



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16 February 1993.

Dr J A Bland,
Coach House,
Watson Drive,
Remenham,
Henley on Thames,
Oxon RG9 3HB.

Dear Dr Bland,


Thank you for your letter of 12 February about my forbears. I should be delighted to write a piece as you suggest. I wonder if the following would do:

"Some years ago, when my parents were visiting me on holiday from New Zealand, we went for a walk along the towpath to Hambledon Lock. I had recently discovered that my great great great great grandfather, Caleb Gould, had been a lock keeper there and on an impulse we knocked on the then lock keeper's door. I explained to him the reason for our interest and he became very excited. He dived into his sitting room and re-emerged with a history of the Thames in which he found three or four pages devoted to my apparently famous ancestor. It appears that Caleb Gould was a famous eccentric who lived to the age of 92. He was renowned for baking bread and making a daily portion of onion porridge which he sold to passing bargemen. He wore a long coat with brass buttons and walked every day into Remenham, walking around the church the number of times indicated by the date of the month.

His somewhat quirky nature is illustrated by the epitaph on his gravestone: "The world's a jest and all things show it, I thought so once and now I know it." (Will you please check the wording). Much less is known of his wife Sarah whose tombstone is to be found in Remenham churchyard, next to that of her husband. This

It was Caleb's grandson George who, having moved into the newer transport industry of the railways, decided to emigrate to New Zealand in 1850. In 1856 George brought his parents Joseph (Caleb's son) and Sarah to live in New Zealand. The amazing thing about making contact with my illustrious forbear was that at the time I discovered his contact with Hambledon, my family and I had, all unawares, settled just three miles away as the crow flies, in Russells Water!

Yours sincerely


Bryan Gould MP

CALEB GOULD was the lock keeper at Hambleton Lock in the 19th century. His tomb is in St Nicholas' Churchyard.

(Diana Rhodes mother raised money to refurbish the tomb in the 1920's).

This letter is from **BRYAN GOULD**,
the great-great-great-great-great grandson of **CALEB**.

Bryan Gould, former Labour MP and onetime leading member of Neil Kinnock's shadow cabinet, resigned from John Smith's shadow cabinet in 1992 over European policy. He is now Vice Chancellor at the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

By Bryan Gould When working people organised themselves industrially and acquired political clout as a result of the extended franchise, the Labour Party was the instrument they created to make this new-found political and industrial power count in the government of the country.



Bryan Gould: "Labour was driven by values and principles"

From Auckland and Victoria Universities to Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship; to the British Labour Party, Member of Parliament, director of the Labour general election campaign in 1987, and ultimately back to New Zealand, Bryan Gould now holds the position of Vice-Chancellor at Waikato University. Professor Gould is the author of numerous publications, including 'Socialism and Freedom. A future for Socialism', and the autobiographical 'Goodbye to All That' in 1995.