

2.4.99.

Dear Brian,

Would you like to vet
this for the Newsletter.

The research into the identity
of Beatrice the wife of Thomas
Fetthplace is still ongoing. I don't
know whether we will ever be able
to identify her ^{definitely}, but it seems to be
a possibility. It is just necessary
to find the marriage of Gilbert
Lord Talbot.

Best wishes

Edward Morgan.

P.S. If you identify yourself as Brian
Goddard I won't get you mixed up with
my nephew!

Goddard Ancestors

Towards the end of 1997 an article entitled 'The Bengers of Alton Barnes' by Sonia Hawkes appeared in the Wiltshire Family History Society Journal tracing the Bengers back to the time of the Norman conquest. From the text it appeared that Benger was a diminutive of Berrenger and as we were researching Fettiplace at the time and Elizabeth Berrenger was the mother-in-law of Elizabeth Fettiplace who married John Goddard we thought it worthwhile contacting Sonia Hawkes to see whether there was a connection. Not entirely surprisingly Elizabeth Berrenger turned out to be her 12x gt.grandmother and she sent a family tree going back to circa 1066 with a possible link to Osbert de Bolebec whose son or grandson Walter Gifard was steward to William the Conqueror.

The Fettiplaces had also come to England at the same time, an Almericus Fettiplace was gentleman usher to William¹, but the link to Sir Thomas Fettiplace of East Shefford the gt.gt.grandfather of Elizabeth is not known although an Adam Fettiplace who was described as a moneyer was mayor of Oxford in 1245² and at least once more. He held the manor of Wantage and subsequently bought Denchworth manor where his descendants lived until the male line died out in 1743. Sir Thomas' wife is again a bit of a mystery but she was generally acknowledged to be a descendant of the royal house of Portugal² and according to Wagner, could have been a granddaughter or gt.grand daughter of Alfonso III through an illegitimate son Alfonso Denis. Peter I had four granddaughters named Beatrice, one of whom married the Earl of Arundel, another married Sancho, Count of Albuquerque, the other two were both known as Beatrice de Portugal and are still awaiting more research. The lineage of all of them is traceable back to Henry, Count of Portugal in 1095³ who was the grandson of Robert, Duke of Burgundy. Sir Thomas died ca.1443 and Lady Beatrice in 1447. They are both buried in a beautiful alabaster tomb in the old church at East Shefford.

Their son John married Joan Fabian widow of Alderman John Horne of London. He was a member of the Haberdashers Company and lived in London. He is reputed to have received £40 for taking a gilt garter ornamented with pearls to the king of Portugal.

Richard the son of John and Joan married Elizabeth Besyls⁴ the daughter of William Besyls and his wife Alice Harecourt of Besyls Leigh, the Besyls came from Provence and again probably came to this country in 1066 but we as yet have only been able to trace them back through seven generations.

The next generation has very interesting connections Richard and Elizabeth's son John married Dorothy Danvers⁵ and Elizabeth who married John Goddard of Standen Hussey was their youngest daughter. Anne Danvers was of Norman descent, her father being Sir John Danvers of Dautesey 1455-1515 whose line is recorded back to Sir Roland de Alvers. They were thought to have come from Auvers in the Cotentin area of Normandy along with the Harecourts and Geoffrey de Mowbray, Bishop of Coutances all three of whom had properties in Northampton before getting estates in the country. Anne's mother was Anne Stradling 1469-1540 'the Lady of Dautesey'. Her family built or enlarged the castle at St Donats shortly after William le Esterling helped FitzHamon to subdue the South Wales population. Le Esterling gradually became corrupted to Stradling possibly because it was easier for the locals to pronounce.

Although a lot of these early Normans had questionable reputations subsequent generations gradually mellowed and it seems that the Goddards, an old established and respected family, were well supported by some of their spouses who had equally good credentials and certainly helped to maintain the Goddard reputation.

References

- 1.Goddard family tree of North Wiltshire. Brian Goddard.
- 2.Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club. Vol V
- 3.Encyclopedia Britannica.
- 4.Pedigree of the Besils family of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, etc. J Renton Dunlop in Miscellanea, Genealogica et Heraldica, Vol.5, 1923-5, p63-82.
- 5.Memorials of the Danvers family from the conquest to the end of the 18th cent. MacNamara

E.Morgan, Malpas & M.Bush, Southsea.

Our records have John Goddard marrying in about August 1538 so that should Elizabeths birth about 1518-1520. They had five children Thomas, Anthony, William, Dorothy and Ann. We do not know what order they were born in but they were all born between say 1540 and 1556

The following is a note from a future publication by the Goddards of Europe Association

01049 John of Standen Hussey, (this estate was just south of Hungerford, but no longer exists as such).

In every tree of this family that has been drawn for the last 150 years there was one glaring error, that can now be corrected, this concerns the dates associated with the marriages of John Goddard of Standen Hussey (died Nov. 1567), firstly to Elizabeth Phetiplace, and secondly to Alice Goddard. The real problem was that according to the memorial plaque in Clyffe Pypard church and the Harleian Soc. Visitations of 1623, as published by the Harleian Soc., Elizabeth did not die until 17 years after John. Now, **not even Henry VIII** could manage that sort of marriage arrangement! It would have required a private bill through the House of Lords for John to get a divorce at this period, there is, apparently, no record of any such divorce and therefore we must conclude that the Elizabeth Phetiplace that John married died much earlier. An important clue is the differing names quoted in various documents for the name of her father and the plaque was reported to be unreadable in the early 19th century. John Aubrey visited the church in about 1660, he wrote that it then said "*Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Goddard, wife of John Goddard Esqr. and daughter to Sir John Fettiplace, Knight. Who deceased 1550*" and not "Sir Robert", nor "1584", as is now written on the plaque, (although in précis of the will of John Goddard's father written at the end of August 1556, it does not give any indication of her death). That fits the other facts but this statement should be verified by investigating Aubrey's papers in detail, they are now held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Additionally, the editor has recently found a copy of the Harleian Soc. published transcript of the 1565 Visitation of Wiltshire, here the facts agree with those stated by John Aubrey with the additional information that Alice and John had married and that their sons John, Vincent and Edward were all born before 1565.

13th June 1994

Dear Mrs Ensor,

Although my husband is from another branch of the Goddard family and not the one which married into the Fettiplaces, we were very interested in your letter. We have not been approached by the Fettiplace family before. I enclose a leaflet which will give you some idea of the Goddards and our association. The committee has eight members, three of them being descendants of John Goddard who married Elizabeth Fettiplace.

I do not know how much you know of England and the estates of the Fettiplaces and Goddards. Please enquire if you would like to know more. In the meantime I have included some items which you might not have seen. Also, have you seen a copy of "Elinor Fettiplace's receipt book", edited by Hilary SPURLING published by Viking Salamander in 1987, price £12.95. Apparently the original has a note in the front that it has a connection with Walter Raleigh and is dated 1604. There is a good introduction to the book with a history of the family.

We look forward to hearing from you again.

Yours Sincerely

Julie Goddard
Research Co-ordinator

FETTIPLACE CONNECTION

We have been approached by a descendant of Edmund Fettiplace whose sister, Elizabeth, married John Goddard of Standen Hussey (who died in 1657). Mrs Kathryn Ensor of Aruna, Victoria, Australia, has a family tree clearly showing the connection,, which makes her a very distant relative of Richard, John and Anneca, your committee members. There is a memorial plaque in Clyffe Pypard church to Elizabeth, the exact wording of which seems to have become altered over the four centuries since it was erected. John Aubrey, the antiquarian, in 1660 said it read "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Goddard, wife of John Goddard Esq., and daughter of Sir John Fettiplace, Knight. Who deceased 1550". It now reads "daughter of Sir Robert Fettiplace. Who deceased 1584". Mrs Ensor says that the direct male Fettiplace line died out in the 1700s, but was then assumed by some of the descendants in the female line. We hope to hear more from Mrs Ensor.

their quarters for the night in the town and some of the neighbouring villages. But their slumbers were soon to be disturbed. When the news of the outbreak reached London, Lord General Fairfax and Lieutenant General Cromwell had already set out for Salisbury. At Andover they received intelligence of the northward movement of the rebels, and at once started in pursuit. By a rapid march through Theale and Abingdon they crossed the Thames at Newbridge and reached Burford at midnight. The mutineers, summoned to surrender, made but a brief resistance. A large number effected their escape, but about four hundred gave themselves up and were secured in the church. Next morning a court-martial dealt summary justice: a cornet and two corporals were placed against the churchyard wall and shot, while their comrades were placed on the roof of the Sylvester aisle to learn a salutary lesson from the spectacle. Then Cromwell called them down into the church, and told them that though they well deserved to be decimated, the Lord General in his mercy had pardoned them all. Such was the end of the Levellers and the Levelling movement. On the lead of the font, rudely cut with a dagger, you may still read the words "Anthony Sedley Prisoner 1649."

We leave Burford by Witney Street, and declining the ascent to the Oxford road, keep to the by-road in the valley. Through the wide green meadow land, dotted here and there with elm and willow, the Windrush holds its devious course past three of the most primitive villages in Oxfordshire, Swinbrook, Astball, and Minster Lovel; and first for Swinbrook. Cross the old stone bridge by the mill, and you are soon in the midst of this old-world village. The church which stands upon the highest ground strikes you as remarkably tall for its length, but you soon realise that this effect is due to the clerestory, which has been carried up above the original Norman nave. The tower is small, and has been run up through the west end of the church, but there is a large transomed perpendicular window which fills the whole of the east end. To the south and south-

vest of the church you may see all that is left—a few remnants of terraces, fish-ponds, and out-houses—of what was, only a century ago, a manor-house of the first rank. Here the Fettiplaces, a family of great wealth and great connections both in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, reigned for three hundred years. The house which they built when quiet times returned after Bosworth Field, and when the star of their powerful neighbours at Minster had already set, must have rivalled any mansion of its date in the county, and its panelled hall, with its windows filled with heraldic shields, was the pride of its owners and the delight of the antiquary. Now, alas! not one stone remains upon another, and it has taken its place among those desolate sites, of which I could count some half-dozen in Oxfordshire alone, where nothing but grassy mounds and hollows, and perhaps a venerable length of mouldering garden-wall, remains to tell the tale of its former greatness. But though the Fettiplaces and the house that they built have vanished for ever from mortal ken, their memory is still fresh in Swinbrook. First there are their charities, for the good they did is *not* interred with their bones, including a dole of bread to the poor, and seven green coats (at least, this was so in Skelton's time, 1823) annually distributed to seven poor men, not to mention the privilege of sending two poor boys to Christ's Hospital—and secondly there are their monuments. Enter the church and walk straight up to the chancel: first look at the brasses on the floor (you may as well be chronological) and then face north and admire the economy of monumental space. No room in this modest chancel for a series of altar tombs such as larger churches boast, yet here no less than six Fettiplaces recline in effigy, by means of the simple device of placing them on shelves one above the other. There are two alcoves, if I may so term them, placed side by side, each containing three shelves. Now it is obvious that the ordinary supine position would be impossible in such an arrangement; the figures therefore recline on the right side, and gaze placidly (for their eyes are open) into space. The

three figures in the western alcove, Alexander, William, and Edmund I., are of Tudor date, and have the head supported by the right arm, the elbow resting on a cushion, and their whole pose is somewhat stiff and conventional; the three in the eastern alcove, on the other hand, John I., John II., and Edmund II., which belong to Stuart times, are represented in an easier attitude; the body is supported by the right fore-arm, the head is slightly raised and the left knee bent, as if they were ready to spring up into life at a moment's notice, and only waited for the signal.

To turn from the contemplation of these ingenious monuments to the bust on the opposite side of the chancel is to come back to the everyday world. This represents Sir George Fettiplace, who died in 1743, the last of the line in direct male descent. The estate then passed to the children of his sisters, who assumed the family name, and when Richard Fettiplace died in 1806 the property was divided among his sisters. About this time the manor-house was let to a "Mr. Freeman from London," of whom the writer of a pleasant paper on the Lower Windrush Valley, in a recent number of the *Oxford Magazine*, gives the following account: of Mr. Freeman "no one knew anything, but . . . references were waived, in consideration of his pleasant habit of paying down unending guineas in advance when called upon for security. He came down with a train of servants, and made himself at home in the neighbourhood by his open-handed hospitality. Soon after his arrival the 'holding-up' of coaches, and more commonplace highway robberies, became frequent on the London-Gloucester, London-Banbury, and London-Worcester roads; they never took place within ten miles of Swinbrook, but always far afield, and were accomplished sometimes by a single rider, sometimes by a gang of four. For a year the countryside was terrorised, till a shot from a well-guarded coach killed one of the robbers, who was identified, to the general surprise, as the wealthy Mr. Freeman's butler. He and his household were then arrested, and found to be well-

known highwaymen who had made the Home Counties too hot for them, and then had moved to the West."

Close behind the church to the north stands a delightful old rambling farm-house, with a long sloping roof of exquisite colour, and its front covered with a wealth of creepers. Past the side of this an old road, at one point always covered for some distance by a running brook, leads through some charming outlying patches of Wychwood to the top of Shipton Down, whence you may, if you are disposed, soon descend to Shipton village; but this is not our way to-day. We recross the river at Swinbrook mill, and continuing our journey down the valley soon arrive at our second village, Asthall. Few are the houses of Asthall—the bulk of the population of the parish lives a couple of miles away at the hamlet of Asthall Leigh—but its fine Elizabethan manor-house, its interesting church, and its lovely situation on a hillock rising above the river, combine to make it one of those places that dwell in the memory.

The gabled front of the manor-house rises immediately on the west of the church, and the two together make a delightful picture. On entering the church one is shocked to find that the effect is spoilt by the detestable "cathedral glass," and one longs to throw every door wide open and break every window to get rid of the prison-like feeling that it causes. It would be unwise, however, to run the risk of a prosecution for sacrilege, so we console ourselves with the beauty of the details, the fine Transition-Norman chancel-arch with its birdsbeak mouldings, the Early English windows with the sills formed into seats, and above all the splendid chapel on the north, the roof of which towers above nave and chancel, and has a most striking effect when viewed from outside. This chapel takes us back to the story of Hayles Abbey and the Holy Blood, for the manor of Asthall was once the possession of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, the son of the King of the Romans. When Edmund died in 1300 without legitimate offspring, he bequeathed Asthall to his natural son Richard, who assumed the

FETTIPLACE

AUSTRALIA

6

Dear Mrs Goddard,

I have noted your interest in the name GODDARD and given your home address wonder if we share a common interest.

I am descended from a family called FETTIPLACE whose male line died out in the 1700's but the name continued for several generations being assumed by some of the descendants on the female line.

I have been fortunate to be able to trace the family in

Berkshire back to the 1200's living
mainly in North Denchworth, East Shefford
and Childrey.

Enclosed is a small chart
showing where Elizabeth Fettiplace married
John GODDARD around 1545 in Shefford
Berkshire. The chart also includes a
quotation from a book that I
discovered in our State Library which
describes a monument built in Childrey
church commemorating Elizabeth's parents
and siblings. This may be of interest
to you if the GODDARD lines are the
same.

Here's hoping that we have a
common line.

Yours sincerely
Kath Ensor