



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 111 – July 2014

THE SHEFFIELD FLOOD

Collapse of Dale Dyke Dam

Advance in technology in the mid 1800s meant that numbers of the rural population moved into towns to what they thought would be better conditions and abundant work. While some villages became nearly empty, others grew. Sheffield was one of these growing towns, going from a population of 45,000 in 1801 to 185,000 in 1861. Both people and the manufacturing industries urgently needed water, and plans were made to create four new dams in the hills above the town. Dale Dyke Dam was one of them. By 1864 it had been five years in the building and had now reached the stage of being filled with water, which would test the newly built dam retaining wall.

On the wet and windy night of 11 March 1864 William Horsefield, a labourer, took a short cut home across the dam wall. Near the centre he noticed a crack and, being worried over it, he contacted the dam engineer. John Gunson, the resident engineer, had also noticed the crack himself, but had decided that frost had caused it and it was of no concern. However, it now seemed serious and attempts were made to let water out of the dam by a sluice gate to ease pressure on the cracked wall. It was too late. At around midnight the dam wall burst and thousands of tons of water raced down the valley destroying everything in its path. Because of the hour people were in bed asleep, unaware of the danger; everything in the water's path was swept along, down the valley to Sheffield and beyond. They had no warning to escape.

Over the next few days – even weeks – bodies were recovered from wherever the water had

deposited them. Not all were identifiable. The official number of dead was 240 and hurried lists were compiled giving names and ages where they were known. Local tradition says that the youngest to die was a baby snatched from his mother's arms by the force of the water. Whole families died in their homes, drowned in their sleep or when unsuccessfully trying to escape.

Amongst the list of dead are Joseph Goddard and his wife Sarah from Malin Bridge, whose bodies were found at Owlerton on 12 March. Accounts differ on the question of their ages; officially he was 67 and Sarah was 62. In contradiction, a memorial card states that he was 66 and Sarah was 70. One at least of their children and two grandchildren were said, by survivors who knew the family, to have been drowned with them. What were their names?

Karen Lightowler, a local historian, became interested in

the tragedy after finding one of the tombstones erected to those who drowned. For thirteen years she has been working away at investigating various accounts of the dam break and has added a substantial number of extra names to the list of dead. Even more valuable to us is that she has produced 65 pages of research on Joseph Goddard, his ancestors and descendants; a treasury of information many family historians would give their eye teeth for!

By just skimming the surface of her account we learn that Joseph was a plumber, glazier and painter, the son of Thomas Goddard, a miller. Sarah Edwards (née Bettney) was his third wife, his two previous wives, Hannah Shillito and Mary Coward, having died. By Mary he had sons named Leopold, a furnace builder in Sheffield, and Edwin, an engine tender. Edwin made a plaster death mask of his father. Karen writes that it was in Sheffield Museum, but now only a photograph of it remains. Leopold, as the eldest, administered their father's will. Edwin's newspaper obituary at his death in 1908 aged 83 is written in affectionate terms, calling him "one of Sheffield's oldest life long abstainers", and a photograph of a benevolent white haired man is attached.

If you think that you might be related to this Goddard family, Karen Lightowler would be only too pleased to share with you all the material she has collected. Just e-mail her at KarenL823@aol.com. Unfortunately she told me of the 150 year commemoration exhibition being staged at Bradfield Village Hall on 7 & 8 March too late to bring it to the notice of any Goddards who might be related and had wished to attend. If you want any more background

information the magazine *Family History* for March 2014 has an article written by Karen. Back numbers of the magazine can be obtained from the publisher @family-tree.co.uk. There are also several books written about the dam collapse. I have *What the Victorians Got Wrong* by Stan & Trevor Yorke. Or you can just google Great Sheffield Flood for further information.

Julie of Newbury

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The Queen's Birthday Honours seem to be announced a couple of weeks earlier in New Zealand than they are in this country. I am grateful to our Co-ordinator there, Julie of Christchurch, for sending me details of one Goddard recipient. This is High Court judge Lowell Goddard, who has been made



a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Aged 65, she said her honour recognised New Zealand's significant commitment to and leadership in the upholding of human rights. As a lawyer in the 1980s she assisted in an inquiry into allegations concerning the treatment of cervical cancer at the National Women's Hospital. Subsequently she had "a trailblazing career" as one of the first women appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1988, and then in 1992 as Deputy Solicitor-General overseeing prosecution of serious crime. In 1995 she was appointed a High Court judge, thought to be the first such appointment of Maori descent, and from 2007 to 2012 she chaired the Independent Police Conduct Authority. She was one of only three new Dames, one of the other two also being a senior judge.

SOLDIER & ARTIST

The lead article in Newsletter 70 under the above heading was written by Association member Mimi Goddard and was a brief biography of her father Lt.-Col. Francis Ambrose D'Oyly Goddard, who was both a soldier and a very fine artist. A considerable portion of his military career was spent in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, mainly in India, partly in South Africa, and for most of the first decade of the twentieth century at the regiment's 'home base' at Ballymullen Barracks at Tralee in County Kerry, south west Ireland. A few weeks ago, following a request for information to the Association, I was put in touch with a resident of Tralee, Robert Tangney, who had just finished writing *The History of Ballymullen Barracks* over its two centuries of existence. He had made considerable use of the extensive collection of Francis Goddard's photographs, now in the National Army Museum in London, including some two dozen of them in the book, and he wished to be put in touch with Mimi, whom he believed to be still alive, so that he could send her a copy. This I was able to do, and in return he very kindly sent me a copy as well. The Francis Goddard archive contains extensive coverage of the period when he was at Ballymullen, and in acknowledging it Robert writes: "Francis Goddard, thankfully, had a love for recording places where he served through photography and paintings. Many of the photographs that are contained in this book are from his hand and I think that they tell the sense of history in their own words."

To my surprise – as Goddards are fairly few and far between in Ireland – there was reference in passing towards the end of the book to another Goddard. In giving a brief pedigree of the Chute family, Robert states that Falkiner Chute, the second son of Francis Chute and Ruth Falkiner and a Captain of the 22nd Regiment of the Light Dragoons, married Anne, daughter of Captain Goddard of the Queens County. As Falkiner was born in the mid 1760s, this would have been sometime towards the end of the eighteenth century. I asked Robert if he had any further information on this Goddard, but he only had a brief article of 17 July 1780 mentioning Captain Goddard as commanding the Kilbegan Corps a few days before at a general parade of troops at Mullingar which, he tells me, is a town in the County of Westmeath in the Province of Leinster. The Queens County is now known as County Laois, also in Leinster and not that far from Dublin. If any member of the Association has further information on this Captain Goddard, I should be very happy to hear from them.

THE GODDARD CENTRE

My elder daughter Diana who lives in Portsmouth has recently come across – though not for professional reasons I hasten to say! – the Goddard Centre which is part of the psychiatric St James’s Hospital in Locksway Road. It describes its



purpose as supporting “all aspects of general practice education in the health care communities based around Portsmouth, South East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight”, being “funded by Wessex Deanery and hosted by Portsmouth Hospital Trust”. Diana also discovered a link to a Dr Pearl Goddard, after whom the Centre is almost certainly named, as this obituary taken from the *British Medical Journal* of 5 November 1983 implies. Under the heading “Pearl Goddard, MB, BS, MRCPSYCH, DPM” it states:

“Dr Pearl Goddard, formerly consultant in psychogeriatrics to St James’ Hospital, Portsmouth, died suddenly on 3 August while on holiday in Crete. She was 57.

“Pearl Goddard – ‘Smash’ to her friends – was born in South Shields, County Durham, in 1926 and was educated at South Shields High School for Girls and King’s College Medical School, Durham University, graduating MB, BS with distinction in 1949. After some initial experience in paediatrics she became house officer and then junior registrar at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She then began training in psychiatry, in which she worked for the rest of her career. Her first post was as junior hospital medical officer in the children’s department at St James’ Hospital, Portsmouth, but she then returned to Newcastle to work as junior registrar in the department of psychological medicine at Durham University. She returned to St James’ Hospital, obtaining the DPM in 1958, and in 1960 was appointed senior hospital medical officer in adult

psychiatry. In 1966 she was given study leave to visit other psychogeriatric assessment units, and later she did an attachment in geriatric medicine at Newcastle General Hospital. These activities enabled her to play an invaluable part in the planning of the Beaton psychogeriatric unit, and she became the medical co-ordinator of the project, attaining the rank of consultant psychiatrist with a special interest in psychogeriatrics in 1972; she was the first consultant to take charge of the unit when it opened.

“Dr Goddard was one of the first full time consultants in psychogeriatrics. She worked unsparingly for the welfare of her patients and for the continued improvement in facilities for the unit and locally for the elderly. In 1977 the British Postgraduate Medical Federation designated the Beaton unit a centre of excellence for training. On several occasions she served on the hospital advisory service, enabling others to benefit from her invaluable experience. At the time of her retirement in 1981 the Beaton unit had almost doubled in size and was served by two full time consultants in psychogeriatrics.

After her retirement Dr Goddard continued to serve the hospital on a part time basis and to do locum appointments. Although she was troubled with ill health, she bore it with courage, and her sense of humour and friendship were always to the fore. Her great interest outside medicine was music, and she sang with the Portsmouth festival choir. She is survived by her husband Arthur and three children – James, a doctor, Pamela, a dentist, and Judith, a medical student.”

MAYOR

Julie of Newbury writes: “Last year’s Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Anthony Pick, is compiling stories of the past Mayors. Not an easy task as the first one to be elected was Bartholomew Yate in 1596. Inevitably in this part of Berkshire there is a Goddard on the list: Thomas Goddard was Mayor in 1620. Unfortunately the presence of numerous Goddards and of Thomases means that so far it has not been possible to place him in any family for certain, though the Goddard family in Bucklebury is a possibility, as they had land and money. In addition, Mary Goddard married into the family of John Winchcombe, known as Jack of Newbury, a wealthy wool merchant. I am sure that Goddards have been mayors of other towns, so why not send in details?”

Ed:- See Newsletters 13 for Barnsley, 18 for Lyme Regis, 85 for Weymouth and Haywards Heath, and 104 for Oxford.

STORIES FROM THE PROBATE INDEX – 1

May I offer a little advice to the many younger members of the Goddard Association who are about to decide upon names for their recent, or prospective, offspring. Please take note of the circumstances those well chosen names may be used by others. A couple of examples from the collection of probate notices collected by the late Peter Goddard of Canada illustrate possible pitfalls:

GODDARD, Thomas of the “Jolly Farmers” Holme Hale Norfolk died 29 June 1903. Administration London 25 July to Happy Selina Goddard widow. (An honest assessment?) [Widow Happy Selina Goddard, née Taylor, born 2nd quarter 1877 married Thomas Goddard 2nd quarter 1897, married again in 4th quarter of 1905 at Docking Norfolk, this time to a George Edward Cox.]

Then there was GODDARD, Lacey William Christmas of Westfield Norfolk died 25 December 1918. Probate Norwich 14 January 1919 to Thomas Colonel Decker retired farmer and Alfred Goddard innkeeper. (Perhaps a dire prediction!)

This author has recently transcribed the information from the photographic images from the probate record index collected by Peter Goddard. These records frequently contain personal information of the deceased useful to those building their family tree and, not least, the state of the family fortune at the time of the death. These images were until recently only available to GAE members via a request to the Research Co-ordinator, Joan Dibble, and were only in ‘jpeg’ form, one-by-one on an individual name basis. Now processed they are in a form that can be accessed via the website in a format similar to, and will complement, that data for Births Marriages and Deaths which is already available on the GAE website. This exercise was completed earlier this year.

I originally thought that this work would require the simple use of one of the Optical Character Recognition programmes, of which I have two or three, on the computer and the job done in five minutes. WRONG! The computer programmes are not as good as human instinct. The photocopy images are, in the main, of such poor quality marred by a combination of porous paper, wet ink, thin ink, and a heavily serified typeface, such that every entry has had, at least in part, to be typed in by hand. Even so, some are still totally unreadable appearing as black ink on black paper, or white ink on white paper! This means that from over three months effort I only managed to complete the first 1500 records out of the

total of about 4500. I have since ploughed on and completed the task.

Comments of a less frivolous nature are needed when, as an ex-customer of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, I was intrigued by the probate record giving the following information: GODDARD, Geoffrey Ronald of Jesus College Oxford and of 67 Palace Road Streatham Hill Surrey died 26 October at Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford. Administration London 15 December 1919 to Isabel Catherine Goddard widow. A visit to ‘google’ for Geoffrey Ronald Goddard was answered with the fact that *The Times* (London) for 28 October 1919 page 31 reported on a rugby football match and his death, but placed more emphasis on the fact that the opposing side had turned up four men short, rather than the accident and the consequence! Interesting enough, but then there was the Inquest Report, which gave many more personal details. I have not yet found the original report; however, the copy below is from the New Zealand newspaper the *Ashburton Guardian*, Volume XL, Issue 9197, 7 January 1920, page 4. (See <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/16237114>):

“Dislocation of his spine during a Rugby football match caused the death at Oxford of Mr Geoffrey Ronald Goddard (20), an undergraduate of Jesus College, whose parents live in Palace Road, Tulse Hill. At the inquest the Rev. W.T. Havard, chaplain of Jesus College, said that he was playing in a college Rugby game. ‘As the side was lining out,’ he said, ‘the ball came to me. I turned to pass it to the backs, when Goddard tackled me from behind, bringing me down, and I fell on him. He groaned, and complained that he had no feeling in his legs, arms and chest.’ There was no undue roughness and the affair was a pure accident. He was moved to the infirmary and operated on, but died from his injury. The house surgeon of the infirmary said that Goddard had dislocated his spine. He had never heard of a similar case in Rugby football. A verdict of ‘Accidental Death’ was returned, and Mr Havard was exonerated.”

It appears that, at that time circa 1920, the *Ashburton Guardian* catered for those who had recently emigrated from the UK and were homesick by selecting unattributed snippets from UK papers when they arrived in the islands months after the event. Founded in 1879, today the *Ashburton Guardian* is much more up to date; it has a print circulation of some 11,000 and a website catering for its local population consisting of a large town

and the surrounding agricultural and pastoral farming inhabitants, situated in the Canterbury region of the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

Geoffrey Ronald Goddard died just five days after his twentieth birthday. Born on 20 October 1899 the son of Samuel Charles and Isabel Catherine Goddard in Norwood Surrey, he had been educated in the adjacent district, at Dulwich College from 1910 until 1918. Both his brothers Eric Norman and Arthur Roberts preceded him at the school, as had several uncles and cousins. Geoffrey played rugby in the school 2nd XV in the 1917-18 season. Joining the army upon leaving school, he served in the Royal Field Artillery for a short time being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. He entered Oxford University as an undergraduate at Jesus College in January 1919, but died there in the freak rugby football accident some eight months later.

Brian of Newbury

DEVON VILLAGE

The agent selling Bantham, the Devon village mentioned in the last Newsletter, put a price tag of £11.5m on the property, part of which was owned by Charles Evans's granddaughter Gillian Goddard until her death last November. The National Trust showed interest but its bid was rejected, and the most recent news is that a private buyer is expected to keep things much as they are at present – to everyone's relief.

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Association member Mavis Johnson has kindly sent me news of a Richard Goddard in connection with Nottingham University. The Centre for Economic and Business History and the Institute for Medieval Research recently promoted a seminar on medieval borough court records as a resource for economic and social historians. Richard was one of the hosts. Does any member know him?

HEAD TEACHER

Vic Goddard, Head teacher of Passmores Academy in Harlow, Essex, and first mentioned in Newsletter 106, has surfaced again, this time writing a leading review in the *Sunday Telegraph* following the tragic murder in her school of teacher Anne Maguire. His article takes the view that young people are no worse than they ever were and that violent incidents in schools are still very rare. Rather, modern pupils are under far greater pressures than before, leading to a doubling of mental health problems since the 1980s. Vic's school has featured in the Channel 4 programme *Educating Essex*, and he has written a book entitled *The Best Job in the World*.

WADARD AGAIN

My wife has recently been staying in Kent and came across Wadard, Bishop Odo of Bayeux's man, who has appeared before in Newsletters 5, 11, 19, 21, 65 and 66. This time he was lending his name to a side of Morris Men and a bookshop, the connection being the village of Farningham where he was the first lord of the manor – one of his several estates throughout the country. The Wadard Morris Men were founded in 1977 and, although they mainly dance in Kent, they have appeared in many other parts of the country, have travelled to Belgium and France, and have even featured three times on television.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Leslie R. Goddard, Box 426, Greenwood, British Columbia, Canada, V0H 1J0.
Mrs Kathleen J. Hoggett, 13 Laurina Place, Morley, Western Australia 6062.

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:

Kathleen Hoggett descends from the Manchester family of Edward Goddard who married Mary Clay in 1669. Subsequent generations are: Thomas born in 1671, married Mary Richardson in Eccles and died on 31 October 1773; Edward born in 1699, married Elizabeth Hatfield; Robert born in Lancashire in 1732, married Mary Sharrocks; Edward born in Lancashire in 1764, married Sarah Robertson and moved to London in the late 1700s, dying there in 1823; another Edward born in Aldermanbury, London in 1803, marrying Mary Ann Smith there on 20 August 1832, and dying in 1846; Henry born in Islington, Middlesex, on 20 November 1840, married Elizabeth Simmons in London on 21 April 1867 and died in Essex on 1 January 1892, being buried at Woodgrove Park. His daughter Elizabeth Rebecca Goddard was born at Newtown, Middlesex on 29 September 1867, and married Albert Scott at Toowoomba in Queensland, Australia, on 28 April 1897; she died on 9 December 1954, is buried at St Stephens Anglican Church Cemetery, Ma Ma Creek, and is Kathleen's great grandmother.

COAST

Having exhausted the British Isles and Europe, the TV programme *Coast* has moved to Australia where the first episode covered Sydney and featured a Jacqui Goddard advising on the constituents that helped to make mortar for the buildings put up by the original settlers. Do any Australian members know her?

WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

As per the request at the 2013 AGM, Newsletters are now directly emailed to website registered members (the April 2014 Newsletter was sent to 252 email addresses) with very few adverse issues identified using this methodology. [Ed. *This has inevitably meant unnecessary duplication and, with postal costs having increased yet again, I should be most grateful if you would inform me if your are still receiving a postal copy and no longer need one.*]

The GAE Facebook page continues to grow and at 6 May 2014 has 195 members (up from 132 last AGM), and regular conversations and posting of family questions, well over 300 family photos and information exchanges have resulted in a number of online family reunions where people have been able to link up with distant and not so distant relations, including some that I would consider as long lost cousin reunions as well! A significant driver of this process and the online presence overall is GAE Research Co-ordinator Joan Dibble, and I commend her great work which sees her daily on the site, engaging with members in this new but extremely important and growing resource. Well done Joan! Approximately half those who join the Facebook page have gone on to join the full Goddard Association, and I would say it is the primary source of all new members.

The main GAE website continues to grow and to be a very useful resource and research tool. At present it contains approx. 1.6Gb of documents, databases, monographs and Goddard information (mostly unavailable in other places on the internet, which was the primary purpose of the current website when it was initiated in 2008 by former GAE Research Co-ordinator the late Peter Goddard of Toronto). Information is being downloaded by members at a rate of 945Mb per month. What does this mean? Well, 60% of the website is viewed and downloaded every month, which also means that it is being well used and definitely a cost effective communication tool for the Association, as it only costs £2.41 per month.

My desire is that we continue to thrive as a family history organisation – though with an aging membership it is a challenge; but it is possible if members share their research. The logical way is via the secure 'members only' portal on the website. We can advertise what information is available via Facebook and the full GAE site, but lock the research behind a firewall so that it is not on open access. Few members are actively researching their own families; so I encourage everyone to think of what they can

leave their family in the way of a researched family tree, and how they can ensure that all the work they have done will not be lost to future generations. If you have a family tree or lots of research documents, photos or information, but it isn't in a form that can be easily published, please think of contacting either Joan Dibble or myself about how we can ensure that your legacy is preserved. *Malcolm of Brisbane*

WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY – 10

The twelfth volume of the Wiltshire Record Society published in 1956 is entitled *Collectanea*. It contains a study of six different records, of which only the second, *The Veredictum of Chippenham Hundred 1281*, concerns us. A 'veredictum' is an answer which jurors of a hundred (an administrative area of a county supposed to contain a hundred families) produced in response to searching questions on such issues as criminal matters, the rights of the Crown, the misconduct of local officials, the tenurial structure of the hundred, etc. In this study there are four references to Walter de Godardville (also variously spelt Cardevil, Dodrevile, Godervyle and Godrevile), and several more to his son-in-law Sir Geoffrey Gascelyn who was married to Walter's daughter Joan.

The borough of Chippenham and the manor of Sheldon had originally been held by the Norman William Beauvilein, but were granted on 27 July 1231 to Walter de Godardville to be held by the service of a quarter of a knight's fee. After Walter's death, about the end of 1249, the estate passed, seemingly without any difficulty, to Geoffrey Gascelyn as husband of Walter's heiress Joan. But in 1281, when Geoffrey was required to register his claim to the hundred and its liberties, the king's attorney challenged it on the grounds that the Godardville charter, which Geoffrey had produced in court, did not mention it. The Chippenham jurors were in no doubt that the hundred belonged to that part of the former royal demesne manor of Chippenham which became Sheldon Manor since, although the case was twice adjourned, it does not appear again. Geoffrey probably died in January 1282 and the estate passed to his widow. She still held it at her death in about February 1287, as did her son and heir Edmund Gascelyn at his death in 1307.

MUSEUM CURATOR

Watching the BBC programme *Antiques Road Trip* recently, my younger daughter spotted that the curator of the Manchester United Football Museum is one Bill Goddard. Does any member know anything about him?

HENRY GODDARD, BOW STREET RUNNER

While researching for quite another topic I again came across our old friend Henry Goddard, Bow Street Runner. Long term readers will remember Henry from several years ago (is it really 23 years since I wrote about him in Newsletter 21 in October 1991?!). And he is mentioned in two later Newsletters (56 & 59), including his being at one time a neighbour of Karl Marx. This time I found Henry in 1839, at the time when he had left the irregular, first London police force and was available for hire as a private detective.

The Eglinton Tournament was an elaborate attempt by the Earl of Eglinton to stage a medieval tournament – no expense spared – at his Scottish estate on 30 August 1839. Proper attire, if your family had not inherited suitable armour, was in short supply. Buyers flocked to the Bond Street, London, showrooms of Samuel Luke Pratt, eager and willing to buy or hire from his collection of arms and armour. Perhaps more worldly wise than the Earl of Eglinton – which would not be difficult – Mr Pratt could see that the tournament would be an ideal hunting ground for the criminal fraternity of thieves and pickpockets. He took measures to ensure that as far as possible his wares were safe by hiring Henry Goddard and Ballard, another policeman turned private detective.

As Mr Pratt had feared, members of the London criminal bands hired themselves suits of armour and caught the train to the nearest station to Eglinton and began to mingle with the crowds. A man in armour can only see in front, and those so attired were going to be easy prey for the London villains. However, so were they for the London detectives, dressed in easier attire as Franklins (monks of the order of St Francis). Soon identified by the detectives, they were ordered from the horse drawn wagons which were to take them the last few miles, and were returned to the station at Ardrossan. It is reported that the villains threw their armour into the sea in disgust, and sat in the pubs waiting for the return of spectators from the show. Cold, damp and miserable and having walked two miles in rain and mud from Eglinton to Ardrossan, those returning were only too happy to be offered food and drink and to tell their tales of woe – as they were deftly deprived of their remaining possessions.

If you would like a little wry amusement, do read the accounts of the tournament on the web, or *The Knight and the Umbrella* by Ian Anstruther. Most of us have suffered at rain spoilt garden fetes some time or another. The Eglinton tournament heads

the league of awfulness. Incidentally, if anyone has a copy of *Henry Goddard, Bow Street Runner* I am looking to replace my copy, which unfortunately I gave away some years ago. *Julie of Newbury*

PLINY EARLE GODDARD

The edition of the *Daily Telegraph* for 14 June carried the obituary of Chester Nez who was aged 93. Chester was the last survivor of the twenty-nine Navajo Indians recruited by the US Marines in the Second World War to create an unbreakable code, which proved vital in the Pacific theatre of the war, based on their complex language. The idea had been suggested by Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary who had been brought up on the Navajo Reservation, and who was one of a very few non-Navajo who spoke the unwritten language fluently and fully appreciated its potential. The Goddard connection? Newsletter 44 mentioned Pliny Earle Goddard, the father of the first President of the Goddard Association of America, an ethnologist who had himself studied the Navajo amongst many other native American tribes in the early years of the twentieth century, and who most probably knew the Johnstons and maybe even Chester Nez himself.

SCILLY GODDARD

A friend recently visited the Scilly Isles on holiday and found this Goddard tombstone in the churchyard



on St Martin island and immediately wondered if they were related to me. Well, the answer is 'no', but see Newsletter 80 for much more information on the Scilly Goddard branch of the wider Goddard family!

ROBERT GODDARD

John of Accrington has kindly alerted me to the fact that the sequel to author Robert Goddard's 24th novel *The Ways of the World* hits the bookshops sometime this month. Its title is *The Corners of the Globe*.

AGM

The 28th AGM was held on Sunday 11 May 2014 for a second year running in the Village Hall at Brimpton near Newbury; some three dozen members attended. After a warm welcome by the President to long-standing and new attendees, several apologies were recorded, and the Minutes of the Last Meeting were approved and signed; there were no matters arising. Treasurer John then gave his financial report for a satisfactory year, and the audited Accounts were approved. Any member wishing to see a copy should contact the Treasurer direct (see this page for details). Research Co-ordinator Joan Dibble had very little to report, having had a quiet year in which she sadly sustained the unexpected death of her husband; but she said that Brian of Newbury had something to say. Brian indicated that he had recently completed the task of retyping the Probate Records of the late Peter of Toronto so that they were now more easily searchable on the website – a real labour of love for which Brian was warmly thanked. He also mentioned two other documents, both relating to the Civil War and in which many Goddards were mentioned, that had recently been put on the website by Malcolm in Brisbane: the Falstone Daybook of 1642 and the Journal of Sir Samuel Luke 1642-44.

The Agenda then moved on to the election of officers. Richard of Malvern, Denise of Solihull and John of Shrewsbury were re-elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. John of Accrington and Malcolm of Brisbane were re-elected to the Committee for further three year terms, and the two vacancies from the previous year were unexpectedly filled by the election of Brian of Newbury (returning after a gap of eight years) and John of Fareham. A warm welcome to them both and I am most grateful to them for standing – though, with the greatest of respect, I had hoped that one or two of the next generation of members might have been persuaded to put their names forward! There was no other business, and the date and place of the 2015 AGM was tentatively fixed for Sunday 17 May at the Goddard Arms at Clyffe Pypard near Wootton Bassett; but this will be subject to investigation and confirmation.

The formal part of the business being concluded, the President presented the Howard Goddard Jones Memorial for 2014 to Treasurer John (on the right in the picture) who has nobly held the post since the Association's inception in 1985. This was followed by a talk by Association member Denise Syndercombe Court, updating us on the DNA project. She still has more work to do and, being an exceptionally busy

lady, it may yet take a while for her to finish. Tea and biscuits were served and the raffle raised sufficient funds almost to defray the cost of hiring the hall; very many thanks to those who donated prizes.



BENJAMIN GODARD

Julie of Newbury tells me that former member Anne Hockaday and her husband were recently puzzling over a crossword question concerning a work by Benjamin Louis Paul Godard, 1849-1895, a French violinist and Romantic era composer. The answer to the poser was *Jocelyn*, the name of an opera written by him, the *Berceuse* from which is his best known composition. I first wrote about this Godard in Newsletter 54 and again in 60.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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