



Volume 5

Number 1

Spring 1991

## Officers of the Society

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Secretary	Mr John Witheridge 6 Nore Close, Darland, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 3DG.
Treasurer	Mr Jason Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 9PF.
Editor/PRO	Mrs Kim Cook 13 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 9PF.
Membership Secretary	Mr Rod Witheridge Granville House, 33 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, London. W4 4QX.
Research Co-ordinator	Mrs Kim Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way West Wickham Kent. BR4 9PF.
Committee Members	Mrs Joyce Browne 5 Greenhill Avenue, Luton, Beds. LU2 7DN.  Mr Richard Witheridge 2 Apsley Road, Bath, Avon. BA1 3LP.
Cookbook Editor	Mrs June Witheridge 70 Copse Road, Plympton, Plymouth, South Devon. PL7 3QB



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## Editorial

Witheridge Day 1991 is upon us and with it comes our Annual General Meeting. We have devoted a considerable part of this magazine to the AGM and to the society's Constitution.

The society's constitution sets a limit of four years for a member to serve without a break in any one official capacity. This year the members serving as Chairman, Research Co-ordinator, Editor, and Membership Secretary, can not be considered for re-election to the same official positions.

The Society is generally hard pressed to find enough members willing to give their time to help in an official capacity. May I ask that you all look at your own situations and see if you haven't some spare time to give to our Society.

For my part, I have to relinquish two positions, that of Editor and that of Research Co-ordinator/PRO. Thank you for electing me and putting up with me for these past four years, and I look forward, if elected, to serve you in some other capacity.

Phil Witheridge will be vacating the position of Chairman, but is willing to continue and help with the production of the magazines should the new Editor wish to have his assistance.

The Society has now joined the Guild of One-Name Studies. Our secretary, John Witheridge, has agreed to act for the Society and has given a written undertaking to deal with all reply-paid enquiries which come to the Society via the Guild. What has he let himself in for? I'm sure he has agreed to fulfill this undertaking with his eyes open, and he deserves our thanks for doing so.

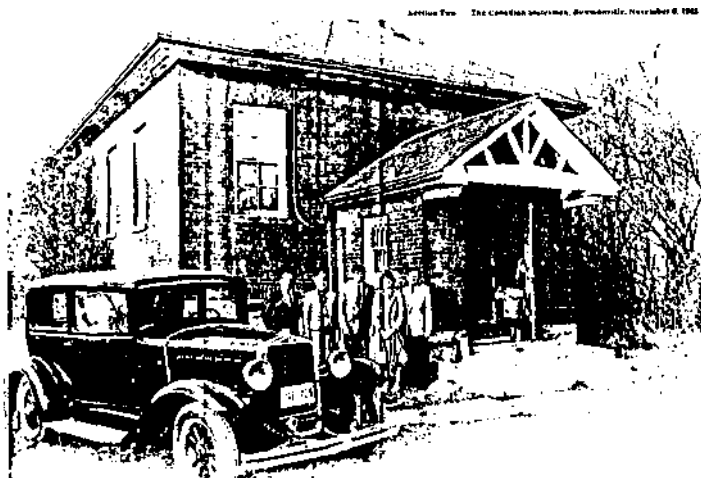
Once again I am looking forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th May in Alderton for Witheridge Day 1991. May I remind you of the cookery competition and of the need to help June Witheridge with the production of a Witheridge Cookbook. June's address is inside the front cover.

Kim Cook, Editor.

*Kim Cook*

Darlington Twp. School #3  
sold by George & Mary Witheridge

being the S.E. Corner of their farm



*Fond Memories Recalled at S S No 3 Darlington on Saturday*

situate at Baseline Road,  
Darlington Twp. Durham County,  
Ontario, Canada

# THE WITHERIDGE FAMILY WHO EMIGRATED TO CANADA FROM BRADWORTHY, DEVON

Canada, is a Nation of Immigrants, we or our ancestors travelled to Canada to build a new life. It is not known why the Witheridge family moved from the lovely village of Bradworthy, Devon, but it is evident that George Witheridge along with his recent bride, Mary Sanders and their two year old Son, John, emigrated to join other family members and share their wealth in a relative new country.

George Witheridge, the greatgreatgreat grandfather of my husband Paul Witheridge, was the son of John Witheridge and Martha Sanders. It is only in recent months that the mother of George has been found. It was thought that his mother was Grace Grills, as she was the mother of his six brothers and two sisters and the wife of his father. All my records indicated that George was born on or around the year 1807, but John Witheridge did not marry Grace Grills until August 6th, 1815, and, as Grace Grills was born in 1793, she would have only been fourteen years old when George was born.

The Reverend Peter Sutton, of Bradworthy Parish Church, Devon, was preparing for me, a Witheridge Pedigree, and when it arrived, there was a notation against the name of John Witheridge indicating that on September 3rd, 1808, he entered into a Bond in respect of a child expected by Martha Sanders of Milton Damerel, Devon, of whom he was the alleged father. As a baptism record for George had never been found in Bradworthy, Devon, it was presumed that his year of birth was on or about 1816. I now felt certain that the illegitimate child expected by Martha Sanders was George. I then obtained a copy of the baptism register from Milton Damerel, showing George Witheridge, son of Martha Sanders was baptized on December 18th, 1808. My suspicions were now confirmed.

George Witheridge married Mary Sanders, at Bradworthy Parish Church, on March 25th, 1839, and on December 22nd, 1839, their first child, John Witheridge was born at Cleverdon, in the Parish of Bradworthy.

It is believed that George Witheridge, his wife Mary, and their son John, emigrated to Canada in or around the year 1842. Their second child, Mary Jane, was born in Upper Canada in 1842, and George Witheridge appeared in the 1843 census for Darlington Township, Upper Canada.

Darlington Township was a relatively small farming community, being thirty miles east of Toronto and five miles west of Bowmanville, which is now in the Province of Ontario. In 1866, the Ebenezer Chapel was opened in Darlington Township, this being the Bible Christian Church, which was of the Devon origin. Many of the Devon families attended the chapel, including the Witheridge family. It is interesting to walk through the older section of the Ebenezer Cemetery today, and find such names as Grills, Harris, Littlejohns, Oke, Osborne, Sanders/Saunders and of course, Witheridge, all buried in the cemetery, and all names which appear in my Witheridge family tree, and originate from Bradworthy, Devon. In fact, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, have placed a plaque in front of the chapel, which reads as follows:

## **THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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"Perhaps the most fervent of the Methodist sects, the Bible Christian Church was formed in southwestern England in 1815 and established in Upper Canada during the 1830's. Served by itinerant preachers, its small but loyal membership increased gradually, largely among British emigrants from Devon and Cornwall who had settled in rural areas in Northumberland, Durham and Huron Counties. In 1855 the Canadian mission, noted, as was the parent English body for its emphasis upon layministered cooperation in church government, became an independent conference and by 1870 numerous chapels, including this structure, had been built. However, inability to gain support in emerging urban centres and mounting financial difficulties arrested the sect's growth. In 1884 the Bible Christian Church entered into a union with other Methodist bodies."

On October 27th, 1853, George Witheridge bought a 96 acre farm, being Part Lot 21, in the First Concession, for the Township of Darlington, County of Durham, for the sum of One thousand and twenty eight pounds ten shillings of lawful money of the Province of Canada. On the southwest corner of the Witheridge farm there was a school, which was built in 1840 of log construction. In January, 1857, George Witheridge sold off a small portion of his land in the southwest corner to School Trustees of School Section Number Three, in order that the school could be extended. He sold yet another small piece of his land to the School Trustees in 1875, possibly to extend the school even more. This was no doubt the school where the six Witheridge children attended, and would have only been a short walk for them in the winter time. This school is now long gone but records which I obtained from the Provincial Archives, showed the following information

:"Darlington Township School Number Three was built in 1840 of log construction. In 1856 the school was open nine months and nineteen days. Total inhabitants in the school district were 249, young and old, 71 of which were between the age of 5 and 16years, 30 of which were boys, 35 were girls and 5 of the students were nonresidents from other sections.

- 7 scholars attended school less than 20 days in the year 1856.
- 27 scholars attended school between 20 and 50 days;
- 17 scholars attended school between 50 and 100 days;
- 8 scholars attended school between 100 and 150 days;
- 6 scholars attended school between 150 and 200 days;
- No scholars attended the full 260 days.
- 10 scholars were in the lowest class or the First Book of the National Readers;
- 11 scholars were in the 2nd class or Second Book of the National Readers;
- 19 scholars were in the 3rd class or Third Book of the National Readers;
- 10 scholars were in the 4th class or Fourth Book of the National Readers, and



- 15 scholars were in the 5th class or Fifth Book of the National Readers.
- 42 students studied arithmetic
- 13 students studied grammar
- 12 students studied geography
- No students studied history and
- 44 students studied writing.

The school teacher in 1856 was E.G. Power." It is quite obvious that the children were encouraged to work rather than attend school. The males usually worked around the farm and the girls went into service.

George Witheridge lived on the farm until his death on April 18th, 1884, aged 77 years. His Will read that his wife Mary, was to remain on the property until her death. He gave to his eldest child, John Witheridge, 46 acres, being one half of the farm more or less, and the remaining 46 acres to his youngest child, William Thomas Witheridge. In turn the said John Witheridge had to pay to his sister, Jane Oke, the sum of \$460.00, and to his brother George Witheridge Jr. the sum of \$60.00. The said William Thomas Witheridge, along with his mother, Mary Witheridge, was to pay to the said George Witheridge Jr. the sum of \$400.00, and the sum of \$400.00 to his sister Sarah Witheridge. The remaining child, Elizabeth Witheridge had died on February 21st, 1865 at the age of 20 year 1 month. The witnesses to the Will were Thomas and Grace Yeo, who were from Bradworthy, Devon.

The farm was held by the two brothers until January 6th, 1905, when it was sold to Walter Foley. I might add at this time that the farm is still in existence today, with many changes of course, and is still owned by the Foley family

by Kathleen M. Witheridge



## Research Report

by Philip Henry Witheridge.

What has been happening on the research front? The answer is a great deal. The trouble, however, is that although we have found out a lot, we have not managed to get this new information into a form so that is suitable for publication.

Consider the Ermington Family, we have traced branches through Plymouth to Bournemouth and Poole, London, Walsall, and Bridgewater, and on from Bridgewater to Australia.

We've worked hard to sort out the 'Spaghetti Junction' of Witheridge lines in the midlands. We've found that the Rochester line, which came from London to the midlands with Robert Inwood Witheridge, extends a great deal further than we originally thought. Caroline Witheridge, Robert Inwood Witheridge's grand-daughter, had a son, William, born 1852, before she married William Yeomans in 1855.

This William, a plumber or zinc worker, married Elizabeth Bedford in 1872 and had a number of children by that marriage. Later we find him living with a Henrietta Lapworth and having further children. Although, Henrietta on birth certificates styled herself as Mrs Witheridge, and the children were registered as Witheridge's, no record of a marriage between William and Henrietta has been found. If you refer to the PPR Wills Index, given in the last copy of the Witheridge Times, you will see William's will in 1894. In it you will see him specifically leaving all his effects to Henrietta Lapworth, spinster.

Well these two families, fathered, by William, the plumber, appear to have resulted in extensions of the Rochester family lines throughout the Midlands and also we think into Yorkshire.

In this magazine we've published the Bradworthy Witheridge Family Tree. This has been constructed mainly from the information supplied by Kathy Witheridge of Ontario, Canada, and from the new members from the Canadian branch of this Witheridge Family she has brought into our society.

We've also been trying to construct trees for family lines in Newport in Wales, and for the Camberwell Wetheridges. Yes we have a strong family in this area spelling their name with an 'E'.

Our research is very exciting at the moment. We will have a lot to tell you in future Witheridge Times.

## The Annual General Meeting 1991.

The Witheridge Society's Annual General Meeting for 1991 will be held during 'Witheridge Day 1991' in the Alderton Village hall here in Gloucestershire on Monday 6th May.

There are certain aspects of the Society's constitution, a copy of which is given later, should receive consideration at this year's AGM. Also it is possible that the society may have to amend it's constitution to conform to the requirements of the Guild of One Name Studies. We are negotiating to join this Guild at the present time.

To ensure that the society continues to operate effectively the following four motions numbered 1 to 4, are all being proposed by your Chairman, Mr Phil Witheridge. Motions numbered 1 and 2 are seconded by Mrs Kim Cook, motion number 3 is seconded by our treasurer Mr Jason Cook and motion number 4 by Mr Richard Witheridge.

### 1.Membership Renewal Date.

During the AGM in 1989 changes were made to the date when subscriptions became due, although, as far as I know, there was no approval of the new wording or how this change was to be implemented. It is therefore proposed under the heading, '5. Subscriptions.' that the following wording of this amendment be accepted together with the notes relating to it's implementation;

Subscriptions are to be renewed on the first day of January each year. Membership will be deemed to have lapsed if the subscription has remained unpaid for five calendar months after expiry.

Note. This will allow for the payment of the current years subscriptions up to and including the Witheridge Day each year. Any new member joining within the first eight months of the year will be deemed to have been a member for the full year and will pay subscriptions and receive all magazines and other benefits accordingly. Those joining in the last four months of the year will receive all benefits from that date but their subscriptions which are due immediately on joining will be deemed to cover the full year from the next annual renewal date.

### 2.Amendment to Overseas Membership.

I believe that we should allow family membership as well as full membership within category 4.4 Overseas membership. I therefore propose a motion to amend paragraph 4.4 and the Note following so that they will be changed to read as follows;

4.4 Overseas Membership. This category will allow membership as per paras' 4.1 and 4.3 above, but will be cognisant of overseas postage rates.

Note, categories 4.1 and 4.2 are for individuals only. Voting rights are limited only to those aged 16 years and over on the day a vote is taken.

### 3.Subscriptions.

The society's subscriptions have been maintained at their present rates since the start of the society in 1987. At the present time the subscriptions are as follows;

Full Membership £7.00p. Economy Membership £5.00p. Family Membership £10.00p. and Overseas Membership £12.00p.

It is proposed that our treasurer should re-assess the level of subscriptions and set a new rate from January 1st 1992.

### 3.Advanced Payment of Subscriptions.

When an overseas members pay their subscriptions there is a substantial added cost in transferring the money to England and into English money. There are a number of ways of overcoming this problem but these alternatives are not always open to every overseas member. A way open to the individual would be to allow members to make payment in advance for a number of years. It is therefore proposed that advanced payment of subscriptions be allowed. The arrangement is for three individual yearly subscriptions to be paid by a single payment. Each yearly subscription is to be at the current rate in operation at the time when the payment is made. The payment will consist of one years subscription that is due and for the next two years in advance.

### 5.Election of Officers.

Other business for the AGM involves the election of officers. It should be remembered that the constitution stipulates that 'No person shall serve in any one capacity for more than four consecutive years.' This year the following officers can not be re-elected in the same capacity. Chairman, Editor/PRO, Research Co-ordinator, and Membership Secretary. Committee members are not officers and are thus not subject to this limitation.

Anyone willing to stand for election and who you would like to nominate, then please give the details to the chairman on, or before, the morning of the AGM.

### 6.Any Other Business.

Anyone can raise other matters for discussion under this heading during the AGM.

P.H.Witheridge. Chairman.

# The Witheridge Constitution

## 1. Name.

The name of the group is 'The Witheridge Society.'

## 2. Address.

The recognised address of the Society is that of the Secretary.

## 3. Objectives.

The objectives of the Society are;

3.1 To bring together families bearing the Witheridge and Wetheridge surnames, and the descendants of these families.

3.2 To encourage the study of genealogy and family history of those families., the study of their occupations and places of residence, and to provide guidance in the procedures necessary to compile accurate genealogies.

3.3 To co-ordinate research into the Witheridge and Wetheridge families, to record the results of that research, and to make this information available to members.

3.4 To produce, regularly, an information bulletin or journal.

3.5 To seek out, transcribe, index, and whenever possible publish, or make available material relevant to the interests of the Society.

3.6 To arrange meetings, lectures, visits and other activities relevant to the aims and interests of the Society.

## 4. Membership.

Membership, is, subject to the discretion of the committee, open to anyone bearing the name of Witheridge or Wetheridge, or a recognised variant thereof, and to anyone descended from someone of that name, and their spouses. Membership falls into four categories;

4.1 Full membership.

4.2 Economy membership, for full-time students, for those eligible for the state retirement pension, and for those in receipt of unemployment, permanent disability, or other state benefit.

4.3 Family membership for two or more members of the same family, living at the same U.K. address and sharing one copy of each newsletter, notice or publication.

4.4 Overseas membership.

Note, categories 4.1, 4.2, and 4.4, are for individuals only. Voting rights are limited only to those aged 16 years and over on the day a vote is taken.

The Witheridge Society Constitution cont.

5. Subscriptions. The opening date for subscriptions shall be 1st May 1987. Subscriptions shall be payable from the first day of the month in which the application is made, and thereafter on the first of the same month in subsequent years. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if the year's subscription remains unpaid for two calendar months after expiry.

The level of subscriptions can only be set at a General Meeting of the Society and shall remain in force until amended by resolution at another General Meeting.

The Society will be administered by a committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor/PRO, Research Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary, and two others. The committee will determine those posts which carry the right of ex-officio membership of the Committee. The Committee may invite suitable persons to become President or Vice-Presidents; if these are appointed ex-officio, they may attend Committee meetings and advise Committee members, but shall not be entitled to vote at Committee meetings.

Apart from ex-officio Committee members, all officers and Committee members are elected for one year, only at the Annual General Meeting. All officers are eligible to stand for re-election, but no person shall serve in any one capacity for more than four consecutive years.

The Committee has the power to co-opt additional eligible members and to appoint sub-committees. Co-opted committee members and sub-committee members do not have the right to vote in Committee unless they are also elected Committee members. A co-opted member is eligible to fill a vacant office only if an elected committee member is not willing to take the position.

The committee shall full power to authorise expenditure, and all cheques shall be countersigned by two committee members.

## 7. Meetings.

7.1 General Meetings, of the Society may be convened at any time by the Committee by giving notice of not less than twenty-eight days, either in writing or in the official journal of the Society. Motions for a General meeting shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and sent to the secretary not less than four weeks before the date of the meeting. All such motions must appear on the agenda for the meetings, which shall be included with the notice of the meeting.

The Witheridge Society Constitution cont.

Any member unable to attend a general meeting may register a postal vote. This must be sent to the Secretary in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Postal Vote', and not opened until the votes of those present at the meeting are counted.

A two-thirds majority of votes cast are necessary to pass any amendment to the constitution but other motions can be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an exactly equal number of votes being cast for and against any motion, the chairman of the meeting has a second or casting vote. Although a vote may be taken on matters not specified in the agenda, as an expression of opinion, such a vote will not have the force of a resolution nor will it be binding on the Committee. A quorum of ten is necessary to constitute a General Meeting.

7.2 Annual General Meeting. This will be held once in every calendar year at which a report of the Society's activities since the previous AGM shall be presented as well as an audited financial report. The AGM shall be held within fourteen months of the previous one. Officers and committee members shall be elected at the AGM. Nominations, which must be in writing, must be received by the Secretary fourteen days before the announced date of the AGM. A secret ballot shall be held if the number of nominations for any post exceeds the number of vacancies.

7.3 Committee Meetings. A quorum for a committee meeting shall consist of three. A simple majority shall suffice to pass a motion. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast for and against the motion the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

#### 8. Indemnity to Officers.

The Society shall indemnify the Committee of the Society from and against all claims, liabilities and demands, and in any respect all acts done or purported to be done in good faith on behalf of the Society.

#### 9. Dissolution.

In the event of a resolution by the members to dissolve the Society, the treasurer shall realise all its assets and discharge all its liabilities. A General Meeting shall then be called, and the Treasurer shall submit his audited accounts. Any balance remaining shall then be distributed to such organisation or organisations having similar aims and objectives, as the General Meeting may direct. The Treasurer shall then make such distribution as directed and submit his final accounts to the auditors. The Society shall then stand dissolved.

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## Membership List

We welcome the following new members to the Society

- 084 Mrs Dorothy Witheridge  
085 Mr Grant Michael Witheridge  
086 Mr Bradley Allan Witheridge  
1)Michael Allan Witheridge 1925-1971; 2)Robert Witheridge  
1886-c1953; 3)Jean Elizabeth Byles 1898-1978; 4)Philemon  
Witheridge 1846-?;5)Mary Carvarth;8)Thomas Witheridge 1808-?  
9)Jane Thomas; 16)Francis Witheridge 1782-?;17)Ann Easterway  
Ilfracombe & Barnstaple 1800-1870; Australia 1870-1990.
- 087 Mrs Mildred Creech  
P0 Box 459,469 Rogers Avenue,St Mary's, Ontario,Canada.NOM-2Y  
1)Mildred Creech; 2)Byron Hicks;3) Lorretta Essery; 6)Joh  
Essery; 7)Mary Christina Harris; 14)Thomas Witheridge Harris  
15) Elizabeth Bakewell; 28) John Thomas Harris; 29) Mar  
Witheridge; 58)George Witheridge 1761-1801; 59)Jane Oke 176  
1828;  
Morwenstow/Bradworthy 1757-1840;Ontario.Canada 1840-1990.
- 088 Mrs Barbara DiMambro  
49 Addison Road,Richmond Hill,Ontario, Canada, L4C9N1.  
1)Barbara DiMambro;2)Parkin Alton; 3)Mayerlene Ellis;6)Erne  
Ellis; 7)Mary Edna English; 14)Arthur Patrick English; 1  
Elizabeth Maude Witheridge; 30)George Witheridge 1846- ; 3  
Susan McWaters; 60)George 1808-1884; 61)Mary Saunders 1815  
Milton Damerel/Bradworthy 1808-1840;Ontario,Canada 1840-199
- 089 Mr John Douglas Witheridge  
090 Mrs Valerie Edna Witheridge  
091 Mr Devon Edward Witheridge  
092 Mr Robert Bruce Witheridge  
6623 Leskard Road,R.#2 Orono,Ontario,Canada.LOB-1MO .  
1)John Douglas Witheridge; 2) Clarence Howard Witheridge; 3  
Ruth Seaborn Allison;4)Edgar John Witheridge;5)Emily Mercer  
8)John Witheridge 1840-; 16)George Witheridge 1808-1884; 17  
Mary Saunders 1815-; 32)John Witheridge 1788-1859; 33)Marth  
Saunders 1761-1828.  
Bradworthy/Milton Damerel 1788-1840;Ontario,Canada 1840-199
- 093 Mrs Ruby Viola Jackman  
59 Sovereign Drive,St Catherines,Ontario,Canada.L2T-1Zb.  
1)Ruby Viola Jackman; 2)Richard Witheridge; 3)Alma Bonnetta  
4)Richard Witheridge 1832-; 5)Ann Jeffrey; 8)John Witheridge  
1788-1859; 9)Grace Grills 1893-; 16)George Witheridge 1761  
1301; 17)Jane Oke 1761-1828.  
Bradworthy 1761-1860;Ontario,Canada 1860-1990.

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Not a lot of people know that;

The title "Lord of the Manor of Witheridge" that well known tow  
in the centre of Devon which has existed at least since 1086, wa  
sold in London in March 1989 for the sum of £9,000 to a Mr  
Margaret Wehling of Norfolk. The title is believed to give right  
to the Lord of the Manor to hold fairs and markets in the squar  
in the centre of the town of Witheridge.

## Useful Addresses

Devon Record Office,  
Castle Street,  
Exeter,  
Devon.  
EX4 3PQ

Telephone 0392 53509

West Devon Record Office,  
Clare Place,  
Coxside,  
Plymouth,  
Devon.  
PL4 OJW

Telephone 0752 26485

North Devon Record Office,  
Tuly Street,  
Barnstaple,  
Devon.

Devon Family History Society,  
Membership Secrerary,  
Mrs P Witwicka,  
4a Cookworthy Road,  
North Prospect,  
Plymouth,  
Devon.  
PL2 2LG

Society of Genealogists,  
14 Charterhouse Buildings,  
London. EC1

Telephone 01-251 8799

