

THE GOODALLS OF DINTON HALL



Dinton Folly

In 1727, Simon Mayne (grandson of Simon Mayne the regicide) sold Dinton Hall to John Vanhattem (1688-1747). It is believed that John's family originally came to England with William of Orange. His son, also John Vanhattem (1724-1787) was knighted in 1760. It was Sir John who built Dinton Folly, to house his fossil collection. Sir John never married, but, he had an illegitimate (or possibly adopted) daughter, Rebecca, who inherited the Dinton Hall estate upon the death of her father.

Both John, and Sir John, have wall monuments in Dinton church; Sir John's being in Latin. In 1788, Rebecca married the Reverend William Goodall (1757-1844) and the family lived at Dinton Hall. William Goodall was not the vicar for Dinton Church; he was absentee rector of All Saints Church at Marsham, near Aylsham in Norfolk, leaving the parish in the care of a curate. William and Rebecca are reported as having had 16 children. William was an amateur artist and some of his paintings survive. William and Rebecca are shown as living at Dinton Hall on the 1841 census and Rebecca was still there in 1851, aged 83. (The 1841 census was the first national census). William and Rebecca are buried in Dinton churchyard.

William and Rebecca's eldest son was the Reverend James Joseph Goodall (1800-1886), another absentee rector, this time for the church at Bromham and Oakley in Bedfordshire. James Joseph and his wife Elizabeth are shown as living at Dinton Hall in the censuses for 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881. They are buried in Dinton churchyard.

James Joseph Goodall and Elizabeth had 3 children. The eldest child was William Alexander George Goodall who was shown as living at Dinton Hall 1861 and 1871, but he unfortunately died a lunatic in Wandsworth in 1876, aged 37. Their second child was Liebert Edward Goodall (1842-1918). He is shown as being at Dinton Hall for most census returns between 1851 and 1911, although in 1861 he was in Rugby aged 18, presumably at Rugby School. In 1876 he married Philadelphia Bruce Lee, who was a sister of Edward Lee of Hartwell House. The Lee family had owned Hartwell for many years. It appears that they had no children but they had an adopted son, Malcolm. Liebert died in 1918 and Philadelphia in 1920. They are buried in Dinton churchyard.

Kelly's Directory for 1920 shows Captain Malcolm Goodall as the owner of Dinton Hall, but describes the Hall as unoccupied. By 1928 the Hall was occupied by Sir William Crawford Currie, so it would appear that the Goodall's ownership of the Hall ended during the 1920's. Even so, Dinton Hall was owned and occupied by the Vanhattem/Goodall line for approximately 200 years, a substantial period of time in the history of Dinton.

The Dinton (Goodall) Charities

Matilda (Phelps) and Eliza were two of the daughters of William and Rebecca and, under the provisions of their wills, they set up charities to provide relief to certain needy persons in Dinton. Philadelphia (Liebert's wife) set up a similar charity somewhat later. This was of course before the introduction of the welfare state as we know it. Those charities still exist (2016), although they have been inactive, probably since about the 1950's.