

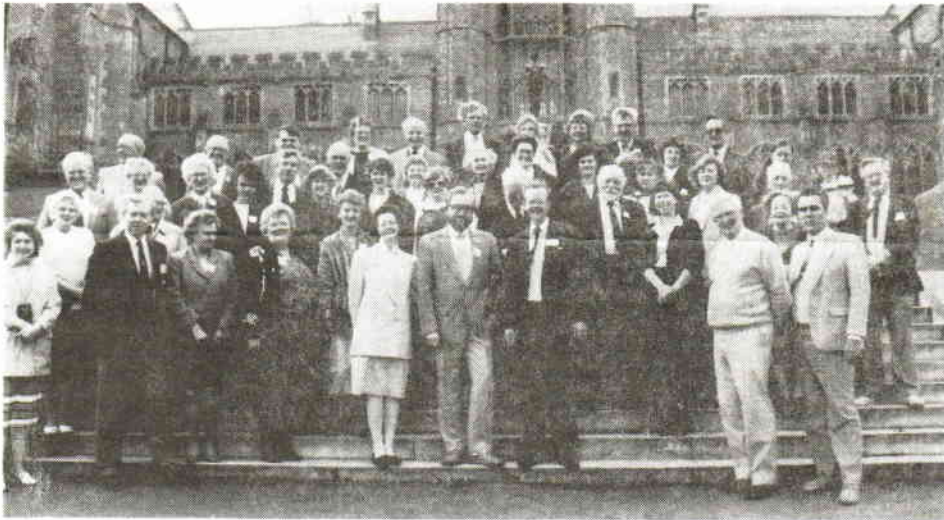


The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 20 - JUNE 1991

FIFTH AGM



Fifty-eight members attended the Fifth AGM at Malvern College on Saturday 13 April. Although a smaller gathering than last year - which many people have attributed to the fact that it was a Saturday rather than a Sunday meeting - all agreed that the atmosphere was a very relaxed and happy one. The President offered a particularly warm welcome to Dr. and Mrs. Goddard Jones of Rhyl, parents of our founder Howard, making their first appearance (because it was a Saturday - just to prove you can't please all the people all the time!); to Dr. John Harms, who had travelled especially from the USA to be with us, and his granddaughter Rachel; and to author Mr. Robert Goddard, our guest speaker, and his wife Vaunda from Winchester. Many apologies for non-attendance, too numerous to list, were received; as also was a warm message of greetings from the Goddard Association of America "to their English cousins", coupled with an invitation to attend their next biennial Convocation in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June 1992.

The business part of the meeting was despatched as speedily as practicable, the Minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Accounts being approved - a copy of the latter may be obtained from the Treasurer on demand, the courtesy of a stamped addressed envelope being much appreciated. In the unfortunate absence of Julie of Newbury though ill, husband Brian dealt

with both Co-ordinators' reports (see p. 8). President Richard, Secretary Annica and Treasurer John were then returned unopposed for a further year's term of office, and Committee members Janet and Seán were re-elected for a new three-year term. It was agreed that the 1992 AGM should be held at the Goddard's Hotel, Swindon, the preferred date being Sunday 5 April; this has

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CHINESE EXPERT

Readers of the last Newsletter will recall my brief extract on page 2 headed "Another Author", relating to the Goddard who was an expert on Chinese affairs, particularly Formosa, and asking for any relatives. This drew a response from Association Member Mr. Rox T. Goddard of Waikanae, New Zealand - his son: "I was intrigued to see reference to my late father in the March Newsletter and make the following comments for what they are worth.

"William George Goddard, M.A., D. Litt. (Oriental Letters); Order of the Brilliant Star of China; Member of the China Academy; 1881-1986. My grandfather was born in Rye, Sussex, and emigrated to Australia in 1879. My father was the fourth of six sons and with two of his older brothers, Prof. E.J. Goddard of Brisbane and Dr. T.H. Goddard of Hobart, attended Sydney University. At the time of his death he was the oldest surviving pupil of Maitland Boys' High School in Newcastle, New South Wales. His ashes were interred in the churchyard at St. Michael's, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, as noted in Newsletter No.6 of March 1987. My father remarried in New Zealand and my stepmother continues to reside in Gillingham, Dorset. Incidentally, I was educated and commenced my career in Australia, transferring to Head Office Administration in New Zealand in 1949 and retiring in 1972."

I confess I had not made the connection with Newsletter No.6, so thank you for getting in touch, Rox.

LA GODERIE

Eighteen months ago Association members Geoffrey Goddard and his wife, of Romsey, Hampshire, bought an old farmhouse at Courson in Normandy against his early retirement in five years time. When he paid the deposit he did not know its name, but on signing the deeds he discovered it was registered as 'La Goderie'. He is still trying to find out its true meaning; the closest he has come to it so far is 'place of primroses'. The house is said to be 300 years old and was at one time fortified. It is about 200 kilometers west of Goderville, and a third of the way between Caen and St. Malo. Geoffrey noted 15 of the 136 names in the local telephone directory as being Godard.

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yet to be confirmed, but please pencil it in your diaries.

Three items of interest are worth recording from the heading of 'any other business'. Firstly, it was decided to air the possibility of Life Membership at a suggested figure of £100; this did not meet with much response either way, so if any member who was not present would like to have a say please send your views to Secretary Annica.

Secondly, each member present was given a prototype copy of a promotional leaflet, largely the brainchild and work of Seán of Exeter, for suggested improvements before it is mass-produced and distributed; helpful suggestions were made and it is hoped to have it ready in the autumn for distribution in a subsequent Newsletter. The aim is for it to be placed in Libraries and other public places and to be given to enquirers, with an insert that can be returned to Membership Secretary John of Accrington for further information; he will now handle all new membership details.

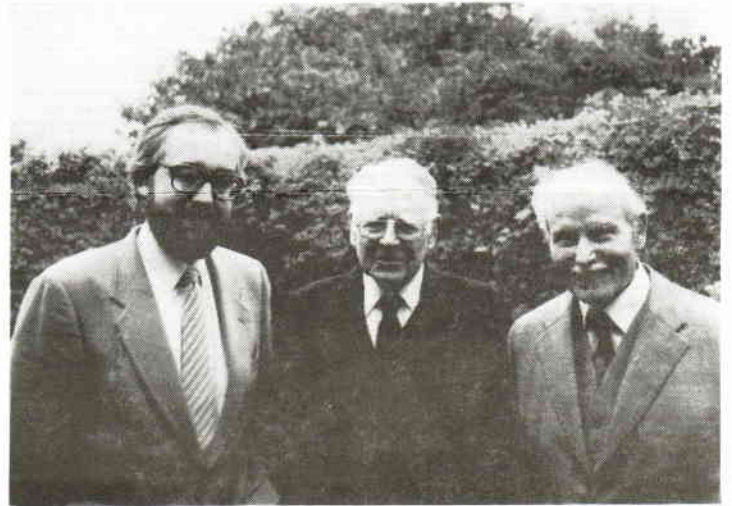
Thirdly, the President raised the question of the Association's logo. From the famous seventeenth century copperplate invitation "To all those whose names be Goddard....." and other sources, it is clear that the various branches of the family had differing crests, shields and mottos. Founder Howard recognised this and deliberately invented the Association logo of 18 shields within a shield to portray the idea. But at the same time he retained the motto 'Cervus non servus' ('a Stag not a Slave'), which accompanies the royal stag crest of the Wiltshire branch of the family. This is almost certainly not the crest, and therefore not the motto, of many of the other branches. It thus seems time that we recognise this also, and replace 'Cervus non servus' under the multiple shields either with simply 'Goddard Association' (as on the tie which is proving a popular seller), or some newly invented phrase such as 'Hand in Hand' which is one suggestion that has so far been put forward. Please send any ideas you may have to Richard of Malvern.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the meeting, the President announced the annual presentation of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial. After three 'home-grown' recipients, the 1990 Memorial was to go to Dr. John Harms of the American Association together with his late wife Pearl Goddard Harms. They were two of the four founders in 1977 of the Goddard Association of America (the other two being Pearl's sister and Pliny Goddard of Rochester, N.Y.), an Association which now has about 750 members, and John assisted in the foundation of the Goddard Association of Europe in 1985; but, above all, they were the originators, and John was the main producer, of the two volume *Goddard Book*, which would itself be a lasting memorial to them. On this occasion the presentation was made by Howard's father, Dr. Jack Goddard Jones. Dr. John Harms had in advance requested to be allowed to address the gathering in reply, and the text of his remarks will be found on pages 4 - 6.

It was then the turn of author Robert Goddard to give his talk. Robert is rapidly making a name for himself as an outstanding storyteller. His four novels *Past Caring*, *In Pale Battalions*, *Painting the Darkness* and *Into the Blue* (yet to be reviewed in this Newsletter) have been very well received; and the fifth, *Take No Farewell* has just been

published. Indeed, *In Pale Battalions* has proved to be one of new Prime Minister John Major's current favourites, and *Into the Blue* was paperback book of the month in the March 22nd issue of *Bookseller*. Robert delighted his audience with a most entertaining and amusing talk, a résumé of which he has kindly supplied for those unlucky enough not to have been present (see p.6).

After this the raffle was drawn; may I offer very grateful thanks to all those who provided prizes, not least to Robert for supplying and autographing several copies of his books. The raffle raised £65 for the Association's funds. Tea and biscuits rounded off what had been - judging from the many subsequent expressions of appreciation - a very successful day.



Robert Goddard, John Harms, Jack Goddard Jones
(Photos by Philip of Swindon)

WEST BEQUEST

Douglas Goddard, his wife Peggy and cousin Gillian met up with Julie and Brian in Newbury on May 18th. The occasion was the annual get-together of the John and Frances West Family Group. Douglas and Gillian, besides being Goddards, are descendants of the West family. John West (1641-1723) was a Scrivener in the City of London. His wife, Frances, was a widow when he married her and her family originally came from Newbury. The couple amassed a considerable amount of land and possessions, but had no children. To ensure the proper use of their money when they died, they made wills which directed their executors to found a series of charities for the benefit of the poor of the City of London, Twickenham, Henley-on-Thames, Newbury and Reading, with preference being given to anyone who could prove relationship to their family (not their descendants, for they had none, but descendants of their grandparents). Those who can prove a relationship keep their pedigree carefully and update it whenever necessary, for through the forethought of John and Frances they need never be destitute and their children can ask to be assisted with their education at Christs Hospital (now at Horsham, but founded in London), one of the best schools in the country. The family gathering placed a wreath around the memorial to John and Frances in St Nicolas Church, Newbury, had a conducted walk around the town and a film show - and chatted happily with cousins however distant.

Julie of Newbury

MORE FROM THE GAMBIA

As a follow-up to my letter which you published in Newsletter No. 14, November 1989, you may be interested to know that during our first visit to Banjul (formerly Bathurst) my wife and I discovered that the Cathedral Bible was in tatters, with many pages and indeed whole chapters missing. We decided to do something about it and, after discussions with the priest in charge, the Rev. Samuel Johnson, we agreed to donate a new one and dedicate it to my grandfather. We eventually found a massive and beautifully bound copy which we took out as excess baggage in February 1990.

Little did we realise what we had let ourselves in for. Since our last trip our friend, Rev. Johnson, had been elevated to Bishop, and he himself wished to take the Sunday service at which the Bible was to be presented and dedicated. I was to make a speech of presentation and to read the first lesson! With the aid of some notes scribbled on the back of a hotel laundry list, I managed to survive in front of a full house. The service that Sunday lasted nearly three hours and included no less than fourteen hymns.

We managed to meet some more Goddards (all black), who were mostly relatives of Bill and Lucy, but more interestingly a Mr. Sam Goddard, now in his eighties who, though his memory is not too good, had some useful reminiscences of the old days in Bathurst and was able to pinpoint various houses that were built by or belonged to our family.

We spent some time in the City Archives Office, where we were able to look at the early Registers of Births, Deaths, etc. For example, a John Goddard, a sailor (not one of my family) married a local girl, Sally, and had a daughter Mary on 16 January 1847. One or two other Goddard births are registered with the child stated as 'Mulatto', the mother's name given, but no mention of the father.....I can only assume that the young of our family who came out from England to work with the family company, scattered their seed from time to time, but in the nineteenth century were able to hush things up!

We are keeping in touch with our new friends out there and will no doubt go back for another holiday in due course.

The inscription on the fly leaf of the Bible presented to St. Mary's Cathedral, Banjul, beautifully inscribed by an expert calligrapher, reads as follows:

Presented to
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, BANJUL
In Memory of
HENRY CHARLES GODDARD
Benefactor of This Church
Born at Bathurst (Banjul) 31st August 1857
Died at Brighton England 26th August 1915
and also to other members of
The Goddard Family
who had the interests of The Gambia at heart.
William Henry Goddard, 1795-1872.
William Goddard, 1825-1893.
Alfred Henry Goddard, 1828-1849.
By His Grandson
Captain Robert William Goddard.
February 1990

Robin (Robert) of Harrogate

CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs. J. O'Hagan (née Goddard) of 10 Oliver House, Wyvil Estate, London, SW8 2SX, to trace her connections? She has a brother and sister, and three elderly aunts and an uncle still living who are Goddards. She does not know her great-grandfather's name, nor how many children he had, but he had a stud farm in the Crowthorne, Berkshire, area and is supposed to have given some land for the children to play on called Goddard's Green [see Newsletter No.11]. Her grandfather, Ernest 1869-1958, was educated at Harrow; he is also supposed to have been Head Groomsman to King Edward VII with ties to Windsor Lodge. He may have had a brother, Harvey, who went to Australia where he had a sheep farm. Another brother, Lewis Lane, had a sheep farm in Canada. Mrs. O'Hagan's father, also named Lewis Lane after this uncle, died in 1977 aged 70. Does any member recognise any of this information and can help shed further light on it?

GODDARD PAINTINGS

John of Accrington has been asked if any members can help with information about a Goddard who painted two watercolours now in the possession of a Gateshead family. The subjects are the interior of a cathedral, possibly in Italy, and a watering-place in North Yorkshire. No signature or initial can be seen, but the family tradition is that the artist had exhibited at the Royal Academy and there is an assumption that he was male. The paintings have apparently been handed down in the family and may be connected with a family of Goddards, probably from the London area, one of whom - Kate - married into the Ibach family of German piano makers c. 1860-65. This Kate had brothers Joseph, William, Henry, Leopold and Philip born c. 1830s to 1840s. One of these may have been the artist. On the other hand there was a Miss K. Goddard who exhibited a flower painting in London in 1860.

John has checked several reference books of artists and the lists of Royal Academy exhibitors, but although there are several Goddards none seem to be likely candidates either because of their subject specialisms or their limited output. None of the titles of exhibited works match the descriptions of these two paintings. All very vague, but if anyone can make any suggestions please contact John at 2 Lowergate Road, Accrington, BB5 6LN, Tel. 0254-235135.

MICHAEL GODDARD

Prospective new member Phil Goddard telephoned Julie at the beginning of May to enquire about Goddards from Kings Somborne, Hants, particularly one called Michael. This being an unusual first name in the Goddard annals, Julie was able to say that it was quite likely, having previously followed in the parish records the peregrinations of one Michael Goddard of Kingsclere as he moved around the Newbury area. However, it was not this Michael that Phil was seeking (though it has not yet been established whether there is a link or not), but the same Michael as another member, David Crittenden of Ontario, Canada, has been seeking. Phil has not heard of David, so I think that the international mail will soon be busy.

Julie of Newbury

REMARKS OF DR. JOHN W. HARMS

I have found it difficult to formulate an adequate expression of appreciation for the honour you are conferring upon me today. I am reduced to saying simply.....I am deeply grateful. I have received a fair share of honours in my 88 years, but your action today ranks among the highest. My sense of appreciation is enhanced by the fact that it is in memory of Howard Goddard-Jones. I knew Howard only a few months, but it was long enough for me to understand his very great commitment to the Goddard cause. He was a great friend, and the pain of his untimely death is still with me. I remember with great pleasure that first meeting of this Association in 1985 in the Goddard Arms Hotel in Swindon. One of the high moments of my life was sharing with Howard in a very small way to bring this Association into being. Perhaps you recall how it all came about.

In the beginning, it was the result of Howard's effort to make the nation aware of the Goddards. And being an expert in public relations, he knew how to seize an opportunity for achieving that objective. He mobilized the media in April 1985 to welcome a delegation of your American cousins who came for a visit. We had not planned to be on television and radio, and on the front pages of our newspapers. But that is what happened. However, even Howard did not anticipate the by-product of that effort. About 75 Goddards called the radio and television stations, wanting more information about those American Goddards. Actually, the media were astonished at the response. Again, Howard seized the opportunity to consolidate that interest into a permanent organisation. It was those British Goddards who responded provided the impetus and the nucleus for organising the Goddard Association of Europe.

Derek Webber had already expressed the hope to me, before our coming to Great Britain, that there would eventually be an Association of Goddards over here. When the responses of British Goddards became known, I passed Derek's comment along to Howard, with the observation that perhaps he should strike while the iron was hot. As a result of all these conversations, in which Derek Webber participated, Howard decided to hold the meeting on May 25th. I changed my travel plans for returning to the States so that I could be in that historic meeting. About 65 people showed up.....and the Goddard Association of Europe was up and running.

In view of these circumstances, you can understand my pleasure at being here today and seeing first hand that the Association is moving forward in spite of its founder's death. This is significant because in the history of such bodies, the founder's death often means the death of the organisation he founded. Without Howard's aggressive leadership there might not have been a Goddard Association of Europe, at least for now. But we can be grateful that your President and Treasurer made a commitment to keep the Association from failing. And it is wonderful to experience the progress you are making. Your Newsletter, for example, is outstanding!

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the help that came from his side of the Atlantic in writing *The Goddard Book*. There is so much I would like to say about those who helped. The bottom line is that your contributions have helped to make the book the most comprehensive genealogical history of those with the name or ancestry of Goddard that has ever been published. More than 700 people helped in one way or another to produce the two volumes of some 1750 pages. However, if in the course of time, the book merits any claim to greatness, it will be in a substantial way because of what you on this side of the Atlantic contributed to its content. Some fifteen of you over here helped create *The Goddard Book*.

First, and most important, was the wonderful gift of Captain John Goddard of Cirencester. He gave me permission to use a manuscript of some 100 pages he had written about the Goddards of North Wiltshire. He used the research done by his great-uncle Foby, the Rev. Charles Frederick Goddard, and gives him generous

credit for a lifetime of research. John's gift of that manuscript gives *The Goddard Book* a distinctive and very valuable character.

Then there was Derek Webber of Swindon. It makes me sad that Derek is not with us today. His untimely death is another painful memory. Derek did not have a Goddard ancestry, which makes his contribution all the more remarkable. I wish time permitted to relate the full story of his contribution to Goddard history. But a few things I must say, besides the fact that he was responsible for a chapter which he called "The Goddard Story: From Viking Longship to Modern Microchip". Derek brought the historian's perspective to Goddard heritage. He respected the need for genealogical facts, but his real interest was in questions of origins; and in the interaction of the Goddards with the historical forces that shaped their lives, and in the way that Goddards helped shape historical events. He was our guest in America in 1984 at our Second Convocation at Wichita, Kansas. He gave three lectures on Goddard history that helped us celebrate 350 years of the Goddard presence in the New World. Those lectures are the substance of Chapter 25. He uncovered the Normandy and Viking connection at the town of Goderville in France, which made us aware of a dimension of our heritage that cries out for attention and research. He established personal contact with the officials at Goderville, that resulted in a warm welcome to the Goddards who visited Goderville after they left England in May 1985. Derek planned a trip to Hedeby, Denmark, to find if possible more information about the Viking origins of the Goddards. The Danish Vikings launched their campaign against France from Hedeby. Derek's untimely death aborted that exploration, much to my regret. Possibly he could have penetrated the mists that cloud those earliest years of our heritage. Derek's great contribution was to give us a vision of what research into Goddard history should be about in the future.

The research of a Canadian, Mrs Treva Godard Watchman of British Columbia, has enabled us to make a spectacular breakthrough in relation to the de Goderville families. She discovered some ancient English court records in a library at the University of Michigan. They were written in Latin and were translated by an Association member, Mrs Fay Hoodock of Baltimore who, by the way, is a Wiltshire descendant. And were we astonished when we were able to read those court records! Here was the evidence that established the historicity of two men whom I believe were somehow related to our earliest known progenitor, Walter de Goderville "of Cherhill, Chippenham and perhaps Aldbourne and Wiltshire" as stated by Captain John Goddard in *The Goddard Book*. Sir Hugh de Goderville and his son, Sir Walter de Goderville, were military officers from the Goderville area of Normandy. They were employed by English kings who did not trust their barons. And England became their home. Sir Hugh and Sir Walter were very likely descended from the Danish Vikings who invaded Normandy in the 800s, although that relationship remains to be finally confirmed. The Vikings established headquarters at a strategic point that came to be known as Goderville, that is "the village of the Goder or leader". Sir Hugh and Sir Walter lived in that Goderville area and thus acquired the name of that ancient Viking headquarters. It is from this ancient rootage that our present names are derived. First it was Goderd, then Godard, and then mainly Goddard with a double 'd'. We now know that in 1231 this Sir Walter was given title to a 50-year old estate known as Sheldon Manor, which functions even today, near Chippenham. We also know that he had at least three families; and at least two daughters as heirs: and that heirs owned that manor for nearly 200 years, until 1424 when it was sold out of the family. In the book I have conjectured that the Walter de Goderville in Captain John's record, is a son or nephew of Sir Walter: or perhaps a grandson of Sir Hugh.

Additional research, and perhaps a lot of luck, will be required to establish the validity of that hypothesis. I am confident, however, that stashed away in some out-of-the-way place here in England there are records that will solve these problems of relationship.

Your President, Richard Goddard of Malvern, provided an important missing link in the admittedly fuzzy record at one point in Walter de Goderville's descendants. His encouragement, too, has been very supportive. He introduced us to Captain John William Hesketh Goddard of Cirencester, and to John's manuscript.

William D'Oyly Bayley, an Englishman, made a major contribution to *The Goddard Book*. In 1845 he published a history of the D'Oyly family that has made it possible to add several additional generations to the ancestral record of Goddards who descend from a Priscilla D'Oyly who married Edward Goddard of Upham and Inglesham. They married on 12 August 1612 and one of their sons, William Goddard of Inglesham and London married Elizabeth Miles and emigrated to New England in 1665. When we began this project in 1971 we mistakenly believed that William was the only Goddard who emigrated from England to the New World. However, before we finished our research, we found 69 other Goddards who had done the same thing! And we are not sure that we have found all of them. The Goddard = D'Oyly connection is recorded in some detail in Chapter 28 of *The Goddard Book*. It records an additional ten or so generations to the heritage of many present day Goddards. It also emphasises the importance of Goddard spouses.

Kathleen Millicent Goddard of Suffolk provided information that enhances the value of the book for researchers in the future, providing the only link we have with the Goddards of East England. And John W. Goddard of Shrewsbury, your Treasurer, gave us a document and other information that was very useful.

And there were others, but I have time only to mention Richard Jefferies. Some people tend to discount his contribution to Goddard history, which I find unwarranted. For example, very recently one of Mrs. Watchman's correspondents in England wrote as much: that Jefferies' theory about the origin of the Goddard name was probably a figment of his imagination - or words to that effect. However, a whole galaxy of Scandinavian historians, whose works I have personally examined, together with Derek Webber's research, confirm that the root of the surname Goddard is indeed the Scandinavian word 'godi' or 'goder' - that is, a leader (or a 'chieftain-priest' in ancient times). Richard Jefferies was right! I have recorded these findings in Chapter 24.

It must be emphasised that *The Goddard Book* is only the beginning of what needs to be done in reconstructing the history of the Goddards. And certainly the two Associations, here in Europe and in America, are the instruments that will have to carry that task forward. And of the two, that of Europe is the more important. Here on this side of the Atlantic is where the most significant action will have to take place so far as research into origins is concerned.

My hope is that in time the Goddard Association of Europe will become strong enough to pursue this unfinished task aggressively. And I hope that the American Association will gain the strength to be a helper in that effort. This will require a long-range commitment: it will take the resources of time and money, which I believe will be available, provided we go after them. It will take intentional planning and determined effort, translated into specific short-term and long-range goals of membership enlistment, and financial undergirding. Perhaps it is presumptuous for me to make such comments to you. However, you should know that I am expressing the same concerns to my colleagues in America. In fact, I believe that we in America face a crisis that must be resolved within the next five to ten years if the Association is to be more than another ordinary family organisation. We have to develop much greater membership and financial strength, or face the prospect of not

serving Goddards as well as we should.

We should remember the experience of the 'Goddard Family Association of America' in the 1930s. One William Nichols Goddard, a busy businessman of Boston, a Wiltshire descendant, spent five years developing that family association. The organisation had in motion a significant programme. But the Association died because adequate provision was not made for continuity. When those responsible for its founding died or otherwise were not able to follow through, the movement collapsed. Now I should hasten to point out that both of our Associations already have greater strength than the 1930 effort. Thus there is a certain amount of security that will guarantee survival. But there is much more than mere survival at stake. The following comments are relevant, I believe, to our American situation; they may or may not apply to yours. Our problem is not survival; undoubtedly we will survive. The basic question is: What will be the quality of that survival?

Some sixty years of experience with organisations and programme development make it clear to me that there is great potential for new and creative thrusts in our American situation. In fact, I have never been associated with an organisation that had more promising prospects. However, realising that potential depends on some new programme thrusts, developing sharply focused objectives, and a much stronger organisational, membership and financial base than we have at the present time. The new emphasis that I envision involves a central focus on family values and the strengthening of family life. There is only time to register this conviction; its implications for the life and work of the Association is a subject for another occasion.

This conviction has grown out of my experience with the Goddard Association, and with my own Harms family organisation, and also in writing *The Goddard Book*. The proposed new intensified emphasis on family values would not take the place of reconstructing genealogical family history, which has been our principal objective. Rather, the new emphasis would be put alongside the traditional function. In fact, family genealogical history is an essential undergirding for family values. Then the Association will have two major thrusts: one focussed on traditional genealogical interests, and the other on living families. There is a growing concern in the States about the family and family values. I do not know the situation in Great Britain, but in America the family as an institution is facing a real crisis, and this is affecting all of our families. What could be more appropriate than for family organisations to lead out in a new emphasis on family values?

I want to thank you again for recognising *The Goddard Book*. At the same time you should know that publication of the book was an accomplishment of the American Association. Although I spent 12 years, full-time, developing support for the project and in writing the book, it would not have been published without the Association's backing.

I must also confess that there were times in the last ten years when I asked myself: Why am I spending so much time on ancient family history? What I expected would be a three-year project actually took eleven years. I have had to put a number of projects on hold in order to get this one done. I suppose the bottom line is that I was too stubborn to abandon a project undertaken in good faith. Besides, nearly a thousand people were expecting the book that I had promised to produce. And so I had to stay with it. And of course I am glad I did.

In writing the book I have had to work my way through a thousand years of family history. When we do that history comes to life. We begin to appreciate the painful struggle of the human race not only to survive, but to achieve what we like to call civilisation. We become aware that our own families have been involved in the physical and ethical struggles of survival that reach

from the stone age to the space age. And then it comes to you as in a flash how far they have come; and that we owe everything to our progenitors. We stand on their shoulders.

The nature and long centuries of our Goddard story have special relevance to this larger view of the human adventure. Not many families have a record that spans 25 or 30 generations. Most of us in America do well to know our great-grandparents! Having this kind of personal and historical perspective helps us understand better the struggle of the human race toward civilisation. Our progenitors have been involved in that struggle. Understanding that experience is one essential to any rational comprehension of what the future holds for us as individuals and as nations. It could be the key to our survival as human beings. And what better way to understand that struggle than through an intimate knowledge of how one's own families overcame adversity and achieved their successes.

If you want to get a more vivid feel of what I am saying, I recommend a new historical novel by Edward Rutherford, one of your English authors. The name of the book is *Sarum*. It is a

ROBERT GODDARD'S TALK

It is a great pleasure to be here this afternoon, not least because it has been such a good-humoured and harmonious occasion. This is more than I can say for other gatherings of Goddards I have attended. This, of course, is because such gatherings have been confined to my own branch of the family - a notoriously argumentative lot.

As to the origins of that branch, I have made little effort to research them. Family recollection takes us back to my great-grandfather, William Goddard, born circa 1850 at Vernham Dean in north-west Hampshire. He later migrated to Hurstbourne Priors where he worked as a carpenter on the Earl of Portsmouth's estate and fathered thirteen children. Of those only three were boys and of those one vanished without trace around the turn of the century and another was killed in the First World War. (To his memory I dedicated my second novel *In Pale Battalions*.) The name survived thanks only to my grandfather, another William, who left Hurstbourne to work for the London & South Western Railway in Portsmouth, first as a foreman, later as a driver. His only son was my father, yet another William, who became an electrician in Portsmouth Dockyard and was required, during the Second World War, to oversee the work of the first female fitter ever to be employed in H.M. Dockyards - my mother!

If writing is in the blood, it is, I suspect, more in my mother's than my father's. The love of telling stories is the basis of all fiction and my maternal grandmother was an inveterate spinner of embroidered yarns. She was my first audience, since, when her eyesight began to fail, I was commissioned to read her articles from the local newspaper. To brighten the task, I began to alter and dramatize the articles as I read them, the measure of my success being her discovery of my distortions only when she relayed them to neighbours.

Story-telling can be - as in my grandmother's case - a purely oral activity. To establish why some people extend it to the written word, I turned to an essay George Orwell wrote in 1947, helpfully entitled *Why I Write*. In this he lists four reasons why people write. Firstly, he suggests, because they are egoists who have never outgrown their egoism. (Thanks, George.) Secondly, because they are linguistic aesthetes. (That's better.) Thirdly, because they want to preserve the truth for posterity. (Quite the reverse in my opinion.) And fourthly, to serve some political purpose. (Definitely not in my case.)

Strangely, Orwell makes no mention of money. I suppose he was above such considerations. Others of us, I must confess, are not. It may not be a reason, but by Heaven it is an incentive. What

fictionalised history, based on scientific information, about the Salisbury area of South Wiltshire. The author begins the story some 10,000 years ago when northern England was emerging from the Ice Age. Incidentally, the Goddards are cited once in the book, as a prominent family in North Wiltshire. Change the details somewhat and *Sarum* could be the Goddard story.

And here is my concluding remark: May God bless the Family of Goddards, both in Europe and America, and wherever else they may be. And let the divine blessing be upon our sister Associations, one on either side of the Atlantic. May they have success in carrying the banner of Family togetherness, and in their search for self-understanding.

And thank you very much for the honour you have bestowed upon me today.

(It may still be possible to obtain copies of *The Goddard Book* from the American Association. Direct your enquiries to Mrs. Kathryn Goddard Meyer, Executive Secretary, Goddard Association of America, 118 South Volutsia, Wichita, Kansas 67211, U.S.A. A year or two ago the price was about \$60 - Ed.)

Orwell also omits to entertain is the possibility that some writers take to the activity for sheer lack of practical alternative.

The big advantage of writing from my own point of view when I first set about it was that it did not require an interview. The job interview is a phenomenon of which I have had a universally disastrous experience. Now, for instance, is perhaps the moment to apologise to the London advertising company (whose august name I shall withhold!) for attending an interview with them thirteen years ago in a condition resembling that of a tramp who has spent the night in New Covent Garden market. The reason was that my emergence from the exit of the nearest Underground station had coincided with the hoarding over an adjacent fruit and vegetable stall lifting off in an exceptionally strong gust of wind and landing on top of me, pinning me to the pavement in such darkness that I would have thought I had blacked out but for the unmistakable sensation of squashed tomato oozing through my hair. This bizarre incident is typical of the misfortunes which have dogged my record as a job interviewee and the appeal of writing will therefore be readily appreciated.

For the impetus to start writing I must also thank an undemanding and unrewarding spell as a local government clerk and my wife, who stopped me making the excuses I would have done as a bachelor not to knuckle down and make the necessary effort.

That writing involves hard work is not, of course, surprising. But it is work that I happen to enjoy a great deal. It therefore came as a shock to me to listen to five contemporary novelists being interviewed recently on the Radio 4 programme, *Bookshelf*, and describing writing as a lonely, exhausting and unnatural occupation. I was tempted to conclude that they were disseminating propaganda in order to deter rivals. How can it be lonely when you can share your working hours with all the characters you create? And how can it be more exhausting or less natural than a host of other jobs we could all name? It is clear to me, to take but one example drawn from my own chequered career history, that none of those five can ever have tried to sell double glazing door to door. (Apropos of which, it was not until I read it that I realized Chris Bonnington's book, *Everest: The Hard Way*, was actually about mountaineering!)

Apart from everything else, writing has enabled me to meet and get to know a large number of interesting people whose paths I would not otherwise have crossed - other writers, favourite actors and singers, one or two eminent politicians and not least, of course, far more Goddards than I ever thought existed. I am, believe me, duly grateful.

SHAM HAM SHAME

For everyone who remembers what real ham used to taste like, before the water saturated, tasteless supermarket variety took over, may I urgently recommend a source to you. Urgently, because this most marvelous gammon ham cooked by Maurice Goddard will very soon cease. With the increase in food hygiene regulations, coming mainly from Brussels, which will protect the consumer from unscrupulous traders, it will also, unfortunately, push some of the finest independent producers under.



Maurice with his wife Georgie and their two children Victoria 6 and Oliver 4, run a small grocery store in Exeter (Maurice is originally from Reading) where they cook the hams in their own kitchen. This is not good enough for EEC rules, which state that separate, specially designated kitchens have to be used. Such a shame. So even Maurice will soon have to stock the prepacked, date stamped variety. I won't be able to pop in for just two slices or have extra-thick slices cut for a picnic. The end of an era!

Will Maurice take his secret recipe to the grave? Should we prize it from him for a Goddard cookbook? Are there any other fine foodies out there? You can find this gammon ham at Iddesliegh Stores in Exeter.

Seán of Exeter

NEW MEMBERS

The Association offers a warm welcome to all those who have joined since the last Newsletter went to print:

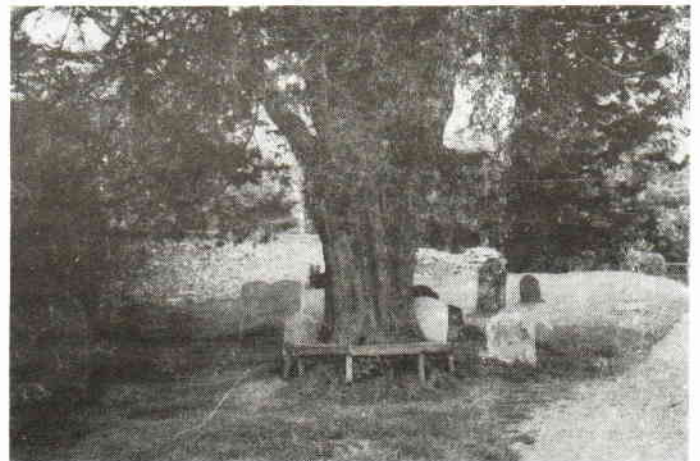
- Mrs. F.E. Brock, 76 Buchanan Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 6AZ.
- Mrs. Eshkari, 17 Avenue Mansions, 491 Finchley Road, Hampstead, London.
- Miss J. Goddard, Hooke House, Brook Street, Fovant, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 5JB.
- Mr. J.R. Goddard, 54 Shirley Drive, Hove, Sussex, BN3 6UF.
- Canon Goddard, Ynys Thomas, Bronaber, Trawsfynydd, Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- Miss E.J. Goddard, 45 Minster Court, Liverpool 7.
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Goddard, 5 Lynn Way, King's Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire.
- Mr. & Mrs. F. Goddard, 84 Bryngwyn Road, Dafen, Llanelli, Dyfed, SA14 8LH.
- Mr. E.R. Goddard, 10 Rinaho Place, Rotorua, New Zealand.
- Mrs. A. Goddard, Oast House, The Hop Kilns, Bishops Cleeve, WR5 5BP.
- Mrs. Kathleen Goddard, 18 Hyperion House, Brixton Hill, London, SW2.
- Mr. R. Goddard, 208 Tylecroft Road, Streatham, London, SW16.
- Miss Betty Dancy Goddard, 2637 N. Revere Road, Akron, Ohio 44313, U.S.A.
- Mr. W.H. Goddard, 12 Camock Road, Manadon, Plymouth, Devon, PL2 3SG.
- Mrs. B. Golden, 68 Meadowlands, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7TB.
- Mr. & Mrs. Heathcote, 27 Plough Lane, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7AT.
- Mrs. Joyce O'Hagan, 10 Oliver House, Wyvil Estate, London, SW8 2SX.
- Mrs. Carol Sergeant, 4 Firs Lane, Larbert, Stirlingshire, FK5 3LW.
- Mrs. A. Smith, 18 Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8TJ.
- Mrs. J. Sandilands, 35 Clare Road, Greenfords, Middlesex, UB6 0DF.
- Mrs. J.M. Smith, 4 Barmoor Cottages, off Barmoor Lane, Scalby, Scarborough.
- Mrs. Iris Trundle, 47 Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, London, SE5 9QR.

THE GODDARD'S HOTEL

I am grateful to Philip of Swindon for drawing my attention to the proposed sale of the old Goddard Arms Hotel, according to the *Swindon Evening Advertiser* of 16 April. "Swindon's oldest hotel, The Goddard's, is on the market with a price tag of around a million pounds. The hotel, in High Street, Old Town, which celebrated its 200th anniversary last year, is being sold in a package of 32 hotels by leisure and catering giants Trust House Forte. Agents said today that bids for either all 32 or individual hotels would be considered. The entire package has been valued at between £75 million and £100 million. The 62 bedroom Goddard's - parts of which date back to the 17th century - was once Swindon's only large hotel. The buyers will acquire a network of eight tunnels leading from the hotel to various parts of Old Town, which were used in the 18th century to hide contraband from customs men." So, any members of the family with £1 million to spare, get your chequebooks out!

SILCHESTER AGAIN

Stephen Goddard of Buckhurst Hill tells us that his father, Stephen senior, of the Silchester branch, died on 5th February. His name will soon be added to that of his wife, Sybil, on the memorial in the Goddard corner of Silchester churchyard. This seat around a yew tree there was made and initialled by the Goddard family, who were for many years churchwardens.



Stephen has also sent a copy of a little book *Sunbury, Shepperton and Littleton 1800-1961* which he has written and printed in aid of his local church funds. Any member who is interested may borrow a copy on application to Julie, or buy one (price £2.75) from Stephen at 26 The Meadway, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5PG.

Additional note: The booklet mentions the establishment of market gardens around London in the 1850s and 1860s. The Silchester Goddards left Hampshire for one at Deptford, before going to New Zealand. It is possible that it was established by a cousin (husband of an aunt) and that several other branches of the Hampshire Goddards joined them or did the same locally. Anyone looking for lost ancestors could consider this.

In the 1851 census this particular group of Goddards had some children living with them who were born elsewhere -

- William R. Goddard aged 10, scholar born in Marylebone;
- Evangeline Goddard aged 7, born Doncaster, Yorks;
- Louisa A. Goddard aged 6, born Doncaster.

Unless he was married to someone previous to his then wife (Louisa Roux), they were not the children of James Robert Goddard aged 35, carriage inspector, born Silchester.

Can anyone help, either by claiming the children, or telling us whether James was married in Doncaster? Answers to Stephen or Julie (address p.8).

Julie of Newbury

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS, 1990-91

JULIE'S REPORT:

As usual most of my work in this line has been in writing letters in response to a). letters received from people with Goddard ancestry asking for our records to be checked; b). people writing to offer information from their own research, for example Miss Jennifer Walker who has family letters and papers going back three hundred years, Mrs. B. Golden who has a very large family tree of the Amesbury family which includes the Goddards, similar from Miss Mary Povey, and so on; c). writing to people who have advertised in the genealogical press that they have Goddard ancestors.

To my surprise I seem to have written well over 150 letters this year, all needing individual thought and research to suit the occasion or query. Brian and I have not been to so many meetings this year - such as the Berkshire, Wiltshire or Oxfordshire Family History Association AGMs and the Guild of One-Name Studies AGM, but we were asked to talk on the Goddard Association at a Newbury meeting and I had an interview with the Western Daily Press newspaper which was going to run an article on the Association but which does not yet appear to have materialised.

I have kept an eye open for books or results of research which could be purchased to help with research for our members. To this end there were purchased on behalf of the Association a list of the Goddards living in Wiltshire in the 1851 census, a book *Is Your Name Hungerford?*, and several photocopies of pages from books. I also organised that the Association should be included in several reference books so that potential members could know where to contact us, e.g. *Leicestershire Family History Index*, *Berkshire Family History Index*, and *Family Computer Club Directory*.

Despite this it has seemed to be a quiet year with no spectacular achievements. In some places, such as the Berkshire Goddards around Newbury, we seem to have a clearer picture, the same with the Wiltshire branches around the canal near Easton Royal and Burbage; but other areas such as Oxfordshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire have hardly made any progress. Seán is busy gathering together Goddard records of the West country and we have great hopes that this will bear fruit.

I believe that I come up for re-election next year [actually the year after] and **fully intend** to stand down then and let someone else take a new look at the research side of the Association. Can I ask each of you to have a think and decide whether or not YOU could volunteer to take over.

BRIAN'S REPORT: DATABASE ENTRY & PROGRESS

Successes: The number of entries on the main database on the computer now exceeds 3750, a rise of 1100 from last year; my thanks to Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith in Derbyshire for much of this increase. In addition some 1600 records have been entered on a separate database of Goddards collected from various parish records none of which are on the IGI; these have not been related to the main database yet. The main benefit of the database is for those people who write to the Research Co-ordinator with their queries, when not only the computer has the information from the query fed into it, enhancing the database, but the person with the question can often be put into contact with other members of the same family group. Several apparently isolated family groups have been definitely linked and members of each group put in touch with each other during the past year.

A major success was the idea put forward at the last Committee meeting in October that I write a series of articles about the discrepancies in the various family trees instead of just whining about them. Some very prompt replies were received following the article in the Newsletter regarding the problems with the parents of Giles, from Australia and the USA, giving valuable additional

information, but not supplying the answer yet.

Following correspondence with Malcolm Goddard in Australia, we have tracked down two major works of Rainald Goddard, the architect and Goddard historian. Both are publications of extracts of Goddard Wills, the first published in 1902 in the *Fragmentia Genealogica Vol 7* (30 pages) for wills for 1417-1605, the second for wills for 1606-1808 (80 pages) first published in *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* in about 1908. Arrangements have been made to obtain copies of both documents.

Opportunities: Work on the document on the N. Wilts Goddards, originally researched and written by Charles Frederick Goddard (1863-1942), with additions and corrections by Capt. John Goddard, is progressing slowly, with discussion on some of the apparent anomalies occupying the great minds in Great Britain, Australia and America. Problems such as "who was the father of Giles born 1642?" or "how did John of Standen Hussey marry his second wife Alice when his first, Elizabeth (née Phetiplace), was still alive?"

The format of the document with an introductory chapter to each family tree is an excellent method of producing a readable family history; it would be nice to see other family trees produced using the same formula. Next Sunday [21 April] all our British members will have a real opportunity to help the researchers of the future by filling in their census forms accurately, neatly and, above all, legibly! We have an awful time trying to read the 1881 census.

Failures: Apart from the very large input of over 300 entries from Albert, the other new entries on the database have come from people other than Goddards or generated by my own research to keep me occupied while 'resting' for nine months following my being made redundant. This period when I could trot off to a Record Office every time I got bored has come to an end and I must rely on others to help keep up the supply of new information. Apart from the above and some helpful correspondence from Australia and America very little information has been supplied by members over the past year. Worse still, very few requests for information or help have been received. I find it sad that there was little response to the articles in the Newsletter regarding the anomalies in the N. Wilts family trees from those many British members of the Association who claim this tree as part of their own.

Threats: I must repeat what I said last year:

If an organisation does not grow financially above the rate of inflation it will go bankrupt; we must recruit new members. This is equally true about research; if new research is not also undertaken then the reason for the Goddard Association's existence will disappear and so will the Association. The database must be used for enquiries and it must be fed new information; that information can only be of real value if it has come from the input of members.

Finally, please send me your family tree if you haven't already, or send me the results of your latest research if I have your tree on the computer. If you sent in an enquiry some time ago without results please try again; we may now have the information you need.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

You may find the following addresses useful for contact:

President & Newsletter Editor: Richard G.H. Goddard,
6 The College, Malvern, WR14 3DJ. Tel: 0684-892466.

Research Co-ordinator: Mrs. Julie Goddard, 11 Chandos
Road, Newbury, Berks., RG14 7EP. Tel: 0635-32851.

Secretary: Mrs. Annica Leach, Glenton House,
Vownog Hill, Penyffordd, Clwyd, CH4 0EZ. Tel: 0978-760099.

Membership Secretary: John Goddard, 2 Lowergate
Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire. Tel: 0254-235135.

Treasurer: John W. Goddard, Coton Grange,
Shrewsbury, SY1 2PD. Tel: 0743-357866.