



## The Goddard Association of Europe

### NEWSLETTER

No. 122 – April 2017

## THOMAS GODDARD, PURSER, 1771-1853

### A few loose ends – No. 9 of an infrequent series

An article in *Family Tree Magazine*, August 2015, 'The Semaphore System', introduces a system of communication built after the Napoleonic Wars, 1799-1815, between the Admiralty in London and Portsmouth dockyard. The article mentions a Thomas Goddard, but no more personal details were given. If your interest lies in this and other semaphore systems, 'All about Telegraph Systems' <<http://royal-signals.org.uk/Datasheets/Telegraph.php>> is for you. But if your interest lies on the Goddard aspect, read on.

Thomas Goddard was born in Portsmouth and baptised in the parish church, Saint Thomas, on 13 October 1771, the first son of William Goddard and Elizabeth née Graham. Father William and both grandfathers of Thomas were master shipwrights and apprentice masters, and all appear to have worked at the dockyards around Portsmouth, Deptford and Chatham as the work required. Thomas possibly trained as an accountant, because his earliest known appointment was as 'Keeper of the Chatham Chest'.

Originally conceived as a charity to provide pensions for wounded seamen, the Chest was established after many seamen who had been disabled in the war against Spain petitioned Queen Elizabeth in 1590 for relief and maintenance. The Chest was financed at first entirely by members' contributions of sixpence per month, but later it became tacitly accepted that the Government would meet the excess of expenditure over income each year on a 'pay as you go' basis. This principle remained in force, though sometimes the Government

was late in paying and pensions fell into arrears. In 1690 some pensions were as much as three years outstanding. The Chest experienced a substantial increase in the number of pensioners during the Napoleonic Wars, when it rose from 2,800 pensioners in 1709 to 5,205 in 1802. In about 1800 Thomas Goddard wrote a report criticising the waste of funds in management, proposing a scheme to merge the fund with that of the Greenwich Hospital, for which it had provided funds in the early days of the Hospital. Thomas resigned when the Government rejected this report, but his proposed scheme went ahead when, following an Act of Parliament in 1803, the Chest was merged with Greenwich Hospital. The merger was completed in 1814, by which time the Chest had existed for 224 years and had been an undoubted success.

A family tree spanning 1770-1900, produced as part of the 'Visitation of England and Wales' Vol. 10 by F.A. Crisp <<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl10howa#page/n43/mode/2up>>, shows Thomas's life history: born in Portsmouth, married at St Marylebone Parish Church in London to Mary Clark of Marylebone on 2 February 1795, died in Blackheath, Kent, on 29 March 1853. He and Mary had three children born between 1795 and 1811 while they were living in Quebec Street, Marylebone, near Hyde Park. It is of note that the last son, Francis George Graham Goddard, was educated in Paris, a London Broker who died unmarried.

Sometime between 1800 and 1818 Thomas Goddard became a 'purser'. A purser joined the warrant officer ranks of the Royal Navy in the early fourteenth



**The Chatham Chest** – The iron chest has five locks: a disguised keyhole in the top, which operated an elaborate lock covering the entire interior of the lid, and four hasps for padlocks. The keyhole in the front of the chest is false. The original key survives with this chest at The Mast House, Chatham Dockyard Museum.

century and existed as a Naval rank until 1852. To become a purser a man had to have served at least one year as a captain's clerk, helping the captain with his correspondence and records. The purser was in charge of the stores and accounts on board ship. Pursers received no pay but were entitled to profits made through their business activities. In the eighteenth century a purser would buy his warrant for £65 and was required to post sureties totalling £2,100 with the Admiralty. They maintained and sailed with the ships; they were the standing officers of the navy, staying with the ships in port between voyages as caretakers supervising repairs and refitting.

In charge of supplies such as food and drink, clothing, bedding, candles, the purser was originally known as 'the clerk of burser'. They would usually charge the supplier a 5% commission for making a purchase, and it is recorded that they charged a considerable mark-up when they sold on goods to the crew. The purser was not actually in charge of pay, but of necessity had to track it closely, since the crew had to pay for all their supplies, and it was the purser who deducted those expenses from their wages. The purser bought everything (except food and drink) on credit, acting almost as a private merchant; in addition to his official responsibilities, it was customary for the purser to provide luxuries such as tobacco, and to be the crew's banker.

Traditionally the pursers handle matters relating to money for the passengers and crew and to make sure passengers are comfortable and have what they need. This is particularly important when the passengers are the Royal Family! Thomas was the purser on Royal yachts for about thirty years, particularly the *HMY Royal George*, a Royal Yacht of the Royal Navy from the time it was launched in 1817 until its last official voyage in 1842. The *Royal George* was replaced in 1843 by a paddle steamer, the *Victoria and Albert* for Queen Victoria's first visit to Scotland five years after becoming monarch. The *Royal George* was the main yacht of George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria; she became an accommodation hulk in 1902 and finally was broken up in 1905.

An Act of Parliament (55 George III cap.128) was passed on 28 June 1815 (eleven days after the Battle of Waterloo) Establishing Signal and Telegraph Stations. On 19 February 1818 Mr Thomas Goddard, a Purser from the Royal Yacht – *Royal George* – was instructed to carry out a survey of the route of the old Portsmouth Shutter line with a view to working it with Popham's semaphore. After much delay in acquiring land and with building work, the stations began working at the end of June 1822. Between

the Admiralty in London and Portsmouth Dockyard fifteen stations had been built in four years. This mechanical semaphore was finally overtaken by modern technology in 1847 with the coming of the railways and the electric telegraph. Wires were laid alongside the LSWR line into the Royal Clarence Yard at Gosport and then by submarine cable under Portsmouth Harbour to HM Dockyard Portsmouth. On 13 September 1847 the stations' crews received their redundancy notices and were finally stood down on 31 December 1847, a life of just 25 years for this particular system.

The early 1820s were busy years for Thomas Goddard. Following the death of George III and the coronation of George IV, the royal yacht was in great demand for the king to make visits to Scotland, Ireland and the continent, to make up for those years when these visits had been neglected in the latter half of the previous reign. He was rewarded with the gift of a circular tortoiseshell hinged snuffbox



**Circular tortoiseshell hinged snuff box** with gold rim mounts engraved, 'From His Majesty King George IV to Thomas Goddard, Purser of the Royal George Yacht, 1820'. Lid with left profile laureate gold Coronation medal of George IV. - Provenance Christmas gift from Queen Mary to George V, 1916. Made by Rundell Bridge & Rundell

with gold rim mounts engraved 'From His Majesty King George IV to Thomas Goddard, Purser of the Royal George Yacht, 1820'. "When King George IV gave my grandfather the snuffbox, he gave it in a very informal way and accompanied his gift with many kind expressions." This extract is from a letter written by the Rev. Thomas Ward Goddard, vicar of Nasing, Essex, and grandson of Thomas the Purser accompanying the snuffbox; the letter and the snuffbox now reside in the Royal Collection.

We now know a little more about Thomas Goddard the Purser, who served in the navy under Kings George III, George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria. He ended his life as a naval paymaster, but the questions now are: How and why did the snuffbox and letter get back under royal protection? *Brian of Newbury*

## A SECOND STOCKPORT BARONY

David Goddard of Stockport, who is a former member of the Association and attended one of our AGMs with his father, was made a Life Peer on 15 September 2014, taking the title of Baron Goddard of Stockport. David was one of twenty-two working peers made at that time and one of the six who sit as Liberal Democrats. His ennoblement came as a result of his long experience in local government affairs in the north west of England.

David was born in Stockport in 1952, the son of Harry and great grandson of Joseph Goddard of the New Mills branch. He was elected to Stockport Council in 1990 as Labour councillor for Reddish and kept the seat until 2012, being council leader from 2007-2012. He was re-elected as Liberal Democrat councillor for Offerton in 2014. He has also been a member of the Greater Manchester Police Authority and a non-executive director of Manchester Airport.

None of us seem to have noticed this news item in 2014, but we now offer our belated congratulations to David on his honour. And, in case you are wondering, the first similar honour went to the Labour peer Joan Bakewell, Baroness Bakewell of Stockport, author and television presenter. *John of Accrington*

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## WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY – 17

Volume 23 for 1967 contains the *Lieutenancy Papers* of the Earl of Hertford for the first half of the reign of James I. Four Goddards are mentioned, the first three contained in a list which is undated but thought to be from either November or December 1611. “A note of the names of such persons as are thought fitt to lend mony to the King’s Majestie by way of privy seales, together with their names and dwelling places and their severall summes:

“The Earle of Pembroke’s Devison: Thomas Goddard of Bramshawe esq. 20 l.

“Sir Henry Poole’s Division: John Goddard of Barwick Bassett 10 l.

“The late Lord Chief Justice Devison: John Goddard of Ogbourne esq. 15 l.”

The fourth comes from another Wiltshire list, probably of the same date. “The names of all such persons in the countie aforesaid as lent to the King’s Majestie the severall summes hereafter specified (a third part being deducted) in the second yere of his Highnes’ raigne and now chardged at:

“Richard Goddard esq. 33l, 6s. 8d.” This list does not identify the geographical location of the lender, but Richard was the third highest lender in a total of 52 names. One cannot help wondering if any of them ever got their money back!

## CAN YOU HELP?

New member and enthusiastic researcher **Graham Taylor** to add to his already impressive early research in Suffolk from wills and other early documents. His line currently starts with a Rose Goddard whose son Nicholas (1440-1504) married Margaret (surname unknown). They lived at Gislingham where their son John was baptised in 1470; he was buried at Stowmarket on 1 June 1524. He married Agnes (surname unknown) and their son Robert was baptised at Stowmarket in 1502 and was buried at Wickham Skeith in 1559. Robert’s wife’s name is unknown, but their son Nicholas was baptised in 1530, married Alice Harte and died at Wickham Skeith on 1 December 1610, having produced a son Robert on 23 August 1562. This Robert lived at Wickham Skeith, married Mary (surname unknown) and was father to Susan on 8 February 1607. Susan Goddard married Thomas Watcham in 1634 in Bacton and she is Graham’s 10 x great grandmother! If any Association members recognise this branch or can in any way help to fill in any gaps, please let Graham know at [gtmt11@ntlworld.com](mailto:gtmt11@ntlworld.com)

And in a second plea on really early research can you also help long-standing member **Kay Staniland** with her on-going research on Simon Godard / Goddard, the medieval pepperer of London. She writes that she would be delighted to hear from “any members with such distant links....Going through the published records has enabled me to draft out a family tree of Simon’s immediate family and links with City families. But – perhaps like many families then – there are many Johns, Thomas’s and Richards, and how (if) they were related is challenging.” Contact her on <[kaystanit@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kaystanit@yahoo.co.uk)>

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## APOLOGY

In the obituaries column in the last Newsletter I regretted the death of John Goddard of the Chapel-en-le-Frith area, which some member had told me about. In fact I had been misinformed and it was not John but his brother Bill who had died. While renewing condolences to the family, I offer humble apologies to John for thus linking him to Mark Twain who, on reading of his own death in the Newspaper, famously remarked that the announcement of his demise was premature.

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## OBITUARY

We are sorry to record the death of member Mr D. Goddard of Andover and offer our condolences to his family.

## TWO ITEMS FROM OUR NEW ZEALAND CO-ORDINATOR, JULIE OF CHRISTCHURCH Influenza Epidemic 1918

My brother Tony and I found the following in "Papers Past", an item from the New Zealand *Wellington Evening Post* of 23 November 1918. Under the heading "Terrace Gaol" it reads: "Only a few of the prisoners in the Terrace Gaol have contracted influenza, and some of them have been very ill. Several members of the staff have been laid up with the complaint and one of them, Warder W.W. Goddard, a married man with four young children, has died. He took part in the Boer War and was subsequently in the Australian Navy. The prison buildings have been thoroughly fumigated, and all warders and prisoners go through an inhalation chamber which has been fitted up on the premises. In addition, all of them are required to use a gargle."

The warder is our grandfather, William Wilson Goddard, shown here on the right with his wife



Hannah (née Curtis) and three of their four children – Agnes, William Curtis and Jean. Our dad, William Curtis Goddard, was his second child aged eight at the time. They were then living in Wellington; however, our grandmother brought the family home to her Curtis relations in Christchurch following her husband's death. 1918 was a disastrous year for the family – his mother died on 10 May, his half-sister on 25 September, his nephew on 18 November, and he himself on 22 November. Apparently November 1918 saw the most deaths from the influenza, the worst day in Wellington being the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Most of Wellington's flu victims were buried in Karori cemetery where city council workmen dug long trenches to cope with the mortality rate. Each burial was marked and recorded. The Post Office had four large mail trucks which collected bodies from the ends of streets, sixteen at a time, and took them to the cemetery. Fortunately for us grandfather's fellow

warders paid for him to have a grave plus headstone. It is interesting that Karori had a crematorium, but cremation had to be specified in the deceased's will so by the end of November 1918 there had only been two cremations compared to hundreds of interments. Over 700 people were buried at Karori in November 1918 and Wellington ended the epidemic with the highest death rate of any New Zealand city. The total was 757 out of a total population of 93,235. Christchurch, on the other hand, had 458 deaths from a population of 92,773. New Zealand's population was a little over one million then and 8,573 people died in total; 63% were males, the worst affected male age group being 30-34 year olds. Grandfather was 48 then.

Our grandmother remarried eighteen months later and added one more child to her family, but her life was not easy as her second husband suffered from shellshock following his service in World War I.

We had no idea our grandfather was the only one from the gaol who died. Our Auntie Jean remembered quite a lot of the day he came home from work, and a day or so later he turned black as many of the victims did. This cutting has also confirmed he was in the Australian Navy – we thought he must have been as New Zealand had no navy at that time. The family photograph shows how like he is to Tom Russell, his first cousin once removed.

**Tom Russell Goddard (1889-1948)**



Tom Russell Goddard was born in Leicester in early 1889, the son of Robie Russell Goddard, a glove manufacturer, and Sarah his wife. Tom's paternal grandparents were Thomas Coleman and Sarah Russell. Thomas Coleman was the son of Ann Goddard and Thomas Coleman who, it would seem, had a long-time relationship. However, only the first two children started with Coleman as a surname, and the other seven were registered as Goddards – even the first two added Goddard later. My great grandfather William was the third of the nine children.

Tom Russell appears to have used Russell as his Christian name in later life. In the 1911 census he is at home with his parents in Narborough Road, Leicester, with his occupation listed as “biologist (in Museum)”. In 1917, when 27 years of age, he enlisted in the 28<sup>th</sup> London Regiment, giving his occupation as a scientific researcher. In 1923 he was appointed curator of the Hancock Museum in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was to hold this post until his death in October 1948. However in 1939, at the beginning of World War II, he became an operations officer in the Civil Defence Department of the Home Office. He returned to the Hancock Museum in 1945.

When he first started at this museum he used the training he had received at Leicester Museum and at Sunderland to redisplay collections that had been put into storage during the First World War; and once again in 1945 he had the same task – to oversee the return of the many items which had been taken to various country houses for safe keeping for the duration of World War II. He brought the printing press back into operation and this allowed the museum to print its own labels, many of which had been destroyed. He worked hard to develop the museum and its collections further and from the late 1920s onward he became an author as well.

His first book was *History of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1829-1929*. This was published in 1929 to mark the centenary of the Society. That year he also wrote a short biography of John Hancock, a noted British ornithologist and taxidermist after whom the museum is named.

Russell was a member of the Farne Islands Committee of the National Trust and he wrote *A Guide to the Farne Islands* as well as writing the annual reports on the Farne Islands Bird Sanctuary. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society for over twenty years and also a member of the British Ornithologists Union. He was for some time Secretary of the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Counties. In 1935 he received an Honorary Master of Science

Degree from Durham University.\

Russell never married and after his health had deteriorated when in his fifties he passed away in 1948. The Natural History Society's 1948 Annual Report states: “With a love and understanding of his subject, coupled with a very pleasant manner, he was always ready to help students of natural history.” I am very happy to claim this fellow as one of my ancestors, especially as he resembles my grandfather Goddard.

*Julie of Christchurch*

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## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the new members who have joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Mrs Penny Busby, 118 Danford Lane, Solihull, B91 1QR.  
Mr Ruairidh N.C. Chester, 3 Mayfair Rd, W. Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 3DN.  
Mr Edward J.G. Goddard, Greystones, Bishopswood, Chard, TA20 3RS.  
Mrs Gail W. Marshall, 1 Midlothian Road, St Andrews, NSW 2566, Australia.  
Mr Graham E. Taylor, 83 Balmoral Drive, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3FT.

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## NEW MEMBERS FAMILIES

The information below is given to enable existing members to get in touch with new members who appear to belong to the same branch:

**Penny Busby** is from a Suffolk branch around Woodbridge, commencing with Thomas Goddard (Garrod) 1791-1850 via Robert 1801-1875, another Robert 1839-1920 and Charles 1872-1960 who moved to Sutton Coldfield.

**Ruairidh Chester** descends from a London branch based in the Lambeth / Clapham / Norwood area. Robert Spicer Goddard 1786-1854 was his 5x great grandfather, whose son was the distinctively named George Sword Goddard 1811-1860.

**Edward Goddard** is descended from a Windsor branch commencing with William who married Lydia Groves in December 1809 and progressing via his son William 1810-1885, and his grandson Henry 1844-1913 who joined the firm of Denman and Goddard of Eton which was the subject of an article in Newsletter 50 of 1996. Edward has supplied extensive trees of the family and its inter-marriages.

**Gail Marshall's** origins are in the Truro area of Cornwall where her great great grandfather William married Elizabeth Peters in 1862. William was a French polisher born in Kentish Town, London, about 1837, and Gail would appreciate any help in identifying her London forebears.

**Graham Taylor's** descent is from a Susan Goddard baptised on 8 February 1607 in Wickham Skeith, Suffolk, who married Thomas Watcham in 1634 at nearby Bacton. Graham has further records back to Rose Goddard born 1410 in Gislingham, Suffolk, and would be pleased to hear from any member who may connect to this mid Suffolk area.

## STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN AND RADIO

If you were asked to name a famous film star with the surname Goddard, it is highly likely that Paulette Goddard would be the answer. Very few, if any, would name Alf Goddard. Yet Alf was as well-known and successful in the 1930s, 40s and 50s as his more glamorous female namesake, appearing in 68 films alongside such stars as Will Hay, George Formby, Paul Robeson, Alastair Sim, Claire Bloom and David Niven.

His height and heavy build was well-suited for a variety of character roles as a tough guy, crook, military NCO or workman, often with an element of comedy as a foil to the main plot. Alf had started his career in 1922 in variety as a comedian and singer with a trial week at the Victoria Palace for £8 a week, and was soon working three music halls each night. He made his debut in silent films as a stunt double before appearing in Alfred Hitchcock's 1927 film *Downhill*, then made the transition to 'talkies' whilst continuing to appear on the variety stage alongside his film work. At the height of his career he is said to have earned well over £100 a week and lived in Park Lane, next door to Douglas Fairbanks senior. During the 1940s he constantly appeared in variety theatres around London and the south, often as a comedy double act with George Barton, and was also on BBC radio as a cockney comedian, all in addition to making 14 films between 1940 and 1945. His last film was *Innocents in Paris* with Alastair Sim in 1953, after which he retired from films but continued to entertain at local events and societies and made TV commercials. In the 1960s he was working as a research laboratory steward at Associated Electrical Industries, Harlow. Alf died in relative obscurity at Harlow on 23 February 1981 aged 84, leaving an estate of £1,332.

Online biographies for Alf Goddard contain a great deal of misinformation. They state that his real name was Frank Henry, born 28 November 1897 in Brentford, and died 25 February 1981 in Ealing; that he was an athlete, dancer, boxer and brother of the famous boxer; served in and was invalided from the army in WWI. Some of this is wrong and the rest unable to be verified. There was a Frank Henry Goddard, born in Brentford on 8 November and who died in Ealing on 25 February 1981, two days after Alf, but this is not the same person and a little research would have revealed this as a hasty conclusion. The only famous Goddard boxer contemporary with Alf was Percy Ewing (Frank) Goddard, the fighting farmer, British and Empire Heavyweight champion of 1923, who figured in Newsletter 60. This Frank

– no-one dared call him Percy – was born in Clapham in 1891 and, although he had several brothers, none of them was named Alfred and all were older.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 Alf was living in Ongar, Essex, and for his identity card gave his date of birth as 28 November 1897; but the only Alfred registered in that fourth quarter is Alfred Frederick in Fulham. One biography gives his birth as 28 November 1896 in Bethnal Green, and an Alfred registered there in the first quarter of 1897 seems the most likely candidate. This Alfred was the son of another Alfred who had an older son, Henry Alfred – and little imagination! Also in the household at Ongar in 1939 was Margaret Goddard born in 1904, ostensibly his wife, but no marriage registration has been found and extensive research has not identified her, nor has an obituary of Alf been found.

*John of Accrington*

*Ed:* If anyone can add any further information, please get in touch with John, whose contact details are on the back page.

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## THE GODDARD ARMS

It takes Malcolm of Brisbane on the other side of the world to alert me to the fact that the Goddard Arms at Clyffe Pypard is for sale once again. The



current owners had turned it into an aviation museum, but I suspect they have found it too far off the beaten track to be a viable proposition.

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## NEWSLETTERS AND MONOGRAPHS

Just a reminder that now is your last chance to obtain from me any back numbers of the Newsletters and Monographs in paper form, as I shall destroy all hard copies after the AGM.

## NEW ZEALAND DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

I am grateful to our New Zealand co-ordinator, Julie of Christchurch, for sending me the following biography of Victorine Goddard which comes from the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Apparently there are five volumes, and this appears in Volume I covering the years 1769-1869. Most surprisingly it is the only Goddard entry in all five volumes and, as Julie herself says, "I am not really sure why she warrants being in these books", particularly as she only bore the Goddard surname for a little over 22 of her long 91 year life and does not seem to have done anything out of the ordinary other than witness her mother's murder! Under the heading 'Goddard, Victorine, 1844-1935, homemaker, hotel-keeper' the biography reads as follows:

"Victorine Rogers was the tenth child of a blacksmith John Rogers and his wife Mary Faul, New Zealand Company settlers who emigrated from Nancegollan, Cornwall, England, and arrived at New Plymouth on the *Essex* on 20 January 1843. John and Mary Rogers rented a whare [Maori house] at Waiwhakaiho, Glenavon, near the settlement of New Plymouth. It was here that Victorine Rogers was born, probably on 5 October 1844. She was baptised on 13 July 1845 at St Mary's Church, New Plymouth.

Her father died in September 1853. Three months after his death the family purchased four acres of land at Omata. Joseph Cassidy moved with them. He had been their boarder for some three years since his discharge from the 65<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Yorkshire, North Riding) Regiment of Foot in 1850. Almost one year after the death of her father, on 14 September 1854, Victorine saw Joseph Cassidy murder her mother. Cassidy had wanted to marry Mary Rogers, but she had spurned him for another suitor. In a fit of jealousy Cassidy had stabbed and beaten her to death. Victorine was a key witness at Cassidy's trial in Auckland on 1 March 1855 and was described as 'an intelligent little girl'. Cassidy was found guilty and condemned to hang, but the death sentence was later revoked on the grounds of insanity. As an orphan Victorine was probably placed under the guardianship of her brother William Rogers.

In 1860 Victorine was courted by Thomas Frederick Goddard, a gunsmith by trade but at that time a publican at Bell Block. This relationship was interrupted by the outbreak of war in Taranaki. Victorine Rogers was one of 1,200 women and children evacuated to Nelson. Thomas Goddard followed and they were married in Nelson on 11 February 1861. On returning to New Plymouth, they

managed the Bell Inn and later the Prince of Wales, both licensed hotels at Bell Block. Here Victorine assisted Thomas with the running of the hotel and raised their family of six daughters and three sons. Thomas Goddard died of cancer in 1879.

Victorine Goddard moved to Inglewood, where she purchased property, but little is known of how she managed to support her family. On 12 November 1883 at Inglewood she married Arthur Dennys Palmer, a tea merchant. They had two sons, and a daughter who died in infancy. The Palmers moved to Brighton, Victoria, Australia where, on 1 September 1893, Arthur died. Widowed for a second time, Victorine returned to Taranaki. She lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Clara and George Marshall, and assisted in the running of their boarding house. Victorine Palmer died at Waitara on 12 October 1935 and is buried in the town cemetery."

This leaves two questions unanswered. Whence did Thomas Frederick Goddard originate? And do we have any members who are descended from any of the nine children of Thomas and Victorine?

### GODDARDS AT GODDARDS

With five family birthdays coming within five weeks of each other in January and February, my wife Helena thought it would be fun to do something different from meeting in each others houses, so she booked a long weekend at Goddards, the Lutyens designed house at Abinger Common in Surrey. Owned by the Landmark Trust, I have written about it seven times in these Newsletters, most notably in No. 23, but had never been there. It was a delightful experience. Though a comparatively big house (it sleeps twelve), it was beautifully warm with central heating topped up by a log fire in the drawing room; it needed to be, with snow on the ground outside and a sharp frost each night. And if all else failed, you could get the circulation going with an hour or two in the skittle alley, or go for a walk in the beautiful surroundings! Despite there being available a slim book tracing the history of the land and house since the late 1700s, there still appears to be no explanation as to the origin of the name; the best bet is that it was taken from the name of a previous land owner.

### UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

As indicated in the October 2016 Newsletter, we did see Emily Goddard again; in fact we saw her three more times as the Edinburgh team did very well, eventually being one of the two defeated semi-finalists.

## AGM

The 31<sup>st</sup> AGM will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 21 May 2017 in Meriden Village Hall, which is a village on the Birmingham side of Coventry and prides itself on being the central point of England. **Please note** that the correct address of the actual hall is 208 Main Road, Meriden, CV7 7NG and **not** as advertised in the two previous Newsletters (65 Fillongley Road, CV7 7LW, which turns out to be the private address of the treasurer!).

The Agenda will follow the usual format:

1. Welcome by the President.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.
4. Matters Arising.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Research Co-ordinator's and Website Manager's Reports.
7. Election of Officers:
  - (a) President.
  - (b) Secretary.
  - (c) Treasurer.
  - (d) Two Committee Members. John of Accrington and Malcolm of Brisbane retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Date and Place of the next AGM.

The business part of the meeting over, the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2017 will be presented. This will be followed by an update on the DNA tests by Dr Denise Syndercombe-Court, together with a talk on some of the more interesting cases with which she has had to deal during the course of her career. Tea and biscuits will then be served, and there will be the usual raffle.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

May I remind all members that subscriptions for 2017-18 of £7.50 (as confirmed at the last AGM) became due as from the first of April. Please contact Treasurer John direct (details opposite), making sure you identify yourself clearly, preferably by your membership number. Members in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA have their own arrangements with their respective co-ordinators. Members who take the Newsletter by post will receive a reminder in the same envelope; so this appeal is chiefly to the increasing number of you – and very many thanks for that – who take the Newsletter electronically. It would be appreciated if you would take the initiative and thus save the Treasurer from having to chase you!

## NINETY NOT OUT

Warmest congratulations to cricket enthusiast Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith, a long-standing member



of the Goddard Association and a former member of the Executive Committee, for recently attaining this important milestone. May there be many more birthdays to come.

## BLACKNEST ESTATE

I have just been alerted by Association member Kay Staniland to the possible destruction of part of Aldermaston Park for potential housing, and she wonders if this impacts on the old adjacent Goddard Blacknest estate (see Newsletter 89) from which branch she descends. Do any Goddards in that area have any more information, and are they linked to the protest that is afoot?

## USEFUL ADDRESSES

**Association web page:** [www.goddard-association.org.uk](http://www.goddard-association.org.uk)  
**Australian Co-ordinator:** Ian Goddard, P.O. Box 618, Balcatta, Western Australia 6914. Tel: (08) 9245 4510  
Email: [australia@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:australia@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**Canadian Co-ordinator:** Janet Berkman, 383 Elm Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5M 3V9, Canada. Tel: (647) 637 2721  
Email: [jberkman@gmail.com](mailto:jberkman@gmail.com)  
**Membership Secretary:** John C. Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 01254-235135  
Email: [membership@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:membership@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**New Zealand Co-ordinator:** Julie Goddard, 2/36 Young Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. Tel: 03-9815175  
Email: [newzealand@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:newzealand@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**President & Newsletter Ed.:** Richard G.H. Goddard, Sinton Meadow, Stocks Lane, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5DY. Tel: 01886-832404  
Email: [president@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:president@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**Secretary:** Miss Denise Goddard, 28 Wherretts Well Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2SD. Tel: 07752-165207  
Email: [secretary@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:secretary@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**Research Co-ordinator:** Mrs Joan Dibble, 17 New Street, Kidwelly, Carmarthen, SA17 5DQ. Tel: 01554-890641  
Email: [research@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:research@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**Treasurer:** John W. Goddard, 7 Radbrook Road, Radbrook, Shrewsbury, SY3 9BB. Tel: 01743-357866  
Email: [treasurer@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@goddard-association.org.uk)  
**USA Co-ordinator:** Mrs JoAnn Daniel, 1381 Creswell Drive, Yuba City, California 95991, USA. Tel: 530-671-2111  
Email: [usa@goddard-association.org.uk](mailto:usa@goddard-association.org.uk)