



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 31 - MARCH 1994

WILTSHIRE MACHINE BREAKERS

The Case of Thomas Goddard of Ramsbury

The three decades following the end of the Napoleonic Wars were a time of great social unrest and upheaval. With the excesses of the French Revolution still fresh in their minds, the ruling classes were not unnaturally alarmed at any signs of disturbance, and dealt severely with the perpetrators; while the lower classes were keen to improve their social lot, and were equally alarmed at potential threats to their meagre livelihoods. It is against this general backcloth that the case of Thomas Goddard of Ramsbury must be seen.

I am indebted to Philip of Swindon for reminding me of the case – as a former resident of Ramsbury, between Marlborough and Hungerford, I was already familiar with its outlines – and for providing me with extracts from the two volumes of *Wiltshire Machine Breakers* which give the essential details.

Thomas was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Goddard of Aldbourne, a neighbouring village to Ramsbury, and was baptised there on 14 June 1802. He became a tanner in Ramsbury, and on 21 May 1827 in another neighbouring village, Froxfield, he married Susan Christina Lowder, some eight years his senior and daughter of a clergyman's widow then living in Froxfield Almshouses. On 15 January 1828 their daughter, Susan Christina, was baptised; and when later the same year his father died, his mother came to live with them in Ramsbury. On 28 March 1830 a son, Thomas, was baptised. The family was quite comfortably off and the future seemed rosy. Then, on Tuesday 23 November 1830, Thomas took a decision, possibly on the spur of the moment, which he must have regretted for the rest of his life.

Mobs eighty to a hundred strong had been active in the area for a few days. They generally broke any

agricultural machinery they could find, and then demanded beer and money – usually a sovereign – before they would disperse or go on to another farm, threatening to break windows or assault the owner if their demands were not met. On the day in question they had already visited the farm of Mr George Church at Aldbourne, destroying a threshing machine and demanding money. They then went on to the farm of Mr Richard Church and broke his threshing machine. At what point Thomas joined the mob is not clear, but the eye-witness account implies that he rode up just as or shortly before the latter Mr Church was being demanded money with the usual menaces. Mr Church asked to whom he should give the money. One of the leaders, William Taylor, said it should go to George Durman; but when he did not make a move, Taylor pointed to Thomas saying, "You must give it to this gentleman on horseback; he is a good fellow and

we will protect him." Thomas took the money, but immediately passed it to George Durman. The mob then moved on to four more farms where they broke further machinery and took more money, which Durman again received; whether Thomas was still present is not recorded, though from subsequent evidence it appears that he was.

Rightly alarmed at the disturbances, magistrates in various centres throughout Wiltshire met to consider appropriate action. Committees were appointed to organise armed volunteers to operate alongside detachments of the Wiltshire Yeomanry – amongst whom was a Sergeant Goddard of the Hindon Troop based at Salisbury but living at Semley – and the disturbances appear to have been quickly suppressed, though in some cases not without bloodshed. At seven o'clock on the morning of Wednesday 24 November the Marlborough Troop, accompanied by some two hundred mounted farmers and including the vicar of Ramsbury, were sent to Aldbourne. Hearing of their approach, the mob dispersed and it was left to the Yeomanry to round up the ringleaders, amongst whom Thomas Goddard was apprehended at his own home hiding under a pile of leather. He was taken to Marlborough gaol and thence transferred to Devizes New Prison to await trial.

The special Assizes opened at Devizes on New Year's Day, 1831. The first trial of Thomas, together with William Taylor for their part in the attack on Mr Richard Church, took place on Tuesday 4 January before Mr Justice Parke. The case was outlined and then corroborated by witnesses. In his defence Thomas said, "I had no bad intentions. I went with the mob, thinking there might be some dissipated men among them. I went with them, supposing I might be the means of saving some of the property; I considered my own property very precarious and was much agitated. I never did any mischief and my motives were pure. When Mr Church gave me the sovereign I passed it to Durman." He then appealed to Mr Church who, he said, had known him for twenty or twenty-five years. Mr Church was then recalled, but stated that Goddard's property – said to be worth £1,000 – was three miles away,

implying that it had nothing to do with his motives. Several witnesses were called who gave Thomas excellent character references. For instance Liddiard, a servant of Mr Rowland of Ramsbury, said, "Goddard did everything in his power to induce the mob to act peaceably and to disperse. The mob got hold of him and said that he should be their leader and demand a sovereign, for they could not get it. Goddard said to me that if he had a sovereign about him he would give it to them if they would go away quietly." And the vicar of Ramsbury, the Reverend Dr Meyrick, said, "I have known Goddard for ten years. He has always been a good son, a good husband and a good father. He is very industrious and a quiet man, well to do in the world." So disturbed was he by the case that he had previously written to the Devizes Member of Parliament to underline Goddard's previous good character. Mr Justice Parke summed up the case in great detail and the Jury – by coincidence a David Goddard among them – after about half an hour's deliberation, found both men guilty, but recommended them to mercy since the offence of robbery (with which they were charged) in those days still carried the death penalty. Sentence was deferred as there were several other cases to follow.

At some of these other trials Thomas Goddard's presence was noted, though usually he was described as a bystander and not having any active part in the proceedings; he was thus acquitted. Another Thomas Goddard, aged twenty, was acquitted of an attack on property at Alton Barnes; and in a further case heard on Saturday 8 January a William Goddard, aged twenty-three, pleaded guilty to riotous assembly at Cricklade and was bound over to keep the peace in recognisance of £50.

On Monday 10 January the leading prisoners were brought before the judges for sentence. The first batch were narrowly reprieved from the gallows, but sentenced to transportation for life. It was not an encouraging start, and Thomas's turn came in the next group of twelve. The senior presiding judge, Mr Baron Vaughan, started by asking them why sentence of death should not be recorded against them. The report then reads as follows: 'Goddard alone made answer. "My Lords, I am not guilty," he said. Mr Baron Vaughan then addressed the prisoners. "Prisoners, you have each and all of you been convicted of robbery, some under circumstances of greater and some under circumstances of less aggravation. There are shades of difference in your guilt, and therefore there will be a difference in your punishment. Instead of being transported for life, you will be transported for periods, which in no case will be shorter than seven years." "My Lords, I am not guilty," interrupted Goddard. "I cannot allow you, Thomas Goddard, to depart from the bar without stating, that although it is clear that you were the ringleader of your party, we are willing to hope that you continued with them longer than you otherwise would have done, under the notion that your presence might prevent personal violence. Yet, as considerable encouragement was given to the mob by your presence and aid, it is impossible that we can avoid inflicting upon you severe punishment. You must be transported for seven years.'" He then went on to sentence the others for varying terms.

Thomas Goddard's plight obviously aroused strong feelings. Almost immediately, on 17 January, Richard Fratt, Independent Minister of Hungerford, and Richard Whether, Independent Minister of Ramsbury, sent a petition to the judge requesting his release. They talk of the 'general distress which pervades the country, and which in part occasioned the proceedings we deprecate'. They ask for an 'immediate revocation of Goddard's sentence', saying that 'previous to the time of his being seen among this unlawful assembly his character was without a stain'. They repeated the good reference given him by the vicar of Ramsbury at his trial, and concluded by saying that he had told a number of respectable people that his purpose in joining the mob was 'to prevent as much as he could any serious mischief'. William Palmer of Ramsbury also wrote, asking that Thomas be allowed to pay his passage out in order that he may become free on his arrival in New South Wales and, presumably, then return again. 'If your Lordship should be pleased to grant the said boon it will save an aged mother from a premature grave and give great satisfaction to the gentlemen and inhabitants of Ramsbury.' And there is also a letter from Thomas's wife to Lord Melbourne, dated Ramsbury, 18 March 1831. She says that they 'were in a comfortable way of business; but are now entirely ruined and myself and child [had their daughter already died, since we do not hear of her again?] are in a most afflicted condition from having lost our only support'. She does not ask that he be given a free pardon, only that he is not sent out of the country.

But there also exists a petition from the 'Magistrates acting in and for the Division of Ramsbury and Marlborough in the County of Wilts and also of Richard Church, William Brown and William Woodman all of Aldbourne in the said county, yeomen, and William Spearing of Ramsbury'. They said that they have heard that a petition in favour of Thomas Goddard 'is being got up and considerable interest is being used to obtain a commutation of the sentence of the said Thomas Goddard to imprisonment for a shorter period'. They wish to point out that there were three other charges against him and that they 'were respectively bound in recognisance to prosecute him, but neither the learned Judges nor the counsel for the Crown considered it requisite that those cases should be tried, as the conviction of the said Thomas Goddard upon the first charge would be sufficient to answer the ends of Justice'. They therefore do not believe that his sentence should be less than seven years transportation 'in as much as they consider the said Thomas Goddard to have been the leader of the mob and his respectable situation in life to have been an aggravation of his crime, and a remission of his sentence to less than transportation for seven years would, in the opinion of the petitioners, be much calculated to weaken the effect which this case ought to produce as an example to others'.

This argument must have prevailed, since Thomas was transferred from Devizes to the prison hulk *York* at Portsmouth on 10 February 1831, and thence to the *Proteus* which transported him to Tasmania. William Palmer's worst prediction was more than fulfilled for Thomas's mother died of grief soon afterwards, to be followed by his wife aged 39,

who was buried at Ramsbury on 16 September 1833. But it is clear that people still felt he had been hard done by as there exists another petition, presented by John Walker Esq. and accompanied by a letter dated 4 February 1835. Furthermore, it is even signed among others by Richard Church, one of his main prosecutors. It recounts the familiar details of the case and explains that he was convicted largely on Richard Church's deposition. 'He left at that time his mother, his wife and a child, but since his transportation his mother and wife have both died of grief, and the property, which he left behind him, is now, in consequence of his absence, in a very precarious state.' The sense that he had more than paid his dues, the plea of his main prosecutor, and the general improvement of the political climate won the day. Thomas was given a Ticket of Leave by Government Notice No. 193 of 20 August 1835, followed by Free Pardon No. 166 in Government Notice No. 33 dated 3 February 1836. He left Tasmania for London on board the *Norval* on 30 May that year.

Fate must, however, still have seemed against him. Returning to Ramsbury and resuming his business from where he had left off six years before, he married Mary Culverhouse on 7 March 1837. She bore him another son, William (his son, Thomas, by his first wife was now living with them), who was baptised on 13 February 1838 and buried four days later only a month old. Mary died the following year and was buried on 20 February 1839 aged 34. Thomas married for a third time on Christmas Day 1843 Mary Lansdown, and she bore him three children: Silvanus Ebenezer, who lived to manhood; George, who was buried on 2 October 1852 aged four; and Eunice, baptised on 9 July and buried on 7 August 1852, aged ten months. In the meantime Thomas himself had died on 25 May 1852 and was buried four days later; he was 49. By his will, dated 16 May 1852, he left his business to his first son Thomas. His widow, who had lost her husband and two of her three children in the space of four months, was buried in Ramsbury on 20 March 1861 aged 47.

ANOTHER GODDARD GATHERING

Mrs Joan Goddard of 54 Shirley Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6UF (tel. 0273 - 556382) is planning a 'Goddard Day' in May for all known descendants of her husband's grandparents, Dan Dyer Goddard (1853-1924) and Jane Parvin (1852-1941). There are said to be over one hundred of them, and already forty have said they will go. Even so, Joan would be very happy to extend the invitation to any of the descendants of Dan Dyer Goddard's parents or grandparents. His parents were James Goddard (1803-62) and Sarah Dyer (1810-97), and his grandparents were Thomas and Sarah for whom there are no dates. They all lived at Angmering in Sussex, and all Dan's brothers and sisters were baptised there; but the only one of whom anything is known was Alfred (1846-1911) who married Alice Winsor and had six children. They lived in and around Arundel, and Alfred died in Bognor Regis. If any readers recognise themselves as descendants of this part of their family, do get in touch with Joan.

1851 CENSUS

Julie of Newbury has told me that Goddards never seem to stay in the same place for long. Philip has recently found in the 1851 Census of Marlborough that Hope Goddard, a schoolmistress, had moved there from Chapel-en-le-Frith. With all the Wiltshire Goddards in that area, who would have guessed that she originated from one of the Goddard strongholds elsewhere?

1891 CENSUS

I am grateful to Julie of Newbury, who has sent me the following entries of Southampton and District from the 1891 Census:

<i>139 East Grove, Lymington</i>				898/2
Emma J. Goddard	aged 16	Servant	Born Cons [?] Wilts	
<i>23 Formosa Garden Cottage, Boldre, Lymington</i>				899/1
Thomas Goddard	49	Gardner	Born Market Lavington, Wilts	
Arundell Goddard	47		Born Sutton Verney, Wilts	
William G. Goddard	24	Ag Lab.	Born Imber, Wilts	
John H. [?] Goddard	21	Gardner	Born Imber, Wilts	
Elizabeth Goddard	13		Born Stanton St Bernard, Wilts	
Alfred B. Goddard	10	Scholar	Born Stanton St Bernard	
<i>19 Burley Villa</i>				908/2
George Goddard	22	Assistnt Dairyman	Visitor Single Born Salisbury	
<i>4 Burley Beacon</i>				D908/2
William Goddard	46		Born Laverstock, Wilts	
Eliza Goddard	44		Born Wilton, Wilts	
Albert Goddard	22	Dairyman	Born Laverstock	
Lily Goddard	16	Hairdresser	Born Salisbury	
Arthur Wm Goddard	14	Labourer	Born Salisbury	
Sidney R. Goddard	12	Scholar	Born Salisbury	
<i>Foxlease Lodge, Lyndhurst</i>				910/1
Charles Goddard	41	Gardner	Born Hants.	
Susan Goddard	49		Born Devonshire	
George William Goddard	14	Scholar	Born Boothby Craffoe [?] Lincs	

GODDARD DEATHS

The Association greatly regrets recording the death last autumn of two of its members, Mary Anthony of Hooe, Plymouth, and Eric Goddard of Honiton, and we offer our sympathy to both sets of relatives.

CHANNEL TUNNEL WALK

Mary Mather of Woking spotted the following article in the January edition of the *Christian Herald* and kindly sent it to me: "Major charity Help the Aged has announced that Stephen Goddard, its Church Development Officer, will be among the 100 or so participants in Le Walk, on 12 February, a 31-mile tramp through the Channel Tunnel from France to England." In fact Stephen, a member of the Silchester Goddards and of this Association, had written to me – unfortunately after the last Newsletter went to print – indicating that this was his intention, and wondering if any members of the Association would like to sponsor him retrospectively. It is not too late to do so, and any contributions should be made payable to Help the Aged and sent to Stephen c/o Help The Aged at St James Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0BE.

NAVAL BIOGRAPHIES

I am indebted to Ted Goddard of Haverfordwest for sending me the following information. Readers of the Newsletter No. 29 will recall the photograph of his uncles and aunts in association with flying boats in Pembroke Dock and his general interest in naval matters, particularly relating to the Nelson period. He has extracted this information from O'Byrne's *Naval Biography* of 1849:

GODDARD. (Lieut., 1810. F-P., 17; H-P., 29)

George Goddard entered the Navy, 1 Oct. 1801, as A.B., on board the *Amazon* 38, Capt. Sam. Sutton, bearing the flag of Lord Nelson in the Downs; *Magicienne* 32, Capts. Ogilvie and Henry Vansittart. From the following October, until his promotion to the rank he now holds, 3 Sept. 1810, he appears to have served a great part of the time as Master's Mate, Acting-Lieutenant, and Acting-Master, in the *Snipe*, Lieut.-Commander Chas. Champion, *Ruby* 64, Hon. Capt. Gardner, *Galykheid*, Capts. Gardner and Wooller, *Leopard* 50, flag-ship of Rear-Admiral Billy Douglas, *Ruby* again, Capt. Chas. Rowley, *Antelope* 50, Capts. Henry Bazely and Edw. Galwey, flag-ship for some time of Sir Wm. Sidney Smith, *Challenger* sloop, Capt. Wm. Barnham Rider, *Polyphemus* 64, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew Sam Rowley, and *Sparrow*, Capt. Joshua Ricketts Rowley, – on the Home, East India, Mediterranean, and West India Stations. His after-appointments, we find, were – 26 Nov. 1810, and 29 April, 1811, to the *Sappho* and *Pelorus* brigs, commanded by various officers, in the West Indies – 30 May, 1815 to the *Hydra* troopship, Capts. Joseph Digby and Dan. Roberts, with whom he served, on the North America and West India stations, until 26 Nov. 1817 – and 26 Nov. 1823, to the Coast Blockade, as Supernumerary-Lieutenant of the *Ramillies* 74, Capt. Wm. McCulloch. Since the period of his quitting the latter service Lieut. Goddard has been on half-pay.

GODDARD. (Lieutenant, 1827)

William Henry Goddard passed his examination in 1818; was promoted to a Lieutenancy, 20 July, 1827, in the *Helicon* 10, Capt. Chas. Dyke Acland, at the Cape of Good Hope; obtained an appointment, 19 Feb. 1830, in the Coast Blockade, as Supernumerary-Lieutenant of the *Talavera* 74, Capt. Hugh Pigot; served in the Coast Guard from 9 Nov. 1831 until 1836; became attached for three years, 7 July, 1840, to the *Poictiers* 72, Capt. Wm. Henry Shirreff, guard-ship at Chatham; and on 31 Aug. 1843 rejoined the Coast Guard. He has not been employed since the early part of 1846.

Do any of our members claim kinship with either of these two worthy naval lieutenants? Likewise, do any of you have information about other naval Goddards?

RUGBY LEAGUE

In the last Newsletter reference was made to a Richard Goddard, currently playing for Wakefield Trinity. Margaret of Worsley wrote to him a couple of times and received the following reply from his mother:

"I am writing to you to reply to the letters you have sent to my son Richard, via Wakefield Trinity. I would like to thank you for your interest and apologise on Richard's behalf for not writing sooner. As with most teenagers I'm sure, letter writing isn't one of Richard's favourite pastimes. I will try to give you some information about him.

Richard is nineteen, single and still lives at home with us – he is the youngest of our three children. He has always been a keen sportsman and represented Yorkshire schoolboys at rugby, cricket and football. He played rugby from eight to fourteen years with the local Stanley Rangers team and then decided to concentrate and hopefully make his career in football. He was offered a YTS post with Barnsley F.C.

At sixteen he was selected to tour France with the G.B. Schoolboys rugby team and his love of rugby returned. He signed amateur terms at sixteen with Wakefield Trinity and professional terms at seventeen. Incidentally, he is the youngest person ever to play for the first team there. This is his fourth season with them. He has played for the G.B. Academy team and this year was fortunate to play for the G.B. Under 21 team against New Zealand and France. Unfortunately, he was injured playing against France and hasn't played since the beginning of December. He had an operation last week [mid-January] and hopes to be playing again in six to eight weeks.

Richard doesn't have any other employment at present. He enjoys fitness training and playing golf. He still plays cricket for a local team when rugby permits.

We have an older son, Nick, who is a doctor, currently working at the Maudsley Hospital in London. In between the boys is Jayne, who is Head of Biology at a Comprehensive School near Birmingham.

My husband, Kenneth, was also a keen sportsman and still plays the occasional game of cricket. He also enjoys fitness training and a game of golf. I, of course, am only a Goddard by marriage, and I am Warden of a Sheltered Housing complex."

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Chris C. Ayton, Church Farm Cottage, 50 Elmer Road, Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, PO22 6ET.
Miss Dorothy Goddard, 43 Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex
Mr & Mrs Arthur J. Goddard, 57 Junction Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3JA.
Mr Kemeth & Mrs Bernice Goddard, Springhills, Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, WF1 2NZ.
Mr S.L. Goddard, 68 Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, Berkshire, RG3 3HW.
Mrs J. de Goris, The Chantry, Park Lane, Appleton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 5JU.
Mr John G. Parker, Hunters Lodge, Studley Hill, Studley, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9NL.

CAN YOU HELP?

I have received a most interesting letter, via John of Accrington, from **Mrs Daphne Neech** of 58 Cathwaite, Paston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE4 7BE. She writes, wondering if any Association members can help:

“Briefly, an Annie Goddard, who was married to Coldstream Guardsman Edwin Thomas, had a son Edwin Henry Thomas on 2 July 1910. She was living at 27 Casemates in the Tower of London. Her son was registered in Goodmans Field district of East London.

He married and, according to the Commonwealth War Graves people, his wife, given only as Mrs E.H. Thomas living in Muswell Hill, London N10, was his next of kin. She never replied to their notice of his death in action letter, and the RAF Records will not let us see his Record of Service until 75 years have passed!

We are trying to find any of Annie Goddard’s relatives who might have known or heard of her son, Sgt Edwin Henry Thomas RAF Flight Engineer 1811856, who flew on Stirling EF137 from Mepal in Cambridgeshire with 75 (NZ) Sqn RAF on the night of 23 April 1944 (St George’s Day) to drop sea mines in the Kiel Canal area.

Sadly at 23.15 that night the aircraft crashed burning at Vemmenaes, Taasinge Island, about 100 yards off the coast of Hegneskoven, Denmark. There were no survivors, although the local Danes immediately went out searching and intending to help. All seven RAF lads now lie in Aabenraa Cemetery on the Jutland Coast. Edwin, Annie Goddard’s son, lies in Grave 1, Row 3, in the 1939-45 Plot on the left-hand side of the main path towards the rear of the Cemetery. The Danes care for these graves in perpetuity.

However, the people of Taasinge Island have now erected a special Memorial with a crest from New Zealand of the Squadron, and the seven names of the Crew are inscribed on the stone. On the 50th anniversary the Bishop of Funen (Fyn), Vincent Lind, is to lead the Dedication of the Memorial. The Islanders would very much like to invite any of Edwin’s relatives to attend at Vemmenaes. The Bishop himself was part of the wartime Danish Resistance force and was captured by the Germans. Edwin was 33 years old when he was killed – part of the 7-man crew of New Zealander Sgt Manson Lammas’s crew.

My husband was an air-gunner on that same raid, but his plane returned to base. His best friend, Sgt Patrick Butler (also from London) and just turned 21 yrs died with Sgt Lammas’s ‘boys’. Although we have spent a fair amount on checking certificates to try and find siblings, or cousins and their off-spring, the RAF have absolutely refused to release details of next-of-kin’s complete addresses. (The New Zealand defence depart-

ments, on the other hand, gave every assistance. At least we have been able to supply details of the lads’ ages and parentage. Initially, a German Padre, who had served on the Russian Front, conducted the first interment. All Danes were told to stay in their houses and shut the windows. However, an hour afterwards the place was piled high with flowers.

They have a record of the exact places where every body was found, and will ever be grateful to this crew – they say that every life given, gave Denmark its freedom.

If you can find any connection with Annie Goddard perhaps you could contact me and I’ll pass on the details of the leaders of this Memorial Project in Denmark.”

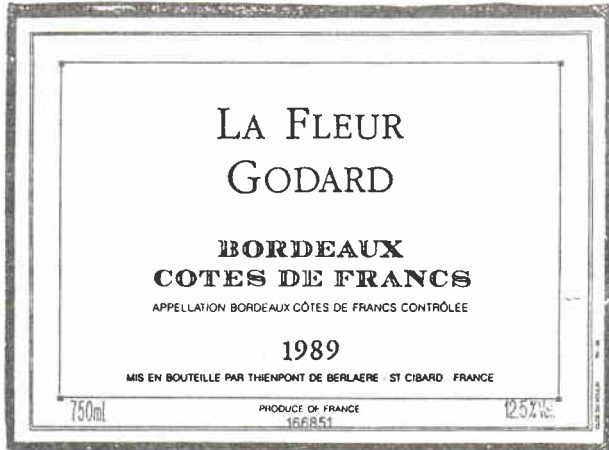
After a reply from John of Accrington, offering to have this appeal placed in our Newsletter, Mrs Neech wrote again: “Thank you very much indeed for your interest and suggestions in our quest to find any of Sgt Edwin Thomas’s relatives via his mother, Annie Goddard’s people. Even if the 23 April (Memorial) date is missed, I’m sure that the Danish folk in Vemmenaes will be delighted to meet them. Annie Goddard herself must have been an interesting person. After the birth of Edwin Henry Thomas on 2 July 1910 at 27 Casemates in the Tower of London she herself registered his birth at the Goodmans Field office. I’ve found myself wondering how and when she met her Coldstream Guardsman (Edwin Thomas) husband – whether she met Edwin Jnr’s bride and whether or not she went through the awful anxiety of knowing her 33 year old son was missing. Such a pity that the RAF would not release any details because of the 75 year ban – especially when details of the Missions are readily available. The Commonwealth Graves people were very kind in telling us that a Mrs E.H. Thomas was next of kin; but, alas, despite all appeals, nobody has replied. Annie Goddard is our last hope.”

I wonder if any Association members are related to Annie Goddard, or know of her branch? Please let both Mrs Neech and us know if you can shed any light on this particularly interesting case.

Please can you also help **Mrs M. Sullivan** of 1 Farley Bank, Hastings, East Sussex with information relating to the cricketer, T.W.J. Goddard of Gloucestershire, who featured in Newsletter No. 14. She is trying to trace her family tree, one part of which is Goddard. She found his marriage certificate, but the wife in question is not the relative she had supposed. She has searched St Catherine’s House for another marriage, but so far to no avail; she had supposed Tom Goddard had married a Katherine (surname possibly Coad) from Painswick. Can anyone give her any information on the cricketer’s family?

GODDARD CLARET

I am grateful to John of Nantwich for sending me a photocopy of this claret label. He was given a bottle for Christmas and said the contents were excellent. Fortunately I have a colleague who is one of the leading amateur wine experts in the country, frequently becoming a finalist in various national wine tasting competitions. With all the right books at his disposal, he has traced the vinyard for me. Bordeaux Cotes de Francs is twelve kilometers east of Saint Emilion and is centered



on two villages, Saint Cibard and Tayac, which are said to be amongst the highest in the Gironde. Various well established families manage the vinyards, amongst them the Thienponts at Lauriol, 33570 Saint Cibard, telephone 57.40.61.04. Nicholas Thienpont produces Chateau Laclaverie and Georges (possibly his brother) Chateau Puygueraud. There was no mention of La Fleur Godard in my friend's books; but a neighbouring family, Michel and Rina Guillon, work a vinyard at Montagne called Berlière – the other name on the label – and it is possible that this particular 1989 vintage was a blend from the two vinyards. But that does not explain how the name of Godard appears in the title. I have given the address and the telephone number, so if anyone would like to do some research they are most welcome. But hurry. My friend and his wife spend two of their three holidays in France each year and are always looking for an excuse to sample the contents of another vinyard at source!

ROBERT GODDARD

Robert Goddard's fame as a novelist is spreading round the world – without the help of this Newsletter! Julie of Christchurch, New Zealand, recently sent me a cutting from an article in one of her local papers. In a regular column the reporter is discussing Christmas presents: "We discovered the books of Robert Goddard during the last twelve months. He writes solid but brilliant mysteries, with a lot of historical atmosphere and marvellously subtle plots and surprise. He's a sort of modern Wilkie Collins, and I find his novels almost impossible to put down."

EDMUND GODDARD

Last July an obituary in the Daily Telegraph outlined the career of Edmund Goddard, who had just died aged 71 and who had won the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for his part in Operation Source in September 1943. This Operation was the daring attack on the German battleships *Tirpitz*, *Lützow* and *Scharnhorst* in Kaafjord, Norway, when Edmund was an engine room artificer on the midget submarine *X6*.

Edmund was born in 1921 and educated at St Edward's School, Oxford. He joined the navy in 1941, but soon became bored by such mundane jobs as firewatching on the roof of the Royal Navy Barracks at Portsmouth. So he volunteered for special duties, not knowing what they might be, and thus found himself taking part in the early X-craft training programme.

Towed to within striking distance by conventional submarines (*X6* by *Truculent*), the attacks on *Lützow* and *Scharnhorst* failed. *X6*, however, entered the fjord and, despite a flooded periscope ramming a submerged rock, running aground, breaking surface and being fired on from *Tirpitz*, managed to penetrate the anti-torpedo nets and to lay four tons of explosives in the vicinity of its hull. *X6* was then scuttled, as escape was impossible, and her crew were picked up by a motorboat. They were actually being interrogated on board *Tirpitz* when their explosives, and a similar amount placed by *X7*, detonated. Although *Tirpitz* had manoeuvred partially clear, she was badly damaged and was not ready for sea again until April 1944.

X6's crew were made prisoners of war, a situation to which Edmund did not take at all kindly; in fact, his experiences in captivity left him with a lasting dislike of the German nation. He was always looking for an opportunity to escape and in March 1945, when being marched from one camp near Bremen to another near Lübeck, he and two others took advantage of a bend in the road and a nearby wood to escape unseen. After surviving several adventures while on the run for more than a week, he eventually passed through the German lines and was found by advancing British troops. *X6*'s commanding officer, Lt Donald Cameron, was awarded the VC and her two other officers the DSO, making her complement of four one of the most highly decorated in naval history.

Edmund had been apprenticed to a machine tool manufacturer in Coventry on leaving school. After the war he was briefly commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant, but then returned to engineering, eventually becoming manager of the Reading branch of C.W. Glover. Ten years ago he suffered a stroke, but was determined to regain his mobility and did so. He and his wife, Eileen, had a son and a daughter. Does anyone claim kinship?

ROCKET PIONEER'S HOME

For some time now I have been meaning to write an article on Robert Hutchings Goddard, the internationally known rocket pioneer after whom the NASA Space Centre is named. I will get round to it one day. In the meantime, by a roundabout route, an article from the *Boston Globe* of August 1990 has just reached me, giving details about his birthplace in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"It's a nice, comfortable old farmhouse with lots of gables, six-pane windows and an open porch overlooking a sprawling backyard with a towering catalpa tree. Hidden in a residential neighbourhood of Worcester, it passes for just another house. But a small plaque, unreadable from the street, documents its place in history. The plaque reads:

Birthplace of
Robert H. Goddard
1882 - 1945
Rocket Pioneer

For Kathryn McNamee, who was a friend and neighbour of Goddard's widow, Esther, the house is a modest memorial to Worcester's most famous son, a man regarded as the father of rocketry. McNamee, who lives on Brookline Street across from the Goddard home, bought the house shortly after Esther Goddard died seven years ago because she was afraid someone might convert it into condos or, even worse, move it. But McNamee is a widow herself, and she can no longer afford to keep it. So she's putting it up for sale, asking \$300,000 for the house and 24,000 square feet of land; if a prospective buyer plans to turn the house into a museum, she will consider much lower offers. McNamee would like to see it become a museum, much like the birthplaces of other famous Massachusetts' natives, including the John F. Kennedy home in Brookline and Clara Barton's house in Oxford. McNamee believes Robert Hutchings Goddard deserves attention, too.

Goddard, whose 212 patents revolutionised rocketry, was born in the house, located at 1 Tallawanda Avenue in the Maple Hill section of the city, but his family moved to Boston when he was a year old because his father had a job change. They returned when he was 16 due to his mother's ill health. He was living there in 1926, the year he launched a liquid oxygen and gasoline rocket into the air at his Aunt Effie's farm in nearby Auburn – the

GODDARD MARRIAGE

Association 'Newshound' Margaret and husband Alan of Worsley were delighted to attend the wedding of one of Alan's nephews recently. Michael Alan Goddard was married on Saturday 12 February in the Church of St John the Divine, Furness Vale, to Sarah Jane Moss; a reception was held at the Acton Court Hotel in Stockport. We join in wishing the happy couple all the best for the future.

world's first successful test of a liquid-fueled rocket. Word of Goddard's work spread, and in 1929 aviator Charles Lindbergh visited Goddard at his Worcester house. But locals soon got wary of Goddard's rocket firings, and in 1930 a state fire marshal ordered him to stop his rocket experiments in Massachusetts, believing them to be dangerous. Goddard and his wife moved to Roswell, New Mexico, chosen because its warm, calm weather and open space made it an ideal place for Goddard to continue his experiments. After his death in 1945, Esther Goddard returned to their Worcester home.

The house still bears Esther Goddard's imprint. She had one door to the back porch closed off for security, since she travelled often, and it remains boarded up. The kitchen furniture includes a Hoosier cabinet, which looks like an upright piano with china and knick-knacks on it, and a shelf where the keys would be. It was the first piece of furniture Goddard bought for his new wife, McNamee said. There are nine rooms in the house, including two bedrooms on the first floor, which is currently rented out, and four rooms on the second floor, any of which could be a bedroom. There are also two bathrooms, a breakfast nook and foyer. Most rooms are either larger or smaller than expected. A closet entrance foyer is only about nine inches deep, for example, while the living room, where Robert Goddard worked and studied, is more than 30 feet long. Esther Goddard's bedroom isn't much larger than a typical bathroom, but off one end is a walk-in closet that's nearly as large as the room itself.

The first floor is neatly kept. The second floor and the foyer on the first floor are in need of cosmetic repairs, having suffered from smoke damage in January, when a fire, apparently caused by a fallen lamp, smoldered all night in a cushion. The second floor is being repaired and, except for the bare walls where the wallpaper has been stripped away, there are no signs that a fire even took place. Janet McCorison, executive director of Preservation Worcester, a private historic preservation group, estimates that the house was built in 1830."

I wonder what happened to it? Perhaps the Goddard Association of America can answer that question.

RAF PROMOTION

Amongst the many other honours and service promotions published at the beginning of the year, eagle-eyed Marjorie of York spotted the announcement of the promotion of a P.J. Goddard from Air Commodore to Air Vice-Marshal to take effect from 1st January. Does any Association member claim him as a relative or know where we might get in touch with him?

AGM AGENDA

The Agenda for this year's Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 2.30pm on Sunday 10 April at the Goddards Hotel, Swindon, will follow the usual format:

1. Welcome by the President.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last AGM.
4. Matters arising.
5. Treasurer's accounts for 1993-94.
6. Research Co-ordinator's Report.
7. Election of Officers:
 - a). President.
 - b). Secretary.
 - c). Treasurer.
8. Election of two Committee Members: Sean retires by rotation and is eligible for re-election. Janet Goddard-Jones has already resigned; Margaret McAlpin offers herself for election in Janet's place.
9. Date and Place of the next AGM.
10. Any other business.

The Meeting will be followed by the presentation of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 1993.

As already stated in the last Newsletter there will be no talk after the AGM, following the request of several members for more opportunity to meet and chat informally before making the long journey home. Please wear your own lapel badge for ease of identification. The usual raffle will take place to help defray some of the expenses of the week-end.

I much regret that for quite unforeseen reasons Philip of Swindon will not be able to lead the tour of local places of Goddard interest at 2.00pm on the Saturday afternoon. However, he has arranged that Mr Denis Bird, who has twice in recent years given us a slide lecture on old Swindon, will conduct a tour on foot of the area around The Lawn including Holy Rood Church. The tour will start from the Goddards Hotel at 3.00pm. To get some indication of numbers, it would be appreciated if those intending to go on it would ring Philip in advance, 0793 for Swindon and then either 538367 during working hours or 616013 at home.

There is no change to the Family History Workshop, which will go ahead as scheduled on the Sunday morning, starting at 10.30am. I do hope as many members as possible will avail themselves of the chance to pick the brains of the two experts we have lined up for the occasion. It will be an informal session, so do not feel that if you cannot reach Swindon by 10.30 you will not be able to take part; you can come and go as you please.

The Manager of the Goddards Hotel has asked that those intending to have lunch on the Sunday ring in advance (0793 - 692313), so that they can get some idea of the numbers to cater for; please give your order to Jeanette, if she is available.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Once or twice recently the name of one of the country's most renowned stained glass manufacturers has been brought to my attention – that of Goddard and Gibbs Studios of Shoreditch in east London. Despite the recession two current markets are keeping it busier than it would otherwise have been. The first is a growing desire for stained glass in the Middle East. At forty metres high, the window which soars through twelve floors in the atrium of the Ramada Hotel in Dubai is said to be the tallest in the world. And the company has recently installed two sets of windows in the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra's concert hall in Muscat. The strong sunlight of the Middle East is ideal for showing off deeper colours than are possible in Europe; but the strict Islamic codes can severely limit flexibility of design. The second market has come in the wake of the IRA London bombings, in which several churches and other historic buildings suffered extensive damage and require the painstaking dedication of experts to restore. Anyone living in the London Area is challenged to research this long-established firm and write an article for the Newsletter.

BEATEN UP

How often in recent months has one read of people being severely injured or even killed for acting as conscientious citizens. Last summer twenty-one year old Brighton University student, Lee Goddard of Godmanchester near Huntingdon, tried to act as a peacemaker in a brawl. He was punched and kicked, as were his friends, and suffered a fractured skull and brain damage. First taken to the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton, he was then transferred to intensive care in Southampton General Hospital's specialist neurological unit. He had been celebrating finishing his finals. Described by both his friends and parents, Graham and Jan Goddard, as a 'gentle giant' (he is 6ft 3ins tall), his action was said to be typical of his willingness to help others. I have not seen any further reports of his progress.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

You may find the following addresses useful for contact: **702-1261**

Australian Co-ordinator: 12 Hollydale Close, Berwick, Victoria 3806.	Stewart Geddes, Tel: 03-707-2261
Membership Secretary: 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire.	John Goddard, Tel: 0254-235135
New Zealand Co-ordinator: 65A Moncur Drive, Rotorua.	Frank Goddard, Tel: 7-348-3446
President & Newsletter Editor: Firs House, College Grove, Malvern, WR14 3HP.	Richard G.H. Goddard, Tel: 0684-573493
Research Co-ordinators: 11 Chandos Road, Newbury, Berks., RG14 7EP.	Brian & Julie Goddard, Tel: 0635-32851
Secretary: Vownog Hill, Penyffordd, Clwyd, CH4 0EZ.	Mrs Annica Leach, Glenton House, Tel: 0978-760688
Treasurer: Coton Grange, Shrewsbury, SY1 2PD.	John W. Goddard, Tel: 0743-357866
USA Co-ordinator: 18 School Street, Enfield, Connecticut 06082.	Mrs Alice Godard Allen, Tel: