



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 91 – July 2009

COUSINS AND KINSWOMEN

The Swindon branch of the Goddards is very well documented, principally because they owned land. To own land one must have documentary proof and to understand that one must be literate. The family is also well served by accounts of its history. *The Goddard Family of North Wiltshire* written by Charles Frederick Goddard (known in the family as ‘Uncle Toby’) and edited by patron Capt. John Goddard is an unpublished detailed account of the family as researched at the end of the nineteenth century.

Page 33 reads: “There is an interesting connection between the Goddards of Swindon and another local family, the Brinds of Wanborough. When Richard Goddard of Swindon died in 1732, he had living with him two ladies named Margaret and Dorothy Brind, two of the five daughters of Thomas Brind and his wife Dorothy née Hedges. Richard made two wills, the first dated 26 June 1718 and the second 22 September 1730, with a codicil dated 16 August 1732. In his first will he bequeathed the Swindon estate, he being a widower and childless, to his brother Pleydell, at whose death, if he died without issue, it was to pass to Margaret Brind who was to assume the name of Goddard. In his first and second wills he described these sisters as cousins and kinswomen, making considerable provision for both of them. The question arises, therefore, as to how they were related to him and the Swindon family at this time. Every effort has been made to discover this, but without success.”

Nowadays there are many more sources of information ready to

hand than in Uncle Toby’s day. More archives are available for study, particularly on the internet without even leaving home. However, it is a co-operation of resources which has solved Uncle Toby’s puzzle. Exchange of e-mail messages with the Pleydell Society and the Brind family researchers has revealed a solution.

Martha Brind of Wanborough married around 1640, as his second wife, Oliver Pleydell. While his first marriage had been without issue, his second was fruitful, producing eight children. One of the daughters, Mary Pleydell (born 1649), married Thomas Goddard of Swindon. Thomas and Mary had six children. Richard, the maker of the questionable will which left the Swindon estate to Margaret Brind in default of his brother Pleydell dying without issue, was their eldest surviving son.

Martha Brind of Wanborough, who married Oliver Pleydell, was the sister of Thomas Brind who married Dorothy Hedges. Thomas and Dorothy produced five daughters and (possibly) one son named John. Margaret was born in 1680 and Dorothy in

1684. These were the two ladies residing with Richard Goddard and were certainly his kinswomen, his grandmother and their father being brother and sister. When Richard died at Swindon in 1732, his brother Pleydell succeeded to the estate, but the sisters were left some generous bequests.

Pleydell Goddard died suddenly, unmarried and without issue when he fell from his horse in the autumn of 1742. Ambrose Goddard of Rudloe, a distant cousin, inherited the Swindon estate, but not without a little difficulty from a more nearly related cousin, Oliver Goddard of London, who was compensated with a small estate from the large one.

The sisters, Margaret and Dorothy Brind, both died in 1748. Dorothy died on 4 May, leaving a short will leaving bequests to her three married sisters: Mary wife of John Broadway vicar, Jane wife of Francis Merchant and Anne wife of Thomas Read. The remainder was to go to sister Margaret. However, Margaret died twenty-five days later. Had the sisters been together all their lives and could not live without each other? Margaret’s will was a tour de force, leaving bequests to over one hundred people. They range from mercers, maltsters, innkeepers, to widows and include her god-daughter Scholastica Seville, and the family of Ambrose Goddard. Thomas Goddard was left a gold watch and chain, if her sister Anne pre-deceased her and could not claim it. She must have had a considerable fortune.

The Goddard estate papers are in the new Wiltshire and Swindon Archive in Chippenham, but there are still many other papers in the library of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in Devizes Museum.

There are family letters included in the papers which sometimes give us a glimpse of family life in those days. Thomas Goddard (1649-1710) writes to a London friend that he had been house bound with gout but his wife, formerly Mary Pleydell, had been shopping. In consequence he had been summoned in court to pay for her purchases, to do which he thought he should have to borrow money. Had Mary suffered enough from her gouty, irritable husband and gone to do some therapeutic retailing, to use the modern phrase? *Julie Goddard, with the assistance of David Brind, Jonathan Brind, Phyl Gaskell and Geoffrey Pleydell.*

WARREN GODDARD

John of Accrington wrote to Malcolm of Brisbane: "Your article reminded me of another William Warren Goddard. I had sent to me some time ago a World War One 'death penny', the bronze memorial plaque sent to relatives of those killed. This bears the name of Private William Warren Goddard of the Royal Berkshire Regiment who died in France on 16 October 1917 and who had been born in Dunsden, Oxfordshire. Can you identify him as a relative? I would like to pass the item on to any immediate descendent or to you if you wish."

Malcolm replied: "Unfortunately he is not a relation; mine are extremely well documented and he isn't one of them. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website has only one W.W. Goddard listed as dying on this date: 'Private W.W. Goddard, 85029, 25th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), who died on 16 October 1917. Remembered with honour. Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery.' There is also a service record listed in the GAE index of WW1 British Goddard's Service records 1914-1920 for a William Warren Goddard, with the only detail being the year of the document, 1915, so it could be accessed at the PRO if someone was able to go there or purchase online. He also shows up in the GAE index of WW1 British Goddard's Medal Roll with two regimental numbers: William W. Goddard, Royal Berkshire Regiment, Machine Gun Corps, 17710, 85029.' He is also listed in Peter of Toronto's death index as being approx. 31 years old, approx. year of birth 1886. So it might be worth someone finding this man's story and publishing it and seeing if any member is related. It might be very useful to look him up in the 1891 census in Dunsden, Oxfordshire and again the 1901 census; this should establish his family. I'll ask a contact who has access to Ancestry.com to have a look for me."

JANE AUSTEN

Association member Pete West writes: "The article titled 'Jane Austen and the Goddards' [in the last Newsletter] reminded me that one of my Goddard ancestors just may have had a very slight "association" with the Austen family, who had many dealings with the town of Alton, for my 4x great grandfather – Thomas Goddard (1766-1835) – collected the tolls and lived at Lenton St Turnpike House (now Flood Meadow Cottage) from 1800 to 1809 (source Poor Rate) in the town of Alton. I like to imagine Jane passing the time of day with Thomas as the family jig passed through, but then we all like to romanticize about our ancestors, don't we?"

BLACKNEST GODDARDS

Here is another follow-up from the original article on the Blacknest Goddards in Newsletter 89. Membership Secretary John of Accrington writes:

"I was interested to note, in the article on the Blacknest estate in January's newsletter, the mention that William Roger Goddard of that branch lived in Yorkshire. It reminded me that some years ago a friend had sent me a page from a book of poems by E. Lamplough of Hull, published in 1888. The poem, entitled 'England's Fame', is of no great interest or literary merit, praising the Empire in High Victorian rhetoric and belittling the "European upstarts". But it was dedicated to Colonel W. E. Goddard of Anlaby, Hull, not W.R. Goddard as I had thought. However, a quick check of the 1881 census showed that W.R. Goddard was a 77 year old retired stationer living in Hull with three spinster daughters and William Edward G. of Anlaby aged 43 was obviously his son, as his occupation is given as 'wholesale stationer, lithographer and binder employing 40 compositors'. His wife, Alethea, was almost twenty years younger and they had a one month old son, William Bailey Goddard. No doubt the Burke's Landed Gentry entry will explain how he had become a Colonel. Another small piece of the Yorkshire Goddard jigsaw in place!"

GOLFER YET AGAIN

Golfer Luke Goddard, who has featured several times in these pages recently, has been in the news again, this time helping England to reach the final of the European Amateur Team Championship, which has just been played at Conwy in North Wales; he won the deciding singles match against Norway. Scotland, however, won the final 5-2, but the article did not say whether Luke won his match or not. I wonder if and when he might turn professional.

DYING ON THE NHS

Under the above title, the *Sunday Telegraph* for 5 July ran an article on the unnecessary deaths of patients in NHS hospitals. The first case study concerned a Mrs Pamela Goddard, a piano teacher aged 82, who died in East Surrey Hospital on 27 October last year. She had been successfully treated for breast cancer for half her lifetime and, although it had recently returned, it was not the cancer which killed her, but an untreated bedsore which caused her terrible pain for a month and resulted in a fatal blood infection. Her son Adrian, who lives in America, felt the hospital's excuses about lack of nurses or insufficient time to attend to his mother were unacceptable, and a formal complaint has been lodged.

GODDARD BUILDING

I am grateful to Jill Hawkins of Earl Shilton in Leicestershire for spotting an article in the *Hinckley Times* of 30 April concerning "two massive developments in Hinckley which are on the brink of being approved." One is "to turn the Goddard Building on Lower Bond Street into a centre for creative industries." It was originally built in 1878 and is Grade II listed. The development would involve "installing new staircases, flooring, toilets and a cafe-bar reception area". The second project is "for a new building on land next to the Goddard Building which was recently cleared. It will provide a new £15m campus for North Warwickshire and Hinckley College." There is no picture accompanying the article, nor does it say how the building got its name; but my guess is that it was designed by one generation of the prominent Leicestershire Goddard family of architects.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the one new member who has joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Mrs Helen C. Ball, 5 Princethorpe Close, Shirley, Solihull, B90 2LP.

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:

Helen Ball <helen.ball6@btinternet.com> is descended from Fanny Elliot Goddard, born June 1843 in Winchester. Fanny's father is not known and no baptism, birth registration or early census entry has been found. Fanny married Charles F. Ames in St Pancras in 1865, and is thought to belong to a Winchester family of Goddards, some of whom moved to St Pancras.

ITEMS FOR SALE

May I remind you that the Association has various items for sale. The following Monographs are available at £3 each, as follows:

Berkshire – Chieveley, Kintbury, Speen & London
Derbyshire High Peak I – Chinley & Buxworth
Derbyshire High Peak II – New Mills, Kettlethume & Whaley Bridge
Derbyshire High Peak III – Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith & Dove Holes
Hampshire – Wellow, Romsey & St Pancras (London)
Midlands & Home Counties – Banbury, Market Harborough, Leicester & Hitchin
North East Hampshire – Yateley, Cove & Farnborough
North Gloucestershire I – Chipping Campden & Quinton
North Gloucestershire II – Stanway & Vale of Evesham
North Gloucestershire III – Snowhill & Eckington
North Wiltshire I – Aldbourne, Enfield (Middlesex) & Mere
North Wiltshire II – Berwick Bassett, Catford & Hidden
North Wiltshire III – East Woodhay & Castle Eaton
North Wiltshire IV – Clyffe Pypard, Standen Hussey & Purton
North Wiltshire V – Aldbourne to Australia via America & New Zealand
South East Norfolk – Bunwell, Aslacton, Carleton Rode & Southwark (Surrey)

Alternatively for £10 you can buy a CD that has all monographs on plus a number of other documents, particularly some Goddard wills. Because of the Executive Committee's increasing desire to go electronic, none of these monographs will be reprinted. So if you wish to obtain 'hard' copies I suggest you contact me (Richard of Malvern) quickly as stocks are already low in some cases.

Then there is the reprint of Richard Jefferies' *A Memoir of the Goddards of North Wilts* at £5.

Association ties (currently maroon) are £5, brooches £2.50, and ten postcards of two Wiltshire Goddard brass rubbings £1. Finally, there are two sizes of limited edition plates (side and dinner) with coloured shields of various Goddard branches, priced at £5 (reduced from £12 because all the remainder have small blemishes) and £15 respectively. The larger size would make ideal and somewhat different presents for the Goddard relative who already has everything! All prices include packing and postage.

AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTOR

My elder daughter Diana, who is a Special Projects Manager for Vodafone, happened recently to be doing some business with a Steve Goddard (who is said to look like Father Christmas), the Global Infrastructure Director at automotive parts supplier TRW in Shirley in Birmingham. Does anyone know of him?

MURDER AGAIN

A Goddard has become involved in another murder case. The *Daily Telegraph* of 9 June reported on a trial at the Old Bailey in which a man murdered his partner of nine years because she was about to leave him for her married work boss. The latter, one Simon Goddard who was the managing director of a Mercedes garage in Basingstoke, had already left his wife to set up home with Kirsty Wilson.

GODDARD - AYLING

While searching for something else, I recently came across material I had not used in a Newsletter before. It came in a letter to John of Accrington from Tony Horne of Bristol in 1992, and I now offer my belated thanks. I suspect I had sufficient material available at the time and put it on one side for future use. Tony writes: "My mother was a Goddard and you may be interested in the enclosed material collected by my cousin, Gerald W.G. McDonald."

"The first Goddard we know of was George Goddard who grew up in Sussex. He married Charlotte Ayling in the beautiful little church at Westbourne in that county. We don't know much about the Goddard family. Aunt Val, I believe, visited Westbourne and enquired about any Goddards. The rector told her that 'there were some at the bottom of the village but a lady like you wouldn't want to meet them'. Aunt Glad had a document which referred to an ancestor who was hanged at Tyburn, which must have been quite an honour since hanging at Tyburn was reserved for high class and political criminals.

Charlotte Ayling's father, William, was apparently quite a patriarch. He owned a large farm near Woodmancote, Hampshire, and a farmers' magazine article describes his 80th birthday in 1857. He was born in 1777 and died, aged 83, in 1860. According to the article 'he had numerous progeny who came from far and near'.

George Goddard was a railway inspector and latterly lived in Richmond and in Windsor. Charlotte died at an early age and the family was brought up by a succession of housekeepers. One of their sons, Arthur Ayling Goddard, attended Richmond College and qualified as a schoolmaster. Arthur became master of the little school in the village of Coleford, Somerset, and spent his life there. The schoolmaster's duties in a small village were diverse. He was also organist and choirmaster, reported for the Bristol and Bath newspapers, was executor of most of the wills in the village, and advisor to all. I am told that desperate widows used to call on him to chastise wayward sons. The young Arthur Goddard lodged with Mrs George Adams and married her daughter Eva Jane Adams. He was a cradle snatcher since Eva Jane was actually a pupil in his class. Later she became schoolmistress.

On my grandmother's side we can trace the line back to William Baker who was baker in Coleford and confectioner, too, though I doubt that Coleford demanded many confections. Apparently he was well educated and accumulated a little library at a time when most villagers couldn't even read.

William Baker's daughter, Harriet, married George Adams, a mason, who built most of the homes in Coleford including his own 'Hill House' in Highbury at the top of the village. I've visited it often when the Edgels lived there. William and Harriet Baker are buried in Coleford churchyard by the path on the other side of the church from the path up from the gate. There are several Adams living around there and the cousins were long time friends of the Goddard family. Marjorie Edgel, an Adams who married an Edgel, went to teacher's training college with my mother and they were close for years. William and Harriet Baker had, I am told, six sons and three daughters. Eva Jane was my grandmother, but I heard references to Aunts Mop, Ep, and Cet who lived in Bristol.

Eva Jane Adams married Arthur Ayling Goddard, ran the village and had four daughters and two sons. Arthur Goddard apparently was a tough father and insisted on a good education for his children, all of whom were trained as teachers or musicians except for Arthur who was in the Indian Army. They had their share of high jinks. I heard hushed references to runaway marriages and Arthur probably ran away from home to join the army.

Gladys Harriet Ayling Goddard was the oldest and bossed the others. She ended up as headmistress of the prestigious Esher Girls School in Surrey. She married Gordon Searle, a car dealer, but died of a heart attack at a relatively young age. Her school holidays permitted her to travel all over Europe and she often took one of her sisters with her. My mother went with her to Interlaken in Switzerland and they also toured the Black Forest. Glad possessed most of the family documents, but they disappeared on her death after which we heard little from Gordon.

Valerie Ruby Ayling was next. She married George Edmonds who, like my Dad, was a mining engineer. They spent most of their lives in India where he was chief engineer of a copper mining company at Bihar in Bengal. Aunt Val was quite a musician, training at the Trinity College School of Music. After India's 'liberation' and a stint in Cyprus, they retired to the lovely old 'Red House', Frindsbury, near Rochester in Kent. George's family came from Kent and his grandfather was mayor of Gravesend. The Edmonds had three children: Jeanne now in Canada, George still in Kent, and Jack a schoolmaster in Taunton.

My mother Evelyn Charlotte Ayling Goddard was next. She also trained as a teacher and taught in many places including Ashstead and the beautiful town of Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire. She married

my father, William McDonald, and you can read about them elsewhere.

The first son was Arthur Gerald Ivo Ayling Goddard, who was probably the black sheep of the family. I'm pretty sure he ran away and joined the army in the First World War. He transferred to the Indian army and made a successful career of it, retiring as Colonel of the Regiment and commandant of the regimental centre. He bequeathed a Samurai sword, captured by one of his troopers who won a VC doing so, to my son Malcolm who has a collection of clippings telling something of his career. Arthur married an Australian girl, Lois Riggs, and had a daughter, Anthea, before Lois died in a drowning accident. He subsequently married a widow, Gertrude (Button) Robinson, heiress to a teak operation in Burma, and they had daughters Geraldine and Jane before they divorced. Arthur died in 1976 and is buried at Coleford.

Otto Eric Winn Willie Ayling Goddard was, for an obvious reason, known as Billie. He followed in his father's footsteps and was schoolmaster at various schools in Somerset. During World War I he was a purser on a minesweeper in the North Sea. With one son in the trenches in France and the other looking for mines at sea, their father had an anxious time. Uncle Billie married Doreen Parker, daughter of a local minister, and they had three children John, David and Mary. George Edmonds and I were page boys at their wedding, in cute white satin suits. After the reception we found the half empty sherry bottles and enjoyed ourselves. As of this writing Aunt Doreen is still going strong, the last survivor of that generation. I believe that John is a farmer and that Mary is a shopkeeper in Somerset.

The last, Madeline Eva Ayling Goddard, whom we called Aunt Cis, came along much later. She was the live wire of the family, played tennis and took part in sporty amateur theatricals. She, too, was a great musician and was church organist for longer than I can remember. Cis married Rupert Horne, son of the leading gentlemen's clothier and haberdasher in Frome and they lived at Bromstone not far from Welshmill Lodge. They had two children: Jennifer, now in Taunton, and Tony at Thornbury, near Bristol, where he is engineer at the atomic power plant. I spent many happy summers with Cis's family, cycling down there from Scotland. Curiously, our Maria started working on the breeder reactor in the US just when Tony started to shut down one of the earliest atomic power plants at Thornbury.

After Grandpa Goddard died, Grandma moved from Coleford to the larger town of Frome. She settled down at Welshmill Lodge which she maintained as

the family home, especially for her two children in India and for Billie and Cis who were not married at that time.

Uncle Arthur was born in Coleford, Somerset, on 21 May 1895. He was the fourth child and first son of my grandfather Arthur Ayling Goddard, schoolmaster in Coleford. In good Goddard tradition he was given a stout name: Arthur Gerald Ivo Ayling Goddard. According to his sisters he was a pretty wild kid with great talent for getting into trouble. He joined the army early in the First World War and was commissioned in the Monmouthshire Regiment on 21 October 1914 at age 19. Not many subalterns, who were platoon leaders, survived the trench warfare in France, but he did and joined the Indian Army in France on 12 January 1918. He probably had an eye for the future. Prospects in England were grim compared to the life of pukka sahib in the Indian Establishment.

He saw service in Afghanistan, Waziristan and Burma before more permanent assignment to the Punjab – the northwest border between India and Afghanistan. This was the last frontier of 'the Empire' and one of the last frontiers of the civilized world. (Or was till all those colonies got their freedom and became uncivilized again.) He spent the years working his way up through the Indian Army. My first memory of him must be in the mid 1930s when he was a major home on leave. Home leave was a big deal. An Indian Army officer got six months every three years, but had to sail back and forth during that time – no airlines. They would save a week by sailing to Marseilles and taking the train across France. The six months was generally one long party visiting country houses, shooting, buying a car and selling it again, taking a flat in London for a few weeks, etc. On one leave he really lived it up and flew home on one of the first flights of Imperial Airways. This was a daring adventure in those times and took about four days since they did not fly at night or in bad weather.

That was not a peaceful time in India. There was still lots of guerilla type activity in the Northwest Provinces around the Kyber Pass. He apparently acquitted himself well and was again 'mentioned in despatches' in 1934. In 1935 he was awarded the OBE, generally awarded for distinguished peacetime service. It was a big occasion when he went to Buckingham Palace and received the award from King George V. He was a soldier's soldier. When my cousin George, also his nephew, joined the army in 1944 he wrote him a letter of advice which tells a lot about his character. George got out of the army

as quickly as he could!

When the Second World War broke out he was 44 and considered too old for active duty. During most of this period he was Commandant of the 15th Punjab Regimental Centre and responsible for training Indian troops about to be assigned to the war in North Africa. After the war ended in Europe and attention turned to driving the Japanese out of Southeast Asia he served for a time as an Indian expert on Field Marshal Auckinlek's (the Auk) staff. But he returned to the Regimental Centre where he served as Commandant until he retired.

From the Imperial War Museum in London we were fortunate enough to obtain copies of a couple of interesting articles from the regimental newspaper. One tells of the return of a battalion of troops from service in the campaign to liberate Burma. The sword referred to in the article is not our sword since the article is dated June 1944 and the action at Myingyan did not take place until 1945. The second article is an account of ceremonies upon the Colonel's retiral, which confirms the reports that he was highly respected by his troops and fellow officers.

Arthur Goddard remained a bachelor till during the Second War. During a leave taken in Australia (return to Europe was impossible) he met Lois Riggs and they were later married in India in a grand regimental ceremony. By all reports they were very happy and had one girl, Anthea. Lois, however, died in a drowning accident in India. He subsequently married Gertrude Robertson (Button). Button was the widow of the owner of a major teak concession around Mandalay in Burma. The Japanese drove them out and the husband lost his life. Button organised a group of similarly situated women and walked from Rangoon up the Chindwin River across the Chin Hills to Imphal in India (now Bangladesh) – a distance of 300-400 miles. Included in that group was a young American correspondent who had got cut off. He was Eric Severied who later became a famous commentator on US TV. His account of the journey criticised the ladies for having Burmese rubies sewn into the seams of their clothes! They had two daughters, Geraldine and Jane.

Uncle Arthur retired first to Dunblane in Scotland, then Bournemouth in England and finally, after he and Button divorced, to Frome, Somerset, near his birthplace. He died on 18 June 1976 and lies in the Goddard family plot in Coleford churchyard in Somerset."

Does any Association member come from this family, or recognise it? It would be nice to add more information to what has already been supplied.

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Have you ever taken on a job and thought "I could do that"? Well, that is exactly what I did when offering assistance as Research Co-ordinator for the Association. I quickly realised that my genealogy experience was very limited and that the real experts were out there in the big world. The Association has more than their fair share of dedicated researchers who do it for the love of it and for the benefit of others.

The Database of facts and figures is rapidly expanding and is mainly due to a few of our members and Malcolm's superb work with the internet site. It cannot be emphasised enough just how much we rely on the expertise of others to provide information, so that we can all reap the benefits of their hard work.

The daftest thing I have done is to promise Julie of Newbury a copy of the Goddard Smith diary before checking what was involved. 104 pages of A3, which had to be reduced to A4, scanned and sent to Julie – over 50 Mb of information. We are currently at the half way mark, Julie has bought out Staples and we are an awful lot wiser!

I am sure that we have all changed our computers and lost, mislaid or deleted files that we wanted to keep and that is what I have managed to achieve, with spectacular ease. My inbox has in excess of 300 emails from members requesting probate information, new members, additions to family trees and areas of interest. Long may it continue. On many occasions work gets in the way of achieving what I would like to achieve, so I ask members to be patient with my sometimes tardy responses.

The Association has a wealth of knowledge and material that may well help our members with their research. All we ask is that you ask and we will do our utmost to assist. I am still learning and hope to be a useful addition to the Association for many years to come.

The Association holds – and eventually hopes to get at least some of it on the website – research files on:-

Australia, Berkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Ireland, Kent, Leicestershire, London, Wiltshire, New Zealand, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Scotland, Somerset, South Africa, Suffolk, Sussex, Wales, Warwickshire, West Country and West Indies. Some areas have been extensively researched and others less so. The GAE also holds limited information on Huguenots, Canal Boatmen, Clergymen, Artists and Soldiers and Sailors.

Colin of Brackley

WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The new Association website has been up and running for a year now and was an initiative of our late Research Co-ordinator, Peter of Toronto, in technical consultation with myself. Peter had the belief that the GAE should be the primary point of contact for anyone researching Goddards anywhere in the world, and that an active and up-to-date website on the internet was going to be able to provide the facility to enable people to, if not begin researching their family tree, at least verify what they had found and expand their knowledge by contact with like-minded Goddard researchers through a simple but effective collection of database records and information. The internet website has really built on the motto of the Association, proving that we really are a 'family among nations', as members who have contributed to the expansion of the site come from England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

As you would all know, the internet is not all things to all people and, unfortunately, many people still believe that if it is on the net then it must be true. One of the important over-riding criteria that Peter established was that the information that would be available on the GAE website would be of very high quality and based on the standard professional genealogical practice of 'verify, verify, verify'.

Since Peter passed away in 2008 I have continued his work and am now proud to say that the site encompasses 27 searchable databases covering over 10,000 records, some of which are available nowhere else on the net, including the Goddard Probate Index (1857-1958) which lists every Goddard whose will was listed for probate in England and Wales between these years. This was a huge undertaking on Peter's part and a legacy to Goddard researchers that he can be proud of. Amongst other indexes we also have a searchable index of over 600 Birth, Death and Marriage certificates (the originals are held by members); this is well in excess of the 500 that Peter hoped to get when he proposed the registration scheme some eighteen months ago.

I have a vast collection of Peter's and Brian's records to add to the site and will over time, but with working full time, studying part-time and running my very energetic teenagers to their sports training and events, time to spend on the website is a bit restricted at present, but watch this space. I do add stuff every now and then, so watch the menu on the site for the word 'Updated' and check the date at the bottom of the menu; there are exciting things to come in the next twelve months.

I am extremely grateful to a great number of people

within the GAE who have aided me in expanding the website database collections during this hectic twelve months, including Joan Dibble and her friend Cathy Goodwin, Maxine Cadzow, Arnold Palmer, new GAE Research Co-ordinator Colin Goddard, Margaret Young, former Research Co-ordinators Brian and Julie Goddard, and many more members who have contributed their individual records to the greater knowledge of the Association generally. Also thanks to our President Richard Goddard for putting up with my constant e-mails every time I update, add to or generally change something on the site; our correspondence must run into the hundreds of e-mails on this subject alone.

But most of all I am grateful to my mate Peter Goddard of Toronto who's vision saw this project start and who's guidance and thoughts I miss every time I sit at my computer to do some more work 'on that family history stuff' as my kids call it. Thanks for the legacy.
Malcolm of Brisbane

FAMILY REUNION

Carol Haughey, a new member, is holding a family reunion on 22 August. She comes from the Chinley and Bugsworth Goddards of Derbyshire, being the great great granddaughter of Eliza Goddard Hartle (1863-1931), whose parents were John Goddard and Betty Walton, and whose children were Edith, George, John, Joe, Tom, William and Sam. She is particularly looking for pictures and stories of this line, and says 'All are welcome!' For details contact Carol on <chaughey001@comcast.net>

GODDARDS AND LIDDERDALES

Mary Livingstone Goddard, who lives in Littleton, Colorado, is very proud of her descent from Richard Goddard and Janet Lidderdale. The family lived and farmed at Hamstead Marshall near Kintbury, Berkshire, in the 1840s and 50s. See Goddard Monograph 13 for more details. Richard and Janet had at least thirteen children and a good number of them moved to the mid-west of America, where their descendants hold occasional family gatherings. Mary has compiled a booklet about the history of the Lidderdale side of the family for distribution at this year's gathering; one copy for each of the older members who attend. Most of the information from her researches will probably be new to the recipients, especially the story which says that the Lidderdales are descended from twin boys, the product of an illegitimate union between a Scottish landowner and a visiting French lady!
Julie of Newbury

AGM

The twenty-third AGM was held on Sunday 17 May 2009 in the village hall at Whissendine near Melton Mowbray. Some two dozen members attended. After a brief welcome by the President, a number of apologies were recorded. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed; there were no matters arising. Treasurer John of Shrewsbury presented his report, and a copy of the Accounts can be obtained by contacting him. In response to a question as to what we proposed to do with the very healthy surplus, it was stated that it was available for contributing to the repair of Goddard monuments as in the past, or for professional research as necessary. There was no intention to increase subscriptions. A brief discussion followed as to the possibility of producing another piece of glassware for members.

The new Research Co-ordinator, Colin of Brackley, gave his report (see page 6). This was followed by the President reading the report of the Website Co-ordinator, Malcolm of Brisbane, (see page 7). The election of Officers then took place. Richard of Malvern was returned as President, Eileen of Accrington as Secretary and John of Shrewsbury as Treasurer. Margaret McAlpin and Joan Dibble were re-elected for a further three year term as Committee members, and Colin of Brackley was elected to fill the remaining year of the late Peter of Toronto's term. It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on Sunday 16 May 2010 in the village hall at Aldbourne near Swindon as last year.

After the formal proceedings were over, the President announced the winner of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2009: Malcolm of Brisbane. Dr Denise Syndercombe Court then gave an update on the DNA project. Having tested a few more members and having linked in with the American Association's project, she felt it would be a good idea to put the basic information on the website. The proceedings ended with tea and biscuits and a raffle to help defray the day's expenses; many thanks to all those who donated prizes.

ADAM ANT

Adam Ant, alias Stuart Goddard who has featured several times in these pages, is planning a comeback. The 1980s pop star, now aged 54, fell from grace at the beginning of this decade when his mental health gave way. Now physically fitter and with the support of his new girl friend Clare and older fans, he is planning a series of live performances. I am grateful to Margaret of Worsley for sending me a cutting from the *Daily Mail* of 9 June giving this information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held its 44th meeting at Whissendine Village Hall on Sunday 17 May 2009. Apologies had been received from Stephen of Buckhurst Hill. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Treasurer John went through the accounts, which showed a healthy surplus. Great approval of the website was expressed and, given Malcolm of Brisbane's very busy life, it was wondered what steps if any could be taken to support him. It was agreed that there were no new monographs ready for publication in the near future. The procedures for the afternoon's AGM were briefly gone through. It was decided to hold the next Committee meeting on Sunday 25 October at Treasurer John's house in Shrewsbury; it was also agreed that Membership Secretary, John of Accrington, should continue to welcome each new member with a hard copy letter.

CAN YOU HELP?

Bryan John Goddard, born in England on 4 February 1940 and now living in Hungary, to trace his cousins who emigrated to Australia in the 1960s. One, Mim Goddard, married a John Terrell and moved from Richmond near London to Sydney, Australia, where John was chief engineer for PIE television. They had two daughters, one of whom became a TV soap star. If anyone recognises this family, would they please contact our Australian Co-ordinator, Ian of Balcatta (details below).

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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