

1320
3/12/91

Australia.

England.

10 November 1991.

Dear Brian and Julie,

Thank you both for the prompt reply to my letter. I was delighted to hear that so far you have found one or two references that might interest me and will carry out a more thorough search in a week or two. Any references to the Goddards of Staple Fitzpaine/Curland would be most welcome. Those records you got from Sean Goddard of Exeter should include that list of references I sent you - I posted a copy to Sean over a year ago and presumably he has incorporated my list into his "database". From memory the list I sent him does not include the first entry on your list (the one about Johne Goderd 1499 and his connection with Perkin Warbeck's rebellion). At the time I wrote him I had not yet found the Perkin Warbeck connection, so his list does not include it while yours does.

I notice you say nothing in your second letter about the Hemyock connection you mentioned in your earlier letter of 17 Oct. I presume you will get back to this when you write with the results of the search you mention. As I said, I would be more than happy to get some documentary evidence of a connection with Hemyock. It would open up a new avenue of research. However, I do insist on documentary evidence; mere proximity of the 2 places is "suggestive", but suggestive evidence is not proof.

I was very relieved to see from your second letter that it was an oversight when you told me the "chevron and crescents" design was first granted in 1536. I heaved a huge sigh of relief as this did not tie in with any of the information I had acquired. From your letter I gather that you do not seriously dispute Captain John's date of 1380 (for the earliest grant of that design) but you think the chevron and crescents may in fact be older than he thinks and may pre-date the College of Heralds.

Yes indeed I know the dates of the Staple Fitzpaine wills that are sealed with the chevron and crescents design. There are 2 wills that carry the seal, and both are recorded on that list I sent you. They are -

1. 1658 - Will of Henry Goddard of Staple Fitzpaine, yeoman, dated 1 November 1658 and proved 1662. (Ref. P.C.C. 36 Juxon).
2. 1681 - Will of Richard Goddard of Staple Fitzpaine, mercer, dated 14 October 1681 and proved 13 February 1681/2. (Ref. P.C.C. 17 Cottle).

to get
Both of these wills are stored at the PRO, London, and it cost me an arm and a leg ^{to get} photographs of the seals. To be precise, they charged me £18 each, for a single print (no negative) of each, and they informed me that additional prints would cost me £18 each. I thought it an outrageous rip-off, but I thought discretion the better part of valour so I paid up and said nothing. Since I only have 1 print of each you will understand why I can't send you a print. I'm enclosing a photocopy of Henry's seal; Richard's is similar. Detail is hard to pick up on the photocopy, but there is no doubt that both seals carry the "chevron and 3 crescents" design. In your letter you say "it would be interesting if they were all after 1650, after the Herald's visitations". As you will notice from the above, they are later than 1650.

In the next sentence you say: "Apparently they did not find any Goddard families in Somerset entitled to a coat of arms". I can confirm from my own work that Staple Fitzpaine Goddards are not mentioned in any of the Visitations (I have combed through all the Visitations I could get hold of) but I was under the impression that the Visitations were not complete records. Let me clarify that statement: I mean the existence of a Visitation record is proof of entitlement, but the absence of a Visitation record is not proof that a given family was not entitled to arms. As I understand it, much depended on where the Visitation was held and on how thorough the examinations were. Am I wrong in this? As you say, anyone found using a coat of arms to which he was not entitled was liable to severe penalties,

You raise the question of Johne Goderd's (1499) financial and social status. You ask whether he had land and whether he had to sell it - I take it you mean did he have to sell it to pay his fine. I wish I did have this information. The only information we have on Johne is that fine of 60s. which was imposed by the king's commissioners in 1499. We do know that his son (ie. presumed son) Robert held extensive leases at Staple Fitzpaine but a Court Roll of 1532 makes it clear that Robert's holdings were from his (Robert's) wife Agnes, not from his father Johne. If Johne held land at S.F. it was not passed on to Robert. It could have been passed to another son of course, but we have no record of that.

It seems clear that Agnes, Robert's wife, was quite well-to-do. The 1532 Court Roll records against her name a large "fine" of £23.6s.8d. as well as an annual leasing fee of £4.10s.4d. A London researcher who has studied the land tenure situation in England at that time has informed me that in his opinion the "fine" was in fact a kind of "key money" which Agnes had to pay the lord when she got her leases. He says such "fines" were standard procedure and were non-returnable, and he points out that in Agnes' case it was equivalent to her leasing dues for 5 years. He thinks that Agnes was clearly "a woman of substance", and that she was buying her family into land for 3 generations (apparently this was the usual duration of a lease). As I said above, there is evidence that her properties passed to her husband Robert on her death.

All of which is interesting but it doesn't tell us much about Robert's father Johne. What it does suggest is that Johne was not your average yokel - if he had been Agnes would not have married his son. As you know, they were very status-conscious in those days and Agnes would not have dreamed of marrying below her station.

All best wishes to you both. Shall look forward to getting the results of that search you mentioned.

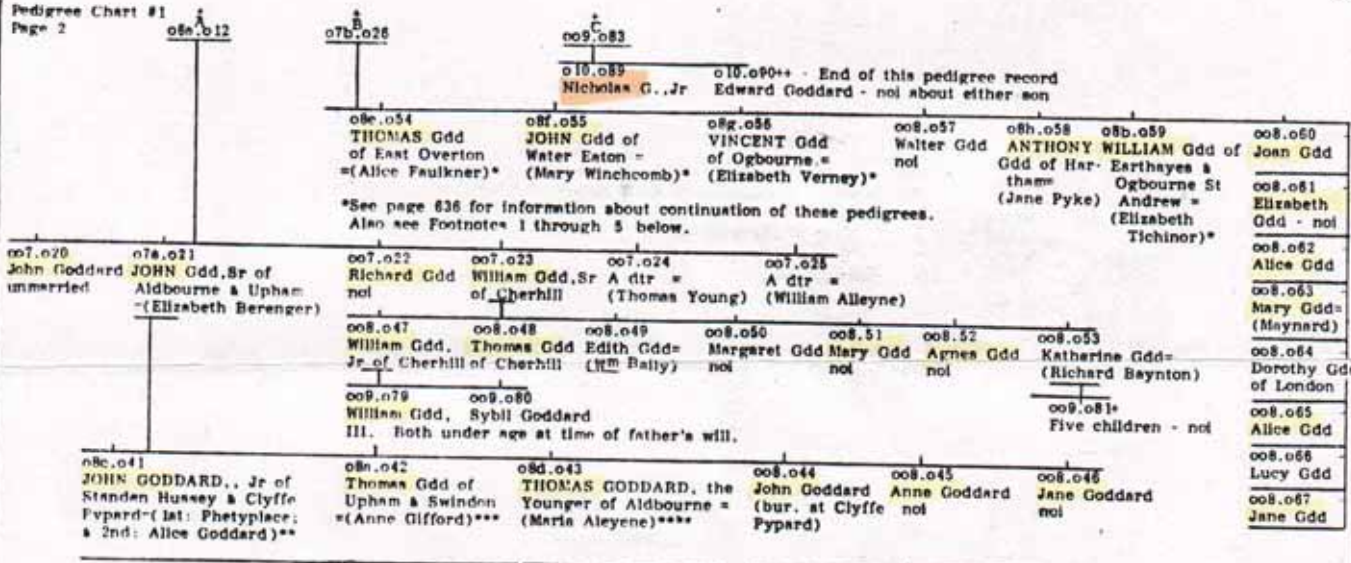
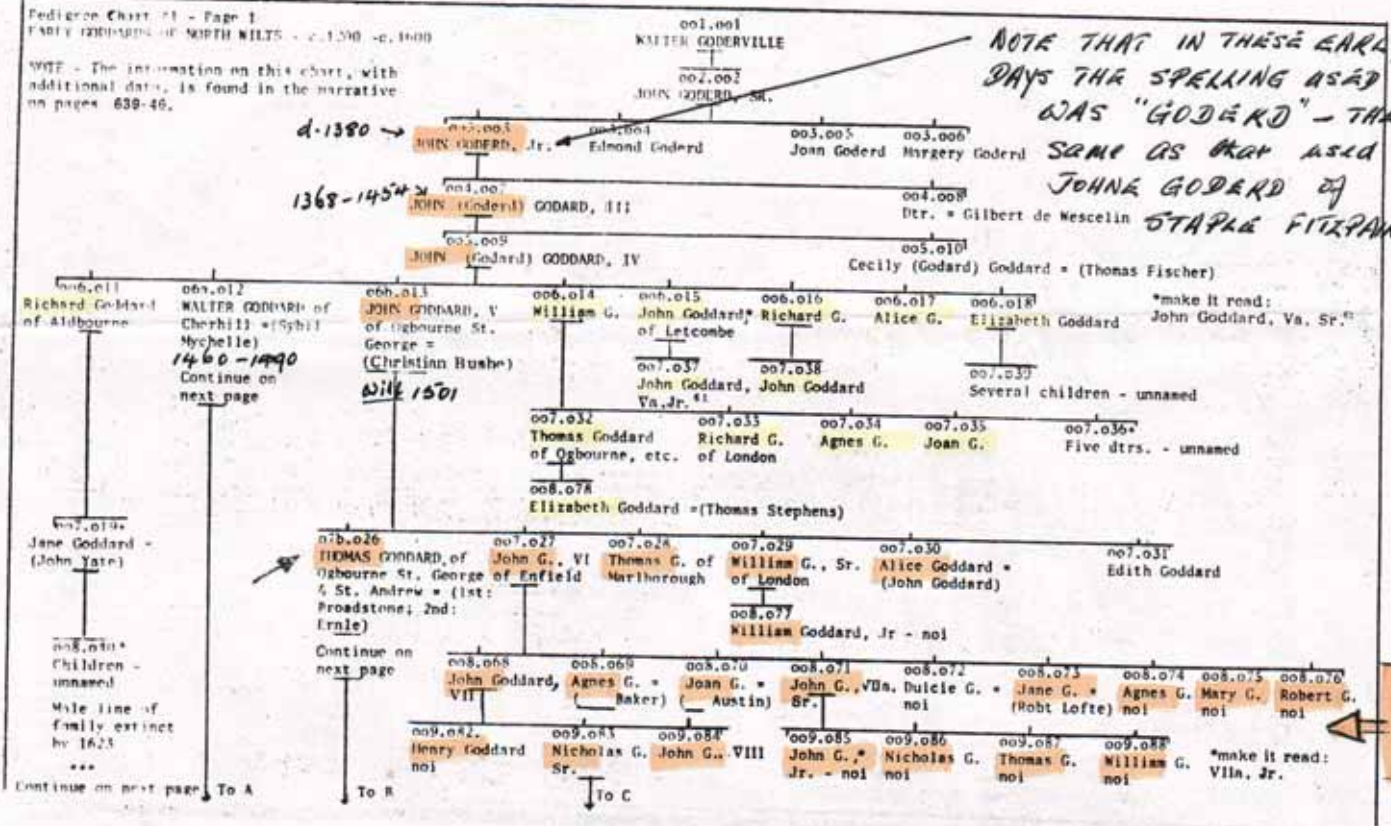
Sincerely,

K. L. K.

HIGHLIGHTING THE NAMES THAT ARE COMMON AMONG THE STAPLE FITZPAINE GODDARDS

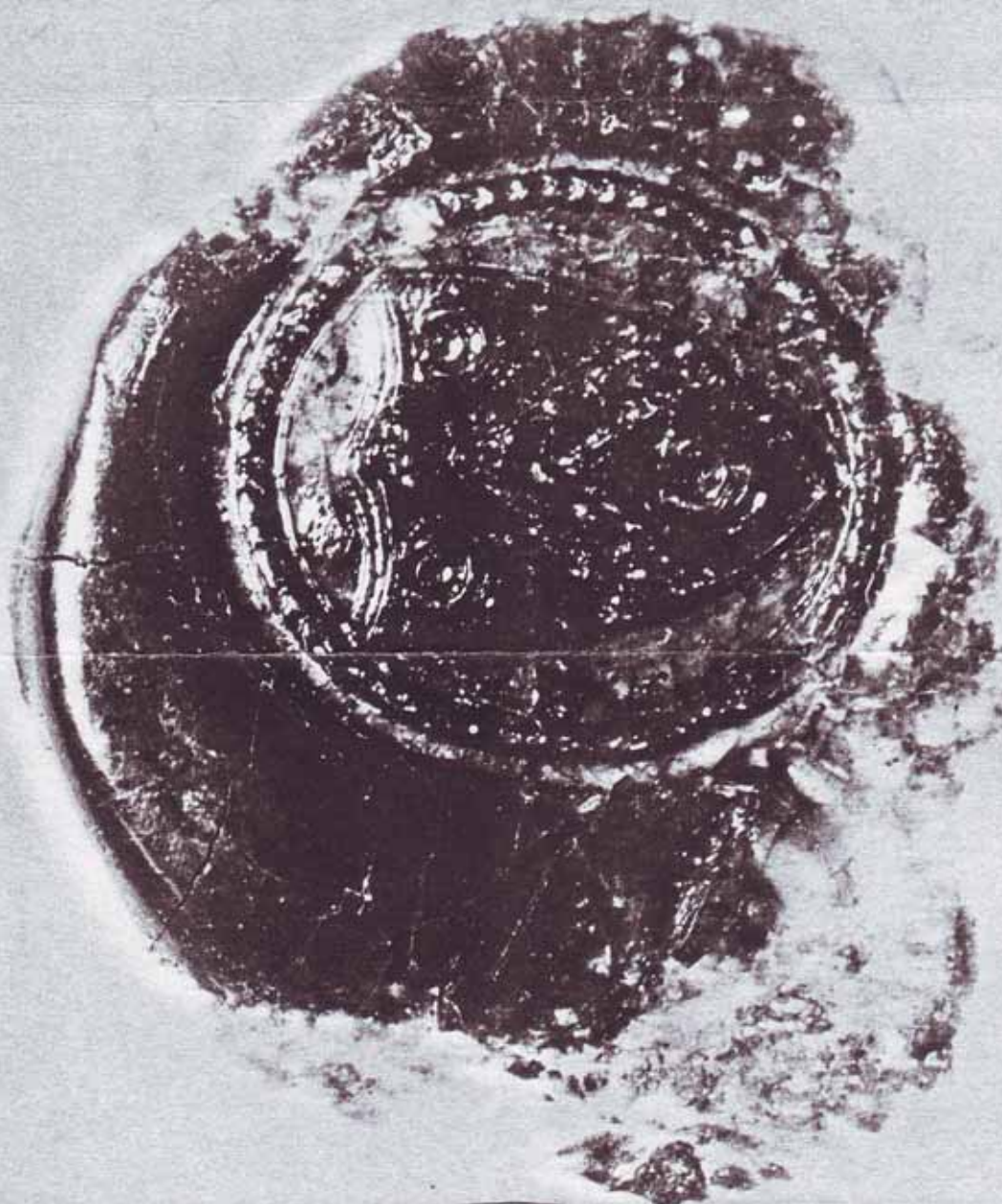
Pedigree Chart #1 - Page 1
 FAMILY (2001-2004) OF NORTH WILTS. c.1500 - c.1600
 WGT - The information on this chart, with additional data, is found in the narrative on pages 839-46.

NOTE THAT IN THESE EARLY DAYS THE SPELLING WAS "GODEARD" - THE SAME AS THAT USED BY JOHN GODEARD OF STAPLE FITZPAINE

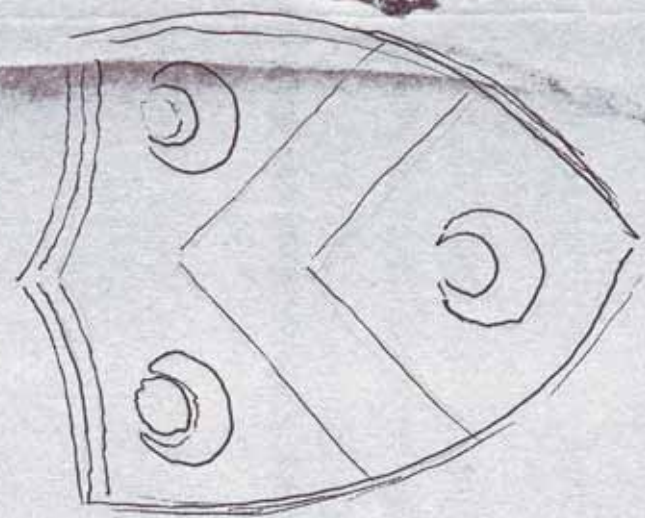


**Ancestors of the Standen Hussey & Clyffe Pypard & Purton Branches; see p. 836 for information about continuation of this pedigree.
 ***Ancestors of Swindon, South Marston & New England branches; see p. 838 for information about continuation of this pedigree.
 ****Ancestors of the Berwick Bassett Branches; see p. 846 for information about continuation of this pedigree.
 FOOTNOTES
 1. 08b.042 Ancestors of Clatford, Preshute Branch
 2. 08f.055 Ancestors of East Woodhay & Castle Eaton Branch
 3. 08g.058 Ancestors of Bedfordshire Branch
 4. 08h.057 Ancestors of Hartham Branch
 5. 08b.059 Ancestors of the Ogbourne St. Andrew Branch

From: C. K. Goddard Australia.



SEAL OF HENRY GODDARD
OF STAPLE FITZPAINE
1658/62.



Sketch of design
and 3 enscants.

Seal from wife of HENRY GODDARD
of Staple Fitzpaine, Somerset,
dated 1658/62.

PRO, Chancery Lane, London
P.C.C. 36 JAXON.


PROB. 10/960.

To: C. K. Goddard
712 Port Hacking Road
Carlingdal
New South Wales 2229, AUSTRALIA.



Henry Goddard
1658/62

GODDARD ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE



23 December 1991

Dear Keith,

Thank you for the letter which arrived a few weeks ago. I was about to write to you anyway, I am working up to a new article for our newsletter but I thought I would try it on you and one or two others first. You will see from the enclosed that we now have to commiserate with those who have lost a very distant relative! From the Post Mortem of Walter de Godervill enclosed it appears that there is now no possibility that he was progeny of the Wiltshire, or any other Goddards. The transcription is found in a book of Wiltshire Post Mortem, translated in the early part of this century, a copy of which is in Wiltshire Record Office in Trowbridge. His wife is obviously dead by the time of the inquest in 1249, but it is not clear what, if anything apart from the lease on the Chippenham land, his daughters, Joan and Margery, inherited, as this type of inquest is only interested in the disposal of land. As for Walter we see he did not own any land only managed it, some 350 acres in each of Cheverell and Chippenham, additionally he held a further area of about 30 acres of apparently very poor land also in the Chippenham Manor. Land in other counties would have been investigated in other local post mortem, or as in regard to his land in Bedfordshire disposal by direct decree of the king. From other evidence it appears that Joan, (Johanna), inherited the lease of the land in Chippenham Manor (Sheldon), as that is where she lived after her marriage, (probably enforced), to Galfrid, (Geoffrey) Gascelin soon after her fathers death and before she was 18.

This has more or less disposed of Sir Walter as the anchor for the Wiltshire family tree and clears up many anomalies such as what happened to his coat of arms, why doesn't it appear in the Goddard Arms? Or who inherited his titles to his land, we now know he did not have any of his own to leave and proof that he did not have a son. I have been checking the information I have to hand to find out when it was first suggested that Sir Walter was a Goddard, the earliest that I can find is in Burke's "History of the Commoners" of 1838 when he is noted as being an early member of the Wiltshire family, but I feel now that this was conjecture on the part of the un-named researcher, particularly since they had to apparently invent a brother to inherit when their facts did not appear to fit. It is to be noted that this story does not feature in the well researched family tree by Phillippes in 1824, nor in earlier documents. Richard Jeffries does not repeat the story, but he must have read it because he researched the Godarvill inquest and other Godarvill documents and had obviously read other papers regarding various Walters but got so mixed up that he had condensed about 200 years and at least two Walters into one paragraph, making his version, totally unintelligible.

GODDARD ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE

If "Burke" can get badly wrong both the name of the son of the Duke of Marlborough and the name of the Cambridge college where that son died, what trust do we put in their other facts. Both the Burke researcher and Richard Jeffries were commissioned to write up the family histories in the best light and getting titled members into the families was all the rage with the Victorians, but they must have been pretty desperate to have to go back 500 years to find one that could fit no matter how tenuously.

Walter was a very common and ancient Norman name, it was only introduced into Britain from Germany, via Normandy, at the time of the conquest to displace the Saxon version, Wealdthoef, although that name survived in one or two forms in the north of England until the 17thC. There are several entries in the Domesday Book (1086), for tenants by the name of Walter and for the other Teutonic, but popular, by the Normans, name Hugh, again only introduced with the conquest. Walter does not seem to have been a "traditional" Goddard name, but only a name that was used at the time of popularity elsewhere, a fashionable name. We only see it among the Goddards when it coincides with the rise in popularity in the country as a whole, 11-13thC, (2¹ Goddards), 16-17thC, (8 Goddards all from Devon), then none until the mid-19-20th, (15 Goddards all over the world). However, the name Hugh can probably be traced though Shropshire/Cheshire Goddards for several hundred years, but we need to do more research on that line.

This may appear to solve the missing coat of arms for Wiltshire and the other southern counties of England but it does nothing to help to solve the mystery the attachment of the "Godarvill" coat of arms to the 1664 "Invitation" (was this Sir Hugh Goddard of MP for Shropshire c 1640-1660?), engraving for Cheshire or Kent, so we still have much work to do on that.

For the Wiltshire Goddards I still think that we should be looking for a connection with Holland via London, since the coat of arms with the three crescents is prevalent in both areas, also the Wiltshire branch appear to have very strong tradition of ties with the London area. From the earliest documentation we have, virtually every generation from 1400 on sent the 3rd or 4th son off to be a haberdasher or merchant in London. But which came first the English or the Dutch version of the three crescents on a coat of arms? Almost certainly the Dutch.

Getting back to your last letter, I am still not sure what I am looking for, as I do not have the family tree of the Staple Fitzpaine Goddards from you yet. I have just finished entering the information from Sean, over 1400 people, mostly from the Devon and Somerset areas. Let me have your version of the tree and I will see what the computer can match from other sources, then perhaps we can extend the branches a little.

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1. A total of only 32 Walters from the database of over 5000 names.

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I firmly believe you should be extending your search a significant distance from the hamlets of Staple Fitzpaine and Curland as there cannot have been more than a dozen houses in each and particularly since the first John had travelled at least 100 miles if assumption your about his connection to Wiltshire is correct. I have enclosed an index of the entries of Curland and Staple Fitzpaine that Sean has sent me, not many and you have probably got them already. The coat of arms is the big mystery, it is of a simple form and is therefore probably continental, (the English arms seem to be much more ornate), from a main family branch and also at early stage of a family of arms. However, if the coat of arms was derived from some source common to the Wiltshire line, then it may be possible for two branches to have very similar shields, this was not uncommon in the 15thC and 16thC, but this had usually been sorted out by the end of the 17thC. It is a pity that it is only the seal and does not show the accoutrements that the full coat of arms has, to show the particular branch, still we must keep looking for clues. Did you realise that this particular crescent is called "Percy's Crescent"? from Sir Henry Percy ("Hotspur" 1364-1403), not that it is suggested that he was the first to use that symbol. There are other families also carrying the triple crescent formation in their coats of arms, particularly in Yorkshire, but not Goddards to my knowledge.

As you say the Visitations themselves were incomplete, but also I have in the back of my mind the thought that I have been told that the publications by the Harleian Society of these visitations were from "acquired" rough notes and not the finished article. I think the only place to check is the College of Heralds, at great expense! I feel that to conclude that the coat of arms of John must have come from Wiltshire is dangerous, as it could have equally come from London, Shropshire or Holland¹.

As far as the names goes there is little significance in the spelling of Goderd, I have many examples of this spelling from all over the country. The spelling usually changes with the change of parish clerk and then not always for the better. However, it is more prevalent in the south, Hampshire, Devon and Dorset, matching the softer dialects. My father always announced himself verbally on the phone like that, even after years abroad in Malta as a child then Australia, later Madagascar and 30 years in Birmingham, but the phone picked up his Hampshire accent of early childhood.

As to the Christian names, I strongly disagree, on the only evidence I have, (your list of SF and Curland Goddards), that they are similar to any of the Wiltshire branches, it is not the universally common names, John, William, etc., (just over 12% of **all male Goddards** on my database are named John, and over 9% are William), I am looking at quite the opposite, it is number and the variety of unusual names in your list that is the problem. I am assuming that most on that list fit into the tree, the only name that parallels other Goddard families is Nicholas, to

1. see P. xiii Vol. 2 of the Goddard Book.

GODDARD ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE

separate families in Hampshire, Hertfordshire and London, apparently the only family linked back to Wiltshire is the Enfield (Herts) Goddard family, so far.

It is the predictability of the Wiltshire family group that makes it interesting, were an new name does occur it is almost inevitably the name of a mentor, father in law, or the land lord, if of higher social status and preferably titled, Giles, Culpeper, Sandys or Varney, to name but a few. To be fair, the opposite quite often also occurs when a female Goddard marries "below" her station, e.g. the "Goddard Carters" and the "Goddard Smiths".

All this is worse than a television soap opera and I am sure it will run for much longer than any of those, I must get on to letters in a similar vein to Kathryn Goddard Meyer, Treva Watchman and Malcolm Goddard in Australia to give them this latest episode in the saga of Walter Godarvill.

We hope this letter finds you well and we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely,