

*Editor's background notes for the younger generation.*

After reading Jock's first fascinating lineage reports on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Goffeys I realised that you might also be interested to read Aunt Barbara's account of the life of Adriana Semple, my grandmother's cousin.

When we came to live in Berkhamsted in 1942 my Granny and Grandfather Goffey lived nearby, at 95 Cross Oak Road. Granny Goffey was born Elinor Semple and was known to her sister Barbara as 'Nellie'. Barbara Semple ('Aunt B') lived at 14 Greenway. Their cousin Adriana ('Cousin Addie') was to me a distant benevolent old lady who never forgot birthdays. Elinor was seven years older than Barbara and gave her some of her education. Barbara went to Girton College, Cambridge, and became a teacher. According to my late father, Dennis Goffey, she had reddish hair and light green eyes and "was said to have been rather smashing when she was young". His mother and Cousin Addie had blue eyes.

"A fierce but very charming person" is how he described Cousin Addie. My mother, who coincidentally had spent some time at Sandwell, gave me the impression that Addie ran a happy and quite progressive school where she even allowed girls to climb the trees!

I only recently re-read Aunt Barbara's loving tribute to her, which Dennis must have given to me about 20 years ago. It came with a copy of his own hand-written memories and researches entitled "The Bracket Clock, a chapter in family history", from which the sketches of Addie's grandparents and the ships are taken. The photographs were found amongst an intriguing collection of pages cut from an old album that came to light after my mother's death in 2000. It was only after word-processing and photocopying the text that I remembered the garden-party photos and made the connection with Cousin Addie's retirement and farewell party in 1930 (see pp 11 and 12).

In re-typing Aunt Barbara's manuscript I have made no changes at all to the text, but where sentences or paragraphs became particularly complex I have put in a few extra full-stops and paragraph breaks. I have also inserted some dates by way of chapter headings. From her final paragraph and the omission of Jock's name it seems Aunt Barbara is proposing Cousin Addie as a role model for my sister and me. Catharine could well have grown into a formidable old lady but sadly we will never know. I'm just very glad to have been able to read about this remarkable period in our family's history and hope you will enjoy it too.

Ann Shepherd  
Berkhamsted February 2002