

KEITH
CIVIL WAR

Dear Mrs. Goddard,

24 January 1989.

Thank you so much for the letter and your kind thought in sending the photocopy material on the Civil War. One wonders how much was really achieved. ^{by the War.} As the author says "a plague on both your houses". To get back to the present: my wife and I have just recommenced our genealogical research after the Christmas/ New Year break, and we're hoping for great things in the coming year.

I am looking forward to publication of the next Newsletter; it contains my advert. re. present-day descendants of the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards. Frankly the Newsletter is about my only hope of locating modern descendants of that branch. Other attempts to locate them have not been successful. Perhaps none have survived, though I think this unlikely as they were quite a large family as I have discovered.

Since my last letter I have had some success in tracing the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards of the 1600's. I have discovered that there was a Goddard family there from as early as 1531/2 when a survey recorded Agnes Goddard, wife of a Henry Goddard, and her son John Goddard both holding land in the manor. In the 1640's when my ancestors left for Barbados there were several Goddards living in Staple Fitzpaine. In particular there was a Henry Goddard who owned a tenement/farm called "Booby's Cote" and his brother William Goddard who might have been the father of the 5 who went to Barbados. I have managed to obtain 4 Wills relating to those Staple Fitzpaine Goddards (and a fifth Will left by a widowed relative named Mary Goddard who lived nearby at Curland) and these have provided a wealth of information on the family, but I still lack some vital details; in particular, I would like to find some clear evidence linking them to the Goddards who went to Barbados.

Since the Goddards were established at Staple Fitzpaine from the early 1500's, it seems unlikely that they were related to the Inglesham branch of the North Wilts Goddards, as suggested in your letter of 15 Oct. You pointed out that Edward Goddard retired to live at Upton Noble in Somerset with his son John after his Inglesham seat was burnt down during the Civil War. By that time the Goddards had been established at Staple Fitzpaine for more than a century. If there is a connection between the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards and the Wilts Goddards it must date back to the early 1500's. But of course the further back one goes the more difficult it is to find documentary evidence. If by a stroke of luck my Newsletter advert. does bring to light a modern descendant of the Staple Fitzpaine branch, it would require another stroke of luck to find that they did possess documentary evidence of a link to the Wilts Goddards. Best wishes for 1989. Sincerely, Keith Goddard.

14 May 1989.

Dear Mrs. Goddard,

I am writing once more concerning my ancestors who left Staple Fitzpaine, Somerset, in the 1640s and emigrated to Barbados. Recent research has shown that 2 names of that family are very significant - the names are "Arthur" and "Nicholas".

(A). Your letter of 15 Oct. last alerted me to the name "Arthur". You said that your computer had no record of any Arthur Goddards "in that area" (I take it you meant Staple Fitzpaine).

I have since acquired the wills of several Goddards who lived in Staple Fitzpaine (and neighbouring Curland) during the 1600s. I have also carried out extensive searches in the I.G.I. records, at the Society of Australian Genealogists, and at all the other archive repositories available to me here in Sydney. The results are clear and quite surprising. In all these records only 2 Arthur Goddards are mentioned, and they both lived at about the same time in Staple Fitzpaine. One was the Arthur who went, with 3 brothers and a sister, to Barbados in the 1640s. The other seems to have been his cousin - if not a cousin certainly a close relative.


I think you will agree that this is a most important find. It is further evidence that our family came from Staple Fitzpaine, since the name was restricted to the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards. However I would be most grateful if you would check once more with your computer. Is the name "Arthur" found among any other Goddards? Does it occur among the Goddards of Wiltshire, Devon or Dorset? My check of the available records shows no Arthur Goddards in any of ~~the~~ these counties, but your computer should give us a more thorough check.

(B). Recent research has also indicated that the name "Nicholas" might be significant. As far as I can discover it does not appear among the Wiltshire Goddards, but it does appear among the Goddards of Devon and south Somerset, pre-1650 that is (after 1650 the name might have spread more widely but my search was only concerned with the occurrence of the name up to 1650). This suggests that the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards might have been descended from Goddard stock that moved northward from Devon and not westward from Wiltshire. We know that there was a Goddard family in Staple Fitzpaine from ~~1530/32~~ 1530/31, so if they did move north from Devon it must have been about 1500 or earlier.

Can your computer help here? Does it record any Nicholas Goddards in Wiltshire or elsewhere? Does it confirm my conclusion that the name Nicholas only occurs in Devon and south Somerset?

I would be most grateful if you would check these 2 names for me. My advertisement in the 'Newsletter' has not borne fruit - I have had no answers

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16 July 1991

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter which arrived yesterday, delighted to hear from you again, I hope that I can help you I now have some information on 17 people from Staple Fitzpaine, and about 50 from Hemyock about 8 miles away covering the period from 1530 to 1711. However, I have not had a family tree from you detailing what you have found and what is left to find, so I don't know what the questions are.

I think that the main seat of the Goddards locally was Hemyock, it was, and is larger, with many more Goddards to the square mile in the 16-17th centuries. I still have no records of any Arthurs in the area, but 5 or 6 with the name Nicholas from Hemyock in the period 1600-1650.

The track through to Wiltshire, is almost certainly through the estate at Upton Noble as the Coat of Arms was apparently granted to William of the Cherill Wiltshire branch in 1536. This is not a very good criteria for identifying the particular branch of the family as the coat of arms for each branch will only change in very small detail. To my knowledge the arms granted to William have not been positively identified, at least I have not seen a picture of them, that could cost a great deal from the College of Arms. I am interested in the three crescents on the Wiltshire Arms as I recall seeing a very similar design but of three stylised bulls heads face on, in a much earlier, (12th C), Coat of Arms of Goddards from the Isle of Man, a remarkable coincidence, if that's what it was. However, the land in the Devon/Somerset area could well have been in Goddard hands for 2-3 centuries before 1500. The only index to papers referring to Goddard estates are those of the Swindon branch, I have checked there but there is only oblique reference to land in Somerset. I think that the estates in the Devon/Somerset area would have been held in either the Cherill or, less likely, the Clyffe Pypard branch. Can you send a detailed picture of the Coat of Arms, that may help.

Because church records were only started in 1538 and not really effective until about 1600, it is very difficult to trace people before that date unless they had been involved in legal proceedings, so it is most unlikely that we could ever find which one of the many John Goddards joined Perkin Warbeck. So far there has been no hint of any political involvement of the Wiltshire Goddards in the Perkin Warbeck affair. What makes you think that John was not born in that area? Particularly since if he was "in hiding" in Staple Fitzpaine he would have stuck out like a sore thumb and it was not very effective since he was fined the 60 shillings anyway. I think that as Perkin Warbeck landed for his

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final adventure, at Lands End after his trip to Edinburgh and worked his way up to Exeter and then Taunton where the rebellion finally foundered, recruiting as he went, it is unlikely that many people living off his route could have joined his army in the short time of this phase of the revolt. Unfortunately, John is a fairly common name throughout the Goddards of Europe.

Although your line of enquiry does not include other villages in the Taunton area, we have other clients for that information, and they would be most grateful for any additional information you may have regarding the Goddards of the area. Also, any information you may have on people emigrating to Jamaica or Barbados would be most welcome, particularly as I have killed off one of their main forebears by finding that he died in England aged 15, 50 years before his "son" arrived in America via Barbados in 1660-70, they have lost a Giles have you got a spare one?

That is all the ideas I have for the present but I may be to be of more assistance when you send your family tree, please do not wait until you have it finished any information will help me to help others.

Best wishes to you and your family, Julie sends her regards, hoping to hear from you soon.

12 July 1991.

Dear Brian,


It is several years now since I wrote Julie to ask whether The Goddard Association had any data on the Goddards of Staple Fitzpaine, Somerset (1600s). Julie wrote back to say that there wasn't any information on that family, but in the June 'Newsletter' I saw that you are appealing for requests on the ground that if there is no input/output the Association will wither and die. This is quite correct of course, so I am writing again to see if you have since acquired any information that I can add to what I have discovered.

Here is some background information that will bring you up to date on my Goddard family.

Round about 1640 my ancestor, a Captain Nicholas Goddard (mariner) left Staple Fitzpaine with his 3 brothers and 2 sisters and emigrated to Barbados. I have now acquired a good deal of information on the Staple Fitzpaine family from which they came and on their Barbados descendants. I myself was born in Barbados. After serving in the RAF during the war I went to Edinburgh and St. Andrews universities and in 1957 my wife (a Scot) and I came to Australia. We now have Australian children and grandchildren, but I still have relatives living in Barbados.

I have been able to trace the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards back to a Johne Goderd who took part in Perkin Warbeck's rebellion of 1497. His name is on a vellum manuscript which is stored in the British Library in London. This is a list of those who took part in Warbeck's rebellion. It was drawn up by the commissioners who were appointed by the king; their job was to fine those who took part in the rebellion. Johne was fined 60 shillings.

It seems that after the rebellion collapsed Johne Goderd ducked for cover in an obscure village named Staple Fitzpaine, a few miles S-E of Taunton. He eventually decided to settle there, and I have been able to trace his descendants down to the 6 Goddards who left for Barbados round about 1640, shortly before the Civil War broke out in 1642.

My big problem is that I have not been able to trace Johne back past the rebellion, so we don't know with any certainty where he came from before he joined Warbeck's crazy band. We do know that his Staple Fitzpaine descendants used the Wiltshire Goddard seal (the chevron and 3 crescents ) so it is fairly certain that Johne came from Wiltshire, but I have not been able to find any documentary evidence to support that conclusion. 1536

My question to you is this: Among the information you have acquired is there any mention of a Johne Goderd (John Goddard) who left Wiltshire round about 1490 to join Perkin Warbeck's band? Or perhaps we should cast the net a bit wider and ask: Have you heard of a John Goddard of Wiltshire who disappeared from the Wiltshire records some time before 1497?


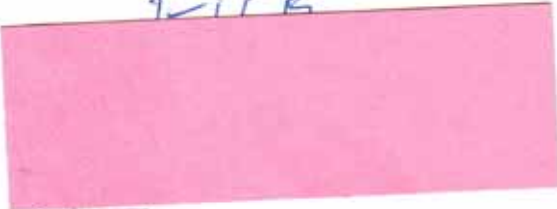
I would also be glad to hear of any information you may have acquired on the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards of the 1600s. By the way, there are no longer any Goddards at Staple Fitzpaine. The last Goddard recorded there was a girl who married a Knight from Combe St. Nicholas in 1703. I would be happy to get any scrap of information on the family because I'm not fooling myself that I have got all the recorded information there is and the more I can find out about them the better.

One other point - In the 1600s there were Goddard families in several other Somerset villages but I am not interested in those other families unless I can make a firm connection with the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards. The only others I have been able to connect with them were the Goddards who lived at Curland, next door to Staple Fitzpaine. Also I have not sent you a family chart of the Staple Goddards because you would not be able to connect them with any of the others on your computer (I think). Let me know if you would like a chart. Mine is not quite finished but I expect to have it reasonably complete by the end of the year.

My best regards to Julie - I hope she is now back to good health.

Good researching. Sincerely,

Keith Goddard

KUB

17 October 1991.

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the pleasant and helpful letter of 16 July. Was most intrigued to hear that you now have information on some 17 people from Staple Fitzpaine (I presume all Goddards) and that you think there is a good chance the Goddards of Staple Fitzpaine and Curland were connected to those of Hemyock. In all the wills and other documents I have perused there has never been any hint of a Hemyock connection. Of course, I do not accept mere proximity of the 2 places as proof of family connection - I insist on written proof of a connection. I am sure you would agree with me on this point. I am hoping that among your data there might be something I have missed.

I didn't write you sooner because I had not quite finished the list of references I'm enclosing with this letter. I have now completed a write-up of all the data from those references. It is in effect a complete(?) family history of the Staple Fitzpaine/Curland Goddards and it stretches from 1499 to 1703 when the last Goddard was recorded at Staple Fitzpaine. It was a mammoth task of which I am quite proud, but it is bulky and would not be of interest to any but the direct descendants (also rather pricy) so I have not enclosed a copy. The connection between the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards and those of Curland was established by the 1657 will of Mary Goddard of Curland, so there is no question about that connection, but as I said above I never found any evidence that they were connected to the Goddards of Hemyock.

I was surprised to hear you say that the 'chevron and crescents' coat of arms was granted to William of the Cherhill, Wilts, branch in 1536. That does not tally with the information in "Goddard Book II"; nor does it tally with the information I have from Captain J.W.H. Goddard of Cirencester, Glos., who is the present head of the "Swindon" branch of the family and whose claim to the 'chevron and crescents' arms has recently been affirmed by the College of Arms. Captain Goddard has written me that he is not certain when the design was first granted but "I suspect the coat of arms was given to John Goddard of Poulton in 1380". This John of Poulton was given the manor of Upper Upham, Wilts, by John of Gaunt, and this started the Cliffe Pypard, Upham and Aldbourne line that is mentioned in Burke's.

I don't want to be dogmatic about all this. It would be quite inappropriate for a colonial like myself to try and lecture you on background information with which you must be quite familiar. But there is a discrepancy here which is important to my own research. The problem is that the Staple Fitzpaine family can be traced back to 'Johne Goderd' who took part in Perkin Warbeck's 1497/98 rebellion and was fined by the King's Commissioners in 1499. It follows that the chevron/crescents design which was used by the Staple Fitzpaine family on their will seals must go back at least as far as 1499. Now if Johne Goderd was from the Wilts family and the Wilts design dates back to 1380 there is no problem. The obvious conclusion is that Johne took it with him when he went to live in Staple Fitzpaine. And this conclusion is still valid if Johne was not the first Goddard to settle in S.F. The chevron/crescents design is clear evidence of a link between the S.F. and the Wilts families. But if the Wilts arms only date from 1536 as you tell me in your letter then there is a very real problem. We would have to ask how on earth could the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards have this seal if their ancestor Johne Goderd came from Wilts round about 1499. I have found no evidence that the Staple Fitzpaine family were connected to the Upton Noble Goddards. If we assume a connection with the Upton Noble Goddards then we have to say that the S.F. line are not derived from Johne Goderd through Robert/Agnes 1532 etc. (see attached chart). We would have to conclude that the Goddards who lived in S.F. after 1536 are not related to the Goddards who lived there before 1536 - this I could not accept. I am satisfied that the records listed on the attached sheets establish a clear line of Goddards at Staple Fitzpaine dating from 1499 through to 1703. I think you will agree that there is a problem here and that we can't both be right on this.

You make the point that when John Goderd went to live in Staple Fitzpaine after the rebellion collapsed it was a very unsuccessful attempt to go into hiding and he was fined anyway. The point is I don't think he was attempting to hide from the King's Commissioners. I think he was hiding-out in a social sense only. In my letter I said he "went to ground" - an unfortunate choice of words as you misunderstood my meaning. What I meant was that he was no longer welcome in Wiltshire; the Wilts Goddards were very much 'establishment people' and would not have welcomed him back to the family fold after failure of the rebellion. He thought it wiser to find an obscure village where there were no other Goddards and a few like-minded souls (if I remember correctly there were 7 other rebels listed at Staple Fitzpaine so he would have found some kindred spirits there).

With regard to the Barbados connection - you will see from the chart that round about 1640 the children of William Goddard of Staple Fitzpaine left for the island and proceeded to settle there. This is well documented. The evidence is in 3 Goddard wills which are stored at the Barbados Archives. They are the following :-

- (a) Will of William Goddard, dated 30 June 1649, ref. RB6/11, p.435.
- (b) Will of Arthur Goddard, dated 19 April 1671, ref. RB6/8, p.204.
- (c) Will of Nicholas Goddard, dated 17 April 1685, ref. RB6/40, p.170.

The exact year of their departure is not known; it is certain they were in Barbados by June of 1649 when William drew up his will ('a' above). Almost certainly they were there before the Civil War broke out in 1642, and our best guess is 1640. One of them, Anthony, later returned to Staple Fitzpaine. William left Barbados shortly after he drew up his will - in fact he states in the preamble to the will that he was about to embark on a "voyage beyond the seas"; clearly this was the reason he decided to make a will. Making the will proved to be a wise precaution because William was never heard of again - almost certainly he lost his life on that voyage. As you will be aware, the Caribbean was a dangerous place in those days of piracy, freebooting and slavery. There has been much speculation as to what became of William on that voyage but there is no hard evidence that I know of.

The other 4 Goddards married on the island and proceeded to raise families. Their descendants still live there - except this particular descendant of course who came to Australia with my Scottish wife in 1957 to take up a post at the University of New South Wales. Also some of the other members of my family have moved to Canada, but the others still live in Barbados. We were descended from Nicholas who married a Mary Read after he arrived in the island, bought himself a sugar cane plantation, and proceeded to establish a prolific line.

When you have a chance, please check your Staple Fitzpaine references against my list (enclosed). If you find any item, however trivial, that is not on my list please send me the full reference. I would lose no time checking it out and adding it to the list; I am meticulous about this - I regard it as most important that my record of the Staple Fitzpaine/Curland Goddards be as accurate and complete as possible.

Best regards to yourself and Julie. As I understand it, she is now 'retired' from active work in the Association. But she and you will know that in this game one never really retires - you only go through ups and downs of activity, but the interest remains.

Sincerely,

Kidwith

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31 October 1991

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter which arrived on Saturday. First of all an apology, when talking about the arms I was looking at the wrong drawing. The only diagrams I had immediately to hand were those enclosed, although I knew that they would do if I restricted my thoughts to the left hand quarter of the shield on the right, but my eye ran away with my brain. The right hand arms are thought to be of John Goddard of Standen Hussey and of Alice Goddard, of Ogbourne his second wife. But there are many problems with this hypothesis, not least that he died before his first wife¹, according to the plaque in the church and that she, Alice, was not entitled to the arms which were awarded to her uncle!

I should have been talking about the chevron and three crescents, this as you rightly say is a common factor among the arms of several Wiltshire families. This coat of arms was apparently not registered, this form being the simplest is obviously the earliest and probably from the continent via London. It was not registered at least when it was first taken up, because it is likely that it pre-dates the College of Heralds, the earliest known grant of English arms is in 1389, but the College was not incorporated until about 1484. This does not detract from the history as seen by Capt. John, but in fact points to the arms being older than he thinks.

Do you know the dates of the wills that have the chevron and crescents on the seal, it would be interesting if they were all after 1650, after the Heralds Visitations, between about 1580 and 1680. Apparently they did not find any Goddard Families in Somerset entitled to a coat of arms. I think that after the Heralds Visitations that any one found using a coat of arms illegally was liable to severe penalties. You can forget your 60/- fine it would have been much more dramatic than that!

The fact that the wills bear the impression of an heraldic signet is no guarantee that the user was genuinely entitled to arms, but the discovery that he had an armorial seal makes it more worthwhile to engage in the process of checking with the College of Arms, the only authoritative source of such information. However, as you can guess, from the little work that any of the Goddards have had done, from the aspect of coats of arms, this work does not come cheaply.

1. There could be no divorce at this period of time.

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I am very interested in the John Goddard, (1499), but I cannot believe that he suddenly decided to move to Staple Fitzpaine, a village surrounded by Goddards, with out being related to any of them. The problem I have is in my mind, to me the pattern of names on your family tree does not look like any of the Wiltshire trees. Without reference to any documents, with a 75% confidence if you wrote down one generation of Wiltshire family tree when given how many boys and girls, you could write the next 3-4 generations names, state in what order they were named, what jobs they did and probably where! The Goddards of Wiltshire are nothing if not predictable. However, in the Staple Fitzpaine tree the names are wrong for a Wiltshire family and there is no pattern of continuity of name, but we come back to the seal, the only tangible evidence we have, that is real enough. Have you any idea what status or the financial circumstances of John, did he have land, if so did he have to sell it, if so to whom, who did he work for? If any fact like this were known it would give some idea as to how mobile he was and how likely he was to have moved outside the average yeoman's 15 mile radius of travel in a lifetime.

Have you got a version of your tree with all the names, places and dates that you could send me to put onto the computer database? I would like it up to the present, although I only put detail on to the computer up to about 1900 to protect the present generations privacy.

I am in the middle of sorting out both a card index and an additional computer database of about 1300 records, that Sean G. from Exeter has given me with mostly of Goddards from the S.W. England. I have had a quick look but have only found one or two references so far that might interest you, but I will finish the job then do a proper search for you of the combined records, but it may be a week or two before I can get down to that. In the meantime I have enclosed "the" letter to G.B.S.Goddard in 1977, regarding the arms of the Goddards, it leaves out so much I suspect that the questions that prompted this reply were very biased. There is nothing of the earlier Norman Goddards, the Kent, Cheshire, or Norfolk Goddard arms, many more missing than mentioned.

Julie has not retired as such, only from the committee and doing research for others, concentrating more on the research coordination, which means more letter writing, putting members in touch with each other, than time spent in record offices.

We hope you are well and enjoying some good summer weather, it is now dark here by 5pm so winter is nearly with us, I envy the Goddards of Barbados.

Yours Sincerely,

Julie and Brian