



Apsley Cherry-Garrard

April 2023

Back in 1837, **Robert Knipe Cobbold's** eldest daughter, **Elizabeth Harriet (1817-1910)** #155 married **Canon Charles Shorting (1810-1864)** #156 who was a canon of Norwich Cathedral, a rural dean and Rector of Stonham Aspell. Thus began a long association between these two clans which was brought into focus recently by a member of the Lovegrove family. We already knew that Canon Shorting's daughter, **Alice** had married Shropshire geologist, **Edgar Sterling Cobbold (1851-1936)** #250 but what the **Lovegroves** (descendants of the **Shortings**) added was the fact that the canon's grandson's brother-in-law was **Apsley Cherry-Garrard (1886-1959)** #15067 the assistant zoologist on **Captain Scott's** ill-fated Terra Nova Antarctic Expedition, 1911-1913.

Born in Bedford, as Apsley Cherry, the Garrard was added later when his father inherited a large country estate, Lamer, which Apsley himself inherited in 1907 on the death of his father.

The second youngest member of the expedition at 24. Cherry-Garrard was rejected initially by Scott. He then made another application with the promise of a £1,000 payment towards costs, though again was rejected. He decided to donate the money anyway, so Scott with persuasion from Wilson took him on as assistant biologist despite his lack of a scientific background.

Most famous for his widely acclaimed book about the journey he made with Bowers and Wilson to Cape Crozier to retrieve an emperor penguin egg in the continuous night of the depths of the Antarctic winter, *The Worst Journey in the World*, published in 1922, and considered to be a classic of travel writing and by many to be the best travel book ever written.

He was involved with depot laying in January - March 1911 as preparation for the south pole attempt later in the year. Starting in November 1911 he accompanied Scott's Polar Party by leading a pony called Michael pulling a sledge. Cherry made it as far as the top of the Beardmore Glacier before being sent back with his team, as they got closer to the pole, there were supplies for an even-smaller number of men.

Before Scott left for the Pole, he gave orders to be met on the 1st of March 1912 at 82 or 82.30 degrees south by a dog team with supplies to help their return to the base. For a variety of reasons, it fell to Cherry-Garrard to do this and along with **Dmitriy Girev** he set off on this journey on the 26th of February, reaching a place called "One Ton Depot" on the 3rd of March, at the time Scott was 60 miles south of this point (3 days by dog team), they remained in the area until the 10th of March before returning due to a combination of poor weather and lack of dog food.

Scott and the surviving members died 11 miles south of One Ton Depot on the 29th of March. Cherry continued with his scientific work through the winter and was part of the team that found the bodies of **Scott, Bowers** and **Wilson** in their collapsed tent on the 12th of November 1912.

Cherry-Garrard suffered from mental and physical health issues for the rest of his life that arose at least partially from his experiences in Antarctica. He blamed himself for not venturing further south from One Ton Depot when he might have encountered Scott, Bowers and Wilson and been able to save them.