



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 125 – January 2018

A SOLDIER'S JOURNEY TO PASSCHENDAELE

William Thomas Goddard

The man in the photograph (right) is my paternal grandfather, 2nd Lieutenant William Thomas Goddard, who died aged 33 on 13 October 1917 in No.1 Field Hospital in France. William (Will) was born on 26 May 1884 in Knettishall, Suffolk, and baptised in All Saints Church on 20 June. He was the fifth son and the sixth child born to William and Mary Ann Goddard. Two more children born in 1885 and 1890 completed the family, although one son died aged 3 years the year after Will's birth. By the 1901 census Will is listed as a manservant, domestic, aged 16. He is one of six servants working at 15 Great Cumberland Place, Marble Arch, London for Charles and Mary Fellows. When he joined the army two years later, in 1903, his occupation is listed as Footman.

Will was attested at Woolwich on 21 February 1903 in the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) for three years in the Army and nine years in the Reserve. At the age of 18 years and 9 months he became Gunner 30895. Between December 1903 and October 1906 he was posted to the 44th Battery Middleburg, Karoo, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The next posting for Acting Bombardier William Thomas Goddard was to Kirkee, India, on 28 October 1906, where he served until 15 March 1911. Home service followed and Will became a Sergeant on 31 December 1912.

In July 1911 Will was corresponding with Nellie Girdler. It is not known when or where the couple met, but a connection was made in 1901 when Will's brother Robert John Goddard married Nellie's sister Kate Girdler. William Thomas Goddard and Nellie Girdler were married at St Matthias Parish Church, Warwick



Road, Earls Court, London, on 10 May 1913. Their son Thomas William Goddard was born four months later, on 26 September 1913 at 3 St George's Road, Aldershot, Hampshire. Just over a year later on 21 November 1914, their daughter Nellie Elizabeth was born at Lentonville, The Street, Swallowfield, the home of Nellie's mother in Berkshire. The couple were married for just four years and were apart for most of that time, with no settled home of their own.



Following the declaration of war with Germany on 4 August 1914, Will was training recruits with 29th Res. Battery, RFA in Ballincollig, Ireland. His overseas posting to France began on 26 February 1915. Will's *War Diary* is written in faded pencil, torn, mud and blood spattered. Most entries are brief but often poignant, listing deaths (civilians, soldiers & horses) and regular gassing and shelling. Through these pages he tells of his thoughts about the progress of the war, new weapons, inspections, being offered a commission, and he makes light of being wounded at the Battle of the Somme, where between July to November 420,000 British soldiers died horrible and futile deaths.

2nd Lieutenant William Thomas Goddard was commissioned on 19 July 1916 and posted to 12th Battery, 7th Division. From July to November 1917 the Allies fought to gain control of the ridges south and east of Ypres, Belgium. This offensive was the Battle of Passchendaele, officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres. According to the *Regimental War Diary* for 35th Brigade, RFA in the period 27 to 30 September 1917

the 12th Battery was in Camp behind the lines at Reninghelst. Gun positions were being prepared 'in front of Chateau Wood'. These were occupied on 1 October 1917 for the rest of the month. It was in this forward area, Chateau Wood, that on 29 September 1917 Will was wounded. There is no mention of a wounded officer in the *Regimental Diary* for that date.

Will died on 13 October 1917 in No.1 Red Cross Field Hospital, Duchess of Westminster Hospital, Le Touquet, France, from spinal and cerebral meningitis following a gunshot wound. Nellie was with Will when he died. I was able to confirm this from the records at the National Archives where I found a telegram dated 7 October 1917 giving permission to visit the by now 'dangerously' ill Will. Will was buried with full military honours in the presence of his widow. The grave is No.11, Plot 28, Row B, in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, Etaples, Pas de Calais, formerly the Etaples Military Cemetery. The inscription on the grave, normally chosen by relatives, so most certainly chosen by my grandmother, is: "Death divides but memory clings". The following medals were awarded posthumously and issued on 10 October 1922: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal. *Brenda of Andover*

Ed.: My apologies to Brenda that this article did not appear in the last Newsletter to coincide with the centenary of Passchendaele. For only the second time in thirty years of compiling the Newsletter the original article got lost in the ether.



LORD SWANSEA

Kindly sent to me by our research co-ordinator Joan Dibble, under the heading 'Absence of Heir from the Funeral' is this article from the *Western Mail* of Wednesday 5 December 1894: "There are several rumours current at the present moment respecting the late Lord Swansea's last will and testament, and the absence from the funeral of his much beloved father of the present Lord Swansea. The facts seem to be as follows:- The late Lord Swansea was three times married. The present Lord Swansea, who is 46 years of age and unmarried, is by his first wife. He has spent many years in Italy and elsewhere and is scarcely known in Swansea, except to the middle aged of the inhabitants. He had not visited Singleton Abbey for three years before last Thursday. But his noble father, as is generally stated, allowed him £1,000 per annum to live wherever he pleased. He was instantly made acquainted with his father's death, and on the morrow (Thursday in last week) he arrived at Singleton Abbey. In consequence of something which took place after his lordship's arrival – for he is now Baron Swansea – Mr Trick, the family solicitor, was sent for to the Abbey, and requested to bring the late Lord Swansea's will with him. That was done. Under the will Ernest, second Baron Swansea, is amply provided for, to enable him to maintain the dignity of the family title, but Singleton Abbey and estate are left to the widowed Lady Swansea, together with other properties, to enable her to keep up the old home for herself and highly interesting daughters and son. As regards the Hon. Aubrey Vivian, a son by the second wife, it is stated Parc Gwyllt goes to him absolutely, with other provisions. Each of the other children are also well provided for.

The New Peer. The present Lord Swansea is the eldest son of the late Baron, and was born on 11 February 1848. His mother was the deceased peer's first wife, Jessie Dalrymple, daughter of the late Ambrose Goddard, M.P., of The Lawn, Swindon, who died about a fortnight after giving birth. The Hon. Ernest Ambrose, her offspring, was educated first at Eton and afterwards at Oxford and is J.P. and D.L. for the county. He has lived principally in London, Rome and Florence. He came down after his father's death but, after transacting some legal business, left at once for London and has not since returned."

The Swindon Goddards feature in Newsletters 35, 46, 49, 60, 91 and 98. *Joan Dibble*

Ed.: I knew the late 4th Baron Swansea and we spoke of the Goddard connection – he could not call her his ancestor as her son the 2nd Baron remained unmarried and the title passed to a son of the third marriage.

LOOSE ENDS – FURTHER RESEARCH

Elizabeth Jane Winter Goddard, the ‘loose end’ on the memorial to her son John Vincent Hawksley Williams in East Woodhay church (Newsletter 124), appears for certain by her full name only three times in available records: on that memorial, on her son’s baptism record, and in her father’s will. Elizabeth was descended from a family which had its origins in Topsham, Devon, and was engaged in shipping and maritime trade for several generations. Some details of the family’s early history appeared in Newsletter 39 and a suggested tree on the website in the Raw documents – West Country 001.

John Goddard of Rotherhithe was the master of the sailing ship *Theophila*. In January 1738 it was at anchor near Venice. Whilst there John made his will and probably died there soon after. All his possessions, apart from a small area of land, were left to his wife Elizabeth, née Winter, which no doubt accounts for the third forename of Elizabeth. His son Norris, who was with him on the voyage, witnessed the will and took over the captaincy. Norris continued to trade with Venice for several years, being noted as the master of *Theophila* when it was quarantined on its return from Venice and Zante in December 1743 for having carried provisions to an infected Dutch ship. Norris eventually moved to Falmouth where he died in December 1774 aged 61. Obviously a person of substance, as he is described as a ‘gentleman’ in his will made earlier that year. He mentions his sons Norris and William, for whom he had already made provision, and four daughters: Elizabeth, Ann, Sarah and Mary. With little access to registers a detailed chronology cannot be shown. Both sons carried on the seafaring tradition as ship’s captains. William married Elizabeth Retallack in Falmouth on 16 September 1773 and two sons were born there, Norris Matthew in October 1774 and William junior in October 1775. William next turns up four years later in Anglesey, operating a packet boat service between Holyhead and Dublin.

In Holyhead a succession of six more sons and a daughter were baptised at regular two-year intervals starting with Thomas in May 1779. But the baptisms of his eldest daughter Margaret Chilton and his second daughter Elizabeth Jane Winter, both identified in his will of 1799, have not been found. Margaret must have been born between 1775 and 1779 since she married in 1800, and Elizabeth about 1786. These two girls inherited between them almost £6,000 and a house in Falmouth. Six younger sons received £8,000 and houses in Falmouth, a tenement in Rotherhithe, and William’s residence in Dublin where he died.

The property in Rotherhithe had been left to him by an Elizabeth Winter, probably his grandmother but this is uncertain. An unusual clause in William’s will allowed the children to use the ‘Goddard’ spelling, although he had used ‘Godard’ for their christening.

William’s eldest son, Norris Matthew, was separately provided for and was to receive the vessel *Besborough* after having had some years’ experience as a captain. He carried on the packet service for several years before obtaining the post of Chief Officer of the G.P.O. depot at Holyhead which had taken over the operation of mail boats to Ireland in 1832. Two of his younger brothers were also closely concerned with shipping, Thomas as Beaumaris agent for Lloyd’s marine insurance underwriters and Joseph as Collector of Customs at Beaumaris. All three were also active in local politics and social life.

Returning to the memorial to John Vincent Hawksley Williams. His baptism in the Beaumaris parish register on 15 February 1817 simply records him as plain John Williams, son of John and Elizabeth Jane Winter Williams. His father’s occupation is given as Receiver General, a post whose job was to collect customs duties and harbour dues on behalf of the Crown. John senior was born in 1784 and Elizabeth about a year later. They married in 1808. As customs collector John senior would have been well-known to William Goddard’s family and a suitable match for William’s daughter Elizabeth. He later became a banker, a magistrate and Lt-Col. of Militia. The statement in the last newsletter that he became chaplain to the Princess of Wales, mother of George III, refers to a different John Williams. That John Williams was grandfather to J.V.H. Williams and Rector of Llanfairynghornwy near Holyhead. John Vincent Hawksley Williams followed his father as a banker in Bangor, was a County magistrate and a member of Bangor Board of Health, but in later years seemed more concerned with his rank in the military, becoming a Colonel of Militia in Caernarvonshire.

Clearing up one ‘loose end’ has led to others. John William’s use of the extra middle name Hawksley is one. Another is that the name also occurs in the Goddard family with Archibald Hawksley Goddard and John Hawksley Goddard, solicitors of the firm William Goddard & Sons in Dublin in the mid to late 1800s and another Norris in the early twentieth century. It seems to have come via Elizabeth Williams. Her father, Capt. Williams, named Archibald Hawksley of Dublin as an executor of his 1799 will, so there must have been a close relationship and other connections which remain to be found.

John of Accrington

MY ELUSIVE GODDARDS OF CORK AND BRISTOL

I seem to be having great difficulty in pinning down my Goddard ancestors. I know that I cannot possibly be the only researching descendant, but right now that is exactly how it feels. I first came upon my Goddard line while searching for information on my 5 x great grandfather, Reverend John Ash, LL.D. (1724?-1779), lexicographer, his wife being Elizabeth Goddard (1728-1785). With the help of Facebook I received a pdf file on his obituary and it is jam-packed with leads not only on his life story, but on his connection to the Goddard family and their connections to other prominent families of the time and place. Then another pdf titled "John Ash and the Pershore Church: Additional Notes".

My brain went into over-load – which line to work on first? My first clue here is a beauty! From another pdf found at www.biblicalstudies.org.uk I was able to find the following entry also connected with Reverend John's obituary: "Mr Taylor further shows that each man's wife was a niece of Samuel Rickards, junior. Ash's wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Samuel's sister Hannah and Mark Goddard of Bristol; Evan's wife Sarah was the daughter of Samuel's sister Sarah and Joseph Jefferies. Mr Taylor adds that Jefferies 'was probably a Baptist minister'. He was, in fact, minister of the Baptist church at Taunton from 1720 to 1746." So, from this I was able to ascertain that through the Rickard family Samuel and Elizabeth Rickard's daughter, Hannah Rickards married Mark Goddard and their daughter, Elizabeth Goddard, married Reverend John Ash.

From the obituary came the golden mine of information: "One of his sisters, Hannah, had married Mark Goddard, a merchant of Bristol, – though, like his father (also Mark), he had connections with Cork in Ireland – who went bankrupt and died shortly after in 1736, followed by his wife a year later, leaving three young children, two girls and a boy. Samuel Rickards, senior, their grandfather, had settled £600 in trust for the Goddard children, with Samuel Rickards, junior, as chief trustee. The latter took his responsibilities very seriously and brought his two orphan nieces to Pershore: Elizabeth (always called Betsy by her uncle) as soon as her father died when she was about eight years old, and her sister, Patty, the following year. Samuel lodged Betsy first with his mother, next door to his own house in the High Street and, on old Mrs Rickard's death in 1741, with his sister Mary and her husband, Robert Sitch, near by. Samuel Rickards remained the actual guardian of his nieces, however, and sent them both to Mrs Linton's Boarding School in Worcester for five years

where they appear to have received a better education than was usual for girls in those days.

On 24 June 1749, when Elizabeth Goddard presumably came of age, her uncle Samuel paid her the balance of the trust money. Meanwhile John Ash had been introduced to Pershore and must soon have noticed the Misses Goddard as attentive members of his congregation. No doubt his quick intelligence impressed Samuel Rickards too, but certainly Elizabeth attracted more than strictly pastoral attention from the 'student pastor'. Courtship could easily have started before 1749 if Ash had been a frequent visitor, but in any case, like many a Baptist student since, as soon as he received full ministerial status he married. The Marriage Settlement, dated 26 August 1751, is a formidable parchment document, measuring 23 inches long by 28 inches wide and still in beautiful condition. It explains Ash's circumstances with great candour: ".....the said John Ash not being provided with any Reall Estate in Possession Sufficient for the Jointure of the said Elizabeth Goddard". By the terms of the settlement £400, "part of the marriage portion of her, the said Elizabeth Goddard," was to be invested in trust for the benefit of Elizabeth and her children, the trustees being her uncle, Samuel Rickards, and her cousin, John Sitch. Against the red wax seals at the bottom of the parchment appear the signatures of the parties to the settlement: John Ash, in a lean, vigorous hand; Elizabeth Goddard, in a careful, elegant 'copper-plate' style which speaks well for Mrs Linton's school; Samuel Rickards, rounded and with flourishes; John Sitch, plain and firm – all appearing as fresh today as when they were first penned; four interesting Baptist signatures over 200 years old.

The marriage followed soon after for on 2 January 1752 John and Elizabeth signed an 'instrument' proving that the trustees of the Marriage Settlement had invested the £400 at 4%. Elizabeth signed in her married name – the slightly blurred "Eliz" can still be seen immediately under her husband's signature, showing that she began to write too high up, smudged it out and signed again lower down by the second seal. John Ash was 27, his bride 23, when they began what was clearly a happy marriage. From various clues we may glean something of their personalities. In the first place the marriage could hardly have been possible unless Samuel Rickards had approved of John Ash both as the husband of his niece and as the minister of his church. This in itself is no small commendation. For his part, as we have seen, Ash had nothing to offer except his brains

and the rather uncertain prospects of the Baptist ministry, although he had sufficient confidence to ask for Elizabeth's hand before he was ordained, and to marry immediately afterwards. Elizabeth, on the other hand, was a comparatively wealthy young woman with good connections and could probably have married into a higher and more secure station, yet she was willing to accept a young, unknown Baptist minister of humble origin and settle down in the Pershore manse among the very people who had known her most of her life. It says much for their determination and mutual affection. Ash's regard for his wife's good sense is seen in the provisions of his will by which he entrusted her with considerable responsibility.

Elizabeth bore her husband six children who are all named in his will of 1779, presumably in order of seniority: Eliza, Samuel (an inevitable choice!), Joseph, Martha, Sarah and Luezar (sic). Nothing more has come to light so far about these children except for Joseph. The stipend John and Elizabeth Ash could rely on was not large although it is difficult to translate it accurately into modern values, especially when allowance is made for the gifts of fruit and vegetables which are still a happy feature of Baptist life in Pershore. Wilson, in a note claiming to be based on the church's state in 1774, says that part of the stipend was derived from legacies, representing invested capital of £300 to £400; (both Samuel Rickards senior and his son left money for this purpose). Opportunities for "larger pecuniary advantages" were not entirely lacking for a man of Ash's talent and he took full advantage of them, proving himself to be as shrewd in business as in everything else. He was fortunate in that through the Rickards family he had excellent contacts with the world of commerce and investment. From the will of Mary Sitch, dated June 1771, something of Ash's extra-ministerial interests can be seen. Mary Sitch was the sister of Samuel Rickards junior, and Elizabeth Ash had lived with her as a girl. From his own will of 1779 we learn that John Ash kept a shop, but tantalisingly he does not say what it was. He directs that "the said Trade of Business be carried on in the Firm of Mrs Ash and Company and as near as consistent in the manner that it now is". It is evident that Ash had a high regard for his wife's ability and she may have been helping to look after the shop for some time before his death.

And there ends the transcripts of the Obituary of Reverend John Ash telling the story of his marriage to Elizabeth Goddard and their families.

Erynne Baynes 5

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ms Isabel Crabtree, 15945 Lowery Road, Red Bluff, California 96080, USA.
Mr Michael D'Arcy Goddard, Silverdale, 1988 Nullamanna Road, Nullamanna, NSW 2360, Australia.
Mr Robert Goddard, 5 Mull Reach, Buxton, Norwich, NR10 5EJ.

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:

Isabel Crabtree traces her family back to Elias Goddard born c.1796 in Georgia, but moved to Arkansas in 1833. Y-DNA suggests a link to Bilsington, Kent.

Michael Goddard (actually a re-joining member) comes from a Norfolk / Suffolk branch around Aldeby and Beccles, descending from a William born about 1759 and the later Captain William 1835-1898, who sailed between Australia and Europe during his years at sea. Captain William Goddard's career has been previously noted in Newsletters 107 and 108.

Robert Goddard's origins are in Compton, Surrey, where his 3 x great grandfather George was from one of several Goddard families in the village. George's grandson William 1870-1954 eventually moved to Quarrington, Lincolnshire.

WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY – 19

The Wiltshire Record Society's volume 16 for 1960 was entitled *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1249* (Newsletter 113). Volume 26 for 1970 is entitled *Civil Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1249* and, like its predecessor, contains four main references to Goddards or, more accurately, the de Godardvilles (spelt several different ways). In the previous article I explained that the Eyre was a royal court held from 1166 to 1294 by the King's justices in each county at intervals of several years and usually as part of a countryside visitation, the aim being to improve the administration of royal justice and deal with outstanding disputes. As the titles suggest, the distinction between the two volumes is that the first relates to cases brought by the King's officers, while the second concerns cases brought by private individuals. As one might suppose at this period in history, the disputes concern access to and ownership of land, a much prized medieval commodity, in the Chippenham and Marlborough areas. One case goes against Walter de Godarville – well known in these Newsletters – and one in his favour. The other two cases go against a John de Godarville and a Robert de Godarville respectively, though their relationship to each other or to Walter is unknown.

PROFESSOR HUGH GODDARD

I have recently come across a Hugh Goddard who is the Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at Edinburgh University. Professor Goddard was an undergraduate at Oxford where he studied Islamic History, and then took his doctorate from the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in Birmingham. He has worked and



studied in the Middle East, in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, and has also undertaken a number of research visits to other regions of the Islamic World including Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia and Central Asia. Prior to moving to Edinburgh he worked in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the University of Nottingham, where he served as Professor of Christian-Muslim Relations from 2004. He is the author of three books and numerous articles – an impressive track record.

GOLFER AGAIN

Harry Goddard, the young Hertfordshire golfer from Hanbury Manor Golf Club, who last year won the *Daily Telegraph* Junior Golf Championship at Quinta do Lago in Portugal at the relatively young age of 16 (Newsletter 121) was, at 17, still young enough to defend his title this November and make his third appearance in the tournament. Unfortunately he had not had a particularly good season, trying to cut it at the next level, “against men making a name for themselves” as he put it. He was clearly not playing as well as last year, and his opening round of 78 was a sad contrast to the course record of 66 that he shot last year and left him far too much to do. A 75 followed by a 71 was a solid improvement, but he ended up coming sixth in a field of twelve, ten shots off the lead. The tournament was won by a fellow Hertfordshire player, Max Hopkins.

DISCOVER WikiTree

WikiTree is a fast growing online resource with the aim of growing a single, world, family tree that is accurate and always free for visitors and contributors. It opened in 2008 and now has over 15 million profiles and is edited by over 450,000 genealogists from all over the world. Privacy controls are in place but, in general, historical information is open to all. Individual profiles have managers, but these are not owners. Once a profile is up and open, anyone can edit it. Most importantly, there is only one profile for any individual, so users putting up new profiles are encouraged (and guided) to ensure that they are not duplicating existing listings. There is an active group of volunteers that work to clean up the site by tidying profiles, adding sources, and merging duplicates. New users are guided gently into as much participation as they want. The site is fully searchable and, as mentioned previously, it is all completely free and profiles can be found through google searches (which is great cousin-bait!).

I have started to put some of my tree up on the site (mainly direct ancestors), and have “adopted” a number of Goddard profiles that didn’t have a profile manager. I have also put up GAE “free-space page” and am hoping that members of the GAE will visit it and identify themselves. If there is enough interest, I could start a Goddard project that will enable more active interaction on the site. If you are interested in exploring WikiTree, you can find it at www.wikitree.com. While you are there, drop me a line at the site (Berkman-104) or leave a comment at the GAE page: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Goddard_Association_of_Europe.

Janet Berkman

QUARTERBACK

Born on 28 October 1914 in San Diego, California, Edwin Vinson Goddard was an American football player. He grew up in Escondido, California, and was nicknamed “the Escondido Express” by a local reporter. He played College football at quarterback for Washington State University, and occasionally as halfback and punter. In the mid 1930s he was named a first-team All-American quarterback for three consecutive years, and was a consensus All-American quarterback in 1935 and 1936. In the 1937 NFL Draft he was the second pick, and played professional football for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1937 and for the Cleveland Rams 1937-38. During the Second World War he served in the military, and subsequently married Ellen by whom he had two children. He died at his home in San Marcos, California, on 20 July 1992.

AUSTRALIAN BOXER

Joseph John Goddard was one of the first reported Australian heavyweight boxers, known for his great strength, durability and punching power. It was said that if he could get in close, his chances of winning were great; but, if not, he could often be outboxed. Born in Pyramul, New South Wales on 25 November 1857 and nicknamed 'The Wild Man' and 'The Barrier Champion', he died in Philadelphia in the USA on 21 January 1903 after being shot in the head by a police constable whom he had attacked with a baseball bat during a fight at the Republican Primaries in July 1902. After spending two months in hospital, he recovered sufficiently to be released (with the bullet still in his head), only to be re-arrested and imprisoned when he attacked the constable again and was unable to put up the requisite \$1,000 bail. He is said to have lost his sanity a few days later, so was transferred to an asylum for the insane, and then to Cooper Hospital where he died. His body was left to the Philadelphia Medical College for scientific research.



Already over thirty when he took up the sport, and often fighting under the alias James Bradley, during his career from 1889 to 1902 he fought a total of 65 contests, winning 33 of them (28 by knock out), losing 18, drawing 12, with 'no contest' being declared in two (though, because records were not kept carefully in those early days, different sources give different numbers of fights). In Australia from 1889 to 1892 he fought 26 times, winning 20 and in the process

becoming Heavyweight Champion of Australia, a title he lost and won on several occasions, and to which he added the British Empire (now Commonwealth) title in 1890. A year in the United States from July 1892 to July 1893 saw him fight nine times, only losing once. Returning to Australia for eighteen months, he recovered his national heavyweight title and then moved to South Africa where he won that country's national heavyweight title in 1895 as well and successfully defended it on three occasions. The final phase of his career began in the autumn of 1897 when he again moved to the United States. But by then he was well past his prime, winning only one of his last eighteen fights and meeting his sad end in the manner described above. Can any member support this heavyweight on their family tree, or provide me with any further information?

IN TROUBLE AGAIN

Hartley Goddard, landlord of the Red Lion Inn, was hauled before the Accrington magistrates in March 1895 on a charge of allowing billiards to be played during prohibited hours. Followers of snooker championships, which now often go on to a very late hour, may be surprised to know that billiards in licensed premises was not allowed after 11p.m. In a licensed billiard saloon the game could be played until 1a.m.. Hartley was also charged with selling liquor after hours. Seven others were summoned for aiding and abetting and being on licensed premises after hours. All seven stayed in the premises until 6.a.m. the following morning and could therefore claim to be lodgers so the charge of illegal drinking was withdrawn. On the billiards offence the prosecution admitted that Goddard may have been in ignorance of the law and had no intention of breaking it. The case was withdrawn on payment of costs. Hartley Goddard has appeared in these pages before (Newsletter 57) when, trading as a pork butcher, he fell foul of the Council's public health bye-laws for slaughtering pigs on his shop premises in unhygienic conditions. *John of Accrington – no relation!*

COURT REPORT

At the Old Bailey in September 1785 John Goddard was charged with stealing seven Muscovy ducks on Acton common, the property of William Bedford. Also in the dock were Martin Stevens, accused of the theft of two fowls, and Thomas Broom, charged with stealing five geese. All were convicted of felony. It appears, reported *The Times*, that these rogues were determined to feather their nests!

John of Accrington

AGM REMINDER

This is just to remind you that, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, the 2018 AGM will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 20 May at Brimpton Village Hall, which is just off the A4 east of Newbury. We have met there twice in recent years. For those with satnavs the post code is RG7 4TD. I am happy to announce that the guest speaker will be the Waitrose Assistant Buyer and Association member, David Goddard (see below). Full details will be published in the April Newsletter.

WAITROSE BUYER

Joan Dibble writes: “Well done to our President Richard’s daughter Diana for spotting mention of David Goddard in a Waitrose free paper. I immediately recognised that David is a GAE member and a GAE Facebook group friend. David and his wife Sally have had a wonderful but worrying year. Late in 2016 their daughter Beatrice was born very prematurely weighing less than two pounds; thankfully she has thrived and is progressing well, to the point where she took the star role of baby Jesus in their church nativity. We are looking forward to catching up at the AGM and seeing Bea for the first time.”

And David himself writes: “It was good to hear from Joan Dibble in late October, when she forwarded a copy of Newsletter 124. On page 4 Richard talks about how his daughter picked up the Waitrose store’s free paper for 10 August and on seeing the article on the growing trend for regional gins, asked whether any member could claim the mentioned assistant buyer, David Goddard, as a relative. I can do one better than that, as I am that buyer! Connected as we are through Facebook, Joan knew through my postings about my work on local gin, and it was great to hear that the article had been picked up on by an Association member. I have been working for Waitrose for twenty-two years in a variety of roles, and in February last year moved to the role of Assistant Buyer for Local and Regional products. It’s a great job which I really enjoy – I get to work with lots of interesting producers in many categories (bakers, dairies, brewers, distillers and more) from across the country and help them grow their business through listing their products in our branches. Gin is a new product for us, and we are aiming to be able to showcase a locally produced gin in every Waitrose branch. I am delighted to have been asked to be guest speaker at the AGM in May, so those of you who are coming will get to hear more about me, my family history, and my work, then.”

REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF TELEPATHY

The following appeared in the Western Times for Friday 5 August 1921 under the above heading: “While seated at tea with her husband at Streatham, Mrs Goddard said ‘something is up; we shall hear of something directly’. So upset was she at the premonition that she could not finish her tea. Less than a quarter of an hour later the news was brought to the house that Private G.V. Goddard, 19, of the 9th Lancers had been drowned at Surbiton while bathing.” Not a lot to go on to identify the family; one would assume that G.V. Goddard was the son of Mr and Mrs Goddard. The young man in question must be Private Gilbert Vaughan Goddard 9th (Queens Royal) Lancers who died on 1 August 1921 and is buried in St Peter and St Paul churchyard, Mitcham, Surrey, Plot XVI.24 memorial 60093620. I searched and found a birth for Gilbert Vaughan Goddard in the June quarter 1902 in Staines 3a 19 and went on to check the 1911 census. This seems the most likely family living at 4 Stone Cottage, London Road, Mitcham in Surrey. The head of the family is William Goddard aged 39, a Cowman on a farm born in Buscot, Berkshire. He is with his wife Sarah and four children, Gilbert aged 9 and Violet 7, both born at Cranford. Violet’s birth is registered also in Staines, September quarter 1903 3a 21. William aged 5 and Lillian 1, both born in Merton. I won’t take this further, but if you feel this might be your family and you can expand on what I have discovered, please let me know. *Joan Dibble*

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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