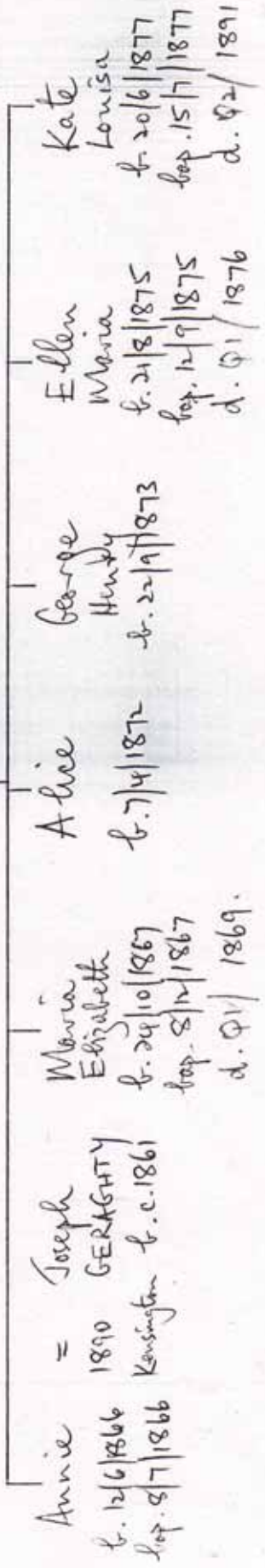


* 9-father of Susan GODBARD.

Cornelius = Sarah
WEEKS CLARKE

George
GOLDARD
b. 22/5/1842
Harving
d. 27/1/1879
Shephard's Bush

Ann
WEEKS
b. c. 1842
Pypton, Oxon.



A GODDARD TRAIL THROUGH SUFFOLK, ESSEX AND WEST LONDON
1700 - 1900

From Farming to Coal

by Richard J. Smith,
with assistance from Susan Goddard,
Valerie Farthing and Pam Wise (~~both~~ nee Goddard).

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Charles Goddard was born in Elmswell, Suffolk, and baptised on 19 August 1792. He was the seventh child of Edmund Goddard and Mary (Cutchin), and his family appears to have lived in the village over three previous generations from around 1700. Charles grew up to become an agricultural labourer, and on 27 March 1815 at the age of 22 he married Sarah Manning, some six years his junior but like him, illiterate. She had been born in nearby Walsham-le-Willows, the fifth child of William Manning and Hannah (Hawes), but had moved with her family to Elmswell; her sister Elizabeth married in Elmswell the following year.

Charles and Sarah are believed to have had their first child Ann in 1815, but nothing further is known of her. By the time their second child, James, was baptised on 9 February 1817 they had moved to Benhall, some 25 miles to the east of Elmswell. In the baptism register, the clerk wrote the family name as he heard it in the Suffolk dialect - 'Gorrod' - and two years later the same thing happened when the third child, William was brought to church. By 1821, when another son Charles was baptised, the family name had been firmly established as Goddard.

They then, like many other Suffolk families at the time, switched their religious allegiance to Wesleyan Methodism, and over the next 15 years seven children were born in Benhall but baptised at the Methodist Chapel in nearby Framlingham, a centre of non-conformity. After 1836 there was a gap of six years before Sarah produced her twelfth and final child at the age of 44; but in that period certain events caused upheaval in the family. The life of an agricultural labourer in 19th century England was never easy, and on 7 January 1839 Charles was convicted of refusing to maintain his wife and family 'whereby they are become chargeable to the Parish of Benhall.' He was obliged to spend one month in Woodbridge gaol. How this situation came about is not known, but many years later it was claimed there was 'insanity' in the family, and that - at dates unknown - Charles had 'twice attempted to destroy himself.' (1880 Coroner's report on James Goddard). It was probably as a result of the jailing that he and Sarah and their younger children moved away from Benhall, and by 1841 were living in

Essex, at the village of Havering-atte-Bower (or Havering), just north of Romford. Their two eldest sons, James and William, remained in Benhall and were both married in 1840.

Although their children were to disperse, Charles and Sarah remained in the Romford area for the rest of their lives. In the 1851 Census they appear in Upminster, but were back in Havering by 1859 when Sarah died at the age of 63 from chronic bronchitis. A year later Charles married again - to a widow Sarah Bone (nee Conningsby), born in Meldreth, near Royston, Cambridgeshire, and 15 years younger than him. In Havering in 1861 Charles's son Henry, by now 24, was living with them, and a mysterious visitor aged 16 named 'Hannah Goddard'. Any explanation of her identity is made doubly difficult by the census enumerator's complete 'botch-up' of the family's details - including interpreting 'Benhall, Suffolk' as 'Bethnal Green, Middlesex'! Ten years later, Charles (now 79) and Sarah (64) were living on their own at White's Cottage on the London Road, Romford. Charles died the following year on 14 July 1872, still apparently working as a farm labourer. His widow died in 1875 in the Romford Union Workhouse.

Of the twelve children of Charles and his first wife, the two eldest sons, James and William remained in Benhall, married and produced a veritable dynasty of descendants (see family trees). All the men seem to have worked in agriculture, and several of the daughters married local men and stayed in the neighbourhood. Towards the end of the century there were several Goddard households in close proximity at Benhall (they do not appear to have been related to the Goddards of the nearby village of Sweffling). A more detailed study of Benhall and its village life would be very revealing, but some of the most touching and heart-rending stories come from the local coroner's inquests.

William Goddard and his wife Harriet had already lost their second son at the age of two in 1844, when a third, christened Charles, was born. On 10 February 1849, aged four, the little boy accidentally slipped near a fire and his frock caught alight. A neighbour 'saw the boy Charles against his mother's door all in flames and his younger sister was in the same room.' The mother had gone into the yard to get a pail of water, but the pump was not working properly; meanwhile a Mrs Baker put her clothes around the boy, and with some water the flames were extinguished. 'He was burnt under his arm, on his neck, throat and arms,' and twelve days later died from his injuries.

Five years later, William and Harriet's eldest son Robert, then aged 14, met a tragic end. He was on a cart-load of straw, using a pitchfork, when the horse moved forward, the whole load of straw slipped off the cart,

and the pitchfork pierced his stomach. In later years William was prone to depression, and attempted suicide, but he died in 1879 after an accident with a ladder. Then a year later, his depressed brother James hanged himself 'from the pig post in the garden.' Life could indeed be hard, despite the idyllic view of the English countryside often portrayed by contemporary artists.

Of the other children of Charles and Sarah, the third son Charles and two of the daughters, Sarah (b.1829) and Emma (b.1834), do not appear in the 1841 Census for Havering, and nothing more is known of them. The other two daughters, Eliza (b.1827) and Honour (b.1836), do appear in the same Census, but nothing is known of them subsequently. That leaves four sons, Edward (b.1823, but named Edmund in the Framlingham Baptism Register), David (b.1825), Henry (b.1836) and George (b.1842).

Having settled in Havering with his family by the time he was 18 years old, Edward Goddard became a farm labourer and apparently remained so for the rest of his life. In 1848 he was living on the other side of Romford, in Hornchurch, and married a local girl, Jemima Bailes; they then moved back to Collier Row, close to Havering, to settle down to raise a family. By 1861 there were five children: Emma, William, David, Elizabeth and Sarah. However, their mother Jemima died in 1867. By 1881, Elizabeth was in domestic service in Barking; but William had moved to Hammersmith, West London, where he was in business as a coal-dealer, possibly working with other members of the family. On the night of the 1881 Census he was living in Cressy Cottage, off Dalling Road, recently married to Sarah Clark and with a young baby named Edward. Grandfather Edward was staying as a visitor, together with a host of lodgers and boarders - Cressy Cottage must have been bursting at the seams! Ten years later however, the cottage had been "redeveloped", and William's family is untraced.

Edward's brother Henry, born at Benhall, was baptised in Framlingham Methodist Chapel on 18 December 1836. By the time the last son George was born on 22 May 1842, the family had moved to Havering. The brothers Henry and George, although six years apart in age, were to follow relatively parallel lives, with certain significant differences. There is a family tradition - though unproven - that Henry and his rather older brother David fought in the Crimean War from 1853-56. It is possible they were drafted in for that specific campaign - at the start Henry would have been 17 and David 28 - but from is known of them otherwise, it is unlikely they would have been regular serving soldiers. Indeed, with the family's later preoccupation with coal, it is possible that they worked as part of the support services which would have been essential for the regiments and

ships in that bitter climate, where so many men died of cold and disease.

Henry was living in Havering with his father and stepmother in 1861, described as an agricultural labourer, but by 1863 he had moved to the Notting Hill area of West London. On 4 January at the Westbourne Grove Chapel he married Fanny Cock, born in West Drayton but also now living in Notting Hill, the 25-year old daughter of the late William Cock, another labourer, and his wife Fanny (nee Collins). The younger Fanny was working as a servant - possibly as a cook - but she soon became pregnant, and her first child George was born on 1 January 1864. She and Henry had found accommodation in a small terraced house in Providence Place, a narrow cul-de-sac leading northwards off Shepherds Bush Common, and now known as Shepherds Bush Place, with the houses still surviving. No.18 was the end house on the west side, abutting onto the reason why the road stopped short: it was a large area of coal wharves at the head of a branch railway system, and an essential part of the fabric of Victorian life. Londoners burned thousands of tons of coal which had to be brought in to the capital and distributed, and although the residents of Providence Place represented many different trades and occupations, it is more than likely that Henry Goddard was already working on the coal wharves.

Over the next few years Henry and Fanny had several more children, all except one baptised at St. Stephen's Church in Uxbridge Road, to the west of Shepherds Bush Common (now the Green). By 1871, when the Census Return specifically describes Henry as a 'Coal porter', they had four sons, although a fifth had already died in infancy. After another son born in 1872, the family moved across the road into the slightly larger house numbered 19 Providence Place, but still overlooking the coal wharves. Two years later their next son, Daniel, was born a 'cripple'; by the time he was 5, he was being cared for in The Cripples Nursery at 14 Old Quebec Street, Marylebone, along with 29 other boys and girls aged from 3 to 12. By 1891, at the age of 16, Daniel was living in Woolsthorpe House, a 'Home for Crippled Boys' in Scarsdale Place, off Kensington High Street; it was virtually a workhouse, where dozens of unfortunate young men were variously employed as carpenters, harness-makers, tailors, and relief stampers. Daniel was one of the latter.

Daniel was the last of seven consecutive sons of Henry and Fanny Goddard. Then the wheel of fortune changed, and between 1877 and 1883 they had three daughters. At the same time, Henry's occupation as listed in the Baptism Register of St. Stephen's changed from 'Labourer' to 'Coal Merchant', and the 1881 Census describes him as a 'Coal dealer.' Clearly he had gone up in the world, but he was still not listed as an independent tradesman in the directories of the time; it

is likely he was a senior employee of the firm of Lee & Jerdein which ran the Shepherds Bush coal wharves and several other depots and offices around London.

Meanwhile Henry's brother George had been pursuing a parallel, but not quite so fortunate course only a few streets away. On 24 July 1865 George married Ann Weeks at St. Stephen's Church, Shepherds Bush; he was aged 24, a labourer, and living at 7 Holland Road, close to Shepherds Bush. His wife, born at Pyrton near Watlington in Oxfordshire, the daughter of a boot maker Cornelius Weeks, was a year younger than George, and living at 9 Beaumont Street. They found accommodation a few doors away at No.4 Beaumont Street, one of a little group of streets also close to Shepherds Bush, to the north of the Uxbridge Road, and on the west side of Norland Road. Old photographs show what this bustling area with its street market looked like at the turn of the century; it was dominated by the circular tower of the Royal Hotel on the corner of Norland Road, but separated from Shepherds Bush Common and Providence Place by the West London Railway, opened in 1844. Nowadays the lower end of Norland Road, Beaumont Street and its extension Henry Place have been swept away by the M41 Motorway Spur and the huge roundabout at its junction with the Uxbridge Road.

Ann Goddard soon produced her first child, a daughter named Annie, and the birth certificate shows that George was working as a 'Coal heaver', presumably on the wharves with his brother Henry. By the time a second daughter was born in October 1867, George and Ann had moved to 26 Providence Place, only a few doors from Henry and Fanny; but by 1871 they were back at 4 Henry Place, off Beaumont Street, and the second daughter had died. In the next few years three more daughters (one not surviving) and a son were born, and they moved next door to No.3 Henry Place. It was here on 2 July 1879 that George died aged only 38 of 'phthisis', or pulmonary tuberculosis, doubtless brought on or at least aggravated by the coal dust in which he worked. Left with three daughters, aged 12, 6 and 1, and a son aged 5, Ann Goddard took up work as a laundress. By 1891 she had moved to No.1 Henry Place; her eldest daughter Annie had married a bus driver, Joseph Geraghty, and they were living in the same house; but the youngest daughter Kate Louisa died aged 13 just days before the 1891 Census.

By 1891 Henry and Fanny Goddard and most of their family were still living at 19 Providence Place, but their work situation had changed as the elder sons had attained adulthood. George, the eldest, married in 1887 an upholsterer's daughter Emily Bolton, and took up residence at 158 Percy Road, Shepherds Bush. He described himself as a 'Furniture Remover', but then a year later as a 'Coal Dealer' when their first child Reginald was born. By the Census of 1891, George was firmly in business as a 'Coal dealer & Furniture Remover', employing his father Henry (54) and his brothers Harry

(22), Frederick (20) and Edward (18). Coal was still playing a large part in the Goddard family's life, but they had clearly 'made good' since the days of labouring in the Shepherds Bush wharves.

David Goddard's life and career took a rather different course. The fourth son of Charles and Sarah (Manning), he was born at Benhall in 1825, and moved to Havering with other siblings by 1841. But the Census that year shows that he was living in as an employee at the nearby premises of 'Victualler' Thomas Clarke. Normally this might have implied a publican, but it is unlikely David's Methodist upbringing would have allowed him to be associated with the 'demon drink'! In 1850 David, now a 'Labourer', married a local girl Eliza Hurrell, born at Kelvedon, Essex; by the following year his occupation was 'Brickmaker' and they had moved into a cottage in an area of Havering called 'Brick Fields'. Eliza produced a daughter Emma in June 1851, but four years later died at the age of 32. Present at the death was Emma Cockerton, who subsequently married the Havering blacksmith; and if the story about David's involvement in the Crimean War is true, he would have been many miles away from his wife at this time.

At the Census of 1861 David Goddard was working as an 'agricultural labourer', and living in a lodging-house in Havering with three other men in a similar situation; his daughter Emma was probably with relatives. But on 20 July that same year - now reverting to 'Brickmaker' - he married at Havering his second wife, 45-year old Eliza Smith. Born the other side of Romford, in Hornchurch - where Edward Goddard had earlier married Jemima Bailes - Eliza was the illegitimate daughter of Jane Smith, who was the daughter of prominent Hornchurch butcher James Smith and his wife Mary (Rigby), the daughter of the 'Squire' of Hornchurch Hall in the late 18th century. Eliza lost her mother at the age of 10, had apparently gone into domestic service, but had an illegitimate son John around 1840. He was brought up by relatives in Hornchurch, but ran away to sea at the age of 11, and finally settled in Grimsby, Lincolnshire; Eliza later kept in regular touch with his eleven children who knew her affectionately as 'Grannie Goddies'. (One of those children was the author's grandfather.)

After David and Eliza's marriage in 1861, their movements and occupations are a mystery for another 18 years. They turn up next in Hastings, Sussex, with David as a 'bath chairman' and Eliza working as a housekeeper. There is a possible connection here with the wealthy Pemberton-Barnes family of The Hall, Havering Green, who in the 1870s had a seaside villa in Hastings. After David Goddard's death in Hastings on 17 November 1879, Eliza made a new will, giving as her address that same villa, Quarry Cottage.

David and Eliza (Smith) had no children. His daughter by his first marriage, Emma, was living with an uncle in Kelvedon, Essex, in 1881 and working as a dressmaker.

Eliza Goddard died at St. Leonard's on Sea, near Hastings, on 13 December 1889; her son John Smith from Grimsby was in attendance. In her will, she left various bequests to John and some of his children; but she also left several legacies to her Goddard relatives. In spite of one or two errors due either to her lapse of memory or the clerk's mistakes, these clauses finally link four of the Goddard brothers together again.

To her 'daughter-in-law [*sic; she probably meant step-daughter*] Emma Goddard of Kelvedon, Essex, dressmaker', Eliza left all her clothing, furniture, plate, linen, china, etc, but only after the life interest of Eliza's cousin Mary Jane Speller, who died at Hastings in January 1892. Eliza also left Emma the sum of £100. For her nephew and three nieces, the children of Ann Goddard, widow of George, Eliza left £50 to be divided amongst them. Henry Goddard 'of Shepherds Bush, Coal Merchant' received 19 guineas, as also did William Goddard (son of Edward) 'of Hammersmith, Coal Merchant', and Edward Goddard himself 'of Collier Row, Romford' - itself an appropriate address in the light of the family's involvement with coal!

Thus ended a significant chapter in the history of this extensive Goddard family. From Charles, the farm labourer in Suffolk, who could not even write his name, the family had become key players in the coal dealing and merchanting fraternity of West London by the end of the 19th century, as well as keeping a strong agricultural link in Benhall. Whether the West London group continued is not clear; Henry Goddard died in 1912, and his children seem to have scattered, in one case to Canada.

See also Family Trees (provisional versions)
and detailed research data.

Richard J. Smith
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