



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 86 – APRIL 2008

WILLOUGHBY GODDARD 1926-2008

A Considerable Character Actor

Several members have kindly drawn my attention to the recent death of the actor Willoughby Goddard. Described as ‘an actor who used his substantial girth to convey a powerful presence’, Willoughby Wittenham Rees Goddard died on 11 April aged 81. He was born on 4 July 1926 at Bicester and, as a schoolboy, set a record for swimming down the river Isis which was not beaten for twenty years. But his first love was acting, and he made his debut at the Oxford Playhouse in 1943 as the Steward in Bernard Shaw’s *Saint Joan*. After repertory with the Bristol Old Vic Company, he played at the Arts Theatre as Horngolloch in James Bridie’s *Gog and Macgog* in 1948. In 1950 he married the actress Ann Phillips with whom he had a son; both of them survive him.

He earned the praise of W.A. Darlington for playing the evangelist in a version of Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Ebb Tide* at the Royal Court Theatre in 1952 ‘with an unction worthy of Robert Morley’; he was the bulky Mr Holmes in Jack Roffey’s whodunnit *No Other Verdict* at the Duchess Theatre in 1954; and in 1960 Caryl Brahms gave his performance as Cardinal Wolsey – ‘the fleshiest Cardinal in the business’ – as a good reason for seeing Robert Bolt’s new play *A Man For All Seasons*. He was the ‘fat and forty’ Gowing in *The Diary of a Nobody* at the Arts Theatre, Professor Mark Harrison in *The Voices*, and a wonderfully pompous Mr Bumble in *Oliver!* on Broadway in 1963. He never failed to command as Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, and when he appeared in the Prospect Players’ production of 1968 he was described as ‘still substantial despite his claim to have lost eight



inches round the middle from a complaint he caught in Cairo on tour!’ The following year he played Zeal-of-the-Land Busy in Benjamin Jonson’s *Bartholomew Fair*. In 1974 at Chichester he was the woman-shy rural landlord Bolshintsov in Turgenev’s *A Month in the Country*; and as the Duke of Venice to Donald Sinden’s title role in *Othello* at Stratford in 1979 was said to have

showed the Royal Shakespeare Company’s ‘teamwork at its best’. In the same year in the same Company’s version of *Twelfth Night* one critic declared that ‘it is a pleasure to hear this actor merely murmuring’! He played the first shepherd in *Oedipus Tyrannus*, Col. Guldberg in *Hans Andersen* at the Palladium, and in 1977 at the Apollo as ‘the theatre’s man-mountain’ Sir Frederick in *Shut Your Eyes and Think of England*. And at the Old Vic in 1984 in a revival of John Arden’s *Serjeant Musgrave’s Dance* he was the pot-bellied mayor of a strike-bound English northern town.

His television roles included being the partner of Charlie Drake in such shows as *Drake’s Progress* and the *Charlie Drake Comedy Hour*, again as a superbly pompous Mr Bumble in *Oliver Twist*, and as the Director of Public Prosecutions in *The Mind of Mr Reeder*. Most notable was his 1958 role, alternately leering and quivering with venom, as the Austrian governor Gessler who is constantly outfoxed by Conrad Phillips as the defiant Swiss leader in *The Adventures of William Tell*. And he projected another powerful image as the weighty Professor Siblington in *Porterhouse Blue* in 1987. He also had parts in such films as *Carry on Cruising* (1962), *The Charge of the Light Brigade* (1968) and *Joseph Andrews* (1977). Sadly his acting career was curtailed by arthritis, but his voice continued to be familiar for some years as the bear in the amusing advertisements for Fox’s Glacier Mints. He was a keen supporter of his local cricket club and a voracious reader of books on Ancient Egypt and the Roman Empire. I am grateful to the obituaries in the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* for the information in this article.

NEW GAE WEBSITE

Malcolm of Brisbane and Peter of Toronto have recently been hard at work designing and bringing on-line a new website which can now be viewed at <http://www.goddard-association.org.uk/> The site is still in its infancy and as new features are added they will be announced in the Newsletter. New members can now complete an application form and submit it via email. The Committee will discuss in May, whether they wish to allow payments to the Association – membership, publications etc. – to be made by credit card and, if they are in agreement, this feature will be added to the site immediately.

While much of the site can be viewed by members and non-members alike, it is the Members Only section that contains the real treasures and to enter this area you must register your membership number and e-mail address. If you have not already done this, go to the Members Only page where you will be invited to submit these details and a confirmation that you are registered should reach you within 24 hours. The Members Only section contains many searchable databases. All 16 of the Associations Monographs are now shown in pdf format which allows them to be searched by any word or group of words.

The 500 or so certificates that have been registered by members under the certificate registration scheme are also searchable but, in the case of certificates which relate to births which occurred less than 100 years ago, the birth day and month have been removed for privacy considerations. The three databases in this group – births, marriages and deaths – each show the Membership Number of the Member holding the certificate. By contacting the Research Co-ordinator via the email link provided, enquiring members will be put in touch with the member holding the certificate, provided that that member is agreeable.

Another new database shows the details of the 187 Goddards that appeared in 1924 telephone directories covering England & Wales. By the time this Newsletter appears it is hoped that a major new database showing the details of all the deceased Goddards whose estates were granted Probate or administration covering the years 1858 to 1957 will be included. This database is likely to contain close to 2,000 entries. More databases are planned but the Research Co-ordinator can only do so much and members are invited to volunteer their services to transcribe details from the original records – the first of which is announced elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Peter and Malcolm would very much appreciate receiving ideas to improve the website. Their email addresses appear on the back page of this Newsletter.

PLYMOUTH MEMORIAL

With regard to the names on the Plymouth naval memorial mentioned in the last Newsletter, Peter of Toronto, our eagle-eyed research co-ordinator, writes: “The Goddards commemorated on the Plymouth Royal Naval Memorial are:

Charles Goddard who died on 18 October 1918 age 22. He was born in Southampton the son of George Goddard and Ellen Cecilia Brown.

Henry Thorpe Goddard who died on 31 January 1918 age 25. He was born in Grimsby the son of Henry Goddard and Fanny Shapley Hood.”

If any member claims relationship with either of these two I should be delighted to hear from them.

SWIMMING STAR

At the recent British Olympic swimming trials in Sheffield 25 year old James Goddard of Stockport swam very well and broke two British and Commonwealth records. His time of 1 min 57.72 secs in the 200m backstroke places him fourth on the all-time list and second fastest in the world this year. He is, of course, aiming for a place in this year's Olympics. Before that, however, there is another exciting event due: he and his long-term partner Helen Carr are expecting their first child in May.

PREMATURE BABY

There has been a great deal of controversy recently about the legal limit for abortion, following the advances in medical science which now enables many children to survive after being born within this legal limit of twenty-four weeks as laid down by Act of Parliament in 1990. One such case is that of Will Goddard, who is thought to be Britain's most premature surviving baby, now a bright happy boy of ten, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph* for 27 March. When he was born on St Valentine's Day 1998 in Peterborough District Hospital at just twenty-two weeks and three days doctors held out so little hope for him that he was given no medical treatment for the first day and a half. His mother, Miss Liz Goddard, a secondary school teacher from Stamford in Lincolnshire, was allowed to hold him in her arms to wait for the end. After surviving for thirty-six hours and despite some opposition, senior doctors decided to begin treating Will, who was just 11b 4oz. He remained in hospital for four months, overcoming kidney failure and being on oxygen for the whole time. But ten years later he suffers no ill effects, is not the smallest in his class and is a very bright young boy who enjoys academic subjects – a living example that the legal limit should be increased.

STOURBRIDGE SCHOOLMASTER

Our research co-ordinator, Peter of Toronto, has kindly compiled some interesting information regarding the Stourbridge schoolmaster whom I featured in the last Newsletter. He writes: "All the documents I have suggest his name was William Gruncell Goddard rather than William Grunsell Goddard. I do not have his precise birth or baptism details but all the evidence suggests that he was born in King's Somborne, Hampshire, in 1832/3. In the 1851 census he is shown aged nineteen as an Assistant Master in the Cathedral School, Salisbury. In 1860 he married Sarah Anne Allen Wilkins in Stourbridge. He died on 3 June 1901 in Southampton although his address at the time was Elmslie, Hagley Road, Stourbridge. His wife Sarah died on 19 January 1912 in Stourbridge. His children were:-

1. William Wilkins Goddard, born 1860, never married, died 10 April 1947.

2. Bertha Joan Goddard, born 1862, never married, died 4 December 1942.

3. Florence Gruncel Goddard, born 1865, never married, died 16 August 1924.

4. Arthur Robert Goddard, born 1868. I can find no evidence for a marriage but when he died on 21 February 1942 probate of his will was granted to Mary Beatrice Goddard, described as "widow". In the 1901 census, when he was 33, he is shown as single.

5. Ellen Isabel Goddard, born 1871, never married, died 13 October 1951.

6. Mabel Constance Goddard, born 1872. She is a bit of a mystery. She is in the 1881 census, age 8, but disappears after that. I can find no evidence of her marriage or of her death.

In addition to these six children there is another child, shown as a son aged eleven in the 1881 census, Frank J. Goddard. I cannot find a birth registration for him and suspect he was not a child of this marriage. Around the time of his birth an Emma Page shown as the sister-in-law of William Gruncell Goddard was living with the family. I can find no evidence of an appropriate Frank J. Goddard (or Francis) marrying or dying."

TROOPER GODDARD

In the aftermath of Prince Harry's service in Afghanistan being exposed, forcing his premature return home, one of his Household Cavalry troopers was interviewed quite extensively on television on 29 February. He was Mark Goddard, aged 24, who came from Birmingham. Does any member claim him as a relative?

HELEN GODDARD

I am grateful to Julie of Newbury for sending me the programme of *Micky Salberg's Crystal Ballroom Dance Band* which she and Brian saw at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury last week before it began its tour of the villages of Berkshire and Wiltshire. Helen Goddard was the set designer – no easy task as the play will have a fresh venue nearly every time it is performed. The play tells the story, set in 1952, of a run-down farm in Staffordshire in danger of a visit by the bailiffs. The owner of the farm is a young woman, a refugee from Poland, who was adopted in 1939 as a child by the original farm owners. Her father joined her in 1946 but has no aptitude for farming. What they can do is play a variety of musical instruments. They are joined by a young man who is also musically skilled. Together can they save the farm by making money playing as a dance band in local village halls? Julie and Brian went backstage to see Helen, but she was somewhere else, probably setting up another stage.

Helen was a winner in the 2007 Linbury Prize for stage design. She trained at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Credits include: *Let There Be Love* by Kwame Kwei-Armah for the Tricycle Theatre, *Lovely and Misfit* at the Trafalgar Studios, *The Gamekeeper* for Forest Forge, *GBS* by Jason Hall at Theatre 503, and *Mad Forest* by Caryl Churchill at Plymouth's Drum Theatre. Designs for *The Roaring Girl* by Thomas Middleton and Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* were performed at The Bristol Old Vic Studio in 2006. On the Fringe she has designed: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh, *Love and Understanding* by Joe Penhall, and *Push Up* by Roland Schimmelfennig. Her work as a scenic artist encompasses theatre and film. Film credits include: *The Da Vinci Code*, *Fred Claus*, and Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Theatre credits include: *Punchdrunk's Masque of the Red Death* at BAC, The Nuffield Theatre, Sheffield Crucible and The Watermill Theatre. Helen is storyboard artist for projection designer Sven Ortel; Rebecca and the Broadway production of *The Little Mermaid*. Does any member know Helen?

UNION OFFICIAL

At the end of March my elder daughter spotted an article about substantial job losses at banking giant HSBC's Livingston call centre in West Lothian. The union Unite, which represents the workers there, condemned the closure of the centre; its spokesman was deputy general secretary Graham Goddard. Any claimants?

BARBADOS RESEARCH

I have often been asked what prompted me to research my Goddard family in Barbados. It started in January 1972 when my cousin, Dr Roger Goddard, showed me a photograph of nine poor Barbadian fishermen. He said that one of his patients, Edward Haynes of Bank Hall House, had given it to him and explained that one was a Goddard, a relative of ours, but he did not know which one. This photo excited my imagination and curiosity. The following day I phoned Edward Haynes and identified myself. Haynes, who was housebound and in poor health, said he knew my parents, Bruce and Ida Goddard, as he had played tennis with them when they were young men and women, and he invited me over that afternoon. I took the photograph to Edward and he explained that his father, who was the manager of Bath Plantation (owned by the Haynes family from about 1825), had brought a photographer to take family photographs, and he had taken this one of the fishermen on the beach. The year was 1908, and a later photograph placed it as December, as the cane arrows were showing in the shot from the top of Hackleton's Cliff.

The photograph was taken on Bath beach, in the parish of St John. I later identified the watercourse in the background as the Quamins River outlet to the sea.

I next took the photograph to my grandfather's last surviving sister, Helen Albertha King, who lived in Martin's Bay, St John. With her two sons, Jim and Skipper, she identified the fishermen. Back row standing left to right: George Watson (black), Aubrey King, then Joe Watson (holding fish net), Gerald Goddard (smoking clay pipe) and Thomas Henry Goddard, identified as my grandfather's father, Joseph Josiah Goddard's brother. Sitting in the front row is Simeon Goddard, (black), Ben Watson, Althard Watson (black), and Robert Haynes (Judge).

The dress of the three on the right standing is that

of wearing crocus bags with head and arms cut out. All are bare-footed. On the ground of the front row, is an old army pith helmet, with a pint and a half-bottle of rum. I suspect that they were bribed to pose with that bottle of rum, which would have been eagerly consumed!!

Fifteen years later when I was the Chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, I attended their Christmas parcel give away. Of the 250 people in the hall, I saw one white man, and I asked who he was. The Major said his name was Goddard. Afterwards I met him, and asked him to come to my workplace the following day, as I wanted to show him something. When I showed him the photograph and asked him if he knew anybody, immediately he pointed to Thomas Henry Goddard, and said that was my father, and so I was able to confirm the previous identification.

Many years later my brother-in-law, Denis Atkinson, former West Indies cricket captain, asked my grandfather Joseph Nathaniel to tell him about the good old days when he was growing up. My grandfather who was then 86 years old, began to cry and

said: "no, those were not good days. There was poverty, hunger and disease, and no opportunity. I wouldn't wish them on my worst enemy."

The most important step in any long or short journey is that first step, and this photo made me take that first step. It is 36 years now that I have

been researching and I've learned much about the history of Barbados and the people here.

My first ancestor to arrive in Barbados was Captain Nicholas Goddard, about 1637, and he came from Staple Fitzpaine in Somerset. Since Barbados was settled in 1627 about 8 million people around the world have Barbados connections, and hopefully now with the use of DNA we may be able to trace the movement of our ancestors.

Richard of Barbados

MISSING GREAT GRANDFATHER

I have found something that our family never knew about – why, I don't know. Alfred Ernest Goddard was my Great Grandfather, born in 1873 in Wellow Hampshire/Wiltshire. He married Catherine Annie Langley in Croydon in 1894 and moved to Croydon, Surrey. They had my grandad Alfred Henry Ernest Goddard in 1895 and Reginald Arthur in 1903. So to find that Alfred Ernest died in the First World War this week has come as a huge surprise. The family has never mentioned it, and as a young girl being close to my grandad and spending a lot of time with him, he never spoke of it. I spoke to my mother last night who said they were told that my grandad had told them he was orphaned and lived with an aunt.

This obviously was not the case, as his dad Alfred Ernest went to war and enlisted on the 23 February 1915. I have been in contact with an expert on this subject who has sent me loads of information this week. I told him that Alfred would have been too old to have signed up, and his reply was that it appears he was a former regular soldier who was on reserve and recalled for war service. He enlisted with the East Surrey Regiment, 1st Battalion, in Kingston-upon-Thames. His rank private and number 538. During the period he was enlisted with his battalion he fought in La Cateau, Marne, Aisne, Ypres, Somme, Passchendaele and Hill 60. He died right at the end of the war on 16th July 1918 in France. He is buried at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen. The thought obviously went that there must be another Alfred Ernest out there, but on the records it states that this Alfred came from Wellow and resided in Croydon, all confirming that it is my Great Grandfather. Alfred also received three medals: the Victory, British and 15 Star. Where these went to is another question that I will never know about. So all I have to do is wait for the 1911 census now to see where my grandfather was living then to try and work out what happened with this family. Unfortunately Reginald, my grandad's brother, emigrated to Canada at some stage, so there is nobody on that side that can help either.

One day, when I am over in the UK, I will go to France to visit Alfred and let him know that he hasn't been forgotten. I have been in contact with my cousins to let them know, so hopefully their children will be told, and that way his memory will continue. Why was he forgotten, a man who gave his life for his country? If, of course, there is anybody in the Association that might have more information on this side of the family, that would be a great help.

Anne (Goddard) Offor

Anne can be contacted at anneoffor@hotmail.com

DNA PROJECT

Come to the AGM (see back page) if you wish to learn more about the results of the DNA project so far, or even if you wish to join in and have hitherto not done so. Two thirds of those who have had samples taken have identified themselves to me and have given permission to pass on their names to those who would appear to be related. I am most grateful. Thirteen have not, and I would be delighted if you would get in touch. The thirteen of you in question have the following sample numbers: 21607, 21800, 21808, 21813, 21815, 21816, 21839, 21865, 21896, 21969, 21982, 21988 and 53132. With only 37 members having joined the project so far, the sample is very small, so we really need everyone's permission to proceed if any meaningful results are to emerge.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs Janet E. Bishop, 21 Yerville Gardens, Hordle, Lymington, SO41 0UL.
Mrs Joanna Bracey, 5 St Paul's Walk, Cambridge, CB1 2EX.
Mr Alan Goddard, Raparee, 23 Wrecclesham Hill, Farnham, GU1
Ms Christine Goddard, 20 Merrilees Crescent, Holland-on-Sea, Clacton, CO15 5XX.
Mr Graham H. Goddard, 36 Aylesborough Close, Cambridge, CB4 2HH.
Mr Paul Goddard, 38 Heath Road, Chadwell Heath, RM6 6LJ.
Mrs Linda McArdle, 3 Jubilee Place, 230 Park Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7NG.
Mrs Christine M. Rix, 3 Station Road, Pannal, Harrogate, HG3 1JJ.
Mrs Barbara Ryan, 4 Haven Court, Harbour Road, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2PB.

NEW MEMBERS FAMILIES

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

Janet Bishop is the daughter of Augustus Goddard born 1897 and granddaughter of Charles, though the places of their birth are not known.

Joanna Bracey is researching a Goddard family of Rutland where Jane Goddard married William Beardsworth in June 1772.

Christine Goddard's ancestry is from Norfolk where Robert Goddard, 1829-1905, married Mary Kemp and had a son Robert born in 1856. Also from Winchester where James Goddard's daughter Mary Ann married Joseph Nolan in 1841.

Graham Goddard is a descendant of Charles James Goddard, born 1890 in Swindon, and has connections with Savenake.

Linda McArdle and **Alan** and **Paul Goddard** are all related and are researching a Goddard family in St Georges, Westminster and Bethnal Green.

Christine Rix is descended from William Goddard, 1765-1834, of Wootton Rivers and Wedhampton in Wiltshire.

Barbara Ryan's mother was Mildred Grace Pratt, who married Arthur George Goddard in 1928. He had been born in Bristol on 29 September 1906.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In order to enter the Members Only section of the new Goddard Association of Europe website (featured on page 2 of this Newsletter) you are required to register your email address and Membership Number. You may do this on-line on the website <http://www.goddard-association.org.uk/>, then choose the "Members Only" on the menu and click on the link provided to submit your details; or submit it with your remittance when renewing your subscription.

BUCKHURST HILL

Stephen of Buckhurst Hill has kindly sent me an article of Second World War reminiscences written by a John de St Jorre who had been evacuated with his younger brother to Buckhurst Hill in 1940 and had lived with two spinsters called Linder. Research done for him has shown from the 1891 and 1901 censuses that the family originally lived in a house called Oakfields and had a cook, amongst other servants, called Sara Goddard. I wonder if this rings a bell with any member?

FAMILY DRAPER

Executive Committee member Stephen of Buckhurst Hill has kindly sent me a copy of an advertisement on the front page of the *Walthamstow and Leyton Guardian* of 6 May 1876, in which Samuel Goddard, Family Draper of 4 & 5 Wheatsheaf Terrace, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton announces that he "is now showing an extensive stock of New and Fashionable Goods in all departments at London prices, all such being marked in plain figures". Any member's ancestor?

EMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

Association Executive Committee member Margaret McAlpin and her husband Francis recently attended a meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society at which they heard a talk on the British Government's emigration scheme to South Africa in 1820. A notice had been put in the *Times* in 1819 asking for anyone interested to apply. There had to be a leader with ten in his party, each paying £10 for the passage (shades of Australia nearly a century and a half later!). Several shiploads appear to have been sent out. It was often used by communities as a cheaper way of dealing with the poor – one down payment to be rid of them rather than having them as a burden on the parish until they died. Information can be found on the website www.genealogyworld.net which Margaret has already had a look at, spotting two Goddards.

FRENCH GODARDS

One of my eventual ambitions – though secretly I hope someone else might beat me to it as I can never find the time! – is to research the Godards of France. While we cannot absolutely prove that one of the origins of Goddards in England is from France at the time of the Norman Conquest and shortly thereafter, there is a strong presumption that that is the case. Early Goddards in this country also spelled the name with only one 'd' near the beginning of the name; there has been much speculation that the Wadard connected with the Conquest was a forebear ('w's and 'g's being interchangeable, cf. 'William' and 'Guillaume'); and the small Norman town of Godardville between Rouen and Le Havre (there is another one in southern Belgium) is a likely place of origin for the Wiltshire Sir Walter (de) Godardville of the thirteenth century.

I have just come across two distribution maps, which someone kindly sent me some time ago, of Goddards and Godards born in France between 1891 and 1915 (why those particular dates I have no idea). Yes, surprisingly there were quite a number of Goddards, 83 to be exact, identified in 9 of the 95 Departments with by far the largest concentration in east central France, Savoie (53) and four adjacent Departments (19). Of the remaining eleven, seven were in Paris, three others in adjacent Departments, and one in Yonne. Not surprisingly, the same period saw the births of 2,831 Godards distributed throughout the country in 71 Departments and three of its seven overseas Departments, in general terms the concentration diminishing from north to south. Paris accounted for 259, Seine Maritime for 163, and all the rest 92 and below. There is much room for research here I feel sure.

FORMER CAPTAIN OF SCOTLAND

The one prominent cricketing Goddard I have not so far mentioned in these columns is George F. Goddard, Captain of Scotland at the time when that country first entered the Benson & Hedges Cup in 1980. One of only three Scottish players then to have done the double for his country – 1000 runs and 100 wickets – his greatest match was against MCC at Titwood in 1973 when he made 113 and took 11 wickets, including all eight to fall in MCC's first innings. An off-spinner with a sense of humour, he noted in 1979 that the first player in the whole of Scottish cricket to have adopted the protective helmet was the one called upon to field short-leg to his own bowling! I wonder if he is related to any of our current members?

KING OF THE SIKHS

Several members kindly send me a cutting which featured in the *Daily Mail* for 26 February under the heading 'The last King of the Sikhs was my great great grandad'. The story started when Bob Goddard, a retired debt recovery officer from Halifax and who has been a regular blood donor for many years, had his blood sample tested by the National Blood Service. While showing that he belongs to the most common type of blood group, O-positive, it also revealed that he has an unusual combination of minor blood groups found only in ethnic populations including Asians and Afro-Caribbeans. In subsequent conversation with a cousin who was researching the family tree, Bob discovered that there was a bit of a mystery about who his great grandfather's parents were. His grandfather, Charlie Goddard who was born in 1888, was the illegitimate son of an unmarried serving maid at Breckles Hall in Norfolk. Apparently she would never reveal the father's identity, but it was rumoured he was an Indian prince who stayed there.

In fact Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last 'King of the Sikhs', was born in 1838 and deposed by the British eleven years later, six years after he had inherited the title. He eventually set up residence in Elveden Hall in Suffolk and in 1864 married Bamba Muller, the daughter of a German missionary, who bore him three sons and three daughters, none of whom officially had children. Although Bob thought it not impossible that Duleep Singh was his great grandfather, his second son Frederick was a more likely candidate. Like his father Prince Freddy was a renowned ladies man who was living at Breckles Hall when Charlie was born. Charlie eventually married Ada Stevens and Bob's father Stanley was born in 1914. He, in turn, married Olwen Roberts and Bob was born in Harrow in 1944. And he has two children of his own. Bob said the discovery was interesting, but that "it doesn't have a real effect on me".

However, a day or two later a letter from genealogist and family historian, Roy Stockdill of Watford, poured a certain amount of scorn on the story. He wrote: "I wish I had a fiver for every time I've heard a family folklore tale such as that recounted by Bob Goddard....Almost invariably these stories turn out to be wishful thinking after a bit of speculative research. I can't understand why the Christian name of Bob's great grandmother remains unknown. The cousin who did the research must have obtained Charlie Goddard's birth certificate, which would give the full name of the mother even if the father's name is not provided. There's a birth registration for Charley Goddard in the March quarter

of 1889 in the Registration District which includes Breckles, Norfolk. The birth might have taken place in the previous December quarter of 1888. In the 1891 census I found the lad at Breckles living with his grandparents, an agricultural labourer called Robert Goddard and his wife Sarah. There was a daughter, Minnie, aged 16 – probably too young to have been Charley's mother unless she gave birth at 14. In the 1881 census, however, Robert and Sarah had three other daughters: Mary Ann then aged 11, Maria 9, and Happy 7, who were no longer present in 1891. Any one of these could have been Charley's mother – his birth certificate should reveal which.

"Various websites say Prince Frederick Duleep Singh lived at Breckles Hall, though not precisely when. He wasn't there in the censuses of 1881 or 1891. Speaking to a local historian at Thetford Library, which has a collection of material on the Duleep Singh family, I discovered that Prince Freddy did once live in a cottage close to Breckles Hall – but not until 1906-09, twenty years after Bob Goddard's grandfather was born. In 1881 Prince Frederick was at the main family home, Elveden Hall, Suffolk, aged 13; but not in 1891. I'm not denying the possibility that he might have visited Breckles Hall around the time Bob's grandfather was born....However, it seems likely that he would have had a servant or two with him of Indian extraction and it's equally possible that one of these may have fathered Bob Goddard's grandfather."

BOXER

My memory is not what it was and my indexing system has been proved wanting! John of Accrington has kindly reminded me of the article he wrote in the October 2001 Newsletter (no. 60) on Frank the boxer (mentioned in the last Newsletter) under the title of 'The Fighting Farmer'; and there was a follow-up snippet in the next Newsletter in which Association member Patricia Lee of Kent said that she was interested in a possible connection and had conscripted Peter of Toronto to ferret out more information. In fact Peter did quite a bit of research on Frank (or Percy) without really coming up with anything much. He might have been a farmer, but Peter could not find any evidence that he ever owned a farm. His death certificate described him as a retired publican and his will gave his address as The Cross Inn, Great Bromley, Essex. His will specified that on no account was anything to go to his brothers, and his estate was left to two men who, it turned out, were partners in the law firm which drew up the will!

AGM

As already advertised, the twenty-second AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall at Aldbourne in North Wiltshire on Sunday 18 May 2008 at 2.00pm. Aldbourne is situated on the A419 between Hungerford and Swindon. Turn off the main road on the church side and the Memorial Hall is approximately one hundred yards up Oxford Street on the right hand side, two buildings past the Co-op store and opposite The Paddocks. There is assorted parking just before you get there or, if that is full, by the duck pond or in the Green towards the church. It has been decided not to make catering arrangements for lunch on this occasion, but to let people 'do their own thing'. There are two pubs in the village, the Crown opposite the duck pond and the Blue Boar on the Green. Alternatively, you are welcome to eat your picnic in the Hall if the weather is poor and you don't feel inclined to share it with the ducks!

The Agenda for the AGM is as usual:

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

The formal business will be followed by the presentation of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2008, after which Dr Denise Syndercombe Court will talk about the results of the DNA project so far. She and her assistant are also willing to take samples from any members who wish to join the project and have so far not done so. More samples will make for more comprehensive research. Tea and biscuits will be available and, as usual, there will be a raffle to help defray some of the day's expenses.

EXETER CATHEDRAL

Walking round Exeter Cathedral recently I spotted the Boer War memorial to the Devonshire Regiment. It contained many names of those killed, all with an initial or two – except one: Private Goddard. The place where his initial(s) should have been was left blank. Does anyone claim him as a relative?

WW1 GODDARD SOLDIERS

Research Co-ordinator Peter would like to begin the construction of a database listing all the Goddards who served in World War 1. Of the over 2000 Goddards that are thought to have taken part, records for about 1,600 are known to exist. Unfortunately, extracting the basic information – name, regiment and regimental number, date of birth, home address, next of kin etc. – is a very time consuming business. Peter would like some help with this task. Volunteers, who will need a computer and an Internet connection, should contact Peter at research@goddard-association.org.uk

TRISHA GODDARD

Trisha Goddard, the fifty year old TV presenter who has appeared in these pages several times before, has written an autobiography *Trisha: As I Am* which has been serialised in the *Daily Mail*, and I am grateful to Margaret of Worsley for this information. It is published by John Blake at £17.99. The book is described as 'compulsively honest memoirs'. It contains the devastating fact, which Trisha only discovered very recently, that the man she had always believed to be her father was not her real father after all. Thus she is not actually a Goddard by birth, only by adoption. And since writing it she has also been diagnosed with breast cancer; no doubt she will tackle these further problems in her life with the same vigour that she has met all her many other challenges. Goddard or not, we wish her well.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Association web page: www.goddard-association.org.uk
Australian Co-ordinator: Ian Goddard, P.O. Box 618, Balcatta, Western Australia 6914. Tel: (08) 9245 4510
Email: australia@goddard-association.org.uk Fax: (08) 9245 4540
Canadian Co-ordinator: Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillsdale Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1V3. Tel: (416) 481 7132
Email: canada@goddard-association.org.uk
Membership Secretary: John C. Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 01254-235135
Email: membership@goddard-association.org.uk
New Zealand Co-ordinator: Julie Goddard, 2/36 Young Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. Tel: 03-9815175
Email: newzealand@goddard-association.org.uk
President & Newsletter Ed.: Richard G.H. Goddard, Sinton Meadow, Stocks Lane, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5DY. Tel: 01886-832404
Email: president@goddard-association.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs Eileen Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 01254-235135
Email: secretary@goddard-association.org.uk
Research Co-ordinator: Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillsdale Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1V3. Tel: (416) 481 7132
Email: research@goddard-association.org.uk
Treasurer: John W. Goddard, 7 Radbrook Road, Radbrook, Shrewsbury, SY3 9BB. Tel: 01743-357866
Email: treasurer@goddard-association.org.uk
USA Co-ordinator: Mrs Alice Godard Allen, 172 Oldefield Farms, Endfield, Connecticut 06082, USA. Tel: 860-749-7878
Email: usa@goddard-association.org.uk