

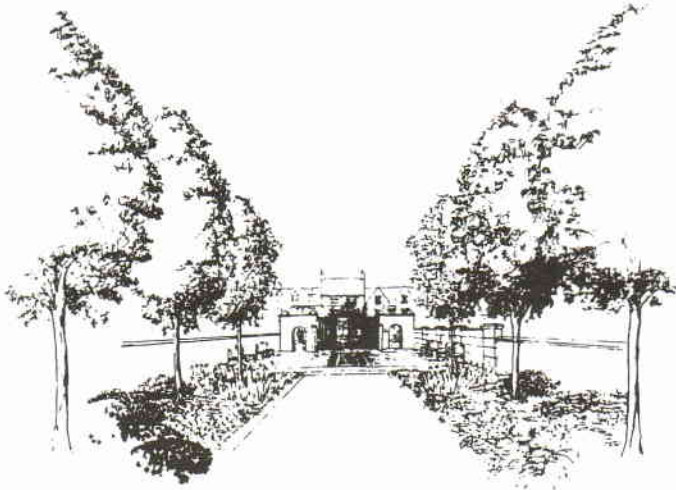


## The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 24 - JUNE 1992

### OPERATION NEW LEAF RESTORATION OF THE LAWN PARK



Artist's impression kindly supplied by Julia Castle of Thamesdown B.C.

Shortly before the AGM word reached me of the proposal by Thamesdown (Swindon) Borough Council to restore the Lawn - the grounds of the former Goddard mansion - as part of their wider aim within the Great Western Community Forest of improving and maintaining areas of natural beauty and recreational amenity. Operation New Leaf was therefore launched towards the end of last year as a scheme which aims to provide funds for the purpose, and the first public meeting attracted about eighty supporters.

The Lawn once consisted of a handsome eighteenth century mansion and landscaped park. Unfortunately the mansion fell into a state of disrepair and was demolished in 1952; and the park has also suffered the problems of old age and the storms of recent years, particularly the oak tree avenue which is one of its most striking features. The first aim of Operation New Leaf is to renew the avenue. Some trees have fallen and others lost branches; of those that remain some are potentially unsafe and all have outlived their prime and would have to be replaced within the next decade.

The sensible plan is to fell the remaining trees this summer, and to replant the entire avenue in the autumn with forty semi-mature Pin Oaks (*Quercus Palustris*). The trees need to be semi-mature, partly to deter vandalism and partly to recreate at once the impression of an avenue. The Pin Oak is a deciduous tree which grows to a height of some sixty-five feet. The trunk is silver grey at first, changing to a dark grey as the tree ages; but its most distinctive feature is the deep crimson of its autumn leaves. The estimated cost of the operation is £500 per tree.

(continued on page 2)

### GODDARD'S AIR SERVICE

Further to the information in Newsletters 21 and 22, I am grateful to Professor Laurence Goddard of Carnforth for adding the following:

"There is no connection with Bathurst in the Gambia. As you remarked in the Newsletter for December last, the letters VH refer to Australia. The facts, as I have them, are these. Bathurst is a fairly large country town in New South Wales, and it is marked in the atlas about 150 miles west from Sydney. But what about Rockley? Is there such a place near Bathurst? The answer is 'yes', following a search on a larger scale map of Australia. On the road from Bathurst, south west to Cowra (another well known country town in NSW) the settlements marked are, in order, Blayney, Rockley and Woodstock. So this will be the Rockley that is painted on the side of the aeroplane. Incidentally, in the latest list of Australian post codes, there appears the name of Rockley NSW 2795, so this defines the Rockley of our investigation a little more closely. I have no information about Goddard's Air Service, and the photograph dates back to 1974. Perhaps some information about the company, and whether it is still in existence, could be obtained by writing to the Local History section of the Public Library for Bathurst, the postal code for which is 2795."

So come on, one of you Australians; it's only down the road, metaphorically speaking, for you so the research ball is now firmly in your court!

#### **Nota Bene**

From 7 July the President and Newsletter Editor will no longer be available at his present address. From 31 August he will be found at:  
Hampton House,  
65 Abbey Road,  
Malvern, WR14 3HF.  
Tel: 0684-573382.



**Photographs of the current avenue kindly taken and provided by Philip of Swindon**

Your Committee considered the project at their meeting before the AGM and unanimously decided to recommend that the Association sponsor at least one tree and that we approach the Goddard Association of America to sponsor another. This resolution was warmly supported at the AGM and it was suggested that a pair of such trees at the entrance, with suitable plaques attached, would be a fitting acknowledgement of the connection of our two Associations with Swindon - many of the members of the American Association being descendants of the Swindon branch of the family.

We are therefore now appealing for a minimum of £500 towards this project, and would ask every member of the Association to consider contributing, even if only a small donation. Please make your cheque payable to the 'Goddard Association of Europe' and send it to our Treasurer, John W.

Goddard, Coton Grange, Shrewsbury, SY1 2PD, clearly indicating that it is for Operation New Leaf (you might also remember to attach your subscription for the current year if you have not already done so!). At our Committee meeting we agreed to start the fund with the proceeds of the afternoon's raffle, and that, together with one or two donations, has already got it off to a good start and about a quarter of the way to our target.

Later on further improvements to the Lawn Park are envisaged including, possibly, the restoration of the Italian sunken garden, the bare outline of which can still be seen. By careful conservation of existing features and additional planting, planned by landscape architects in association with arboricultural experts, it is hoped to enhance the natural beauty of the Park and views of the surrounding countryside.

## CONTACT

Early in March I was at a Family History meeting at Newbury and was asked for advice by a Mrs Susan Cox. Her husband's family had lost touch with a great aunt and uncle and their daughter. They had last been heard of in New Zealand in 1927/8 when they had sent a photograph of their house and baby Jean, but had not answered letters since, and it was thought that they had moved. I suggested Mrs Cox write to the local newspaper of the town in New Zealand where they were last heard of, but neither of us knew whether it had a newspaper. Obviously someone with local knowledge was needed and I thought of our New Zealand members and in particular Frank, who lives in the appropriate area. Mrs Cox supplied all the details the family knew and a copy of the last received photograph and I sent it all to Frank.

To our delight a letter arrived from the long lost cousin in only just over a month! I took it round to Mrs Cox, who was convalescing from an operation on her foot, and she made plans to reply immediately and also to contact her elderly mother-in-law, who had wondered for so many years about the family and the baby (now probably a grandmother) in New Zealand.

The organisation of The Goddard Association had achieved another triumph!

*Julie of Newbury*

## CAN YOU HELP?

In return for the help the New Zealand Goddards have given in finding Susan Cox's relatives in their country, they have now sent me a poser to solve!

A new member, Mrs Anne McMullen, wants to know if she has any relatives living in this country who remember her mother and grandfather. Grandfather Percy Goddard was killed at Ypres and his wife, Nellie, married again (this time to Albert Mallet). Percy and Nellie had two daughters, Nellie Elizabeth and Renée. The former emigrated to New Zealand and Anne is her daughter. Renée married and lived in Dayton, Ohio. Percy Goddard had two sisters, Kate and Ethel, who lived in Norwich.

Unfortunately, in more ways than one, four Percy Goddards were killed in the summer of 1916, so great was the slaughter, and three have no known graves. I have discovered that Radio Norfolk has a "Person Search" slot so I have written to them. Failing this I can send a letter to the Eastern Daily News, or advertise on Teletext which has a Missing Person service, the existence of which other Association members might be interested to know about. But perhaps one of our Newsletter readers is related to this family or knows of the whereabouts of their relations. If so, please get in touch.

*Julie of Newbury*

## CALLED TO CATHAY - 5

Francis Wayland Goddard, the third generation of the Goddard-Dean family to serve as a missionary in China, was born on 20 January 1877. It is said that his mother had chosen the names of his elder brother and sister, William Dean and Anna Kate, and now insisted that it was father's turn. He ruled out Josiah on the grounds that there were two many of them already, and then suggested various other names. When he came to Francis Wayland, President of Brown University in his father's day, Fanny exclaimed, "That will do, and we'll call him Frank".

Like many missionary children in a happy missionary home, Frank expected to become a missionary himself, but initially he didn't think he could preach and nor was he inclined to become a doctor. It was only after starting school in America, where he went with his elder sister Kate in 1888, that he received a letter from his mother reporting a mutual friend's opinion that he had qualifications for making a good doctor. Thus was the seed sown.

In the summer of 1890 Mrs Goddard went to America with the two youngest children and as Will, the eldest of the five, was ready to enter Brown University that autumn, they all went to live in Providence, Rhode Island. Providence proved too expensive for them, however, and in 1891 they moved to Hamilton, New York, the seat of Colgate University, where Frank remained for seven years. In 1893 his father joined them from China and for the first time for nine years the whole family was together again - such were the difficulties of missionary life. This reunion did not last long, however, because that same autumn Kate went to Bucknell University, and a year later the parents returned to Ningpo and the children were scattered.

After completing his College course in 1897, Frank spent one year in the Baptist seminary before starting his medical training at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. His cousin, Dr Briton Corlies - another grandson of Josiah Goddard - had just completed his course and sailed for West China, and the Rev. and Mrs Corlies generously offered Frank their son's place in their home. Although normally a four year course, because Frank had already spent some years in college, he was allowed to complete it in three, receiving his degree in May 1901. He then served fifteen months as an interne at the Samaritan Hospital of Troy, New York, before spending a year in clinical service with three of Philadelphia's leading ophthalmologists, since he knew the prevalence and seriousness of eye diseases in China. He also arranged with the Executive Committee of the Missionary Union in Boston to sail for China as soon as his medical training was complete.

This proved to be October 1903, and his sister Kate, then in Chicago, was to join him in San Fransisco so that they could travel together. Just before they set sail they learned of their mother's death in Ningpo from cholera, so it was their father alone who met them in Shanghai. Kate was to stay in Ningpo, but Frank was posted to Shaohing and was escorted there by his father.

Shaohing was originally described by Marco Polo as the 'Venice of China', being an inland city in the centre of an alluvial plain intersected by numerous canals; it had a popu-

lation of a quarter of a million. Because no foreign traders were allowed to live there, the ex-patriate community was very small and met frequently in one house, denominational differences being forgotten.

Chinese medicine at this time was still very primitive, having made little or no progress over hundreds of years. Modern medicine and ideas of public health were unknown; there was little knowledge of anatomy and no anaesthetic apart from opium. Epidemics were allowed to rage unchecked and distressing conditions easily cured by modern surgical methods were simply endured with resignation. No medical work of any kind had been carried out in Shaohing prior to Frank's arrival, but at first he tried to keep the patients away while he mastered the language.

By April 1906, however, calls for medical attention had become so frequent and so insistent that he had to open a dispensary once a week in a two-room building adjoining the Baptist Church. In fact, the Missionary Board in Boston had requested Frank to defer beginning active medical work and to help with the teaching and other missionary work first, little realising that problems with the language would make it impossible and that medical work, quickly and properly developed, would be likely to bear far greater fruit as far as he was concerned. However, he did make various contributions, particularly in building projects and in organising proper singing.

In the autumn of 1906 Frank went to Shanghai to meet his cousin, Dr Anna E. Corlies, the fifth direct descendant of Josiah Goddard to serve as a missionary to the Chinese. She was on her way to Ya-an in West China to join her brother, Briton. While there he also became engaged to a fellow missionary at Shaohing, Miss Helen M. Austin, and they were married by his father at Ningpo on 6 February 1907. Finding suitable accommodation in Shaohing was a problem at first and they moved four times in fifteen months before becoming settled. On 6 July 1909 Helen gave birth to their first child, Margaret.

Frank now turned his attention to the problem of a hospital. Although the Board was discouraging and had been for many years, a benefactress had promised him funds before he left the United States. But there were also local difficulties - suspicion of the foreigner, finding a suitable site, and the fear that the high building he was likely to erect might interfere with the good luck of the neighbourhood. Eventually all these problems were overcome and in March 1910 the new building, to accommodate 41 patients but with provision for expansion, was officially opened with the chief city dignitaries in attendance. And for two days it was open to public inspection so that the people would feel that it was for them. There was no electricity, so that the work in the operating theatre was difficult and even dangerous and X-rays were impossible; and, as the city had no proper water system, maintaining an adequate supply of pure fresh water was a great problem. But the biggest difficulty of all was the lack of trained personnel. Not only was there no such thing as a trained nurse, there was no word for nurse in the language. In fact, when the hospital opened the only staff were a new and untrained male assistant and Frank himself.

## SAFFRON WALDEN GODDARDS

Mrs P. Haigh of Saffron Walden tells us that her father and uncle, Frederick William and Herbert Stewart Goddard, were both born in London (in 1896 and 1898 respectively) and moved to Wendens Ambo, near Saffron Walden, at an early age. Their father, William, primarily a builder and haulage contractor, also became a pub landlord and took over the Neville Arms at Audley End. Both Fred and Bert helped in the family business until they went to serve in the First World War. Returning safely, they rejoined the business and, after their father's death, greatly expanded it. In 1928 they moved to Saffron Walden, to adjoining houses, and added an electrical business to road tarring, farming and haulage (the pub had been relinquished). Through hard work and their excellent partnership they founded one of the town's most successful businesses, which continues today under their sons, John and Stewart.

Fred and Bert served as town councillors, and Fred was Mayor twice in the 1950s and was also an Alderman. In 1975 Fred was named as a "Very Distinguished Citizen of the Borough of Saffron Walden", an honour only conferred five times previously. Bert carved Fred's name on a seat he had erected to his memory at the top of the High Street, and Goddard Way was named after him. Mrs Haigh is Fred's daughter and very proud of her father.

*Julie of Newbury*

## SIXTH AGM



Photograph taken and supplied by Philip of Swindon

## MEMBER'S DEATH

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Miss Kathleen Millicent Goddard of Saxmundham, Norfolk. One of the Association's oldest members, she had recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday and was a familiar figure at some of our earlier AGMs; she was the second recipient of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial (for 1989) as a tribute to her researches into the Norfolk branch of the family. We offer our sincere sympathy to her relations.

## WINNING ARTIST

Association member Frank Goddard of Llanelli has recently won the Lanelli Art Society's Huw Richards Memorial Award for the second year running, and has also had one of his paintings accepted in a national competition to hang in a London gallery.

Frank has always had an interest in painting, but work as a shipping clerk with British Steel kept him too busy. Then in 1983 he was made redundant. Never one to sit back, he rose to the challenge of creating a new occupation and now combines a pleasurable pursuit with some teaching in a Llanelli school.

To celebrate his 65th birthday this August, he is planning his first one-man exhibition - partly for his own satisfaction and partly to show others what can be done in retirement - enforced or otherwise. Many congratulations, Frank.

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

One of the two Goddards spotted by John of Accrington in this year's New Year's Honours list does turn out to be a member of the Association. Mrs Mary B. Goddard of Honiton, Devon, was awarded the B.E.M., and we are delighted to offer her our warmest congratulations. Although admitting to being the person referred to, she has not revealed why she received her award.

## MISCELLANEOUS ANCESTORS

18 February 1696, Samuel Antrim and **William Goddard**, glaziers of London, loaded 13 chests of window glass! [From *The Days of Duchess Ann; Life in the Household of the Duchess of Hamilton 1656-1716*, by Rosalind K. Marshall].

The *Ladies of Llangollen*, the Misses Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, who fled from home and a conventional life to live in the Welsh countryside in the 1780s, corresponded with a **Mrs Lucy Goddard** who was then living at Bath, though they had probably first made her acquaintance in Ireland, perhaps Kilkenny. On her death in 1802 Mrs Goddard left Sarah Ponsonby £100 and an annuity of 30 guineas for life. The ladies, who had to make many economies on leaving their genteel homes, were delighted with this stroke of good fortune.

From *Coroner's Bills for Wiltshire 1752-96*. An inquest was held at Chilton Foliat (TV watchers will recall that this is the village of Harry Dodson's Victorian Country Garden) on 28 April 1767 into the death of **Daniel Goddard** who was killed when a wall which he and other labourers were demolishing collapsed without warning onto him.

**Annie Sabina Goddard** was staying at the house of her uncle Robert Rolfe in Northbrook Street, Newbury, on the night of the 1881 census. She was born in Croydon, Surrey.

*Julie of Newbury*

## EYESIGHT

It was good to see Andrew of Brislington at the AGM again this year. He was absent last year because he was undergoing a serious eye operation for glaucoma. Only 33 at the time, the operation saved his sight but not his job as a typewriter service engineer. As a thank you to Bristol Eye Hospital he raised £500 by car boot sales and donated two portable televisions; he hopes to continue fund raising for the Hospital by holding further sales.

## JIM FIXED IT!

Not a programme to which I am likely to become addicted, but a leaf through the TV menu for Saturday 9 May 1992 indicated that Sir James Saville would fix it for a Caroline Goddard. I duly watched and Caroline duly appeared, together with her five sisters, singing backing vocals with Sixties legends, the Swinging Blue Jeans. Her husband Ken Goddard also briefly appeared; they come from Horsforth, Leeds. Any claimants?

## HEADMASTER

Reading the newspaper prior to the General Election, my eye caught an article on a mock election at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College in which the votes had been cast in Goddard Hall. I wrote to find out more and received a charmingly helpful response from the Headmaster, who said it was named in memory of one of his greatest predecessors, Edgar Henry Goddard - known to all as Ned - who had been Headmaster from 1932 to 1961, a remarkably long tenure. He also sent me a copy of Ned Goddard's book *Reminiscences of a Headmaster*, privately published by the author in 1972. Checking in my own records, I found that I had recorded his death on 19 October 1983 in Taunton, aged 87.

## ANOTHER MEMBER'S DEATH

We also greatly regret recording the death on 28 September 1991 of Theodore A. Godard, Sr. Daughter Alice Godard Allen tells us he was very proud of his family heritage and was keen to link with his English forebears. We offer his family our deepest sympathy.

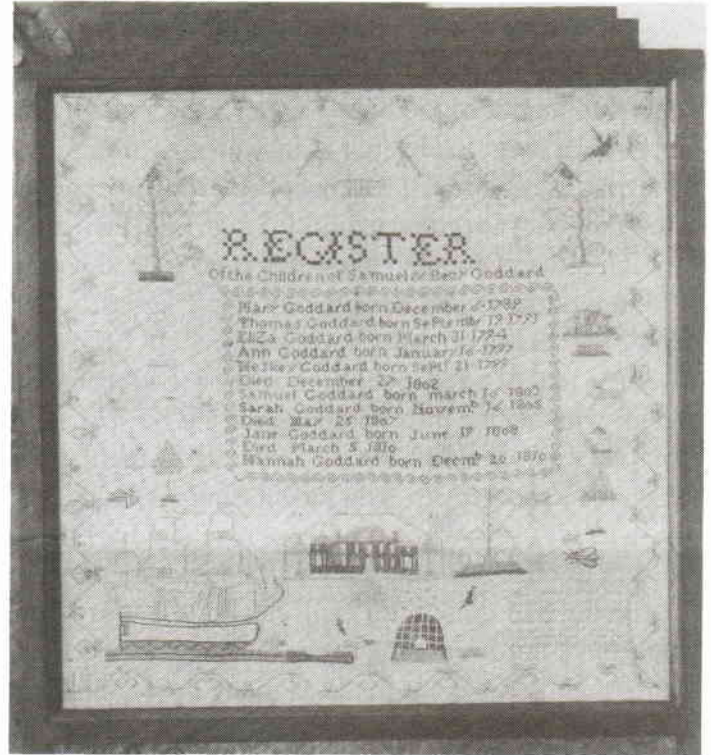
## SEAFARERS

Julie of Newbury writes that Gerald of Bude has sent in a long, detailed list of Goddards associated with the River Thames - Greenwich, Woolwich, Southwark, etc. It will eventually go into the main index, but in the meantime if anyone is interested she can consult it for them. Those with ancestors in this area should not forget that Julie and Brian also have quite a few details about Henry Goddard, shipbuilder of Deptford, and his son Dr Jonathan Goddard, physician and scientist.

Seán of Exeter is interested in sea-going Goddards and has collected many references to them; he is willing to help anyone he can. His address is 15 Morley Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 7BD.

## SAMPLER

Here is a photograph of the sampler mentioned in Julie of Newbury's report on page 6.



The words in the centre read as follows:

### REGISTER

Of the Children of Samuel & Betty Goddard

Mary Goddard born December 6 - 1789  
Thomas Goddard born September 19 - 1791  
EliZa Goddard born March 31 - 1794  
Ann Goddard born January 16 - 1797  
Heskey Goddard born Sept. 21 - 1799  
Died December 27 - 1802  
Samuel Goddard born March 16 - 1803  
Sarah Goddard born Novemb. 16 - 1805  
Died May 25 1807  
Jane Goddard born June 19 - 1808  
Died March 5 1810  
Hannah Goddard born Decmb. 20 - 1810

And the words at the bottom right say:

Mary Goddard her Work  
Remember now thy Creator  
in the days of thy youth  
While the evil days Come  
not nor the years draw  
nigh when thou shalt say  
I have no Pleasure in them

## ROBERT GODDARD

Watch out for the next Robert Goddard book *Hand in Glove*, due to be published some time this autumn.

## REPORT OF THE RESEARCH CO-ORDINATORS FOR 1991-92

After the last AGM I began keeping a logbook of correspondence received, the topic or query, and my answer. I am now on my third notebook. They are available for anyone to see. Some weeks we have a rush of letters, quite out of the blue. Other weeks go by with only one or two. Each letter is answered as promptly as I or Brian are able and if we are not able to answer within a few days, or I am going to pass the query on, I write and say so. When I counted a few days ago we had written 174 individual letters between us since the last AGM. However, the depressing fact is that after I have answered a letter I rarely ever hear from the correspondent again, whether the information given has been of use or completely misguided. We do have a few regular correspondents, however, who have been invaluable. To those I say 'thank you'. I will not list them for I would be sure to miss one out; they will know who they are.

Having had quite a lot of ill-health this year, Brian and I have not been to as many meetings as usual and consequently have not made as many new contacts as we would have liked. We did have a stall at the Newbury Open Day of the Berkshire Family History Society and made three contacts. I wrote an article about the Goddard One-Name Study for the *Hampshire Genealogical Society Journal* which brought in some amused comments and two enquiries. We also gave a talk on "Some Interesting Holders of the Goddard Name" to the Newbury branch of the Berkshire Family History Society. I was asked to fill in again the other night when it looked as if the planned speaker would not arrive, so we cannot have been too bad! We had several pleasant rides in the countryside around Newbury last summer, looking for a number of houses which were built by the grandfather of an American Goddard who wanted to know whether they were still there. She hopes to come and see for herself this summer.

Following on the theme of making contacts, I have continued scanning genealogical magazines for anyone who is advertising an interest in Goddards, noting their names and sending them an invitation to consult us. Gillian has continued to follow her chosen line and writes letters to local southern newspapers and follows up any mention of Goddards in the press or on TV. Living not too far away from each other, we can keep in touch about current affairs by telephone.

Seán has been very busy throughout the year sending us photocopies of papers which mention Goddards. These range from the letters of George III who had a secretary named Thomas Goddard, to the Trinity House papers which tell of the activities of the very entertaining Henry Goddard, the ship-builder, during the reign of Charles I. I have produced a list of these papers and

offered copies to anyone interested - but have met with almost complete silence. No one seems to be interested. It is this lack of interest which has delayed the promised list of books which the Research Department holds. If you wish to know whether we hold a certain book, whether it is the history of Clyffe Pypard, the will of John Winchcombe of Newbury (whose granddaughter married a Bucklebury Goddard), or anything on the Leicestershire Goddards, do please ask.

My big regret of the year has been that Jennifer Walker of Malmesbury and I have not yet been able to meet and discuss doing something, such as co-operating on an article or a book on the seventeenth century manuscripts and letters which she has in her family archives. We are now able to guess, but not prove, why they are in her family, because although the letters are to and from the Goddards of the Swindon branch, Jennifer's mother's family of Goddards came from a Somerset farming line, via Wiltshire to Malmesbury.

Although I intend to resign from the Committee this year, Brian will remain; and so that he can continue with work on his Goddard Computer Index I am willing to continue answering any queries which come to the Research Department, using the six correspondence files and the filing cabinet drawers of papers which we have amassed in the six years since we began UNLESS there is someone else, living within visiting distance of Newbury, who would like to take over.

Finally, let me tell you about one of our most recent triumphs. In the April copy of the magazine *Family Tree* there is an item about a Goddard sampler - an embroidery picture. Mrs P. Woodcock of Barton upon Humber collects samplers and when she saw this particular one in a Lincoln antique shop she could not resist it. The sampler is set in a fire screen. It depicts a ship, a large house and what looks like a beehive, or lobster pot. The inscription is a list of the ten children of Samuel and Betty Goddard, born between 1789 and 1810. Mrs Woodcock wrote in the magazine's queries that she would like to be able to identify the family and learn more about them. I telephoned her immediately as I did not want to risk this interesting piece of Goddard memorabilia disappearing. There is no danger of that. Mrs Woodcock has no intention of selling, but was as curious as I was about the family which it depicts. All one Saturday Brian and I tried all our records and those of the public library in Newbury. There were plenty of Samuel Goddards, but none married to a Betty or Elizabeth around the right date. We tried Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire and our computer index (which covers mainly the southern counties). With the problem still nagging me I telephoned John at Accrington. With

him it rang a bell, especially as one of the listed children was named Hesketh or Heskey. He grabbed his computer list, which is not yet in our main list (give Brian time!) and there were no less than eleven Heskeths/Heskeys and a Samuel married to a Betty in 1789. But to our surprise they were not seafaring Goddards, but Samuel was a clothier and from Cheshire! How had the screen and sampler got to Lincoln? In fact with these clues we were able to consult Michael Barefoot's lovely book about his Goddard, Narramore, Lovering, Brewer and Edwards ancestors and found a family tree with details about the whole of Samuel and Betty's little family - and even the name of the big house on the sampler! Such discoveries make the whole job worthwhile.

*Julie of Newbury*

I thought that it might be of interest to members if, this year, the start of my report gave a hint of the lengths that some members will go to in advancing the boundaries and causes of the Goddard Association. We have, for instance, the post card from Egypt, with the detailed report from Seán that "I've looked in the 'phone books and there are no Goddards!" Contrast that journey with the rigours reported by A.L. Lloyd in the song "Lord Franklin" of the hundred or so men who perished in 1845 looking for the N.W. Passage. Among those who made the ultimate sacrifice was a William Goddard, a Petty Officer who has a memorial in Gravesham in Kent.

As far as the Database is concerned it continues to grow; the main one now exceeds 4300 entries (from 3750 for the 1991 AGM), from family trees, about 1800 (200 up), entries in another database from parish registers of people not on family trees or in the IGI. There is now a further 1500 records in an appendix to the other databases of entries from various documents, such as tax returns etc., of people who may or may not appear in the other records, but they cannot be specifically identified with any family group. Thanks to Seán for most of those.

Of particular interest is the growth of the records for the area around Chapel-en-le-Frith in Derbyshire; there are 830 records of Goddards from that area, remarkably from only three or four families. Our thanks for these well-researched records to the efforts of Rosemary Lockie and to Albert Goddard.

Several other trees have been sent in that open up new areas of the country, but in general there are many members who are not parting with the information we so badly need to keep the Association alive. Please send in your family tree; don't leave it to another member of the family, you know how unreliable they are and how they always get it wrong! It does not matter that you only have information on a few members of the family as long as there are **Dates** and **Places**; just a string of names is not

very helpful to anyone doing further research later on.

The other side of the coin is the research that I have been doing on the Wiltshire Goddards (not having an interesting tree of my own!) where I have managed, with a good deal of help from others, to destroy the tree around Giles (b. circa 1596) and the claims of the American families who thought that he was their progeny. Also, the main branch containing Sir Walter Godarville has been severed prior to regrafting onto another tree. Thanks to Jennifer Walker for the Chancery Court's report of the forty-year long court battle over Giles' land after his death, thirty years before he was supposed to have arrived in America with a young family!

My thanks also for the information from Mrs Treva Watchman of Canada regarding the research she has done over the years on Sir Walter; it is almost unfair that I found the information, regarding his post mortem inquisition, which proved her theory that Sir Walter was not a Wiltshire Goddard. Unfortunately, the original work done on the Wiltshire Goddards by the Victorian researchers has been recycled many times without being checked and was of poor quality in the first place. This Victorian work suffers from three main problems. Firstly, it was politically motivated; secondly, although well versed in classical Latin, the translators did not understand medieval Latin with its innumerable abbreviations and unusual interpretations. Lastly, the researchers had scant regard for historical accuracy and only applied the law of the land current in their time not as it was at the time of the event in question, giving some major inaccuracies, particularly over marriage and inheritance.

The moral of this is, do not trust any family tree if you have not done it yourself or have not obtained the proof. Particularly, please do treat Heralds Visitations with a great deal of caution and start from scratch if there is any mention in any of the Burke or Debret publications before about 1920. Those members who lay claim to the Wiltshire family tree have work to do!

Concluding, I must repeat what I have said in previous years: if new research is not 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 continually 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 sent it, 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, try again; we may now have the information you need.

*Brian of Newbury*

## SIXTH AGM

The Sixth AGM was held at the Goddards Hotel in Swindon on Sunday 5 April 1992. About 65 members attended, most of whom enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch in what used to be the Hob Bar, now the Thomson Room. The Meeting was held in the Ballroom.

After a brief welcome from the President, a number of apologies were recorded, and the Minutes of the last AGM were approved. Treasurer John presented his Accounts for 1991-92, indicating a healthy state of affairs; a copy is obtainable from him (address on this page) on enclosure of an s.a.e. Research Co-ordinators Julie and Brian then presented their reports and these are to be found on pages 6 and 7.

Richard, Annica and John were returned unopposed as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively; Brian and Philip were re-elected as Committee Members for a further three year period; and Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith was elected to serve the remaining year of Julie's term. In welcoming Albert, the President paid tribute to the magnificent work that Julie had done over the past five years; fortunately she was only stepping back not down, and her invaluable help would be available supporting that of husband Brian on the computer, hopefully for very many years to come.

The President then referred to Operation New Leaf, and this is treated in full elsewhere. In discussing date and place for next year's AGM, it was decided to hold it - subject to availability of venue - on Sunday 4 April in a more northerly part of the country, exact location yet to be determined. Suggestions were also made for the 1994 return to Swindon, by proposing a week-end instead of one day. This would have the advantage of allowing more time for informal meetings between relations, which several present said they much valued. Detailed plans will be discussed at the next Committee meeting in October and ample warning given in a subsequent Newsletter. If anyone has any further suggestions, please send them to either the President or the Secretary.

The business part of the Meeting was followed as usual by the presentation of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 1991. This went to Earl C. Goddard of California, who had some years ago generously made a computer available to the Association and had been a keen member and supporter from the earliest days, often attending our AGMs. For once he was unable to be present as he was undergoing treatment for cancer, but the President knew he would be coming over on a visit in the early summer and he would ensure that the presentation was made then. Best wishes were conveyed for his speedy and full recovery.

There then followed the illustrated talk on Old Swindon given by Mr Denis Bird. This took the form of a series of slides showing pictures of different aspects of Swindon now and as much as a hundred years ago. Of particular interest were different views of The Lawn, the Goddard mansion, and some of its last inhabitants. After the talk, members adjourned for a cup of tea and a chat before returning home.

As usual a raffle was held during the course of the afternoon. The President would particularly like to thank those members of the Association who generously donated prizes. A sum of around £100 was raised, and this has been earmarked to launch the Operation New Leaf appeal.

## PROMOTIONAL LEAFLET

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the new promotional leaflet - thanks to Seán of Exeter for its compilation and printing. The idea is for you to pass it on to an interested relation, or to find some public place such as a library or information centre in your local area which will take it and be pleased to display it. Further copies can be obtained from Membership Secretary John, whose address is below. Please help us - and yourselves (more members keeps the cost down) - by spreading the word of our existence.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Membership Secretary John has been busy compiling a Membership List. If anyone would like a copy, please send him a stamped addressed envelope - preferably 11 x 22 cms. There is no charge for the list itself. His address is below. And please help him keep it up to date by notifying him of any changes of address or the death or resignation of any members you happen to know about.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs Dulcie M. Bradley, 5 Wood Street, New Mills, Stockport, SK12 3HN.  
Mr & Mrs E.J. Goddard, Woodhayne Farm, Coobe Raleigh, Honiton, Devon, EX14 0TG.  
Professor L.S. Goddard, Banneggs, Barbon, via Carnforth, Lancashire, LA6 2LJ.  
Mr J. & Mrs M. Goddard, 123 Avondale Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, SK3 0UD.  
Mr B.J. & Mrs V. Goddard, 71 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, SN5 9NB.  
Mr N.M. Goddard, 8 Hessary View, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 6AX.  
Mr John M. Goddard, 25 Frinton Road, Broxtowe, Nottingham, NG8 6GZ.

## USA APPEAL

Now that our early research is more advanced and our database is growing, we very much hope that our appeal to our sister American Association members will increase; we should be delighted to have them join us. We are also keen to acquire an American Co-ordinator, just as we have one for Australia and New Zealand. With some fifty mailings in the USA, costs for postage of individual Newsletters are increasing. A co-ordinator has two functions: he (she) receives the Newsletters in bulk, and then forwards them to each individual address, thus saving about a third of the cost. And secondly, the co-ordinator keeps in touch with the members, collecting their annual donations, and tries to recruit new ones. Expenses are, of course, paid. I have asked Kathryn Goddard Meyer, to appeal for one at the biennial Convocation at Salt Lake City this month. Someone please volunteer!

## 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.  
**Australian Co-ordinator:** Stewart Geddes, 12 Hollydale  
Close, Berwick, Victoria 3806. Tel: 03-707-2261.  
**New Zealand Co-ordinator:** Frank Goddard, 13 Peach-  
grove Terrace, Rotorua. Tel: 7-348-3446