

The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 126 – April 2018

STORIES FROM THE PROBATE INDEX – 4

George Ashe Goddard alias Iles

When one comes across the word ‘otherwise’ within the description of a person, it is like finding a trapdoor; one can either walk over it, or lift the latch and peer in. But beware, take a torch, it is a dark and murky world down there. Reading through the Probate Notices on the Goddard Association’s data collection there is only one occurrence of the word ‘otherwise’ in reference to a person’s name in over 4,000 notices, although it does occur a very few times giving alternative names to places.



Cliffe Pypard Vicarage House as rebuilt by George Ashe Goddard

“27 April [1874] Administration (with the Will) of the effects [less than £100] of the Reverend George Ashe Goddard otherwise Iles formerly of Cliffe Pypard in the County of Wilts but late of Hare-street Buntingford in the County of Hertford Clerk who died 27 November 1873 at Hare-street was granted at the Principal Registry to Josiah William Parker of Baldock in the County of Hertford Brewer and Wine Merchant a Creditor.”

George Ashe Goddard was born on 15 August 1809 in Clyffe Pypard Wiltshire, to Edward Goddard and his wife Annica Susan, née Bayntun, the sixth of their eleven

children. George matriculated at Brasenose College Oxford in June 1827, and obtained his BA in 1831 and MA in 1834. In 1834 he was listed as a JP for Wiltshire and as a priest in Winterbourne Bassett. He became the vicar for Clyffe Pypard in 1839 on the death of the previous incumbent, his uncle Edward Goddard, and the Advowson (or patronage) of the ‘Lord of the manor’ Horatio Nelson Goddard, his elder brother. On 6 July 1837 George married Catherine Matilda Sherwood (bapt. 14 May 1819) at St Mary’s Reading, Berkshire; there were no children by this marriage.

From 1839 until 1863 the Rev. George Ashe Goddard did everything that was expected of a mid-Victorian vicar and JP. He ran the church and its parish functions, he bought and sold farmland, was commended at a Bristol show for ‘an improved Essex boar he had raised himself’ and sat on many committees with the ‘great and the good’ of Wiltshire to improve the lot of the agricultural workers and thus improve their landlords’ income, rebuilt the vicarage, built and supported the local school, but apparently raised no children of his own.

The 1861 census record shows the occupants of Vicarage House, Clyffe Pypard, as the Rev, George Ashe Goddard, his wife Catherine Matilda, and five servants. Soon after this census there is evidence that the Rev. George, perhaps at a loose end after all his building work is finished, is involved amorously with a household servant not listed as resident at the vicarage in 1861. She was said to be ‘a ladies maid’. 30 year old Eliza Miles, née Truman, wife of William Miles, a carpenter. Their census record for 1861 shows them living at the School House on the Bushton Road with their three children; a fourth was born in January 1862.

The story published by the Sherwood family <http://www.sherwoodfam.plus.com/images/SFaut2010.pdf> fills in where documented evidence is short: “It seems the situation came to a head following the birth of Eliza’s fourth child in 1862, when George eloped with her and her children, Ellen, John, Elizabeth and Mary born between 1856 and 1862.” “Without naming names, the local newspaper published the story of the clergyman who ran off with a ‘married woman’, which

was picked up and published nationally by *The Times*; it stated: "What renders the circumstance more painful than it otherwise might have been is the fact that the female that the reverend gentleman has taken with him is a married woman, and prior to entering into the matrimonial state she lived in the house of her reverend admirer as lady's maid". During the early part of 1863 George relinquished his post as the vicar and all ties with St Peter's Church, the vicarage and Clyffe Pypard, to set up home with Eliza and her four children, then all under seven years old.

On 3 April 1865 his wife, Catherine Matilda, sought to protect her interests, and filed a petition "In Her Majesty's Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes" for the protection of her earnings, which were later granted in her favour. (J77/22/G122 Divorce Court File: G122. Appellant: Catherine Matilda Goddard wife of Rev George Ashe Goddard. Type: Wife's petition for protection of earnings [Prot]. Date 1865 Held by: The National Archives, Kew). When she died in 1909 her estate was worth in the region of £10,000 (while her husband's estate was less than £100 and that mostly owed to his wine merchant). As an aside, Catherine Matilda Goddard, née Sherwood, was related to the Maurice family, doctors at Marlborough, into which the daughter of Lord Chief Justice Goddard married.

In later life George made up for not having children by his wife Catherine; between 1864 and 1871 there were six born to George Ashe and Eliza (M)Iles. As only three appear to have been registered, most of the early information comes from the 1871 census return. To appear as man and wife George Ashe took the surname Iles, while Eliza and her four previous children just quietly dropped the M from Miles in their surname; no official name change notices have been found. The 1871 census shows the complete family living on George's investment dividends in the small hamlet of Hare Street adjoining Great Hornead, near Buntingford, Hertfordshire, just as rural as Clyffe Pypard.

The (M)Iles children by William Miles were all born and baptised in Clyffe Pypard. Ellen (M)Iles, born in 1855, a school governess, died unmarried in York in early 1901. John Edward (M)Iles, born 1856, at a Hertfordshire boarding school in 1871, became a railway clerk, married in 1884 in York and raised six children. Elizabeth Lucy (M)Iles, born 1859, was a housekeeper, still single in 1891 in York. Mary (M)Iles, born 1862, was a single housemaid in Scarborough in 1881. It is noted that in the 1871 census George Ashe Iles is named as the father for all the children.

The first child of George Ashe Iles and Eliza was Eliza Iles who, according to the 1871 census, was born in the Walthamstow district of Essex in about 1864. She, like all her younger siblings, was baptised at a single service on 25 May 1876 at St Edward's, Dringhouses, York. She was a scholar in York in 1881 and died unmarried there in 1889. Secondly, Frances (Fanny) Iles is said to have been born in Great Hornead in 1866; in the 1901 census she is in York with her sister Annica Susan Iles and in the 1911 census, but now a boarding house keeper; she died in York in 1953 unmarried. George Cecil Iles was born at Hare Street in late 1866. In the 1881 census he is found, at the age of fourteen, a 'servant pageboy' at St Nicholas College, now Lancing College, Steyning, Sussex, 280 miles from home. He is possibly the George Cecil Isles who died at St Pancras, London, mid-1895. Francis Charles Isles was born at Hare Street in 1867. In the 1881 census he was a boarder student at St Stephens Orphanage School in York. He married Ada Scott on 25 October 1898 at St Olave's-Marygate Church, York. In banking all his working life, from clerk up to a manager of Yorkshire Penny Bank, he died in Harrogate on 21 February 1940. He said in several census returns that he had been born in London, but his marriage certificate proves this to be wrong. There is one known daughter from this marriage. Annica Susan (Annie) Iles, named after her grandmother, was born in Hare Street in 1870. In the 1881 census she was also a boarder at St Stephens Orphanage School in York. She died unmarried in the first quarter of 1916. William Henry Iles was born in Hare Street in January 1871. In 1881 he was a 'servitor scholar' at St Savior's Middle School, now part of Ardingly College, aged ten. The college is located in the village of Ardingly near Haywards Heath, West Sussex, 250 miles from York. 'Servitors paid a reduced fee and helped with various menial duties, but they were able to attend some lessons.' William was a visiting draper's assistant in the 1891 census in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He married Mary Catherine Harlin in Woolwich Catholic Church, London, on 18 February 1899. In the 1901 census he is in Stourbridge, Worcestershire, a travelling salesman for a credit tailors and drapery firm, with his wife and young son George, who was born in Stourbridge in the second quarter of 1900. In 1911 William is still in Lawn Street, Stourbridge, and in the same job, but now with his wife and second son John born on 20 October 1903; a daughter Mary was also born there on 13 July 1913. Son George Iles married Lizzie L. Payne in the third quarter of 1929; their children John H., Peter and Christine were born

in 1931, 1934 and 1940 respectively. In about 1911 William joined the army for three years, enlisting in the East Riding Yorkshire Artillery Regiment at the age of forty; presumably his trade as a tailor made his age acceptable. At the end of this term he joined the Territorial Army as private, service number 2622, in the 2/7th (Reserve) Batt. Worcestershire Regt. in 1914, being finally discharged under service number 200712 in 1919 with the rank of sergeant.

Sometime after George Ashe died in 1873, Eliza Iles moved the family to the St Micklegate area of York, where she is recorded on both the 1881 and 1891 census as a housekeeper for a wine merchant, with visitors from her early family; but the children by George are dispersed throughout England. Eliza died in York in early 1900. This all adds up to the fact that there is probably a whole raft of Goddards (and Miles) out there from previously unrecognised branches of the Clyffe Pypard and Miles families masquerading under the name of Iles.

Brian of Newbury

Ed.: George Ashe Goddard was my great uncle and proof that the black sheep of the family are always more interesting than those of a paler hue!

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

A reminder that the subscription of £7.50 for 2018-19 (more if you are feeling generous!) is now due. Please contact Treasurer John (details on back page), making sure you identify yourself clearly, preferably by membership number. Those in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA have their own arrangements with their respective co-ordinators. Members who take the Newsletter by post will get a written reminder; so this appeal is chiefly to the increasing number of you – and thank you for that – who take the Newsletter electronically. It would be appreciated if you would take the initiative and thus save the Treasurer from having to chase you!

THE RESURRECTION MAN

Late on a dark Thursday night in January 1803 a London watchman stopped Thomas Goddard, suspicious of the heavy sack on Goddard's back. Opening the sack exposed the corpse of John Sands which Goddard was planning to sell to a surgeon. Further inquiries revealed that Goddard and Sands had lived together near Billingsgate, Goddard a fisherman and Sands a waterman. Sands had died a week earlier and had been buried the evening before, Wednesday, with Goddard being the chief mourner for his friend!

John of Accrington

Ed.: I want to know what happened next!

ANGLICAN MISSIONARY

I was browsing through the online archives of *Canada's History Magazine* (formerly *The Beaver*, a magazine founded in 1920 by the Hudson Bay Company and so called after the firs the company traded in; the archives were obtained by Canada's National History Society in 1994 and can be accessed at <http://canadashistory.ca.Archive>) and found this item: "Another of our staff who has renounced the single life is J.G. Craig, manager of Hay River Post, who married Miss Edith Goddard, matron of the Anglican mission at that place, on 31 December 1936. To both of these we extend our congratulations." – *The Beaver*, March 1937, page 57. As reported in *The Winnipeg Tribune* on 6 June 1936 Edith Goddard, formerly of St Jude's parish, had been sent to Hay River by the Anglican Missionary Society and was working at St Peter's residential school. The town of Hay River is in the Northwest Territories on the south edge of Great Slave Lake. It is the traditional homeland of the Slavi and Dene people, and its first permanent settlement consisted of a Hudson Bay fur trading post and a Roman Catholic (oblate) mission, both of which were established in 1868. The Anglican Mission was established in 1893 and their church (St Peter's) was completed in 1909.

Charles Abraham Goddard, his wife Martha (née Embleton) and their eldest son (also Charles, born 1903 in Brentford) emigrated to Canada from England in 1904. Charles senior was born in Bethnal Green, Middlesex, in 1871. The young family settled in Winnipeg where Charles was an inspector for the city. Edith Keziah Goddard was their second child, born in 1906, and they had three more children in the following years. At the time of Edith's marriage, St Peter's residential school was in great disrepair and was closed in June 1937. The next mention I was able to locate was in *The Winnipeg Tribune* (dated 30 January 1942): Mr and Mrs Craig announce the birth of their daughter, Ruth May, at Fort Norman, NWT". In 1958 a Canadian voters' list places the Craigs in Fort Simpson, also in the NWT, where John continues to work as an HBC manager. Edith and John appear to have retired in the Okanagan region in the interior of British Columbia. John died in 1989 and Edith in 2005. They are buried in the Westbank Cemetery in Kelowna.

Janet Berkman

CAMERAMAN

I am grateful to member Doreen for spotting in the credits of the BBC2 Saturday TV programme *Hugh's Wild West* a Rupert Goddard as one of the cameramen. Do any of our members claim him as a relative?

BEHIND THE NAME

“Will you condescend to engulf a portion of this pale-butt? It is an imperial renovator, is the home-brewed and will give you an edge like Goddard’s razor strop.”

This snippet of conversation occurs in a long-forgotten novel *Waltham* published in 1833. The anonymous author obviously considered his readers would understand the allusion to the product, but probably had no idea who Goddard was. He was, in fact, Florimond Goddard, born in Westminster in 1745 of unknown parents, but whose name hints at origins across the Channel. Details of the family are sparse; he had a younger sister, Mary, to whom he was guardian when she married as a minor in 1768, and an un-named brother. He, too, married in 1768 in Paddington to Sophia Garstang, their only known child being the actress Sophia Ann born in 1776 and who is the subject of a separate article [see next page]. Sometime in the 1770s/1780s he set up in business as a clockmaker and jeweller at 8 Rathbone Place, off Oxford Street, being listed in trade and London directories over the next thirty years.

In 1792 Florimond joined the London Corresponding Society (LCS) and regularly attended the business meetings and social dinners. Despite its innocent sounding name, the LCS was a radical organisation formed by a Thomas Hardy, with the aims of reform of Parliament and universal male suffrage. Its members were largely artisans, tradesmen and shopkeepers, Hardy himself being a shoemaker. This was the period of American independence, the French Revolution and the recent publication of Thomas Paine’s *The Rights of Man*. The government under William Pitt the younger took alarm at the unrest being caused by the LCS and similar more militant societies and in October 1794 arrested Thomas Hardy. He was put on trial for high treason, accused with other leaders of the LCS of plotting to overthrow the government and kill the king. Florimond Goddard left the LCS when Hardy was arrested, but was a key witness for the defence at the week-long Old Bailey trial. He affirmed that the LCS was a peaceable society, but admitted that subversive songs were sometimes sung at LCS dinners but not at business meetings. During the trial he mentioned his brother, un-named, who had moved from Pall Mall to Horsleydown, Bermondsey. Hardy was acquitted, but the LCS was nevertheless outlawed in 1799.

Florimond’s clock and watchmaking business continued well into the nineteenth century. A bracket clock of his made about 1805 sold at auction in 2013.

In 1810 he expanded the business with the ‘invention’ of his Imperial Renovator advertised in *The Times* that year. This was an abrasive compound to be applied to leather strops for sharpening penknives, surgical instruments and cut-throat razors. He claimed that, applied to any strop, it would immediately produce the finest possible edge and render shaving a quick and pleasant, rather than a painful, operation. It could be bought in soap-like cakes, one shilling each with directions for use, from him at Rathbone Place and from, among others, Mrs Castang of Tottenham Court Road and Messrs. Dunham and Yallop, Norwich. Mrs Castang was possibly his mother-in-law and John Yallop had been engaged to his daughter Sophia. He advertised this product regularly in *The Times* until 1819, obviously with such success that it could be thought of as a household word in a novel by 1833. Mentions of him cease after 1819, but the family was still at Rathbone Place in the 1821 census. This only gives numbers of people at an address, but the two people in the 70-80 age group must surely be Florimond and his wife Sophia. Two other males and five other females, all in age groups between 5 and 50, can not be identified. No death record has yet been found so the trail goes cold and we are missing the final fact behind the name.

John of Accrington

Ed.: Does any member recognise this most unusual name or can throw any further light on Florimond?

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ms Isobel J.G. Clark, East Wing, Shire Lane, Cholesbury, Tring, HP23 6NA.
Ms Jacki M.L. Crider, 4303 Wardsville Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101, USA.

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:

Isobel Clark descends from the West Hendred area, citing Thomas Goddard 1783-1850 of Chilton who married Mary Castle, and son George 1803-1883 who emigrated to Australia in 1852. She has evidence of Thomas’s family in West Hendred to the 1600s. She is the daughter of Association members Joan and the late Professor Laurence Goddard.

Jacki Crider descends on the maternal side from great grandfather Stephen Goddard born about 1831 in Wales (?) and died in Ireland in 1917. He had siblings Katherine, Edward and Margaret. His daughter Ellen born 1887 in Co. Kerry was Jacki’s grandmother.

SOPHIA ANN GODDARD 1776-1801

On the Bolingbroke tomb at St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich is a panel dedicated to “the Talents and Virtues of Sophia Ann Goddard who died March 15th 1801 aged 25”. The inscription adds, in the flowery style of the period, that “her Talents shone to Superior Effect in the Theatre”.

Sophia Ann Goddard, actress and dancer, was born in London in 1776, the daughter of Florimond and Sophia née Gastang who had married in Paddington in 1768. Her father, Florimund Goddard, was a London clockmaker of the period. How and why she became an actress isn't known, but after an appearance in Margate in 1797 she made her London debut in the role of Letitia Hardy in a comedy *The Belle's Stratagem* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on 10 November of the same year. A flattering review in a morning newspaper drew a comment in *The Times* that such a ‘fulsome puff’ was likely to do more harm than good to her career and was of no use since the reviewer was in the pay of many actors and actresses.

Her second appearance four days later was also her last in London. A long review in *The Times* of the following morning concluded that it would be unpardonable to encourage her vain pretensions or to say that her talents qualified her to be of the first rank in the London theatre. Any positive comments were tempered by faint praise: “Her countenance is pleasing and her voice strong, but unmusical. She possesses a degree of ease but not gracefulness. Her characterisation was rough rather than delicate and lacks versatility. Miss Goddard possesses some valuable requisites but must have further experience before she offers herself for general favour”. Adding a final insult to injury the review ended by commenting that the audience was less numerous than on any night since the start of the season.

Following this panning Sophia moved to Norfolk where she joined the Norwich Theatre Royal in December 1798. Over the next two years she became a favourite of the public and began to establish a reputation in her profession. She also became engaged to a local businessman, John H. Yallop, but died before the marriage took place. John Yallop later became Sheriff and Mayor of Norwich and was knighted in 1831 by William IV for his support of Parliamentary reform. During the last months of her life she endured a long and painful illness and died of consumption in March 1801. An obituary in *The Gentleman's Magazine* stated that she was much improved as an actress and would have made her way to the London stage again but for her untimely

death. These sentiments were repeated in the report in the *Norfolk Annals 1801* of her funeral which was attended by Mr Hindes, the theatre manager, and the principal actors of the company. She was reported to be making rapid advances to eminence in her profession and that her talents would have ensured her success on any stage. How much of this reflects a lesser critical taste of the Norfolk audience compared to that of London is perhaps open to question. Her interment in the Bolingbroke family tomb was no doubt due to the influence of her fiancé, John Yallop, who was brother-in-law to Nathan Bolingbroke, another leading citizen of Norwich. A portrait is known to have existed but its present whereabouts are unknown.

John of Accrington

GUIDE

I recently came across this advertisement on the back of an official guide to Salisbury; but as the guide is probably about fifty years old it is a moot point as to whether the garage is still there.

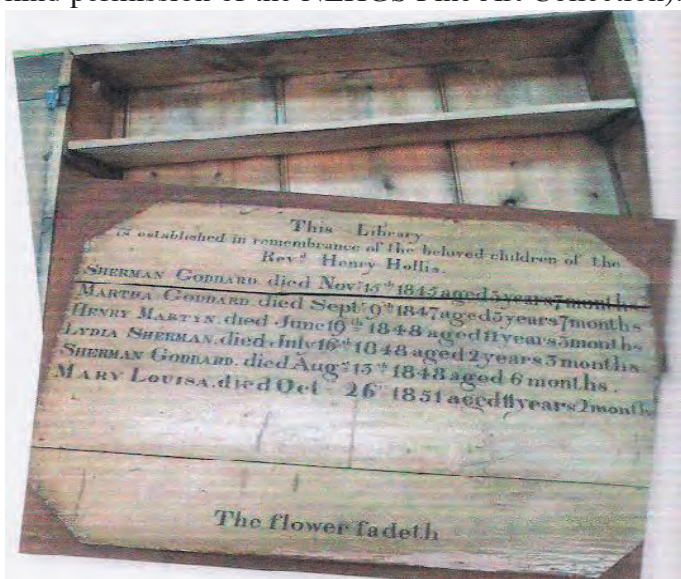
Goddards
AUSTIN DISTRIBUTORS
FOR
THERE IS NO FINER CAR IN THE COUNTRY THAN **AUSTIN**
THERE IS NO FINER GARAGE IN THE DISTRICT THAN **GODDARDS**
AUSTIN
41 - 45 WINCHESTER STREET
SALISBURY
Telephone 6681

OBITUARY

Newsletter 122 carried congratulations to Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith on attaining his ninetieth birthday. Very sadly since then his news has not been good. His brother William had recently passed away, and now he has lost both his other brother John and his wife Gwen in quick succession. The Association sends Albert and his family most sincere condolences at this very sad time.

LIBRARY BOX

Last October Joan Dibble, our Research Coordinator, fielded a request out of the blue from a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, Massachusetts, to see if she could help with an article for their members' magazine. Their director had in the 1990s bought an interesting artifact for display in their library in the form of a shallow grey box that probably dates from the 1850s. Because the box was bought in an antique store in Maine, it was assumed it was made locally and related to a New England family, since it featured a large hand-painted inscription (reproduced here by kind permission of the NEHGS Fine Art Collection):



“This library is established in remembrance of the beloved children of Rev'd Henry Hollis.

Sherman Goddard, died Nov 15, 1845, aged 3 years 7, months

Martha Goddard, died Sept 9, 1847, aged 5 years, 7 months

Henry Martyn, died June 19, 1848, aged 11 years, 3 months

Lydia Sherman, died July 16, 1848, aged 2 years, 3 months

Sherman Goddard, died August 13, 1848, aged 6 months

Mary Louisa, died October 16, 1851, aged 11 years, 2 months.”

Lower down are the words “The flower fadeth”.

Some online research, however, showed the Society that the family was actually from Suffolk, England, where Henry Hollis had married Sarah Goddard in Ipswich on 10 May 1836, and that there were four surviving children; but there was no indication that any of the family ever emigrated to the USA, so the connection to New England remains unclear. The Society wondered if our Association had any more information and, more particularly, any descendants of the family as members. Well,

yes, we did! Joan immediately put them in touch with Executive Committee member Alex Morris (née Goddard) who, like Sarah, is descended from Daniel Poole Goddard (he was Sarah's father). For information on his interesting life see Newsletters 117, 119 and 123. After giving a résumé of this information, Alex wrote: “I don't have any knowledge of Hollises in the US unfortunately, but a nephew of Sarah Goddard, Daniel Everett Goddard emigrated to Lusk, Wyoming, dying there; and his son, Charles Vincent Goddard born in Pennsylvania, lived in West Virginia, returned to England and died in Bournemouth in 1929.”

Alex continued: “I was particularly curious to know why the Hollises gave their children the name ‘Sherman’. Having established that it was not Henry's mother's maiden name, I am speculating that the children may have been named after the Congregationalist James Sherman. The Rev. James Sherman, 1796-1862, was an English Congregationalist minister. He was an abolitionist and a popular preacher at the Castle Street Chapel in Reading from 1821 to 1836 and the Surrey Chapel, Blackfriars, London from 1835 to 1854... ..Although he subsequently became known as a Congregationalist, Sherman was originally ordained to the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. Both Hollis, a Congregationalist minister, and Sherman are linked to the Sion Chapel and the Countess of Huntingdon.” The Sion Chapel was located at Ashbourne in Derbyshire where Rev. Hollis was minister from 1846 to 1866.

None of this, unfortunately, explains how the box came to be located in New England nor, indeed, exactly what its purpose was. The NEHGS's supposition is that, at 35 x 27 inches, it was meant to be portable, capable of being moved from church to church. And the fact that it was installed with a lock means that it may not have been used for books only, but possibly for the safe keeping of communion cups and the like. An intriguing mystery!

WEBSITE

As many of you have already appreciated, Malcolm of Brisbane has been experiencing the severe pressures of the current Australian labour market, which has left him little or no time for running the Association's website. I am pleased to announce that recently joined member Graham Kent kindly answered the appeal that Joan Dibble sent out in February and is now operating as Malcolm's assistant. We warmly welcome him to the team.

EN G-ODD-ARDE

Fencing, not to be confused with garden boundaries or dealing in stolen property, was an essential skill for a gentleman in past times. But in Georgian and Regency England it became promoted as a sport when an influx of Italian and French fencing masters, notably Domenico Angelo and his son Henry, led to the establishment of training schools and exhibition bouts between notable masters. Among those involved was, of course, a Goddard. Always referred to in the papers as Mr Goddard, his Christian name is not known other than that his initial was J. He had spent time in Paris and had practised with Henry Angelo there. On his return to England he boasted of his superiority to others, opened a school and began a series of challenges. In December 1785 *The Times* gave an eyewitness account of a challenge match between Goddard and a M. Recouvrot. The match started badly and finished with accusations of cheating. At first the Frenchman refused to wear a mask, but Goddard was unwilling to do the same. When the crowd grew impatient he agreed, on condition that if he was touched on the face the win would be his and his opponent considered as unfair and unskilful. As the contest went on Goddard scored two hits, had his hat carried off on the point of Recouvrot's foil and was hit on the face. The match should have ended then, but the cheers and jeers of the spectators spurred them to resume, this time with Goddard wearing a mask. The victory went to Goddard and examination of their waistcoats showed only one good hit on Goddard's but the Frenchman's "spotted like a leopard skin". Objections raised by Recouvrot that Goddard was in practice and fought left-handed were known to be petty since Recouvrot had challenged Goddard after seeing him fence with his left hand six weeks previously and had been practising ever since.

In the same issue of *The Times* Messers Goddard and Dellerieux "begged leave to acquaint the Nobility and the Polite World in general" of their Fencing Academies at 27 Pall Mall and in Bishopgate St. opposite the London Tavern, open on alternate days. Terms were One Guinea entrance and One Guinea a month for gentlemen who wished to improve their proficiency in the Art of Fencing. They also ran an Academy for the pupils of Westminster School in Dean's Yard. Early in 1786 Goddard and his partner advertised their willingness to accept a trial of skill with professors of fencing, and claimed to teach proficiency in a third of the time taken by the current languid methods. In April he took part in an exhibition match with a M. Roland. Tickets were five shillings

each, the profits to go to the winner. The business continued in this manner for several years, adding other ventures for publicity. He instituted a Society of Fencers which held a contest for amateurs in March 1788. The winner was presented with a Prize Sword by the Chevalier d'Eon before an audience of the nobility, Ambassadors and ladies of distinction. Following the presentation, the Society adjourned to the Thatched House and ended the day "with great mirth and conviviality". The following day a report in *The Times* complained that Goddard's contest was a poor copy of a similar annual event for amateurs by the Kings of Tara in Ireland. Undeterred, he started another society for amateurs in 1792, calling it the Club d'Armes and holding fortnightly sessions during the winter.

In September 1789 a grand exhibition match was held at the Pantheon in Oxford Street attended by upwards of 500 spectators of both sexes and mostly French, though there were no ladies of fashion and the Prince of Wales, who had been expected, pleaded indisposition. Six French masters fenced against each other, one of them the Chevalier de St. George, reputed to be the best fencer in Europe. The audience were expecting Goddard to fight St. George since Goddard had insinuated in public that he was equally skilful in the art. But Goddard excused himself on account of illness, leading to much confusion, tumult and hissing as the audience expressed its great displeasure until Goddard agreed that he would be honoured to meet St. George on some future occasion. The re-arranged contest took place at the Pantheon on 2 June, and was adjudged a draw by the umpires, to the disappointment of the large crowd who had paid half a guinea admission and expected a fine display of skill. Out of the half hour the bout lasted, no more than ten minutes were engaged in actual fencing and those few minutes were lacking in real action. Henry Angelo, who was present, wrote in his later memoirs of his "utter amazement" at the content and outcome of the display and came to the conclusion that the whole affair was contrived for the financial advantage of St. George. The Frenchman was to have the whole proceeds of the event and was sparing no expense at a first-class London hotel, surrounded by his entourage of friends and hangers-on. Goddard was to benefit from the publicity. For the next three years Goddard carried on his schools and clubs until in 1793 he wrote to a fellow fencer, M. le Brun, that he would accept no more challenges. After this there are no further reports of his activities and no more is known of him.

John of Accrington

AGM AGENDA

The 32nd AGM will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 20 May 2018 in Brimpton Village Hall, which is just off the A4 east of Newbury, post code RG7 4TD.

The Agenda will follow the usual format:

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

The business part of the meeting over, the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2018 will be presented. This will be followed by a talk given by Association member David Goddard, a Waitrose buyer. Tea and biscuits will then be served, and there will be the usual raffle to help to defray expenses and for which prizes will be gratefully received.

As I have indicated several times before, the Association is badly in need of fresh – and younger – blood to understudy and then undertake executive roles. We are now at the stage where, if we do not soon receive offers of support, the organisation will, like its American counterpart, collapse and thirty years' work be left in limbo. If any members out there have previously considered offering their services but need that little extra nudge, please contact me or, better still, come to the AGM.

DATA PROTECTION

New EU regulations replacing the Data Protection Act 1998 come into force on 25 May 2018. As a recreational / hobby organisation we are not required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office even though we obtain, record and share personal and historic data on members and their families. Nevertheless, we shall conform to the intent of these regulations. Every attempt will be made to respect personal privacy. As before and as stated on the membership application form, any personal information will not be passed to non-members except by explicit permission and will not be sold for profit to commercial organisations.

GODDARD BANK, LEICESTER

I am grateful to both Brian and Julie of Newbury for alerting me to the campaign to save an historic building in the centre of Leicester. The Bank, a Grade II listed building "designed by the great Victorian architect, Joseph Goddard", is 150 years old and is now desperately in need of a new roof. A group of volunteer Friends is seeking to raise the requisite £115,953 by the middle of June and is so far a quarter of the way there. It seems appropriate that the Goddard Association should make a small contribution, so we will discuss it at the Executive Committee meeting before the AGM; the Association holds limited funds for just such a purpose. If you wish to make a contribution yourself, google "Save Goddard Bank Leicester" for further information. The building is to be used for Community Services.



USEFUL ADDRESSES

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- Australian Co-ordinator:** Ian Goddard, P.O. Box 618, Balcatta, Western Australia 6914. Tel: (08) 9243 8505
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