YEARS have receive and take the rents issues and profits of all and every my estates and premise and devise and let them 13th Feb 1779)"
So Robert was living in Beccles then, and became potentially a rich man, but only in May 1786, some seven years hence. There were many dependants to be taken care of with annuities also. With no immediate alternative, he carried on in his chosen career:

**Pupil apothecary at St.Thomas’ Hospital. 16th Oct 1780. age 19.**

Documents are available from Kings College London archived showing his fees (£25 and 4 shillings), registration, and attachment to a Mr Smith for instruction.

I have consulted a history of St. Thomas’s Hospital (by E.M. McInnes) which states that after serving a long (5 or 6 years) apprenticeship with a surgeon or doctor, and then attend the Hospital for either 6 or 12 months attending lectures and shadowing staff. I believe the time period was short because of the expense of fees.

References: Registration Book TH/FP1/IN, payment book TH/FP8/1 pupil lists TH/FP4/1, archives.web@kcl.ac.uk

Katharine Higgon, Archives and Corporate Records Services (ISS), Room 302, Strand Building, King’s College London

So after a normal 6 months he left. Perhaps next he was looking for adventure next. After all, he had just inherited lands and money, but couldn’t get his hands on it for another 7 years, and then he would be tied down to the Gentlemans life. Maybe he felt a calling to practice his profession after such a long time learning it. Maybe the earning potential was great. Maybe he was frustrated at not inheriting at 18.

He had some time to see the world before returning home to fortune, and sweetheart.
**HBCA Appointments & Service**

HBCA references in the title headings are used below here in the document.

Outfit Year* Position Post District HBCA Reference

*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May. Presumably set for midsummer so that a trip out of, then into the bay was possible before the ice?

**Signed a contract with HBCo on 3rd May 1781 as a surgeon age 20. Ref A32/3 fo.61**

This contract was to end in five years time, just around the time he was take control of his legacy in late 1786. Surely he planned it this way.

**Hudsons Bay Company Territory 1764 to 1820**

Goodwins new place of work

Robert Quirk notes that this map has Fort Garry listed as Fort Barry

http://www.canadiana.org/hbc_/pups/PAHMbc1764-1820_e.htm

Also try this: http://railways-atlas.tapor.ualberta.ca/coocon/atlas/Maps-2-1-1/

**1781, 31 May - Sailed from London on King George III to Eastmain arriving Sept 1 1781 Ref Fiche 211136 B.59/a/57; CI/385**

The voyage started just before the beginning of the ‘outfit year’ which ran from 1 June to 31 May.
In the period that Robert travelled there were usually three HBC ships from London to Hudson Bay each summer, one to Fort Churchill/Prince of Wales, one to York Fort and one to Albany and Moose. After leaving London they usually stopped in the Orkneys to take on passengers and fresh water. When going into Hudson Bay, the ship’s guns were fired as a signal to the Eskimos, who paddled out to the ship in their canoes and traded whalebone and sealskins. The trip from the Orkneys to James Bay took about two months, while the trip from James Bay back to the Orkneys was a month on average. The ship was usually anchored near Moose/Albany for about three weeks while supplies were unloaded and cargo bound for England was taken on board. – Becky Johnson

The caption below the image says: The Hudson’s Bay Company’s ‘King George’ sets sail from Gravesend, England en route to the company’s posts in Canada. Goods from overseas usually reached the fur ports once a year, and although ships on the Hudson Bay were built to withstand the force of ice floes, skippers needed skill to avoid uncharted hazards of the Bay trip.

Source unknown

This was the ship’s maiden voyage, it had been built from 14 Sept 1780 to 7 March 1781. The master was Joseph Richards. (C.1/385)

They sailed from Gravesend on 5 June 1781 and anchored at Stromness 15 June. They sailed from Stromness on 25 June.
Robert is on the list of “Servants Carried Outward for Albany & Moose River”: “Engaged at London Mr. Robert Goodwin Surgeon, discharged at Albany 31 Aug 1781, wages while on board 5 pounds” (I assume it was for his medical services while on board the ship.)

Also on the same ship was Jenkin Daniel, Sawyer. Jenkin, originally from Glamorganshire, Wales, had gone to James Bay to work for the HBC in 1765. In 1781 he was returning from his second and final trip back to England. About thirty years later, ca. 1811, Robert Goodwin’s daughter Margaret married Jenkin’s son Jacob.

The ship arrived at Moose River on 28 Aug 1781 and Robert disembarked at Fort Albany 1 Sept.

**Sep 1781 to 8th Jun 1782 Surgeon Eastmain B.59/a/57 (aged 20 to 21)**

![Map of James Bay region](http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/search/political?map_chart=33+D%2F1&lat=52.1833&long=-78.1667&mapxy=1117878.11495+502128.476208&scales=5244128.15838&searchstring=Eastmain&location1=QC&unique_key=ELZVA&layers=featureannotate+polygonresult&urlappend=%26map_featureannotate_expression%3DELZVA%26map_polygonresult_data%3Dgc_96%26map_polygonresult_class_expression%3DELZVA%26map_featureannotate_class_symbol%3Darrow)

When Robert first arrived in James Bay on 1 Sept 1781 he went to Fort Albany (not Eastmain). He was supposed to be the surgeon at Fort Albany but George Atkinson, who was stationed at Eastmain, requested Robert’s services. George was quite ill. Among other things he believed he was suffering from scurvy, and his legs and thighs were black, swollen and painful. It wasn’t unusual for the men at the forts to suffer from scurvy, but it was most common in late winter when fresh food supplies were scarce. George Atkinson left Moose Fort to travel to Eastmain on 26 Sept 1781, perhaps Robert was with him at the time. George arrived at Eastmain on 8 Oct and Robert is recorded in the list of men working at Eastmain on 16 Oct 1781. I could find no record in the Albany, Moose or Eastmain journals indicating when he left Albany to go there.

(B.3/b/19, B.135/a/65) – Becky Johnson

**Left Eastmain 8th June 1872 to Moose Fort arriving 15th June**

The following summer Edward Jarvis at Moose Fort requested that Robert come there from Eastmain to assist him because he too was very ill. Robert left Eastmain on 8 June 1782 and arrived at Moose Fort on 15 June with 3 Englishmen and 2 Indians. – Becky Johnson
Photograph of Moose Factory on the Moose River

http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/maps/historical/territorial.evolution/photo1895.jpg/image_view
Also see
http://www.moosecree.com/community-profile/geography.html

Left Moose 20th June 1872 to Fort Albany arriving 22nd June

However, Thomas Hutchins in charge at Fort Albany required Robert's services more urgently, so five days later on 20 June 1782 Robert left Moose Fort in the long boat and went to Fort Albany, arriving 22 June.

(B.3/b/19, B.135/a/65)

The smallpox epidemic had reached Albany around May of 1782 so Robert may have been needed to help care for the Indians in the Albany area. The aboriginal populations were decimated by this epidemic in 1782-3. – Becky Johnson
There was a mild earthquake at Henley House (inland from Fort Albany) on 27 Nov 1782 between 5 and 6 a.m. It apparently was preceded by a sound like a clap of thunder and then shook their “rural habitation in a frightful manner.” (B.3/b/20) – Becky Johnson

In Aug-Sept 1782 the French attacked and destroyed Prince of Wales Fort (Churchill) and York Fort. Robert and the other men at Fort Albany held councils in the spring of 1783 to discuss the situation. There was much anxiety over whether the French would attack other English forts (like Albany) and whether the HBC ships would arrive in the summer of 1783. – Becky Johnson

Here it seems he met his wife to be.

The earliest letter I have found is from a Mr Jarvis in London dated 17th May 1783 (bearing in mind the time it would have taken for the original letter informing Jarvis about Mistigoosh to arrive and the reply to come) where he says “I send you … a few needles for Mistagoosh (sic)” In the same letter he refers to the “little family” By the spring of 1783 she (Mistigoosh) is mentioned with regularity in his correspondence. They have “a little family” possibly indicating that a child had been born. She is called “your dear girl” and “beloved”. She is also referred to as “Mrs. Goodwin” indicating that some native binding ceremony had probably occurred.

It must have been with difficulty that Goodwin left her and returned to England when his contract with the Hudson Bay Company expired in 1786.

It was during this time in England that he resumed his courtship with Mary Hunter of Bungay. He had known her for many years before his 1781 departure. After returning to England he must have rekindled his relationship with Mary but when the Hudson Bay Company offered him the job of trader instead of surgeon and a pay raise he decided to go back to Canada. Perhaps his affection for Mistigoosh also played a part in his decision.

An agreement between her family and Robert Goodwin to the benefit of both parties ‘a la facon du pays’ – Mabel Hykaway
The Indians on the west side of James Bay are Swampy Cree (Omushkego) and an elder I consulted said that the name Mistigoosh means "Little Tree". I have looked in many Cree dictionaries and found the word "mistigoose" in only one, translated as "small stick or branch". "Mistik" means tree or wood, so it all seems to fit.

I did some further looking in Cree dictionaries at the library. The sounds in the Cree language are difficult to describe with our alphabet so spellings can really vary. When "k" or "g" are used the sound is actually somewhere between the two, and "s" can sound like "sh". The suffix "-oose" means "little" so Mistikoose or Mistigoosh is Little Tree. An elder I consulted pronounced it as "Mistikooosh".

Many Indians and their families are mentioned in the past journals, some coming in to trade or to get credit or food, some for medical treatment by Robert. One of them could have been Mistigoosh's father.

Robert also travelled away from the fort to treat sick or injured people. One case (winter 1782-3) was a seriously ill Indian whose wife was large with child. Robert was unable to help him, the man died, and his wife and her parents were devastated. – Becky Johnson

Perhaps Robert was now torn between Fortune and Family. He had a ‘country wife’ to whom it seems he was much attached, but as yet we have no other indications about children.

**When was Caroline Born?**

My father left a note that he thought Caroline was born ‘c. 1783/4’ perhaps based on the quote referred to by Robb. I don’t know. Robb estimates her birth as 1791 on the basis of her childbearing years. Mabel Hykaway thinks Caroline was ‘possibly’ the oldest child. If b. 1783 say then Caroline would have been 42 when she had the last son, Charles, and 24 for the first, William. On the other hand if b. 1791 she would have been 34 for Charles, and 16 for William. It’s possible that a child was there and perhaps if not ‘early Caroline’ maybe it died.

I have a strong feeling there was a child born in 1782-3 but was it Caroline? I don’t have an opinion on this yet. Was Caroline married by 1799? But didn’t have her first child until 1807? Could she have been married at age 8? – Becky Johnson

A letter from Alfred Robinson at York Factory dated March 10th 1788 refers in a roundabout way to a “thoughts of a final departure from a young woman and child whose well being I must always be anxious for is to me distressing, and which I make no doubt you have already experienced...” - Could this allude to a common situation between them, in Robert’s case Mistigoosh and Caroline?

A letter from John McNab at Albany on 11th September 1799 indicates that while she might be young “I have no doubt but that Mr Hodgson will take care of her” – perhaps an indication of a marriage in 1799.

**Robert intended to return**

Anyway, Robert had a taste of this country which was all he’d known for most of his adult life. He knew he had a fortune back in England, and had to return to take control of it. He also knew there was money to be made here. His plans are perhaps indicated by this quote kindly found by Anon Maguire. What exactly is the context of the ‘vivacity and thoughtlessness’, we may not know unless the previous letter or journal entry can be found. He clearly got Mr Jarvis to put a word in for him, just two days before he sailed homeward.
Albany, 3 September 1786
Letter written by Edward Jarvis to Governor and Counselors

"I cannot conclude without mentioning Mr. Goodwin to you whose extreme vivacity and thoughtlessness made me speak slightly of his behavior this year as mentioned in my Journal has been quite the reverse he has acted as Second and Steward assisted me cheerfully upon all occasions, therefore I think it as much my duty now to recommend him to your notice, as it was then the contrary -- in short he is perfectly sober has a very clear mercantile head for which indeed as himself confesses he is far better qualified than his profession as a Surgeon and should your Honors chose to employ him I know of no person more capable of rendering you service he is now well acquainted with the nature of your trade -- he talks seriously of selling his estate at Yoxford and trading upon his own Country in Canada which I always affected to treat with ridicule but since I have heard from Mr. Kipling of Unfreville's [unfrivolous?] great success I thought it my duty to inform you...."

"Well I typed it up Tony, as you will see there was some sort of rumor going round. :) – Anon Maguire

5 Sep 1786 to England by Sea Horse III (from James Bay) Ref Fiche 2111125, C.I/1050 aged 25

HMS Seahorse 1794 by Tony Fernandes
http://www.battleships-cruisers.co.uk/sailship.htm
Robert's first trip back to England was on the Sea Horse (III), John Richards Master. (C.I/1050)

Robert is listed under “Passengers homeward bound”: "Mr. Rt Goodwin Surgeon Wages 3 pounds"

Mr. Goodwin was discharged from Fort Albany on 5 Sept 1786, the ship sailed from James Bay on 8 Sept and arrived at Gravesend on 16 Oct. There was no mention in the journal of the usual stop in the Orkneys.
– Becky Johnson

Arrived in Gravesend, England after end of contract, 16th October 1786

Date based on duration of outward voyage. In England we have no information about his whereabouts. We can assume he spent some time with John Barmby, Attorney of Yoxford who was to administer his affairs for the rest of his life in England, but from the letter above we can assume he may also have set in train the liquidation of his assets there. He also received a letter from John David Towse, who was to draw up his will, dated 14th April 1785, presumably received Hudsons Bay before his return. There are letters from Barmby in the HBCo record, which need to be checked.
He succeeded in signing another contract with HBC, this time as a trader which from the letter above is what he wanted. As it says, he is qualified for it, and it now seems clear he had every intention of returning. It seems that Mary Hunter was to be disappointed, after waiting for her man for perhaps ten years.

Another letter from Mary Hunter dated 1787, probably written after the news that Goodwin intended again to return to Canada, shows a woman scorned who speaks of “mistakes of the heart” and “unrequited love”. Apparently the news of Goodwin’s departure was a shock and she speaks of his missed appointment to speak with her father about certain matters. Later correspondence with the Barmbys refers occasionally to Mary Hunter as his “once loved lady”. The return to Canada also meant a resumption of his relationship with Mistigoosh and we know that William was born the following year and then Caroline, Peggy and Nancy. Robb Gorr

Robb’s remarks about sequence of the children are addressed later in this document, as there is not universal agreement.

**Depart Yarmouth, Norfolk 31st May 1787 to Fort Albany via Moose arrived 30 Aug 1787. Ref B3/a/89 Aged 26**

Robert sailed from England back to James Bay on the King George (III), William Christopher Master. (C.1/390) There is no passenger list.

The ship sailed from Yarmouth on 31 May 1787. They arrived in the Orkneys on 7 June and sailed from there 23 June.

The ship’s journal records their arrival at Moose on 27 Aug 1787, but the Moose Fort journal entry says that Captain Christopher and Mr. Robt Goodwin came on shore in the pinnace at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of 26 Aug. On 29 Aug they returned to the ship and from there I assume Robert went to Fort Albany although his arrival is not recorded in the Albany journal.

— Becky Johnson

So he spent less than nine months in England, and clearly travelled through Suffolk to reach his embarkation point, making it likely that he also visited his father and brother in Redenhall and Wortwell, as well as the Barmbys.

After a month at Albany he left for Gloucester House 31 Sept 1787.

**7th Oct 1787 – 13th Feb 1788 Gloucester House Albany B.78/a/17 (Aged 26 to 27)**

Perhaps the Journal if it exists will reveal something of this visit?. The trader there, according to Mabel, was John Kipling, and she does not think he was trading there. Perhaps he collected Mistigoosh there and she traveled onward with him. More research would be needed to be sure.

**Left for Osnaburgh House 13th Feb 1788 Ref B78/a/89**

A 13 day journey up river.
1790 TRADING POST by C.W. Jefferys
http://www.telusplanet.net/public/hexaquad/photo-c.htm
His longest stay in one place of his career.

1788  The Ojibwa Tinnawabino with his three wives and seventeen children arrived at the Hudson Bay post Osnaburgh to trade with Robert Goodwin.

[http://www.telusplanet.net/public/dgarneau/indian18.htm]

6 August 1788 – Robert and Mistigoosh’s son William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin is born. Given the normal term of 9 months, this puts conception in November 1787 at Gloucester House, an indication that Mistigoosh traveled with him throughout this second visit thus far.

Robert’s father, John died in 1790 at Redenhall, Norfolk. We don’t have his will.

John McKay, accompanied by Donald McKay, who may have been his brother, came from Sturgeon Lake to the Hudson’s Bay Company’s post at Osnaburgh in the autumn of 1790 for the purpose of enlisting in the Company's service, although it appears that during the two previous years he had been their opponent at Lake St. Ann. Robert Goodwin, who was in charge of Osnaburgh House, forwarded the two McKays to Albany Factory where their services were formally accepted.

John McKay described himself in his contract as “formerly of the City of Montreal”. He subsequently returned to Lake St. Ann and was later employed in the Lac La Pluie District (1793-97); Brandon House (1797-98); Osnaburgh (1798-1800); Martin Fall (1800-01); and for the remainder of his service in the Red River District.

He died at Brandon House on the 5th July, 1810. (Mabel Hykaway notes “If I remember correctly this was the year Brandon House burned down”) He was the father of William McKay (q.v.) and John Richards McKay (q.v.).

Zheewagonab’s band appears to have hunted in the vicinity of Lake St Joseph, especially near its northwest end. James Sutherland’s encounter with them in 1786 occurred near the Crownest River (probably present-day Cat River). After Osnaburgh House was established close to the east end of Lake St Joseph in the summer of 1786, and the Cat Lake outpost two years later, Zheewagonab traded at these two settlements, especially the former. Nevertheless, he dealt with men of the North West Company whenever they offered better bargains. Because of his great influence over the Indians around Lake St Joseph, his business was eagerly sought; he called it his lake, suggesting that his influence determined where the Indians of the area traded. In 1790 he requested the establishment of an HBC outpost some 90 miles west of Osnaburgh House to overcome the attractions offered by the Nor’Westers there. The request was ignored, and the following year (1791) Robert Goodwin, chief trader at Osnaburgh, acknowledged that “plainly they will not come to us when they can get better with the Canadians.” [C. A. Bishop, *The Northern Ojibwa and the fur trade: an historical and ecological study* (Toronto and Montreal, 1974)].

1791 – Robert and Mistigoosh’s daughter Caroline Goodwin is born (challenged, perhaps was earlier? – see above)

a letter from John McNab, Albany, to Goodwin dated 13 [illegible] 1791 “...I congratulate you on the late addition to your domestic Joys...”. Robb Gorr

The letter from J. McNab dated 1791 which sends congratulations on the recent addition to Robert’s family, also announces the loss of a child? It seems very likely that Robert and Mistigoosh would have had children before 1788 if they were together by 1783. – Becky Johnson

Ojibwa Chief Shewequenap, a long time Hudson Bay trader of a large band, told Robert Goodwin that they will not trade when they can get a better deal with the Canadian Pedlars. The Pedlars also carried a larger variety of trinkets and fine garters.


John Best of Cat Lake wrote Robert Goodwin of Osnaburgh that there will be a poor trade from inland this year, as there is so many traders, and everyone will get but a little. David Ramsey, the notorious trader who killed eight Ojibwa twenty years ago; allegedly in self-defense, has gone to live with the Ojibwa speaking Mississauga on the northwest shore of Lake Ontario, in the so called American Old Northwest, which includes the Great Lakes region west of Pittsburgh and north of the Ohio River.

The Hudson Bay Company was chronically short of cloth trade goods this decade.

The Metis Nor’westerners were firmly in control of the fur trade about the Great Lakes and deep into the Illinois country. The Hudson Bay men despised what they called the pedlars and packmen, who were on running the northwest, which they considered their south west department. Those Voyagers considered fifty miles a day only a fair days travel. On a good day they could paddle a hundred miles.

Robert Goodwin at Osnaburgh House reported Indians from Lake Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods, Eagle Lake, Nipigon River and Trout Lake had arrived to trade. Even strange Indians from the great north (North west of Winnipeg Lake) also arrived. It would appear the natives are shopping around for the best trade or are exploiting the massive influx of traders into the Northwest over the past few years. It is noteworthy that the Ojibwa from the Lake of the Woods are growing Indian corn and potatoes to supply the passing traders. There are also four or five families of Ottawa, who settled six miles up the Dead River from it’s junction with the Red River, who also raised Indian corn, potatoes and other garden stuff for the fur traders. The harvesting of wild rice for the fur trade has been long established.


March 1792: Robert Goodwin at Osnaburgh sent all the Indians to hunt for more provisions- “or else we must starve.”


1793. Robert Goodwin, Hudson Bay Company Factor at Osnaburgh Post (Lake St. Joseph), noted that there is not a man here that can go to Cat Lake or knows the way. He eventually bribed some Ojibwa, with promises and gifts, to go with him. A Northwest Company Post is established on Lake St. Joseph near the Bay Post. [http://www.telusplanet.net/public/dgarneau/metis29.htm]
After a Summer trip to Martins Fall, stayed at Osnaburgh House July 27-31, then left for his new Assignment, Brandon House.

The HBC archives here in Winnipeg have a file on Robert and it includes some extracts (done by Mabel Hykaway) of the letters in London. One letter from England (from Jarvis in July 1796) sends regards to Mistigoose and Wauchipuck. Is there any mention of who Wauchipuck was? Maybe her sibling, parent, or child?

Another letter says "Mrs. Goodwin must remember her sister, poor Knowles! He is reduced to a skeleton and if able must go home." George Wright Knowles was employed by the HBC at Albany starting in May 1790 and died there 13 Sept 1793. Perhaps he was married to the sister of Mistigoosh? Before he died he was very anxious to have his will changed but was not successful.

In the Albany/Moose/Eastmain journals I came across no mention of Wauchipuck (although I found Indians named Wauchusk, Wausakesick, and Wawpatch!). And nothing at all on George Wright Knowles or a sister to Mistigoosh. – Becky Johnson

Anon took a look at this and sent me the following regarding Mistigoosh’s siblings, which might appear to include a ‘Pol’ as well as Wauchipuck from the letters below. Further research is needed.

8 Jan, 1787, Letter Edward Jarvis: "I hope Mistigoosh is well Pol has sent her a token of her sisterly love"

Also Edward Jarvis biography - ("The mother of this child was, in Jarvis' own words, the daughter of an Englishman with few or no Indian friends")

3 September 1793, Letter John McNab: "Mrs. Goodwin must remember her sister, poor Knowles! He is reduced to a skeleton and if able must go home"

July 30, 1796, Letter --- Jarvis: "I am glad to hear little Caroline is well. A Mr. Davie who had some knowledge of you when you was apprentice at Yoxford, desires his compliments to you, remember me to Mistigoosh and Wauchipuck" – Anon Maguire
After 31st July 1794 – Spring 1796 Master Brandon House Albany
B.22/a/2,3 (Aged 33 to 35)

http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/search/political?map_chart=62+G%2F1&lat=49.8167&long=-99.35&mapxy=-311860.81679+101360.576334&scale=5244128.15838&searchstring=Brandon+Junction&location1=MB&unique_key=GADNG&layers=featureannotate&urlappend=%26map_featureannotate_class_expression%3DGADNG%26map_featureannotate_class_symbol%3Darrow
On October 15, 1794, Robert Goodwin of Brandon House received clerk, John Hay, a Rhehoam (Joseph Reaume), Levelett (LaViolette), and company. They advised that more canoe are following. The next day
he reported three more Canadian Canoes, a Mr. Auzee and Beaubin (some claim Francois Beaubien Desrivières of Montreal) (more likely the son of old Mackinac trader Beaubien), heading for Capel River then for the Qu’Appelle River. At Portage La Prairie is Joseph Réaume and Dejalon, a clerk of LaViolette’s, being opposed by William McKay of the North West Company and John Linklater of the Hudson Bay Company. [http://www.teclusplanet.net/public/dgameau/metis29.htm]

November 29: 1794 William McKay of the North West Company conspired with Robert Goodwin at Brandon House to limit the success of Cadotte’s party who is taking all the best trade in the Red River. Jean Baptiste Cadotte had made 6 packs on the Grand Rapid of the Assiniboine, and McKay complained that they had made no packs. John Sutherland at Shell River reported that Cadotte had 23 bundles of real fur but went on to say, “I don’t believe it. I hear Furney expended 10 keg of rum and not got two packs of fur”. Cuthbert Grant, Chief officer of Red River Department for the North West Company, reports his department is in ruin because of opposing interests, there are 14 Forts to oppose, which, with 7 belonging to the North West Company, amounts in all to 21 forts in Red River. The North West Company has seven forts opposing 14 competitors. The North West Company had 4 canoes, Hudson Bay Company had 5 canoes, and the Coureurs des Bois had 17 canoes out of Michilimackinac, some of which are suspected for Fort des Prairies for next summers business. Jean Baptiste Cadotte is considered the key to the Coureurs des Bois operation. Goodwin declined the McKay proposal, having too few men to spare.

December 4: William McKay of the N.W.C. again wrote Robert Goodwin at Brandon House saying it was immaterial whether he and Goodwin sent goods or not to oppose Cadotte, as no goods had come from above. The North West Company was determined to stop Cadotte. It is noteworthy that it is only fifteen miles overland from the Cadotte Post to the Souris (the West River), near the present Hartney, Manitoba, and in this area (I)-David Thompson (1770-1857) located what he called Ash House, which had been occupied for two winters, finally being abandoned by 1797/98. [http://www.teclusplanet.net/public/dgameau/metis29.htm]

Robert Goodwin, who succeeded Donald McKay in the position of Post Master at Brandon House writes on January 6, 1795: "We are four houses here and very little made at any of them yet." He would send a man higher up to oppose the North-West at Montagne a la Bosse if only he had one he could trust. "There is now upwards of twenty houses in this river only." [http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/3/sourisfurtrade.shtml]

With four posts in the Souris-mouth group, and with small establishments springing up elsewhere, these were days of keen competition and jockeying for strategic positions in which the men of the Bay not infrequently found that they were competing against themselves. The Hudson's Bay historian, E. E. Rich, writes that Goodwin soon found that the outposts of York drew a certain amount of trade away from the area. This is an indication that Brandon House continued to be a child of the Southern Department traders from Albany throughout the 1790s. Records, Journals and Maps in The Archives of the Hudson’s Bay Company, London.

Communications between these posts in winter were at first haphazard and runners were used. Robert Goodwin wrote from Brandon House near the junction of the Souris with the Assiniboine river, 6th February, 1795, to the Chief at York Factory by runner. [Brandon House Journal, 1794-1795, Robert Goodwin.]

James Sutherland, Master of Brandon House, sent a letter "up the river" with a party of four men to his brother John Sutherland, on January 4th, 1797 to say "you may send down as many men with Wm. Taylor as you can spare from bringing down your craft in the spring." [Brandon House Journal, 1796-1797, James Sutherland.]

A reply written at Indian Elbow Feb. 13, 1797 was carried by Wm. Taylor, accompanied by James Sinclair, and delivered at Brandon House February 26th. They most likely snow shoed both ways. [http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/3/sourisfurtrade.shtml]

After April 1795 and before the end of the year – Robert and Mistigoosh’s daughter Margaret (“Peggy”) Goodwin is born

Her birthdate is calculated as circa 1795 (after April) based on her span of childbearing years (1813-1838) and also from a school journal kept by schoolmaster William Harper at Albany that indicates Margaret Goodwin entered school in April 1809, aged thirteen years. [from Hudson Bay Company Archives, document B.3/a/112, It. 1.3]. Robb Gor

**Trips to Martins Falls, etc are contained in Brandon House journals, Osnaburgh House Journals, Martins Fall Journals Ref B155/a/11,12,14, B123/a/1-5**

5 Sept 1796  Mon. “An epidemical catarrh raging among us - self and Mr. Goodwin very ill many of the men and Natives in great affliction”
8 Sept 1796  Thurs. men “also are affected with this raging epidemick of which an Indian died this day several others in the greatest distress – Mr. Goodwin very bad”
15 Sept 1796  Mr. Robt Goodwin & 2 children Mr. Goodwin’s son and Mr. Clewistones daughter went on board the Sloop” HBCo (B.3/a/96 fo.1a) – Becky Johnson

**15th September 1796 left Albany on Prince of Wales (I) with his son William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin  B.3/a/98; MF 211136, C.I/400,401 (Aged 35)**

Robert and his son boarded the Prince of Wales (I), 15 Sept 1796 to go to England. Henry Hanwell was the commander. (The King George was at York Factory that summer.) C.1741
List of “Passengers homewd bound 1796”: “Mr. Robert Goodwin trader, Mr. Goodwins Son”
After waiting for a fair wind the ship sailed on 23 Sept at 1 a.m. They arrived at Stromness Harbour on 22 Oct 1796 amid wind, rain, thunder and lightning. They didn’t sail from Stromness until 5 Nov because they had to wait for the convoy which was to escort them to London.
The ship arrived at Yarmouth on 10 Nov 1796 and anchored off Greenwich on 12 Nov.
– Becky Johnson

Presumably Robert and William disembarked at Yarmouth on 10th November 1796.

William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin left the country of his birth, aged nearly 8. In a letter from Mr Alex Lean, Hudsons Bay House, dated 31st May 1796 “I have the pleasure to tell you that your daughter has permission to return to England by the return of the company’s ship” so Robert must have originally planned that Caroline would go too, but at the last minute for some reason she did not. Caroline would have been either 5 if born 1791 (perhaps too young to leave her mother), or 13 if born 1783.

A further letter from Alex Lean may be found in the archives dated one day after the one above, permitting ‘your son’ to return.

He once again spent the late Winter, Spring, and early summer in England. Robert was presumably eager to achieve two things by this trip:

- To ensure his only son was brought up in the tradition of the country of his birth, as by now he may have well understood the opportunities in HBC were not easily made available to sons of traders without a good schooling and numeracy. We know during this time WAB Goodwin was placed in the care of his Attourney, John Barmby for his schooling with Mr Brightly in Bungay, Suffolk. WAB was also ‘Baptised publickly’ on 15th January 1797 while his father was in England. All this must have been something of a shock for young William!

- He would also have been eager after nine years away from his estate in England to ensure that things were all well for now and the future. His brother John was in financial trouble, unable to pay back loans. He made his will, dated 30th May 1797, at the offices of John David Towse of Fishmongers Hall, in London. The reading of this will in the context of the time and his circumstances is interesting.
Without anything for his brother or other, he makes bequests to the only daughters Julia and Charlotte of John Barnby, to whose care young William is entrusted, to the value of £50 and £100 respectively and left John Barnby £50 too. Should William not reach 21, then the Barnby girls stood to share in half of the whole estate. Maybe Robert and John had it in mind even at this rather late stage when Charlotte was already 18 and Julia 20 that one or the other of them, (perhaps Charlotte, by the higher legacy) should marry William when he came of age. If so, his plans succeeded when William married Charlotte on 3rd June 1819. Why they waited until he was over 30 and she nearly 40 we will never know, but the result was a tragedy. (See Maurice Walter Goodwin’s book at http://www.tgoodwin.f2s.com/References/GOODWIN%20v3.3%20-%20living%20removed.pdf, page 23.
It’s possible that Robert intended William to be apprenticed as a Surgeon in his fathers footsteps, as he left £50 to Robert Purvis, Surgeon of Beccles. Towse (also £50), Barnby, and Purvis were his executors. In the will at this stage Robert makes no provision for his family overseas. It is unlikely he could have known that Mistigoosh was pregnant once more.

My reading of all this (in the context of my 20th century upbringing in England) is that Robert never intended for his son to return to Hudsons Bay, and therefore also not to see his mother for many years, if ever again. For a child of 8 and his parents this would be brutal today, and I see no reason why it wouldn’t have felt that way then. Young first born son William was set up to inherit everything should his father die, and it seems that Robert intended to return and care for his residual family through a new HBCo contract. He was only 36 after all, and the fur trade and people were his main area of experience. As he didn’t need the money, we can only assume he enjoyed the life. The approbation of a God-fearing English society over this un-baptised, strange young boy and his accent if not language, and probably appearance must have set him apart from his new peers. William was not well to start with – in a letter from John Richards 26th February 1797 he writes “… prayers are put up for the welfare of your little boy.” – but in a follow up on 22nd March he writes “… happy are we to hear that your son is so well recovered…”

Among Robert Goodwin’s correspondence owned by the Fishmongers Company and held by the Guildhall Library in London were two hair samples. One sample is fine and long, of a dark brown hue, and the other is shorter, thicker and coarser, of a much darker hue. We speculate that the longer lighter hair probably was from Goodwin’s son William, most likely taken when he received a haircut prior to his journey to England in 1796. We also speculate that the thicker darker sample was from Mistigoosh, Goodwin’s first native wife, possibly taken at the same time or the following year when she died.
Robb Gorr

The absence of reference to his mother in his tardy baptism record at Yoxford: “William Adolphus Barnby, natural son of Robert Goodwin of this parish, was born in Hudson's Bay, North America, 1788, and publicly baptised, January 15th, 1797” is perhaps the clearest evidence of the intentions of Robert for the future of Mistigoosh, as well as sisters Caroline and Peggy/Margaret, who at this stage had been cut out altogether. Robert had not made any other long term plan for his whole family that we have evidence of at this stage. It is inconceivable that he could have gained assent to all these actions from his ‘country’ wife, and her identity as Williams mother (as we all now believe it to be) is never revealed.
William would never see his father or mother again. Perhaps the former was not what Robert expected, and to his minimal credit we can say he made ample provision for that event.

Further research is needed to establish the details of his contract to return once more to the service of the Hudsons Bay Company.

22nd June 1797 left Gravesend on Prince of Wales (I) bound for Albany (Aged 36)

On his final voyage to James Bay Robert again sailed on the Prince of Wales (I), Henry Hanwell Commander. C.1/743

The list of passengers outward bound includes Mr. Goodwin, Trader.

They sailed from Gravesend on 22 June at 10:30 p.m. and anchored at Carston roads on 3 July. The ship sailed from there 10 July. – Becky Johnson

…during the hayday of sail, Holm Sound was a very busy channel being a popular alternative to facing the hazards of the Pentland Firth. Ships making a passage from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean would make the comparatively short trip on the ebb tide through Kirk Sound and Holm Sound into Scapa Flow and on a fair wind out through Hoy Sound on the same tide. Carston Roads at Stromness and Holm Bay offered sheltered anchorages to wait for favourable winds or tide. The same option was available in making the reverse passage West to East. - http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/sailholm/index.asp?pageid=415

They reached Cape Resolution on 25 July and for the next month encountered a lot of floating ice. Ice was often mentioned in the journals after the ships had entered Hudson Bay but on this trip it seemed to be particularly thick, close and troublesome. The ship anchored at Moose at 12:30 p.m. on 29 August and on 30 August Robert arrived at Fort Albany. (Three days later on 2 Sept Francis Crag, a seaman on the Prince of Wales, fell overboard and was never seen again. It was the only casualty mentioned in the journals.). – Becky Johnson

In the fall of 1797 when the ship carrying Robert from England arrived at Fort Albany, an Indian named "Wemistagoose" brought the agreeable news of the ship's safe arrival to Martin's Falls. (Wemistagoose was a man, he arrived at Martin’s Fall with his two wives). Perhaps his name and interest in the ship are just a coincidence or perhaps there is a family connection to Mistagoosh. – Becky Johnson

30th Aug 1797 – 16th May 1798 Fort Albany, Albany B.3/a/101 (Aged 36 to 37)

Between about April and June 1797, while Robert was away in England, Robert and Mistigoosh’s daughter Nancy Goodwin was born, and Mistigoosh died.

Her (Nancys) birth is calculated as circa 1797. When she died in 1880 she was recorded as about 82 years of age, therefore calculating a birthdate of about 1798. Her father who left for England in September 1796 returned in August 1797 to find his wife Mistigoosh dead. If she had been pregnant when he left, the child had to have been born prior to June 1797.

Letters from many correspondents offer their condolences on his loss and refer to his letter references about his great grief and sorrow, an indication of his depth of feeling for his native wife. A letter from his friend John Richards offers a hint of the regard in which she was held by all: “I sympathize with you in the loss of your dear girl poor soul she is gone above to be the companion to Angels for her sobriety and virtue”. Certainly when Goodwin married again to Jenny, the daughter of Puckethwanish, he did not have the same connection to her as he did to his first wife as he never refers to Jenny as his wife or by any endearment but simply as "the Woman I at present cohabit with". I guess Goodwin and Mistigoosh were something of a frontier romance. - Robb Gorr

We do not know who looked after Caroline, Margaret and baby Nancy following their Mothers death, before their Father returned. Perhaps there is some information in the Albany records around this time. Caroline would have been either 6 or 14. Despite the
shock this must have presented to Robert, it took him another five years to address his responsibilities in a formal way.

During this time, Robert was ill for a while.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 May 1798</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Goodwin unwell&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Goodwin in much pain&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Goodwin confined to bed&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Goodwin better&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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(From B.22/a/5, B.155/a/6 (Aged 38-40))

Left Albany 16th May 1798 for Martins Fall and left there (MF) 12th July 1798 Ref B123/a/5

22 Sep 1798 – 22 May 1801 Master Brandon House Albany B.22/a/5-8; B.155/a/6 (Aged 38-40)

Robert picked up the threads of his former work here, with a young family. At some time during his stay here (if not before) he began his relationship with Jenny. Intriguingly, John Barnby writes on May 14th 1798 relating to Mistigoosh’s death “…..but suppose ere this you are much more reconciled and have got another partner as much beloved as the former.” Given the date does this indicate an earlier alliance?

The N. W. Company built their first fort on Red River at Pembina in 1797-98. Up to this time in our story I have found no information to suggest any activity on Red River by The Hudson’s Bay Company. The earliest record to come to my notice appears in the journal of Alexander Henry dated 19th August, 1800, which reads (He had reached The Forks the day previous to his diary entry):

"At 12 o’clock, five H. B. Co. boats from Albany Factory or rather Martin’s Falls, arrived, Robert Goodwin, Master, assisted by Mr. Brown; they put ashore, and remained with us until four o’clock, when they proceeded up the Assiniboine." [William Tomison of the H. B. C., founder of Fort Edmonton, visited the site of Winnipeg in 1788, coming from Severn on Hudson Bay. - Ed.] from "The Journal of Alexander Henry the Younger 1799 - 1814." http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/33forks.shtml#02

Further on in the journal Robert is mentioned a second time

15 Jan 1801 “Charlo died early this morning. It is rather an extraordinary circumstance attending that man’s family. Since the month of August last, his two eldest Daughters died, two Sons, Mother, and now the Father. Their is still living a Boy and a Girl. Their complaint was a cough, which soon after it had taken them, they would die. They were all in good health when I arrived at the Forks last summer. Mimintch came in and asked me for liquor to lament the death of his Brother. He tells me he is not ignorant of the cause of all his Brother’s Family having died so suddenly, that Charlo went to Riviere La Sours and stole three horses from the Hudson Bay Company there, and Mr. Goodwin who is a Doctor and of course a medicineman, threw bad medicine on Charlo and his family, which caused all those fatal disasters, and further that the Indians at Bois Porce had advised Mimintch to revenge himself on us for the death of his Brother, but he had rejected their proposal, telling them that it was not us who had occasioned his death and at the same time he always knew his brother was a bad Indian and lived in all kinds of wickedness”

A footnote confirms that the Goodwin referred to is our Robert. I wonder if he was aware of his reputation?

- Becky Johnson

Left Brandon House for customary summer trip to Martins Fall, but continues downstream to Fort Albany.

Summer 1801 – 10 May 1804 ‘Second’ to John Hodgson at Fort Albany B.3/a/104-105 (Aged 40 to 43)

(No journal for 1801-1802 was available to Mabel Hykaway)

For descendants of the Goodwin line, here is an amusing tidbit I found in the HBC. In Robert Goodwin’s personal account, where the Company recorded his orders for merchandise for himself and his family, it says, in 1801 “3 Women’s Shifts the same kind as was sent to Mr J. McKay, 4/6 13.6” I have found no records that place John McKay and Robert Goodwin in the same place at the same time,
although they succeeded each other at Brandon House. I got the mental picture of either the two wives visiting each other, and then the request? Or else the men discussing their wives’ clothing? Curious.
Margaret L. Clarke

TG Note: Goodwin met John McKay in 1790, and had dealings with the family McKay from evidence in this document both before this and afterwards.

1 Jan 1802 – Robert and Jenny’s Daughter Anne Goodwin is born. We can assume that Anne was conceived in the Spring of 1801, at Brandon House.

On 22nd April 1803 Robert makes a codicil to his will. Maybe his health is deteriorating?. By now he has four children, Caroline (12? Or 20?), ‘Peggy’ (Margaret) aged 7 or 8, Nancy (just 6), and Anne (1) as well as ‘the woman I cohabit with’ Jenny to think about. Clearly by the age of 42 he has recognized his responsibilities to the children he lives with as well as his son now 15 back in England. He makes a substantial settlement of £500 Consols in trust with HBCo and the 3% interest is to be equally divided between his children and their mother/stepmother, share and share alike to be paid in goods during their natural lives. He hadn’t become a ‘new man’ however. The principal was ‘to revert to my natural son William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin…’ He doesn’t mention even now that William’s mother was Mistigoosh, and we are left to infer it even though it would have been easy to be explicit as she is referenced elsewhere in the codicil by name.

Kathy Goodwin mentioned to me on a recent visit that ‘Natural Son’ has had over time two diametrically opposed meanings – one to mean a son had ‘naturally’ out of a formal marriage, and the other, later meaning as the opposite, within the marriage, and ‘legitimate’.

6th Aug 1804 - 1805 Master Osnaburgh House Albany B.l55/a/19 (Aged 43 to 44)

Left Fort Albany 10th May 1804 to resume his post at Brandon House, but John McKay disobeyed his orders to vacate that position. Robert Goodwin was reassigned to Osnaburgh House where he arrived 6th Aug 1804

RG was assigned to Brandon House in 1804, but had to go to Osnaburgh House instead. John McKay had built Brandon House and possibly had a proprietary interest in it, or preferred life on the plains rather than in the forest.

Mabel Hykaway – Private note to TG Jan 2006

Things were certainly sometimes turbulent, and in a previous version, ignorant of the facts I alluded to a Hollywood style ending by adding the following quotes:
The precise causes of the strife are unknown, but they may have been exacerbated by some combination of the lavish distribution of alcohol, severe treatment of the Indians by a few traders, and ruthless competition among the traders themselves; further, rivalry among the Indians over fur bearing areas may have led to violence between bands and against traders who dealt with competing bands. In June 1803 William Thomas reported the arrival of four Tinpots at Osnaburgh House with few furs to trade, noting, “I understand they have murdered 3 Canadians & plundered the House.” Thomas considered them to be “run about Blackguards.” In September eight of the Crane’s sons threatened Osnaburgh House, and in March 1804 Thomas feared an attack since “the Old Crane and 14 of his Sons” had been lingering within 30 miles of the post since January. Instead, five canoes of Cranes arrived at Martin Falls on 27 May. There Jacob Corrigal reported that they brought no furs and had evil intentions toward either the traders or the local Indians, who
upon their arrival fled downstream. The Cranes at first refused to speak to Corrigal, but two days later they came armed into the fort and forced him to give them credit. Had not three other Indians lured them away to drink brandy, there might have been serious trouble. By late morning on 2 June the weary traders, who had been keeping watch day and night, aimed two swivel cannon at the Indians’ tents and told them to leave. They did so “in a very confused hurry,” and by November they were once again causing anxiety to the traders at Osnaburgh House.

http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=36448

In 1807, after James Swain had erected the Trout Lake post (on Big Trout Lake), he urged some Indians to guide him to the south where the Cranes and the Tinpots resided; they refused, afraid of falling “a sacrifice to their cruelty.” The Cranes had become the most dreaded Indians in present-day northern Ontario.

Nothing further is recorded of the Crane Indians until the period after 1810, when more trouble occurred. By this time, however, the Crane himself was in all likelihood dead: he is last named in 1804. He appears to have been succeeded by his eldest son, Matayawenenne (Mairwaywayninnee). It is possible that his brother Tinnewabano outlived him by a few years, for he is mentioned by Swain in 1807. Descendants of the Crane and his family now reside at Weagamow Lake, and they are still known as Crane Indians, some 175 years after their original leader’s death.

http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=36448

But instead, something more prosaic, and sad was happening:

Osnaburgh House Journal for 1804-5, by Mr. Robt Goodwin, beginning in January 1805 he states that his health is bad. (B.155/a/19)

3 Feb 1805 "self worse"
10 Feb "self not able to do any thing owing to the Gout in my feet"
17 Feb "not able to walk"

Jacob Corrigal, in charge at Martins Fall, wrote to Robert Goodwin, Master at Osnaburgh House, on 6 June '1805 "I am very sorry for your ill state of health and for not having the Medecines you sent for. I had no medecines of no kind last winter, and there is none as yet arrived from the Factory".

12 June, O. H. journal, there is a note, “After this Mr. Goodwin was so ill he could not attend to writing”
– Becky Johnson

It must have been terrible for him, as a Surgeon who surely knew what ailed him, and what medicine would cure him to be prevented through circumstance from curing himself and experiencing instead a terminal decline

22nd June 1805, Robert Goodwin died on his way to Martins Fall
B.3/a/107; A.36/7 (Aged 44)

HBA B.3/a/107. Journal to Martins Fall 3 July 1805. Wed. "Arrive at Martins Fall at 1 P.M. Am very sorry to hear of Mr. Goodwin’s Death occasioned by an attack of the Gout, which got into his Stomach and caused a speedy dissolution.”

Maybe it was partly caused by his obesity (a letter to him says “sorry to hear you are still so corpulent”) and their diet which was very high in meat and fish. - Becky Johnson

Chronic Gout (tophaceous gout) This is the most disabling and destructive stage of gout. By this stage the disease has caused permanent damage to the affected joints and sometimes to the kidneys. In this advanced stage, the deterioration of the joint can cause severe crippling and excruciating pain. What’s worse is that uric crystals in the kidney can cause blockage of the filtering tubules to such an extent that kidney function is compromised which can potentially lead to kidney failure and even death.

www.curegout.com/SymptomsStages.htm

I suppose this is Martens Falls. The names seems to be synonymous
Martin Falls is a remote First Nation on the north side of the Albany River, accessible by air and winter road, about 450 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay. It has an on-reserve population of approximately 288 residents.

http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/prs/m-a2002/02183bk_e.html

http://www.ontariowildflower.com/martenfalls.htm

http://communities.knet.ca/martenfalls/
The Hudson Bay lowlands extend in a crescent shape around the west side of Hudson and James Bay. Because the lowlands are on softer sedimentary rock, and the uplands beyond are harder Precambrian bedrock, the line between the two is visible on rivers as waterfalls and rapids. On the Albany River the line of contact occurs at Martin's Fall. Below Martin's Fall the river is wider and slower all the way to James Bay, while above it the water is more turbulent and difficult to navigate. "Muskekowuck Athinuwick: Original People of the Great Swampy Land" by Victor Lytwyn.

His will was proved in London on 13.5.1806 but was not finally resolved until 1890, following the death of Margaret Daniel (nee Goodwin) in August 1881. We continue to try to discover more about this. Robert's personal papers are at the Guildhall Library, London, in the Manuscript section, ref. MS6481.

**Immediate Family**

This should be read with the compilation of a great deal of others research at http://www.tgoodwin.f2s.com, which will expand on this version received from HBCA

Changes to HBCo record in bold

Wife (1): Mistigoose (d. ca. 1798)

Children (I now believe in this, CHANGED order):

- **Caroline** (b. we think circa 1783, d. 23 Aug. 1832 Fort Coulounge, Canada) m. James R Hudson 1799 (at age 16 - see the letter from John McNab in ‘When was Caroline born?’ above)  
  
  Warren Sinclair’s genealogy has quite different information. He has Caroline marrying John Hodgson b. 1763 in England, and their son John b. 1795. – Becky Johnson. TG note – the Warren Sinclair record has been replaced by more recent research by many people, and a wise person has recently advised me that anyone who wants to know should consult the HBC archive, where the original documents prove it is James. Don’t believe what you read in any book, go to the source.

- **William Adolphus Barmby** (b. 6th Aug 1788, to England July 1796, married three times, d. 29th April 1838 PEI Canada)

- **Nancy** (b. Bef 1795, d.1880 Fort Albany, Canada)  B.135/z/3, fos.260-1, 263, 336

- **Peggy** (Margaret) (b. 1795, d. 1881 Red River, Canada) m. c. 1841 Jacob Daniel  
  B.135/z/3, fos.260-1, 263

This final part is unclear to me and I would like to see the original documents to understand it better. Jenny was the wife, Puckethwanish her father.

Wife (2): Pucketwanish (at Moose in 1836)  A.10/5, fos. 104, 105  

Jenny (d. 1864) m. John Flett  B.135/z/3, fos.260-1, 263

Children

- **Anne** (b. 1 Jan 1802, at Moose in 1836, d. 1874 in Red River Settlement)  
  B.135/z/3, fos.260-1, 263

+daughter of Pucketwanish, but not by Goodwin (A.36/7) ?

**Heirs**

At the moment the focus is on heirs of William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin, but I will add a generation or so of the others in due course.
William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin (WABG) – the son
He did return to Canada. He died in Price Edward Island, a farmer on 29th April 1838 just before his 50th birthday. Perhaps England and the English didn’t agree with him. He had a tough life, and never saw any of his fathers’ money, whose will wasn’t settled for another 52 years. His son was then apparently in Essex County, Massachusetts, a farm labourer aged only 13, and he was intriguingly ‘one of the Next of Kin’
Re. W. A. B. Goodwin by Mabel Hykaway. Jan 2006 handwritten note to Tony Goodwin
“After a long search, it was found that William died in Prince Edward Island.
From the index of probate (Principal Probate Registry) in London the matter of the Estate is listed among a number of Goodwins in 1890.
William Adolphus Barmby Goodwin is described as “late of Crapaud Lot 29 Queen’s County PEI in the dominion of Canada, Farmer and Widower Who died 29 April 1838 at Tryon Lot 28 Princes County in the said Island.”
Administration was granted to William Adolphus Howard Goodwin of Boxford, Essex County in the State of Massachusetts in the United States of America, Farm Labourer the son and one of the Next of Kin
This angle was not researched further. We had come to a conclusion of the will and its legacy. We felt that it was necessary to conclude, if possible, the will since it had a direct connection to Robert Goodwin personally. However it was not my intent to follow every angle to the present day. There were other families within our family tree that needed attention.”

William Adolphus Howard Goodwin (WAHG) – the grandson
I’m indebted to Anon Maguire for her collaboration over this section in early 2006.
William was baptised on 18th February 1825 at Yoxford, probably in the same church as his father was, some 28 years before. As the only son (that we know of) we would have been heir to a significant sum. We still don’t know what happened to the lands and property of ‘Robert the Grocer’, but WAHG was the 3rd generation heir. His mother, Harriett Howard, died when he was two years old. We assume he moved with his Father to Prince Edward Island. The next time we pick him up (if it is him, the date of birth is different, but everything else fits and there are no other candidates) is through the Census records:

- 1870 in North Chelsea, Suffolk County, Mass aged 40 Labourer, married to Ellen from Ireland age 33 keeping house, with son George W aged 8. Neither can write, but William can read.
  Chelsea is 2 miles north of Boston, which lies next to the Boston Harbor by the Mystic and Chelsea Rivers. A view of Boston’s nearby skyline can be seen from the water front and amongst the hills throughout the city. - Anon
- 1880 in Boxford, Essex County, Mass. as a Farm Labou...
he was born in January 1829. His wife Ellen is there, and has lost another 10 years and is 50! They say they have been married 30 or 31 years. Perhaps that’s true, or perhaps William was going along with Ellen, who also says she is the mother of one child who is alive. William says he came to the US in 1870 and is naturalised, and Ellen came in 1865 and is not. These dates need some explanation. Neither have an occupation, but there is a blank in ‘months not employed’. William now knows how to read but not write. Their property is a house, and is rented.

Middleton is located in North Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Topsfield and Danvers on the east, Peabody on the south, Lynnfield on the southwest, North Reading on the west, North Andover on the west and northwest, and Boxford on the north and northeast. Middleton is 19 miles north of Boston and 232 miles from New York City. http://www.townofmiddleton.org

- On 20th April 1910 William is found in the care of Jacob and Clara Pitman in the Boxford Alms House, with three other inmates. He apparently returned live with his former townsfolk, before Ellen died.

- Through the kind interventions of Sarah George and Adele Carter, my enquiry was passed on to Scott Saulnier, Chairman of the Historical Commission in the Town of Middleton and the foreman of the Cemetery Department. Scott looked up William and Ellen for me, and wrote back a delightful e-mail, confirming the theory above, that this William was ‘our’ William, through the record of his death of Pneumonia in Boxford on March 5th, 1911, aged ‘87’. He was buried in the village cemetery, where Ellen had been laid to rest after she died, also in Boxford on January 4th 1906. She was recorded as being 68, and her maiden name was Sweeney. She was born in Cork, Ireland, and her father was Daniel, her mother was Eileen Connor.

So it seems WAHG did not inherit either, indeed he had to rely on the kindness of the community to support him and his wife in their last years.
George William Goodwin – the great grandson
Again, work with Anon Maguire;
We know of George, from the 1880 census initially, and with English and Irish parents, we can trace him after he leaves home.
Also via Anon, but supplied by ‘Niki’ (don’t know the full name) we have his birth record from the Massachusetts Vital Records 1841-1910. George William was born on 4th Sep 1862 in North Chelsea, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
With the censuses, we find some matches:
• 1910, Washington as a railroad labourer.
• 1920, Nebraska as a common labourer.
• 1930, Santa Clara as a farm labourer
And his death record in San Francisco on 14th January 1934 aged 73. He never married.

And there the trail fades away……..
• What were the details of Roberts last contract with HBCo probably made Summer 1787?
• Did WABG find happiness and perhaps another wife in PEI? When did he move there, and what did he do?
• Did WABG ever meet his sisters again? – It seems not, although when told of his mothers’ death John Barnby asked whether he wanted to go back to Hudsons Bay, and young William said no. Who could blame him – a two month voyage alone!
• Who were the other next of kin of WABG, and what happened to them?
• Where did WAHG stay and who was looking after him after 1838 until 1860? There is a possible immigration record from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in May 1856 to Boston aboard the Eastern State – but this him?
• Did Mistigoosh have a sister? What else can we find out about Lieutanant Puckethwanish?
• Where did all that money from the property left by Robert the Grocer go? We know HBCo returned the £500 following the last childs death (Peggy, at the grand old age of about 84)

Feedback
At my web site the latest of my thinking on the whole subject from family tree perspective can be found. http://www.tgoodwin.f2s.com/
I also publish updates to this biography there, in the reference section, so check back every now and then.

I’d welcome any information from anyone on any aspect of this story, and you can mail me at the web site. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I had fun compiling it.

Tony Goodwin
Further Reading recommended by correspondents:


Many Tender Ties – Women in Fur Trade society 1670-1870 – Sylvia Van Kirk

Becky Johnson:

- The journals and letters give a good idea, from the European point of view, of life for the HBC men living on the Bay.
- If anyone is interested in getting an idea of the Swampy Cree viewpoint an excellent book is "Telling Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay" by Louis Bird. I liked the story "The Wailing Clouds". Can be ordered at http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/
- "Many Tender Ties: Women in Fur-Trade Society" by Sylvia Van Kirk
- Also available there is another book about the Swampy Cree, very informative and detailed but kind of a dry read, "Muskekowuck Athinuwick: Original People of the Great Swampy Land" by Victor Lytwyn. Because Robert travelled up the Albany River so many times I found this information in the book interesting

Some correspondents have warned against taking some of these and other books information, or synopses like this one and others made available by HBCo and on the internet for granted. I guess that’s full circle to where I came in with my father Maurice and his advice.