



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 32 - JUNE 1994

MYSTERY DEATH

Mental Murder or Natural Causes?

I am most grateful to Rachel of Leicester for sending me the following article taken from the *Leicester Mercury* of Thursday 24 March 1994. In the 'Stranger than Fiction' section it carried an article by John Macklin, recounting a jilted boyfriend's bizarre admission of murder following the mystery death of a beautiful heiress:

"The Hon. Felicity Hume drove her green Alvis coupé up London's Gerard Street with a noisy flourish, and parked in her usual place outside the Cecil Club. It was a hot July evening in 1931, and the atmosphere in Soho was almost continental. But inside the club the dark velvet curtains were drawn against the evening sunlight, and roulette and card games had already begun. The Cecil, run by the outrageous Mrs Kate Meyrick, was fashionable, expensive, and wildly bohemian. No wonder Felicity Hume was a regular patron. At 24, the daughter of an Irish peer, she was all those things herself. She was also beautiful, wilful and, according to her friends, utterly self-obsessed. Men in the smart society circle in which she lived fell in love with her heavily and frequently.

In the summer of 1931 two of London's most eligible bachelors were deeply involved with the young Irish heiress. Richard Goddard, son of a Yorkshire industrialist, was 27, owner of a Mayfair house, a sea-going yacht, and two point-to-point racehorses. He had met Felicity through mutual friends the previous winter, and become instantly infatuated. There was talk of an engagement, and it seemed as though Felicity had at last found someone with whom she could make a future.

Goddard was handsome, rich and generous. He was also obsessively jealous. But Felicity didn't find this out until after she met Andrew Heilbert. A wealthy South African of 30, Heilbert was a compulsive gambler and sportsman, and soon Felicity and her two escorts became a familiar sight in the best restaurants and clubs.

Everyone knew that the two men were rivals, and it apparently pleased the object of their affections to test their self-control. Several times friends had had to separate the two men when their jealousy reached the brink of violence.

On an evening in July 1931 Felicity had agreed to meet Heilbert and Goddard at the Cecil Club, before going on to an exclusive restaurant near Sloane Street. They ordered drinks in the fashionable restaurant, and were studying the menu when Felicity smiled at Richard Goddard. "I'm sure you'd like to be the first to know.....Andrew and I are to marry."

According to fascinated witnesses, Goddard went white, rose silently, and left the restaurant. He never spoke to Felicity Hume again. But then, not many people did. For, three days later she was dead.

She was found sitting in her car in a layby on the road between Guild-

ford and Basingstoke. There was no damage to the car, and no violence to the victim. Dressed in a green coat and white scarf, she lay back in the driver's seat as though taking a nap. But it was a nap which would last for eternity. A post-mortem examination revealed that death was due to natural causes. Felicity Hume's heart had stopped, but for no apparent reason. Her body was 100 per cent healthy. She had simply, and inexplicably, stopped living.

Then, two days later, Richard Goddard, pale and shaking, but otherwise perfectly rational, walked into London's Savile Row police station and confessed to the murder of Felicity Hume. "I murdered her in my mind," he told a bemused desk sergeant. "I longed for her to be dead. I even chose the manner of her dying. I decided she would die in that wretched car that meant so much to her. From then on, I thought of nothing but her death, and now it has happened just as I knew it would. If I couldn't have her, I was determined nobody else would."

The police had no alternative but to check his whereabouts during the three days leading up to Felicity Hume's death. After it was conclusively proved that he had been in the north of England throughout that time, no further action was taken, despite Goddard's entreaties that he had "killed her as effectively as if I had hit her with a sledge-hammer".

In a letter written to a family friend he declared: "I knew where she would die - that piece of road was a favourite of hers. You could see out over the countryside from there. She often stopped just to admire the view. It seemed an appropriate place for her life to end."

A month later Goddard himself was dead. He shot himself in the stable of the family home in Yorkshire, leaving a note saying that having Felicity's death on his conscience was too much for him to bear. Today, whether Felicity Hume died from natural causes or from murder carried out in the mind of her jilted lover remains the mystery it was on that July day sixty-odd years ago."

Do any of our members have either any claim to relationship with this Goddard, or any stories comparable to this one for future telling?

A RELUCTANT BRIDE

I am grateful to Julie of Newbury for passing on to me the following article, which is by Barbara Young of Wokingham, Berkshire, and is reprinted here with her permission. It first appeared in the *Berkshire Family Historian* in March of this year.

“In the *Reading Mercury* of 22 May 1775 the following item of news caught my eye (and my imagination):

“Thursday Farmer Jonathan Goddard of Earley (whose wife has not been dead quite a month) was married at Sonning to Mrs Fletcher late of Hatchgate; the bride, who is upwards of 70, felt a qualm of delicacy on their way to church and offered to discharge all expenses provided she might be permitted to return home immediately; but the farmer, unwilling to be disappointed, used so many prevailing arguments that the fair tender one at length was melted and suffered the ceremony to be performed, to the entire satisfaction of the bridegroom and all present.”

The quaint description of this event was enough to sidetrack me into an investigation which, so far, has revealed the following.

The Sonning registers confirm both events mentioned. On April 24th Elizabeth wife of Jonathan Goddard was buried. On May 18th Jonathan Goddard of this parish married Elizabeth Fletcher of this parish by licence. The witnesses were Robt. Mullis, Daniel Jones and Francis Beach. This, however, does not reflect the circumstances or details of the newspaper report, and the absence of later burials for this couple are familiar problems for family historians.

Although the marriage licence does not appear to have survived, I did find the marriage Bond. This is also dated May 18th, and the bondsmen were Daniel Jones of Sunning, innholder, and Robert Mullis of Shinfield, wheelwright. They would forfeit the considerable sum of £100 if the marriage did not take place! I should also point out that while Elizabeth is described as a widow, Jonathan has no marital status; this illustrates another ‘grey area’ for researchers.

I next checked for relevant Wills (Berkshire, PCC and the Court of the Dean of Sarum, under which Sonning came at this time). An aged and infirm Elizabeth Goddard made her Will in 1781; this reveals her maiden name was White (her late brother John’s children are mentioned), and her late son John Aldridge’s daughter Elizabeth was the main beneficiary at 21 years of age. Until then her mother Frances, who had remarried John Alley of Ambrosden, Oxon, was to use the legacy for the benefit of her daughter. The IGI shows a John Aldridge son of Thomas and Elizabeth baptised in 1728, and Elizabeth daughter of John and Frances Aldridge baptised in 1769, both in Ambrosden.

No date of probate is given for Elizabeth’s will but both of her executors renounced in 1790 and ten days later administration was granted to Elizabeth Aldridge of Ambrosden, spinster (by which time she would have been 21). It is possible that Elizabeth Goddard’s burial and other missing details would be found in the Oxford PRO.

A further significant point in Elizabeth’s will is that she held the freehold of the Three Tunns in Earley, then occupied

by Daniel Jones, who was one of her executors. It would appear that “the fair tender one” was born in the early 1700s, and was widowed twice before her marriage to Jonathan Goddard. Her income was more than adequate for her needs, so why the urgent marriage?

Jonathan Goddard’s story is similarly complicated. He first appears in the Sonning registers, with his wife Elizabeth, for the baptism of a daughter Lucy in 1747. Three other children followed: Nathan (baptised 1750), Martha Maria (baptised 1754 and buried 1759) and Richard (baptised 1760). Before this Jonathan was in Frilsham where three children were baptised: Sarah (1742), Jonathan (1744) and Rebecca (1746 but buried six days later). Jonathan junior became a farmer in Earley, marrying Sarah Willis in 1765 by whom he had nine children – he was buried in Sonning in 1830 aged 86 years.

Jonathan Goddard’s marital bliss was short: he was buried in 1777 at Reading St Giles without leaving a will. No obituary appears in the *Reading Mercury* (but I did note that a month later Mr Daniel Jones held the Annual Florists Feast at the Three Tunns at Hatchgate near Reading).

However, I did find the will of Jonathan’s father made in 1767 when he too was a farmer at Earley. He left his freehold house and land, then occupied by John Simpson, to his two sons, Nathan and Jonathan, as tenants in common. Each of his grandchildren received £20, including Sarah, Jonathan and Lucy “the three children of my son Jonathan”. It is perhaps more significant that he forgave his son Jonathan all money paid for him or lent to him.

Although Nathan Goddard’s will is a fortunate piece of evidence to confirm Jonathan’s family, there is a final tantalising point. Probate was granted in 1778 to his son Nathan, with power reserved for Jonathan (the joint executors). The only burial for a Nathan Goddard in Sonning during this period was in 1768, and Jonathan died in July 1777 – so why did Nathan the younger wait ten years before presenting the will for probate, and why did he not acknowledge his brother’s decease?

While there are a number of possible reasons for such a lapse in time between the making of a will and its probate perhaps, as with Elizabeth Goddard, the will was not produced until necessary. This research (which has actually taken about ten hours) has only just revealed the tip of an iceberg!

There are still a number of sources to be checked to complete the history and answer such niggling points as:

a). when and where was Jonathan Goddard born?

b). was he in fact married three times? A Jonathan Goddard married an Elizabeth Cray in 1768 at Compton. The two candidates that I have for her were both past child-bearing age, and one had a sister who married a Benjamin Goddard in 1726 in Reading.

I hope that the above has illustrated how family details can be found in some sources that are often neglected, and I thank the Berkshire and Wiltshire Record Offices and the Reading Local Studies Library for making available the documents used in this research.”

DIVERTED TO AFRICA – 1

A recent Newsletter contained the last of the series of articles *Called to Cathay*, tracing the missionary work of several generations of the Goddard-Dean families in China, and ending with the personal reminiscences of Dr Jack Goddard Jones, our Association founder's father. In a recent letter to me, Dr Jack writes: "My revisit to China in September 1981 was a great thrill for me, but it was a very different China from the land I remembered as a child. My own experiences as an adult medical missionary of the B.M.S. in the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) are hardly describable as 'Called to Cathay', but more accurately as 'Diverted to Africa'. The B.M.S. had no vacancies in China when I applied, and offered me a place in the Belgian Congo, in a mission hospital in a town named Bolobo, on the shores of the River Congo." What follows, therefore, takes us to a different country on a different continent:

"Having qualified in Medicine and Surgery in 1934, I was accepted on 26 October 1936 by the Candidate Board of the Baptist Missionary Society for service in the Belgian Congo in Africa. This made it necessary to study Tropical Medicine for three months in Antwerp, in order to obtain the Belgian Diploma. The Mission felt that its doctors would be better accepted by the Belgian doctors and officials whom they would encounter in the Congo Belge, if they had the diploma.

To be able to cope with a course of this sort in French, I required to improve my schoolboy French immediately. Evening classes with 'Berlitz' in London were followed by five weeks in Bruxelles in the family of a French Protestant Pastor. The official language and culture of the Belgians thus became more familiar. During those weeks I attended classes in the home of a Dr and Mrs Anet in company with many other candidates of various missions. We studied lecture notes made by students who had preceded us in Antwerp. No French textbooks were available to match our subjects such as Pathology, Hygiene, Entomology, Parasitology, and Microscopy. I bought an English textbook by Philip Manson-Barr, with the title *Manson's Tropical Diseases*. It was thrilling to read in this book about Dr Francis Wayland Goddard (my mother's brother) and his work in China on a Liver Fluke Fasciolopsis Buskii. A subsequent edition of Manson-Barr's book omits mention of Dr Goddard.

At that time none of my classmates in Bruxelles were doctors. They were nurses and non-medical candidates preparing to take the 'Inferior Course' in Antwerp. My fellow students would be doctors plus one veterinary surgeon when the Antwerp 'Superior Course' began. These doctors were of many nationalities. Besides Belgians, others came from Poland, Hungary, Romania, Germany, and Peru. Many of these were Jews and could converse among themselves in Yiddish. On the whole these were friendly and approachable, as were the lecturers.

Accommodation in Antwerp was in the home of a lady who referred to her lodgers as 'Mes Enfants'. She was eager to help and encourage all missionary candidates under her roof. We helped each other in the evenings by comparing the lecture notes made during the day. These candidates included nurses from Britain, Sweden, and Norway, and two

men, one from London and one from Switzerland. Our hostess was a recent convert to Protestant Christian beliefs, and attributed her conversion to the influence of her two first student candidates. One of these was Dr Stanley Browne, whose biography is recorded in a paperback volume under the title of *Mister Leprosy* by Miss Phyllis Thompson, published in 1980 by Hodder and Stoughton and the Leprosy Mission. Our Tropical Studies culminated in an Oral Examination at the end of three strenuous months. There were no written papers or essays to confront us. The practical laboratory tests required us to make laconic notes on our findings under the microscope in pathological material, eg Parasites and Bacteria.

A brief interval in Britain was followed by embarkation at Antwerp in company with three BMS colleagues. Two of these were senior missionaries returning to their work in Portuguese Angola. One was a young bride-to-be, going out to Congo Belge for the first time, to be married to her fiancé in Léopoldville, the capital of the country. (This city will be abbreviated to Léo or Kinshasa – its native name – throughout the remainder of this narrative. The Province of Léopoldville will continue to be spelled in full.)

Our fellow passengers included Roman Catholic priests and nuns, besides military, medical, business and other personnel. The Compagnie Maritime Belge extended some status of respect to missionary passengers, and I was listed as 'Monsieur le Révérend' which was a polite formality.

Our first sight of Africa was Dakar in French Senegal, where we were allowed on shore for a time. Later we 'crossed the line' of the Equator and novices, like myself, were subjected to the usual hilarious indignities by 'King Neptune and his Court'. We continued southwards past the mouth of the Congo River as far as the Portuguese Angolan port of Lobito, where many passengers disembarked. Some of these would be Belgians intending to travel by train eastwards across Angola to the copper mines of Congo Belge in the Province of Elizabethville.

From Lobito we returned northward to Banana Point at the mouth of the Congo and continued up-river to Boma, which used to be the capital of the country. Thence we continued to Matadi. Ocean-going steamers could go no further than this town, because above this point the Congo River raged and tumbled through a gap in a range of mountains known as the 'Monts de Cristal'. This turbulent stretch of river contains waterfalls and cataracts and gives its name to the area as being 'La Région des Cataractes'. The Congo becomes navigable again at Léo on the shores of Stanley Pool.

To travel from Matadi to Léo, a railway is available to bypass the Cataract Region. From the capital city by Stanley Pool it is possible to travel by paddle steamer up-river, a ten day journey to Stanleyville. The word 'Matadi' in the Ki-Kongo language means 'Rocks'. The Belgians who constructed the railway blew up rocks, from which the government gained the Ki-Kongo name of 'Bulu-Matadi' (Blowers up of Rocks). This name applied to the government throughout Congo Belge.

ANOTHER ACTRESS

Margaret of Worsley is always on the look-out for Goddards in the public eye, and then tries to make contact with them – either to get some family details from them, or to get them to join the Association, or both. Recently she has had a further success with Beth Goddard, another Goddard actress.

The shooting of an episode of Granada's award winning crime series *Cracker* was filmed in the offices of the *Manchester Evening News* (which was transformed into the *Manchester Evening Post* for the occasion). Beth Goddard was playing the part of an investigative journalist. Needless to say, the *Evening News* made a good deal of the story in one of their editions, and Margaret took it up from there, getting hold of Beth's agent and writing to her. Beth kindly took the trouble to reply, sending this photograph of herself:



Photo: Jenny Potter

“Thank you for your letter and I am sorry for the delay in replying to you. My claim to the surname Goddard, as far as blood ties are concerned, goes back only as far as my grandfather. He was born Hollis but, as a lad, had his name changed by deed poll after his father died and his mother remarried. I believe his stepfather came from Doncaster and was involved in race-horse breeding.

As for myself.....I have just finished filming *Cracker* for Granada. I am at present working on two plays for the BBC. One is a Screen Two called *Low Level Panic* and the other is *Degrees of Error* which is a four part drama. These will probably be shown at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. I also play Leanda in *Peak Practice* in a few episodes every series. I hope this is of some interest to you and I am sorry I cannot be more accurate about my family connections.”

I feel sure Association members will now be on the look-out for the attractive Beth, if you have not come across her already. And do any of you claim her for a relative?

CAN YOU HELP?

Mr Stuart Holden of 107 Blake Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, who has asked if we can help find his sister. She was adopted when they were children and he has lost track of her. Annette Crow was adopted by Leslie Edmund Harper Goddard and his wife Hannah Barbara, who already had a daughter named Jane Anne Goddard. Mr Goddard, who may have been related to actress Liza Goddard, died on 27 December 1971, when he was living at 195 Ashby Road, Burton on Trent. His wife died soon after. Please can you help unite Mr Holden and his other sister with Annette, who would be in her 60s or early 70s by now.

Mrs Maxine Cadzow of 109 Winona Road, Mount Eliza, Victoria 3930, Australia with details of her father's family. She was born Maxine Teresa Goddard. Her father was Arthur Charles Goddard, born in 1893 at Kensington where his parents lived. They were George (or perhaps William George) Goddard and Lucy Alice Busby. Maxine's father was one of eleven children, all of whom reached adulthood. She believes his siblings had the following names: William, Horace, Beatrice, Maud, Jean, Teresa, Harold, Olive, Florence and George. She was told that Jean married around 1900 and left to live in South Africa. Teresa was the youngest and there was a suspicion that she may have died young from TB. But in general her knowledge of the family is small, as her father would not talk about his family at all. He emigrated to Australia in 1912-13, married her mother in South Australia in 1915 and, as an Australian soldier, returned to England for the last time during the First World War. He lived in a number of Australian states over the years, spending the last 35 years in Melbourne, Victoria. Can anyone enlighten Maxine further?

Mr Steve Goddard of 47 Colchester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 3BT, who would like to know if any members have ancestral links with the villages of Bredon near Tewkesbury and Hampton near Evesham on the Worcester-shire-Gloucestershire border. His own researches have recently taken him to this location.

NEWS ITEMS

Brian and Julie of Newbury are only really interested in Goddards before 1900 in so far as their computer records are concerned. Any recent items and photographs should be sent to Richard of Malvern, together with anything that members feel may warrant a mention in a subsequent Newsletter.

ONE HUNDRED NOT OUT

On 2 July this year (d.v.) Association member Mrs Miriam Goddard of Bangor will celebrate her one hundredth birthday. Although she doesn't get out and suffers from arthritis, she is said to be in good spirits and to be mentally agile. We wish her a happy day – and many more to come.

NEW MEMBERS

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

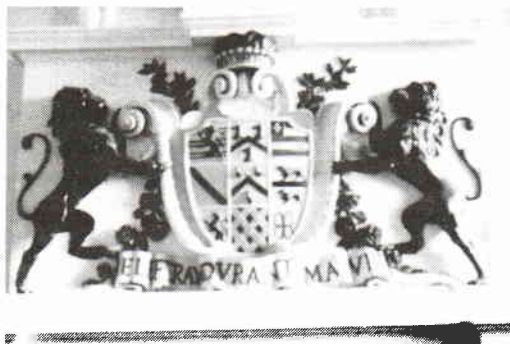
Mr Joe Goddard, 9 Leicester Street, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2JN.

Mr John A. Goddard, 12 St Helens Lane, Reighton, Filey, Yorks, YO14 9SB.

Mr & Mrs D. Phillips, Copper Coins, Bryn Seriol, Fishguard, Dyfed, SA65 9LL.

GILLING CASTLE

One day last September we went to splendid Gilling Castle, the country home of Viscount Fairfax and his daughter twenty miles north of York. This is now the famed Junior School for Ampleforth, but visitors are allowed entrance during the holidays. We were amazed to be told that the Viscount's coat of arms contained a Goddard section, one of



nine. It is the 'quarter' on the right of the bottom row and is said to derive from a thirteenth century Fairfax marriage to Agnes, daughter of Sir John Goddard. Would any member like to do some detective work and trace this connection?

Marjorie of York

NAVAL MEDAL

Having not long taken over as Careers Acquaintance and Cadet Training Officer working out of the Naval Base Museum, Devonport, I have come across a book containing all the recipients of the Naval General Service Medal 1793-1840. You may be interested in the following Goddards:-

Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Ship	Clasp
15 July 1798	John	Ordinary Seaman	Lion	Nile?
6 August 1807	R.J.	Clerk	Hydra	Java?
Aug & Sept 1811	Robert	Purser	Hecate + Hydra	Java?
Nov 1840	David	Able Seaman	Edinburgh	Syria
Nov 1840	Hy.	Pte. RM	Ganges	Syria
Nov 1840	Jas.	Pte. RM	Ganges	Syria
Nov 1840	Robert	Boy	Cambridge	Syria

The second and third might well be one and the same with two clasps. The first three are assumptions as to the battles; however, it is possible that in those days the clasp was the ship's name and the battle that the clasp was awarded for was incorporated in the ship's 'Battle Honours'.

Nigel of Saltash

CO-ORDINATORS

Frank of Rotorua, the first occupant of the post of Co-ordinator for New Zealand, has decided to retire. The Association owes him a great debt of gratitude for taking on the job in the first place, and for his enthusiasm and support over the years, keeping in touch with all his members and increasing their number. Fortunately he has found a worthy replacement in Julie of Christchurch. Our thanks to the former, coupled with the hope that he will continue to enjoy reading the Newsletter for many more years to come; and our welcome to the latter. If any members would like to take on the role for Canada and South Africa respectively, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

1993 was for New Zealand women a year of celebration. Projects and exhibitions were undertaken and enjoyed by many. The reason? Well, it was one hundred years since Kate Sheppard succeeded in getting our nation's women the vote – the first women in the world to be given the right to vote.

Katherine Wilson Sheppard (1848-1934) was born in Liverpool and emigrated to Christchurch in 1869. She joined the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1885, and two years later she was leading the campaign for votes for women. There were five parliamentary petitions in total, each gaining more signatures than the one before – the fifth in 1893 had 31,872 signatures, about a third of the adult female population at the time. One project last year was tackled by the National Archives and that was to film and index the final petition. Now it is possible to obtain a copy of your ancestor's signature (if she was a forward thinker – unfortunately it seems only one of mine was!). Four Goddard women signed and they are listed below – if anyone can claim these women and would like a copy of 'their' page of the petition I would be happy to procure it for them.

Kate Goddard: Roxburgh St, Wellington (my great uncle's wife) – Annie E. Goddard: Napier – Ellen Goddard: Masterton – Elizabeth Goddard: Caversham, Dunedin.

Julie of Christchurch

JUDGE GODDARD

In an account of one of several trials recently I have spotted mention of Judge Ann Goddard, QC, as a presiding judge at the Old Bailey. Does any Association member claim her as a relative?

MORE CENSUS NEWS

More print-outs of the Goddards in the 1881 census of Great Britain have arrived! Each entry gives name, age, relationship to the head of the household, occupation, and where born. If you are searching for your grandparents, or great grandparents, they could be in this census. Now available are Denbigh, Somerset, Jersey, Guernsey, Huntingdon, Devon, Bedfordshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Cardigan, Montgomery, Leicestershire and Wiltshire. The last two counties were full of Goddards! Apply to Julie and Brian if you wish to borrow any particular print-out. They would love to be able to notify everyone whose ancestors they recognise on these schedules, but we sadly do not have the time to do it. The onus must be on members to approach the research department themselves.

We have also received, through the kind offices of Rosemary Lockie, a transcript of the Goddard names in a two per cent sample of the 1851 census of Great Britain. (We already have full transcripts of the Goddards in 1851 in Wiltshire and Hampshire). Though only a small sample, it has picked out some interesting people – including Samuel Aspinall Goddard in Birmingham and Julie's great great grandmother's brother, Benjamin Rimmington, who lived as a servant in a Goddard household. Do ask if you would like to see a copy.

Julie of Newbury

CHANNEL TUNNEL WALK

The Bayeaux Tapestry tells us that in 1066 when William the Conqueror crossed the Channel to invade England he counted a Goddard among his troops. On 12 February 1994 another Goddard made the same journey but this time, instead of sailing, he walked from France to England!

Stephen of Silchester, the Church Development Officer for Help the Aged, took part in 'Le Walk', a unique fund raising event organised by the Children's Society and the Daily Mail in which one hundred people representing charities and voluntary organisations from across the country walked through the 31 mile (50 km) length of the Channel Tunnel.

Stephen is an enthusiastic walker, often walking for up to eight hours at a time in the Essex countryside around his home. To train himself for the event he began walking from his home in Buckhurst Hill to the Help the Aged offices in

Clerkenwell Green, a journey of nearly thirteen miles. Although there were all sorts of stunts and entertainments to keep the walkers amused, the participants had to be mentally and physically fit. Stephen started training for the gruelling event in November and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. 'Le Walk' was a once in a lifetime opportunity – the one and only time that the Channel Tunnel will ever be used for a charity event such as this. In a few weeks the Tunnel will be open for business and then, once the traffic starts to roll, nobody will be allowed to walk.

Stephen was busy looking for sponsors and during his quest he even managed to persuade the Bishop of Portsmouth to give him 50 pence per mile. It is still not too late to sponsor him; your donation would reach him at Help the Aged, St James's Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0BE. Here is his own account of the great event:

CHANNEL CROSSINGS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Some Personal Thoughts

When I was born in November 1939 my Dad (Stephen William Turner Gray Goddard from Silchester), like many other dads in his generation, was serving with the BEF in France. When news of my arrival (just Stephen – Dad insisted I was not to be landed with a string of names like he was!) reached the small French cafe just below Vimy Ridge where Dad was billeted, the 'vino' flowed – so I am told! It is not part of this story, but the name Vimy Ridge also meant a lot to many thousands who made a one way crossing to France a generation before – and their graves preserve a grim reminder to this day.

A few months later it was not 'vino' that flowed amongst the sand dunes outside Dunkirk. What was left of the BEF stood exposed on the beaches between Dunkirk and the Belgian border to obtain a crossing to England in a flotilla of craft of all shapes and sizes. Dad eventually swam out to a very old Polish destroyer and upon getting aboard placed his clothes in the engine room and donned a friend's great-coat. A few hours later, in preparation for landing in Dover, he went to retrieve the clothes but someone had beaten him to them and he was forced to land from this memorable crossing wearing simply a borrowed great-coat!

Four and a bit years later – fifty years ago this month – D Day saw another very memorable crossing. However, Dad was not involved. A few weeks after Dunkirk he was off, via South Africa, to the Western Desert and the Eighth Army. And he stayed there for the duration. For me D Day was an ordinary day at my first primary school in Surrey – school milk, sums and spelling!

February 12th, 1994 – almost 54 years on and I too was standing on the French coast waiting for a Channel crossing. However, I was not on the dunes outside Dunkirk – I was on the cliffs outside Calais. Not for me the accompaniment of enemy machine guns, but rather the Calais Town Band. We were not being marshalled by military police, but rather by BBC camera teams. We did not rely on small boats because we were walking back to England through the brand new Channel Tunnel.

The crossing was the Daily Mail's 'Le Walk', a charity event held before the official opening of the Tunnel. 118 walkers representing different charities were being the first to walk from France to England "since the last Ice Age" (Daily Mail 11 February 1994). I had the honour of walking for Britain's principal charity for the care of the elderly, Help the Aged, and thanks to the support of many colleagues and friends was, by doing so, raising several thousand pounds for the charity's invaluable work. Thirteen and a half hours and thirty-one miles (or fifty kilometers) later I was to emerge (fully clothed) from the tunnel portal just outside Folkstone. We were met by an impressive fireworks display, the band of the Royal Engineers and (who else) Richard Branson. Walking through the Tunnel, on top of my tabard which carried Help the Aged's rising sun logo, I also wore the tie that Dad always wore with pride – the tie of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association. His crossing in 1940 was certainly his most memorable – mine in 1994 will, I am sure, be my most memorable. When Dad came ashore in Dover I don't think he felt much like singing (although he had been a church chorister since an early age). As I passed beneath the Shakespeare cliffs we spontaneously broke into a rendering of Jerusalem – ".....and did those feet in ancient times walk upon England's green and pleasant land?". Dozens of people have swum the Channel – now I'm one of the very first to walk it!

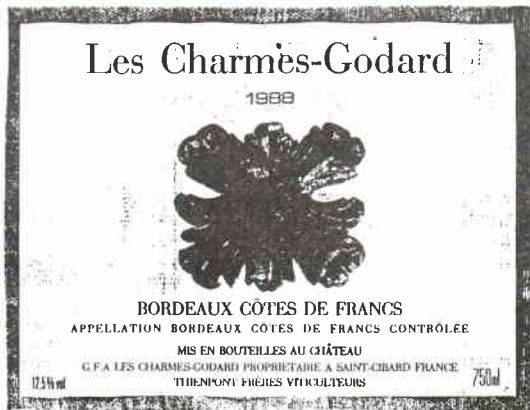
Stephen of Silchester

SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES

Our conscientious newshound, Margaret of Worsley, is a regular listener to the radio programme 'Sounds of the Sixties'. For two or three weeks running mention was made of a Geoff Goddard and his music. Margaret could not resist writing to the programme and was told by the Producer's Assistant, Eileen O'Rourke, that Geoff was currently working for the catering department at Reading University. So Margaret has now written there, at present without any response. Does any member know anything about this Goddard or claim him as a relative?

GODDARD CLARET

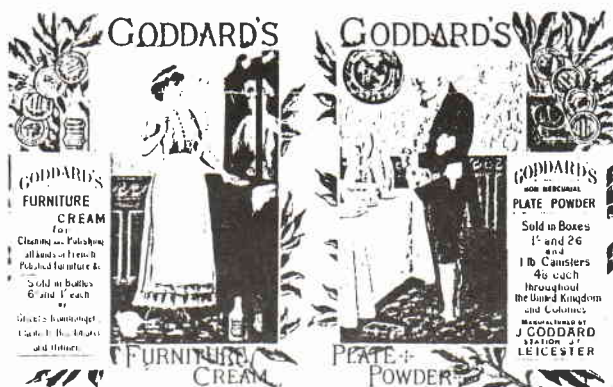
Following the article under this heading in the last Newsletter, Christopher of Ealing has kindly written to me enclosing another label from the same vineyard but of the previous year's vintage. He says: "Some years ago I bought a case of wine from Majestic Wine Warehouses labelled 'Les Charmes-Godard'. I enclose a label. I was never able to discover any



more about it. Now that I have read the latest Newsletter I understand why. The producers change the name of what must be their second wine. Second wine or not, it was very good, and we were able to impress and amuse our guests. Surely this wine must be obtained for all Association functions? Perhaps we should send a 'task-force' to collect some cases and to investigate in depth the origins of the name on the label. I am prepared to wager that it will be a case of 'cherchez la femme'. This label confirms my earlier suspicion that the Thienponts are brothers. Perhaps one of them married a Godard? My wine-expert colleague tells me that he will not be going to the Bordeaux area until next year, so there is still time for someone else to get there first!

GODDARD'S POLISH

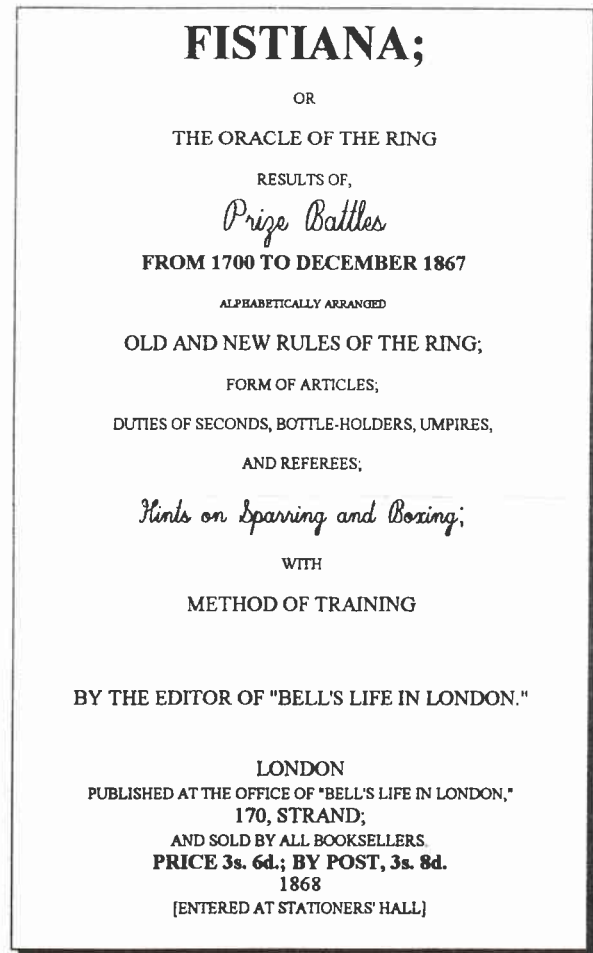
Cindy O'Halleran has sent the accompanying advertisement via Julie of Newbury. It is taken from *A Woman's Work is Never Done* by Caroline Davidson. The original advertisement is in the John Johnson Collection of Ephemera in the



Bodleian Library at Oxford – and no doubt Herald of Leicester has one, too. She has also purchased a copy of *Lord Chief Justice Goddard* by Fenton Bresler and presented it to the Association's library; we are most grateful.

PRIZE FIGHTER

In answer to an inquiry from Julie of Newbury, Alan Bardsley, who is also a member of the Guild of One Name Studies, wrote as follows: "Thank you for your enquiry about *Fistiana*. The interest has been quite amazing. The frontispiece is produced here as near as my typesets allow.



Details of the bouts are given, and the abbreviations used are:- r, rounds; h & m, hours & minutes of the rounds (the length of rounds seems very variable in all the bouts); b & bn, beat & beaten; l & gs, pounds & guineas of the wager; ft, forfeit; dr, draw.

The entries for the name you are interested in are:- Goddard, Tom, of London, wt 7st 2lbs, dr with Hackett, 10l a side, 108r, 3h 14m, down the river, March 9, 1858, both fought to a standstill.

—— bn by Hefferan, Bob, of London, 10l a side, 26r, 32m, London District, March 4, 1863.

—— bn by Young Kelly, of Bristol, 5l a side, 63r, 1h 16m (two rings), nr Bristol, Dec 27, 1865."

Does any member claim this prize fighter as an ancestor?

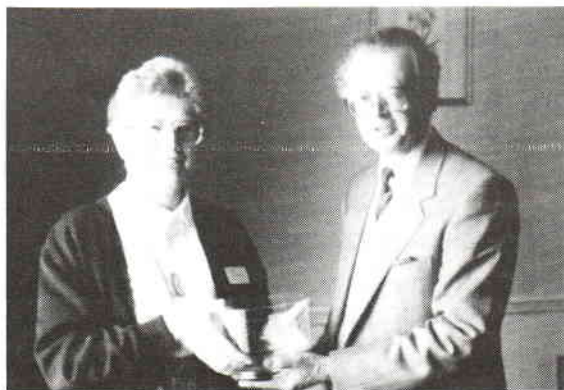
PRESIDENT'S MOVE

I regret to say I am on the point of making a further mess of all my friends' and relations' address books! We have at last found a house to our liking in the vicinity. If all goes according to plan – and it is still a case of keeping one's fingers crossed – from the beginning of August our address will be: Sinton Meadow, Stocks Lane, Leigh [pronounced 'lie'] Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5DY. Tel: 0886 - 832404.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting duly took place at Swindon over the week-end of 9-10 April. Saturday 9th was a cold afternoon and few ventured to accompany Mr Denis Bird on his walk round parts of The Lawn estate and Swindon Old Town. Sunday was better and there was an encouraging turn out for the morning question and answer session on genealogical research; this new item, conducted by Julie of Newbury with the assistance of two very experienced genealogists, was well received and there have been requests for a repeat performance. A slightly larger number attended the lunch and the AGM business meeting afterwards.

After welcome by the President and the receipt of apologies, the Minutes of the last Meeting were approved and the Accounts for 1993-94 were adopted; any member wishing to obtain a copy is requested to write to the Treasurer, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. There followed the Research Co-ordinators' Reports, both presented by Julie of Newbury in the unfortunate absence of Brian who was recovering from a heart attack; I am pleased to report that he has said he is making good progress. For lack of space these Reports will, on this occasion, be printed in the next Newsletter. Richard of Malvern, Annica Leach and John of Shrewsbury were re-elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Janet Goddard-Jones had already indicated her intention last year of retiring from the Committee, and Seán of Exeter followed suit just before the AGM; the Association owes these two members a great debt of gratitude for all their efforts on our behalf over the last few years. In their place were elected



presented to Julie of Newbury in recognition of her enormous – and continuing – contribution to the research side of the Association. It was a great shame that husband Brian, who had been in on the secret, could not be present to witness his wife's surprise!

Plans for our tenth anniversary celebrations next year were discussed. Although out of step with our two year cycle, it has been agreed to return to Swindon again, where the Association was founded, and to meet in May rather than April – partly because it might prove a little warmer, and partly because 25 May 1985 was the date of our foundation. Subject to confirmation, the week-end in question will be 20-21 May; the format for the occasion has yet to be resolved.

But the main topic for discussion and approval was the Committee's intention to mark the tenth anniversary by starting the publication of an on-going series of monographs on different branches of the Goddard families. These would be published periodically in the future and could be collected in a loose leaf folder, so that they can be added to as time goes on and also updated as more research is carried out. The suggestion was very favourably received, and a majority of those present expressed interest in collecting the series whether the monographs related to their particular branch of the family or not. It is also felt that such a series will appeal to our cousins in the American Association. Brian of Newbury will be the general editor of the series, and he will be most interested to hear from any member who is willing to consider producing such a monograph on his or her branch. The aim is to publish them as economically as possible.



Mrs Margaret McAlpin and David of Kew. I have also taken this opportunity to include here the photographs omitted previously of newer Committee members



John of Accrington and Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith. The Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 1993 was pre-

USEFUL ADDRESSES

You may find the following addresses useful for contact: 7021261

Australian Co-ordinator:	Stewart Geddes, 12 Hollydale Close, Berwick, Victoria 3806.	Tel: 03-707-2261
Membership Secretary:	John Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire.	Tel: 0254-235135
New Zealand Co-ordinator:	Julie Goddard, 2/36 Young Street, Christchurch.	Tel:
President & Newsletter Editor:	Richard G.H. Goddard, Firs House, College Grove, Malvern, WR14 3HP.	Tel: 0684-573493
Research Co-ordinators:	Brian & 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: 0978-760688
Treasurer:	John W. Goddard, Coton Grange, Shrewsbury, SY1 2PD.	Tel: 0743-357866
USA Co-ordinator:	Mrs Alice Godard Allen, 18 School Street, Enfield, Connecticut 06082.	Tel: