



Volume 3

Number 3/4

Autumn/Winter 1989

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Editorial

For some months now the Witheridge Society has appeared to be dormant, as we haven't been able to produce and send out the Society's magazines.

The production of the magazine is done by Philip Witheridge, using his word processor and photocopying equipment. As many of you know, Philip's wife, Jean, suffers with MS, and her condition during the past year has deteriorated. Also an arrangement which gives Phil programmed relief from the continuous nursing of his wife broke down because of the flu epidemic at the end of last year. And if that wasn't enough after a lot of effort Phil managed to buy another 5 acres of land adjoining his existing small-holding, but this required 1km of fencing to be renewed. Well in short Phil ran out of spare time.

For me, it has been a time of poor health, as in the latter part of last year I had a relapse of the ME which I have had for over two years. Such energies as I had (and that was very little!) had to be put to running the family business, and everything else had to be temporarily abandoned.

And for much of the research that forms the basis of magazine articles we are indebted to Joyce Browne. However, Joyce has been unable to do any research since September because of illness. Following an operation in January, Joyce is now making slow but steady progress.

So as you can see, we have been having some problems, but things are coming together again and you should now be receiving two magazines, together with your invitation to 'Witheridge Day 1990'.

What this does underline however, is the weakness of any organisation that relies heavily on a small group to keep it running. If we could widen the number of people involved in running the Society, we would be much less susceptible to the kind of hiatus we have just experienced. If you think you might be able to help, even in a small way, please let one of the committee know, or bring your offer of help with you on Witheridge Day.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Alderton on 7th May.

Kim Cook



The Combmartin & Berrynarbor Family The New Zealand Connection

by Vel Metcalfe

In the first three decades of settlement in New Zealand, from 1840 to 1870, tens of thousands of immigrants arrived. Most, but not all were from Britain. They were to include my great grandfather, John Witheridge, his wife, Elizabeth and John's younger brother, James. John's elder sister, Elizabeth, along with her husband, Robert Comer and their family were also to make the perilous 20,000km sea journey to New Zealand.

Most immigrants at this time were of the upper working and lower middle classes: those described as the 'anxious' or uneasy classes. They were not, most of them, driven out by desperation. This must also have been true of John and James, who were both masons and Robert Comer who was a lead miner.

Some poor came out as assisted immigrants, their passes paid for, at least in part by colonising companies, a practice which Provincial Governments and later Central Government, continued for some decades. It would appear that John, Elizabeth and James and possibly the Comer family, did not come into this category, but were able to pay their own fares.

John was born in 1838 at Combe Martin, the sixth child in a family of nine. His father, also named John, and his mother, Mary née Hancock, were married in the Combe Martin Parish Church, on November 24, 1827. The same church recorded John's baptism on January 24, 1802. He was the first born of John and Elizabeth, née Harris, who were married on April 7, 1801 also at Combe Martin.

The elder John, my great, great, great, grandfather, had been born in Berrynarbor in 1775, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary, née How. Thomas and Mary's first four children were born in Berrynarbor, but then a move was made to Combe Martin, where five more children were born to them. This elder John, born 1775, was to live his life at Combe Martin, dying there at the grand old age of 91, in 1866. His occupation as a young man is not known to me, but in his sixties he was described as a labourer and in his seventies and eighties as a lime-burner and pauper. His son John was a mason, as were three of his grandsons.

My great grandfather, John Witheridge married Elizabeth Delbridge at the Registry Office, Plymouth, on July 23, 1864. John, aged 23 gave his resident address as, 10 Johns Street, Plymouth. Elizabeth, 21 years old, was from Gunnis Lake, Calstock, the daughter of a blacksmith.

A few weeks later the young couple, along with brother James, left England for ever. One hundred and sixteen years later I was to find their names and a report of their voyage in a copy of 'The Daily Southern Cross' dated December 22, 1864 (see pages 8 and 9).

They had left London on August 3rd, aboard the 847 ton Talbot. The journey, like many others, would be long and tedious and uncomfortable. There would be sea sickness, strange surroundings and strange food to contend with, and the crowded conditions in steerage to adapt to.

The average length of a voyage, at that time, was 113 days and on a good average day 120 nautical miles might be made. A best run might be 230 miles. But becalmed, a ship might only make four miles, or worse still, travel some distance in the wrong direction. Passage aboard the Talbot was to take a very long time indeed - 141 days. According to the newspaper report in the Daily Southern Cross, the Talbot met with very light winds before the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope. She had scarcely any N.E. or S.E. Trades and was becalmed for ten days between the Equator and the Cape.

In spite of the long trip they were probably more fortunate than most. On any voyage five or six deaths were regarded as normal, but on the Talbot there was scarcely any sickness and no deaths occurred. The whole of the 168 passengers arrived in Auckland, on December 21, 1864, in good health.

Auckland (see map on page 12), in the mid 1860s presented the appearance of a large town, with a mass of houses tightly packed together and shops which would not have disgraced a small provincial town in England. John and James would probably have soon found work as masons and at that time could expect to earn 12 - 14 shillings for a 3 hour day. Good wages, for, as it was noted 'people do not leave England and go to the Antipodes, for the same wages they had at home'.

It is not known exactly when Robert Comer, Elizabeth and their family arrived in New Zealand but they would have met up with Elizabeth's brother and his family in Auckland, at some point. The Comer family settled 74 miles to the south east, in the Thames area, where Robert found work as a gold miner.

Gold had first been discovered in payable quantities in New Zealand on the Coromandel Peninsular in 1852, but the field soon petered out and the main Coromandel and Thames rushes did not take place until the late 1860s. Coromandel was proclaimed a gold field in 1862, but it was not until the proclamation of Thames as a goldfield in 1867, that the goldmining industry in the North Island became firmly established.

In its early days the two townships of Shortland, which had port facilities on the Waihou River, and Grahamstown, were a raw and rumbustious conglomeration of tent towns, Raupo whares (native huts) and wooden shacks. Estimates of its highest population figure vary between 11,000 and 15,000. In the early 1870s, at the height of the great strikes, when the Caledonian yielded, in a single year, 361,000 ounces of gold of a then-value of nearly £1 million, the two towns, now merged and, known as "The Thames", began to acquire some respectability and permanence. Banks, churches, theatres and official buildings were erected. But public facilities were still few, the streets a morass of mud in wet weather, or dust in dry. There was constant noise and motion day and night. The thud of hundreds of stamper batteries, the flames and thick smoke from the foundries and smelters, the rattle of cages to and from the mineheads, the clang of trucks carrying the ore along the tramways...

Life must have been far harder for Elizabeth Comer in Thames than for Elizabeth Witheridge in Auckland. Elizabeth Comer, née Witheridge, died of typhoid fever and jaundice on August 24, 1870. She was 42 years old. Back home in Combe Martin a memorial stone was erected in the church yard of St Peter ad Vincula. Robert Comer continued to work in Thames and in a directory of 1878 he is listed as a mine manager of Moanatairi Creek, Thames. He was, however, to die twenty years later, on November 26, 1898, in Sidney, Australia, aged 72 years. Descendants of Elizabeth and Robert Comer still live in the Thames area.

At the time of Elizabeth Comer's death in 1870, her sister-in-law, Elizabeth, was pregnant with her second daughter, Olivia, who was born on October 11, 1870. Annie had been born in March, the year before. This was Elizabeth's fourth child; Two little boys, born in 1866 and 1867 died in infancy and John and Elizabeth were to loose a further son, in 1881. In all, they reared six daughters and two sons. Joseph John was born on August 18, 1874 and my grandfather, James William was born on March 19, 1881 - just a few weeks after his little brother died.

John and Elizabeth lived most of their lives in Auckland, in Haslett St, Eden Terrace, but in 1894 they left Auckland and John his position as an overseer in the Public Works Department, to move to Otago, in the South Island. By this time their family was growing up. Their eldest daughter, Annie had married the year before, their eldest son was 20 years old, my grandfather was 13, and the youngest girl, Ivy was 9.

In later years they were back in Auckland, at Haslett Street and Elizabeth was to die there on February 5, 1906, aged 62 years. John lived until May 7, 1911 and his brother, who had never married, lived only a few months longer.

My grandfather, James (or Jim as he was usually known) was also employed by the Public Works Department. He started work as a carpenter, became foreman in charge of the workshops and in May 1914 was promoted from shop foreman to overseer, at an annual salary of £200.

Jim wasn't to fight in the First World War, being given a C2 grading, but the military papers give a physical description of him that is useful. He was five foot three and a half inches tall with black hair, blue eyes and dark complexion.

In 1915 Jim married Lillian Alice Punch, also a first generation New Zealander. Her father, Walter Punch had been born in Sedberg, Yorkshire in 1851 and her mother, Jane (Corban) in Dublin in 1858. They were married in Sidney, Australia and lived most of their married life in Auckland, where Walter had his own business as a carpenter and joiner.

On August 22, 1916 my mother, Glenath was born, Roland in 1918, Ian in 1920 and Athol in 1925. Jim obviously had problems with his health and was much affected by the worldwide influenza outbreak of 1918. He died suddenly on September 1, 1933, aged 52 years. He was at that time working for the Post and Telegraph Department, having retired from the Public Works Department on March 4, 1922, due to 'financial stringency'.

At the time of their father's death, my mother was 17 years old and Athol, the youngest, only 8 years old. The country was in the grip of the 'Great Depression' and unemployment and hardship abounded. The family lost not only a husband, father and breadwinner, but their home as well. They lived with relatives until such times as they could get on their feet again.

The War years interrupted Roland's career as a furrier. He served with the 6th Field Ambulance 2nd NZEF and was captured during the Libyan campaign in 1941. He spent several years as a prisoner of war at Udine, near the Italian, Yugoslavian border. Ian, had a long career with New Zealand Railways and was an overseer at the Otahulu workshops. Athol was a fitter and turner by trade. My mother trained as a nurse, but left Auckland in 1940 and farmed for many years with my father, on their hill country farm, near Kaitaia. Lillian Witheridge died on January 10, 1954. The three sons, like their father, all died comparatively young. Athol in 1971, Ian on April 16, 1982, Roland on May 19, 1982 and their cousin, Delbridge on February 6, 1983.

**The New Zealand Connection.
Photographs.**



A visit to Grandmother & Grandfather at Takapuna. (L-R) Jim, Glen, Ian, Lillian, holding Athol, Roland, Jane & Walter Punch.

Walter & Jane Punch with granddaughter Glen Witheridge.



Jim Witheridge with sons Ian (L), Roland (R).



Witheridge Family Jan. 30th. 1930 (L-R) Roland, Athol, Ian, Glen.

Daily Southern Cross Dec. 22nd. 1864

ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP TALBOT, FROM LONDON.

The ship Talbot, so long and anxiously looked for, dropped anchor off the North Head at 10 o'clock last night, after a long and tedious passage of 141 days from London. The Talbot is a Sunderland-built vessel, and is owned by the firm of Temperley, Carter, and Darby, whose vessels in the Australian trade are favourably known. The length of the Talbot's passage on this occasion is owing to the very light winds she met with before passing the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope. She had scarcely any N.E. or S.E. trades, and was becalmed for ten days between the Equator and the Cape. The passage to the Cape of Good Hope occupied three months owing to the light variable weather which was experienced. She made the run from the Cape to Tasmania in twenty-nine days, which is a proof that she is not deficient in sailing qualities. She is a vessel of 847 tons, commanded by Captain James, and brings a full cargo of general merchandise, and 163 passengers. Notwithstanding the lengthened passage the Talbot has made, she has arrived in port in a cleanly condition. No deaths occurred during the voyage, and there was scarcely any sickness. The whole of the passengers had arrived in excellent health.

The following is the report of her passage:—Left the Downs on the 3rd of August, and took her final start on the 7th from the Lizard. Passed inside Madeira, and sighted Porto Santo on the 19th of the same month, the Deserters Island on the 20th and Teneriffe on the 24th, experiencing very indifferent N.E. trades. Crossed the equator on the 19th September, in 1.56: had light S.E. trades, and was afterwards becalmed for ten days. The meridian of the Cape was made on the 31st October, in 46° south latitude, and the easting was run down to 47° south. Fine weather and strong breezes were met with between the Cape and Tasmania, which was passed on the 29th November. The first land made on the New Zealand coast was on the 7th December. On the 9th Hunter's Hill was sighted, and on the 10th Akaroa, near Canterbury. Strong northerly winds were experienced after passing Tasmania, until getting to the eastward of New Zealand, since then light airs and calms have prevailed.

The subjoined is a list of the passengers and cargo :—

PASSENGERS.

CHIEF CABIN.—Dr. Swayne, surgeon; Mrs. Swayne and 5 children.

SECOND CABIN.—W. Ellas, farmer; T. Price, artist; F. W. Stretton, gentleman; Mrs. Stretton and 11 children; H. Jorey, petty officer H.M.N.; Mrs. Moroy and 5 children; E. Huntley, farmer; R. Gerring, farmer; A. Gerring, farmer; A. Taylor, carpenter; Miss Mortlock; H. Archer.

STEERAGE.—W. Griffiths, shaftmaker; Harriet Sargent, servant; J. G. Sargent; Margaret Baxter, servant; Hugh Joharty, labourer; W. Brooks, tilemaker; John James,

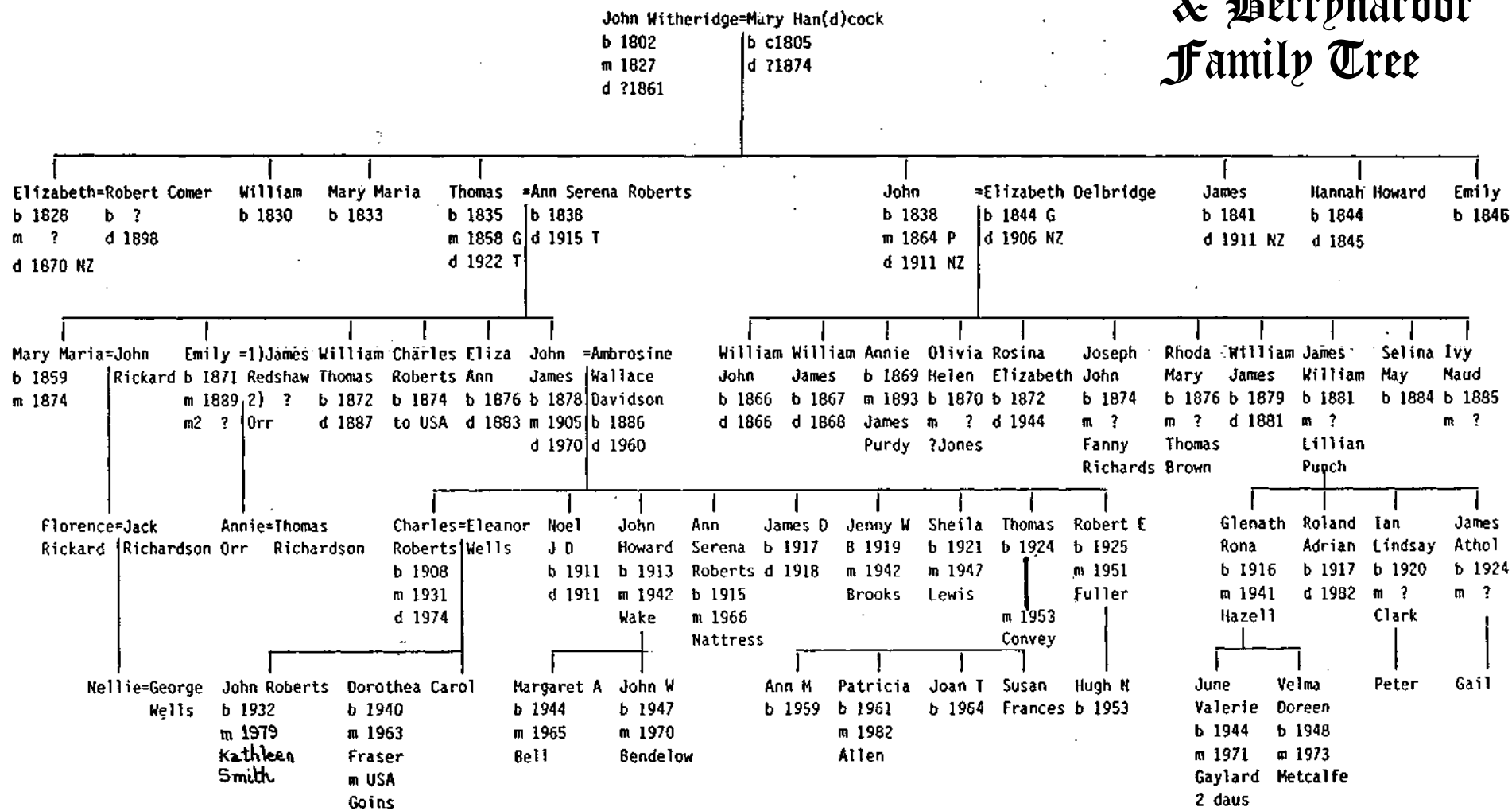
Daily Southern Cross Dec. 22nd. 1864.
Continued.

labourer; Mrs. James; Martha Edwards, servant; Hannah Casey, servant; Jacob Beitz, farmer; W. Werner, baker; C. Lizard, labourer; J. Crawford, farm servant; W. Crawford, farm servant; A. Turley, capitalist; Mrs. Turley; Joseph Bowman, labourer; Mrs. Bowman and 2 children; G. Barker, farmer; Mrs. Barker; J. McDermott, brickmaker; Mary White (housewife) and 6 children; J. Brown, farmer; Mrs. Brown and 5 children; C. Tringham, carpenter; A. Lamb, farm labourer; Mrs. Lamb and 4 children; J. Witheridge, mason; Mrs. Witheridge; J. Witheridge, mason; V. Cotello, carpenter; Mrs. Cotello; Enoch Grice, miner; P. Long, farm labourer; W. North, carpenter; Mrs. North and 1 child; T. Egan, farm labourer; S. Middleton, miner; Mrs. Middleton; W. Ball, miner; Mrs. Ball and 2 children; R. Jones, collier; Mrs. Jones and 1 child; T. Stokes, miner; Mrs. Stokes and 5 children; G. Wicks, blacksmith; Mrs. Wicks and 3 children; J. McLean, fisherman; Mrs. McLean and 3 children; M. McRae, fisherman; Mrs. McRae and 3 children; A. Mackenzie, farm labourer; A. Mackenzie, fisherman; A. Mackenzie, fisherman; J. Kelly, mason; Mary Kelly, servant; Eliza Kelly, servant; Margaret Kelly, servant; J. Conolly, farm labourer; Mrs. Conolly and 3 children; John Smith, miner; Mrs. Smith and 5 children; J. Staley, miner; Uriah Hurrell mason; Mrs. Hurrell and 6 children; G. Cocking, miner; A. McMillan, labourer; Helen McMillan; H. Hawkes, labourer; Ann Manders, servant; Margaret Broad, servant; Sarah Byers, servant; J. Bailey; W. Cooper; Mrs. Cooper and ? children.—Total, 163 souls.

CARGO.

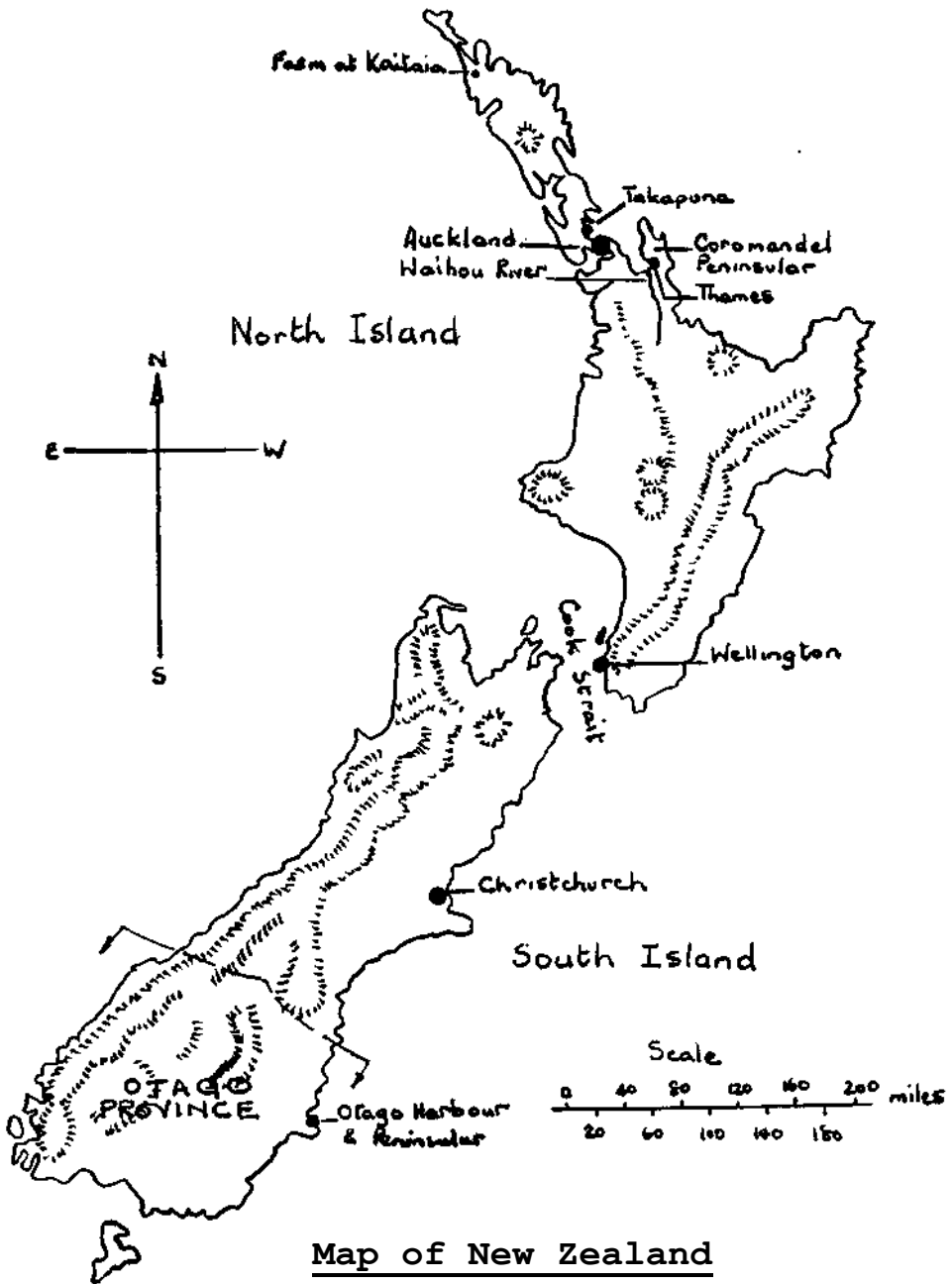
6 tons coal, 25 packages, 4 qr.-casks, 10 bales, 450 barrels 85 packages, 20 cases, 2 casks, 17 cases, 21 packages, 20 hds. 314 packages, 20 cases, order; 5 cases, A. Clark and Sons; 8 packages, 2 bales. 653 packages, 40 tanks, 1 hearth, Cruickshank, Smart, and Co.; 9 cases, E. Wayte; 1 case, Bank of New South Wales; 1 case, W. H. Skinner; 133 cases Bucholz and Co.; 542 packages, Brown, Campbell and Co.; ? cases, W. Buchanan; 4 casks, C. J. Stone and Sons; packages, W. Hobson; 5 qr. casks, J. W. Marshall; 15 trunks, Lewis Brothers; 128 packages, 67 bundles, Deputy Superintendent of Stores; 10 packages, Thomas and Henry Cook; 57 packages, C. Stichbury and Son; 54 packages, D. Nathan and Co.; 67 packages, E. and H. Isaacs; 48 Packages, S. Brown; 1 case, W. E. Sadler; 65 packages, H. and A. Sherrard; 4,154 packages, Mark Somerville; 1 case, Mrs. Johnstone; 8 packages, E. Porter; 2 packages, Joseph Osborne; 3 cases, Johnson; 1 case, F. H. Hill; 1 case, Messrs. Holmes; 1 case, Albin Martin; 1 case, J. W. Pearce; 1 case, Charles Hazelden; 3 cases, Gilfillan and Co.; 2 tanks, W. C. William; 1 case, T. F. S. Tunce; 6 cases, E. and H. Isaacs; 1 case, M. O. Spencer; 44 packages, Thomas Short; ? packages, Levy Goldwater; 5 packages, R. Gilmour; 25 packages, Bucholz and Co.; 50 packages, J. H. Burnside and Co.—Cruickshank, Smart, and Co. agents.

The Tyneside & New Zealand Branches of _____ The Combmartin & Berrynarbor Family Tree



NB Jack and Thomas Richardson were brothers
 George and Eleanor Wells were brother and sister

Abbreviations:
 G=Gunnislake, Helston, Cornwall
 T=Tynemouth registration district
 NZ=New Zealand
 P=Plymouth



Map of New Zealand

The Tyneside Witheridges.

by Philip Henry Witheridge

From the Witheridge birth, marriage and death references extracted from the St Catherine's House records, members of the Society have known for maybe ten to fifteen years that there were Witheridges living in the Tyneside area of northern England. However no concerted attempt had been made, to build these records into a branch of a family tree or to link them to one of the main Witheridge family lines.

The impetus to search out and link these Witheridges to their origins came when John Roberts Witheridge, who lives in Shiremoor, and his sister, Dorothea Goins, from San Diego, California, USA, both joined the society in May 1989.

Since joining John Roberts Witheridge (John R.) has become very involved in searching out his family line and has turned up some interesting details. Together with the efforts of our researchers, and the information supplied by Vel Metcalfe, we have now linked the Tyneside branch of the Witheridges to their family origins, the Combmartin and Berrynarbor Witheridge family.

As a first step we separated out and listed the Witheridge births, marriages and deaths for the Tyneside area. From this list a family tree was constructed and passed on to John R. for him to discuss with his relatives. John R. came back with a lot of information which both extended the tree and also proved useful in linking this family branch to its origins.

John R. told us that his great grandfather's name was Thomas, and that he had married Ann Serena, at this time we did not know his great grandmother's maiden name. Thomas was a mason, and within the family there was a tool Thomas had used to mark his initials on his other tools or his work. John R. found out that Thomas and Ann Serena were not alone when they migrated north. They brought others named Polly and Emily, who may have been their children, but who spoke with a definite Devonshire accent. Polly, we knew, could have been a nickname. He also found the burial records which gave us Thomas's and Ann Serena's year of birth, which were 1836 and 1838 respectively. After all this effort, apart from the Devonshire accents, we still had very little idea of where to search for their origins.

So we set to work scanning the records looking for any Thomas from Devon who had married an Ann sometime about the year 1860. This couple would also have children born in Devon named Polly, Emily, and William. The records show that a child named William died in Tyneside in 1867 aged 3 years.

We got ourselves well and truly led up the garden path when we found a marriage of a Thomas in Plymouth on the 1st December 1859 to an Ann Dockett. There were also children born in Tavistock to this Thomas and Ann named Polly in 1863 and William in 1864. We were soon disappointed however, when we realised that this family did not migrate to the Tyneside, but stayed in Tavistock and had other children born to them there.

It was at this time that Vel Metcalfe joined the society and had sent details of her origins. Her family are linked to a Witheridge family found in the 1851 census living in Combmartin. The details of that family household in the 1851 census are shown on page 17.

The two eldest children had already left home in 1851, Elizabeth, who married Robert Comer, a lead minor, and with their family emigrated to New Zealand, and William who we have lost sight of altogether. In this household we can see Vel Metcalfe's ancestor, John, who married Elizabeth Delbridge in Plymouth in 1864, and who with another brother named James, all emigrated together to New Zealand.

We found names of people in the Tyneside area identical to those of the remaining children of this family, Thomas, Mary (Mary Maria) and Emily. Also Thomas's trade of mason was the same in both places. Another link is that in Combmartin another sister to Thomas had been born in 1844, named Hanna Howard but she died the next year 1845, but we find the same name 'Howard' being used two generations later in Tyneside. John R's uncle, born in 1913, was named John Howard Witheridge.

John Roberts Witheridge retired from British Rail where he was employed as a signalman. As an ex-railway employee John R. gets concessionary rail travel. John R. has been using this to good effect by making trips down to London to consult and search the St Catherine's House records. Since we have made this family link he has managed to obtain copies of certificates for marriages of Thomas and Ann Serena, Mary Maria, and Emily. We now know that the Tyneside Mary Maria and Emily are the children of Thomas and Ann Serena, so that their namesakes in Combmartin did not migrate to Tyneside as we at first thought.

Thomas married Ann Serena Roberts on December 25, 1858, in the Parish of Calstock, Cornwall. So now we know the origins of John R's second Christian name, 'Roberts'. It was his great grandmother's maiden name. Their marriage certificate details are given in full see page 17. They both were living at that time in Gunnislake.

Vel Metcalfe's great great grandmother, Elizabeth Delbridge, came from Gunnislake. I believe the men of this family Thomas, John and James, moved to find employment first to Gunnislake, to work in the tin mines or perhaps to build houses for the miners, and then afterwards they went their different ways, John and James as masons to New Zealand and Thomas to work as a coal miner on Tyneside.

It is said within this family that Thomas and Ann Serena came north for reasons of health. Thomas and Ann Serena both lived to a good age, 86 and 77 respectively, but a number of their children died early. William born circa 1864 died age 3, William Thomas born 1872 died age 14, and Eliza Ann born 1876 died age 6. When you see dates like this you can not help but feel the pain they must have felt. There is still a gap from when Mary Maria was born in 1859 and William died in 1867. I suspect that Thomas came north first of all on his own, to find work and a home, leaving behind his wife and young family.

During a visit to the Local Studies Branch of the North Shields public library, John R. was unable to get to see the 1881 census returns as he had planned and to pass the time an assistant brought him a file marked 'Witheridge Biography'. Inside he found one of his grandfather's photograph mounts. It was marked in gold letters, 'John J Witheridge, Photographer, 6 Charles Ave., Shiremoor'. Also he found a copy of a letter written by his great grandfather Thomas. A copy of the letter has been printed on page 16. The only other item in the file was a reference to a envelope, bearing a 5 cents stamp of the U.S.A. post marked 'Parsons, Jan 18, 7pm 1899', and addressed to 'Mr Thomas Witheridge, Charltons buildings, Shankhouse, Cramlington, Northumberland, England'. John's great uncle, Charles Roberts Witheridge, emigrated to the U.S.A. and we believe he would have written the letter this envelope had once contained.

This letter that John R's great grandfather wrote in 1903 is a bit of a mystery. Who was it written to? The three items in the folder had been handed over to the library by a Mr Stewart Rickard of 19 Fenwick Terrace, North Shields, just before Mr Rickard migrated back down to Cornwall. In the family tree, see pages 10 & 11, it can be seen that Mary Maria born in 1859 married a coal minor, John Rickard, and so the 'dear child' referred to by Thomas was likely to be one of Thomas's grand children in the Rickard family, possibly Florence Rickard.

A comment which was made by Ann Serena tickled me when I first heard it from John R. When she first arrived in the north, she grumbled that the sheep there were much dirtier than those at home in Gunnislake. I bet she was feeling home sick, and I bet many others from this scattered Witheridge family, which originated in Combmartin and Berryarbor, have had those self same feelings over the years.

Letter from Thomas Witheridge.
Dated June 27th 1903.

June 27th 1903

Dear child just a line as how
to let you know that we are just
as usual I have not had that vision
for weeks so I shall not waiting
any longer for it I shall send him a
letter next week if I am so well.
I have now I shall send him what
I think will find him if it were
not I don't suppose it will ~~find~~
bring much ~~to~~ as to the holes if
you want them when you come home
you can take them yourself it
might be best to give a very little thing
for us to send them but it is not so
with us for every little thing that
we have to do we receive a line &
a trouble to us if we not you are
going on all right & happy

you will be how a fortnight to
say the day sends her best
wishes to you we got the telegram
the morning that you were home
the morning. I think I have nothing
more to say just now I might
say the day had a little from
folk a week past yesterday from
your affectionate Parents

Md. Witheridge
Ed. John H.
Joseph Witheridge

Wetheridge

Records of the Tyneside Witheridges

Census Returns 1851

District, 295, Sub, 3, Parish, 1, Bundle, 1892.

Address, not known.

Name	Status	m/um	Age	Work	Born	County/Parish
John Witheridge	Head	m	49	Mason	Devon	Combmartin
Mary	Wife	m	46	-	"	"
Mary	dau.	um	18	-	"	"
Thomas	son	um	14	Mason	"	"
John	"	um	12	Scholar	"	"
James	"	um	9	"	"	"
Emily	dau.	um	4	-	"	"

Address, South including Church lane, Mill meadow, Park farm, Crackland farm, and Parsonage.

Name	Status	m/um	Age	Work	Born	County/Parish
John Witheridge	Head	m	75	Pauper/ Lime burner	Devon	Berrynarbor
Elizabeth	Wife	m	79	Pauper	Devon	Combmartin
m-married	um-unmarried	dau-daughter.				

1858, December, 25th at Parish Church Calstock, Cornwall.

between;

Thomas Witheridge, Age, 23, Bachelor, Mason, of, 10 John St. Plymouth, Father, John Witheridge, Mason.

and;

Ann Serena Roberts, Age, 20, Spinster, of, Gunnis Lake, Father, John Roberts, Labourer.

witnessed;

James Harvey, John Baker

1864, July, 23rd at Register Office Plymouth, Devon.

between;

John Witheridge, Age, 23, Bachelor, Mason, of, Gunnis Lake, Calstock, Father, John Witheridge, Mason.

and;

Elizabeth Delbridge, Age, 21, Spinster, of, Gunnis Lake, Calstock, Father, Joseph Delbridge, Blacksmith.

witnessed;

Henry Holman, Richard Dawe.

1874, December, 13th at Register Office Tynemouth, Northum'land

between;

John Rickard, Age, 21. Bachelor, Coal Miner, of, Gramlington, Father, John Rickard, Labourer.

and;

Mary Maria Witheridge, Age, 21, Spinster, of, Gramlington, Father, Thomas Witheridge, Coal Miner.

witnessed;

Septimus Scott, Thomas Witheridge.

Records of the Tyneside Witheridges

Continued.

Witheridge births, Marriages, and deaths extracted from the

St Catherine's House Index

<u>Date/No.</u>	<u>First name(s)</u>	<u>Maiden name</u>	<u>Ref.No</u>	<u>Date/No.</u>	<u>Second event</u>	<u>Ref.No</u>
c1836	-b-Thomas			1922-M-d-A.86	(T)	10b515
c1838	-b-Ann Serena Roberts	-m-Thomas W		1915-D-d-A.77	(T)	10b359
	1847-J-m-Betsy (B) X43	Possibly Elizabeth/Robert Comer				marriage.
*1858-D-m-Thomas & Ann Serena Roberts					(L)	5c.101
c1864	-b-William			1867-D-d-A. 3	(T)	10b.168
	1872-D-b-William Thomas(T)		10b.235..	1887-s-d-A.14	(T)	10b.167
*1874-D-m-Mary Maria & John Rickard					(T)	10b.467
	1874-D-b-Charles R	(T) Roberts	10b.254..	Emigrated to USA		
	1876-D-b-Eliza Ann	(T) Roberts	10b.257..	1883-d-d-A. 6	(T)	10b.165
a1876-J-m-Jacob Thomas & Charlotte Caroline Hardwick					(NT)	10b...5
*1878-M-b-John James	(T) Roberts		10b.250..	1970-D-d-A.92	(NS)	1b1117
a1878-J-b-Sarah A	(NT) Hardwick		10b..47..	1900-D-m-A.Boutal(F)		1a.647
c1887	-b-Ambrosine W Davison	-m-John J W		1960-J-d-A.73	(NS)	1b.422
*1890-J-m-Emily & James Redshaw					(C)	10a.777
*1905-D-m-John James & Ambrosine Wallace Davison					(T)	10b.411
	1908-S-b-Charles R	(T) Davison	10b.311..	1974-D-d-A.66	(NS)	1b1853
	1911-M-b-Noel J R	(T) Davison	10b.293..	1911-S-d-A. 0	(T)	10b.371
	1913-M-b-John H	(T) Davison	10b.567..	1972-D-d-A.59	(NS)	1b1293
	1915-M-b-Ann S R	(T) Davison	10b.630..	1966-J-m-Nattress(NS)		1b.547
	1917-M-b-James D	(T) Davison	10b.539..	1918-J-d-A. 1	(T)	10b.345
c1918	-b-Minnie Wake	-m-John W W		1949-M-d-A.31	(NT)	1b.224
	1919-S-b-Jennie W	(T) Davison	10b.558..	1942-M-m-R.Brooks(M)		7a1004
	1921-S-b-Sheila	(T) Davison	10b.663..	1947-J-m-A.Lewis (NS)		1b.825
	1924-M-b-Thomas	(T) Davison	10b.554			
	1925-D-b-Robert D	(T) Davison	10b.503			
c1929	-b-Mavis Fuller	-m-Robert D W		1975-J-d-A.46	(NE)	2.0915
	1931-S-m-Charles Roberts & Eleanor Wells				(T)	10b.530
	1932-M-b-John R	(T) Wells	10b.453			
	1941-M-b-Dorothea C	(NS) Wells	10b.559..	1963-J-m-Fraser (NS)		1b.443
	1942-S-m-John W & Minnie Wake				(N)	10b.329
	1944-D-b-Margaret A	(NT) Wake	10b.340..	1965-J-m-Bell	(NS)	1b.541
	1947-M-b-John W	(NT) Wake	1b.463			
	1951-J-m-Robert D & Mavis Fuller				(NS)	1b.506
	1953-M-m-Thomas & Teresa Convey				(NS)	1b.974
	1953-D-b-Hugh N	(T) Fuller	1b.677			
	1959-M-b-Anne M	(T) Convey	1b.785			
	1961-M-b-Patricia	(T) Convey	1b.785			
	1964-J-b-Joan T	(T) Convey	1b.812			
	1970-D-m-John W & Bendelow				(N)	1b.740
	1971-M-b-Deborah A	(T) Knaggs	1b1751			

Registration District References;

(B) Barnstaple. (C) Chester-Le-Street. (F) Fulham. (B) Gateshead.
 (L) Liskeard. (M) Melton Mowbray. (N) Newcastle. (NE) North Tyneside
 East. (NS) Northumberland South. (NT) Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Event References;

b. birth c. christening m. marriage d. death c. in front of date.
 circa, approx or about. #. certificates held by society.

Note Prefix 'a' Family line Berryarbor,Combmartin,Newcastle & Fulham.

Wetherherd's Pie.

(To be taken with a pinch of salt.)

by Philip Henry Witheridge.

The Wetherherds, those early shepherds of the wether flocks were men of frugal means and habits. Theirs was the job of driving the wether flocks to where they would be stored on the wether ridges and hold them there grazing, until they were needed as food. During the drive they would travel up to 35 miles in the day and at the night they would be, constantly on guard, watching over the flock as it grazed the grassy verges of the ridge roads.

Their dogs, the breed we now know as 'Old English Sheepdogs' had long ago adapted themselves to the rigors of their task. They had big and well padded feet to withstand the punishment of the drive, as they could easily cover upwards of 100 miles in a day, to-ing and fro-ing as they drove the flock. They had long hair so that they could survive the cold and the wet along with their charges. Their size, colour and coats allowed these dogs to lie with the flock so that a predator would be surprised by the ferocity and strength of what should have been an easy prey.

The wetherherds also adapted themselves for their work, he rode in a two wheeled cart, pulled by a sure footed and hardy pony. In Devon it would have been caught off Dartmoor, and broken in to its job. The cart would be covered so that it doubled as the Wetherherd's home when the flock rested.

The wetherherd fed himself from out of his stew pot. During the day he would gather what he could from the warren, the hedgerow and the field. At night as the flock rested he would light his fire and set up his stew pot over it. Into this pot would go all that he had gathered and would simmer overnight so that in the morning he could feed himself with a hot and nourishing meal. The remains of this feast would be emptied into the hollowed out crust of yesterdays loaf, or into a smaller pot to go cold and set. This our wetherherd would eat as he travelled during the day. This our cold collarge is the dish we now call 'Wetherherd's Pie'.

The wetherherd knew that sorrel would sharpen the taste of his pie, and that the nettle so good to eat, also purified his blood. He would use silverroot to help fill his stomach where we today would use potato. For his meat, he would eat rabbit, hare, pigeon or pheasant, all that would be free for the taking. He would never admit to eating wether lamb. If there were less in the count at the end of the drive, he would be sure that the earlier count had been in error.

Well we've set the scene for a competition for the best 'Wetherherd's Pie', which we will be holding on Witheridge Day 1990 (see invitation). My mouth is watering as I await the tasting of your pies on the day.

Family News

Recovery and celebration.

Many of our members read in the national press of the dreadful gliding accident last summer in which Raymond Witheridge broke his back, and a number have been enquiring about his progress.

We are delighted to report that, despite some very painful and difficult times in the early days after the accident, Raymond has made a remarkable recovery. He walks well, without any aids, though he does admit to 'a little arthritic pain on occasions'.

In September he and his wife Kathy celebrated their Golden Wedding in a double celebration with their son Paul and his wife Beryl who celebrated their Silver Wedding on the same day! About 80 guests enjoyed a marvellous garden party on a beautiful sunny day.

So complete is Raymond's recovery that he has been flying again since January, and has resumed his role as an instructor at the local flying club. Not bad for someone who has just celebrated his 70th birthday!

(Genealogy note: Raymond is the third of four children of Arthur and Florence Rose Witheridge. Arthur was the youngest of six children of James Witheridge and Hannah Jerman, and the family has lived in Newton Abbot, Totnes, Weston-super-Mare and Oxford. Raymond and Kathy now live in Bournemouth, and Paul and Beryl and their two sons live in Marlow, Bucks.)

Double celebration

Another double celebration took place in October when Roy and Kim Cook celebrated their Silver Wedding and their elder son Jason celebrated his 21st birthday. A lunch party for 50 was followed by a Devonshire cream tea (what else!).

Dorothy Witheridge

The death occurred on 30th October 1989 in a nursing home in Folkestone, of Miss Dorothy Witheridge, age 92. The second daughter of William Henry Witheridge and Flora (nee Marks), she was 'Auntie Dossie' to five of our members, Brenda Dixon, Joyce Marnham, Eric Pover, Kim Cook and Rod Witheridge.

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