

Spring 1993

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(To be sent new applications and all renewals of society membership, complete with subs.)

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<u>CONTENTS</u>		PAGE
Editorial Family News Notice of Annual General Meeting Coincidences? Bradworthy Information		2 2 3 4, 5 and 6 6
Research Report	7,	8, 9 and 12
Family Tree, Combe Martin - Australia Society's Finances		10 and 11 13 and 14
"A Genealogist's Prayer" Poster		15 16
"Found" Family Tree, Kent - Birmingham		17 18
PPR Wills and Admons		19 and 20

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EDITORIAL

Hello, and welcome to the first edition of the Witheridge Times for 1993.

This is the time of year when we begin to plan for our annual re-union, which this year is on 3rd May, Bank Holiday Monday, at Alderton, Gloucestershire, and I very much look forward to seeing old friends again, and meeting new ones. (I would like to think many more new ones).

It is also a time for thinking ahead to future editions of the magazine, and I would be glad of any suggestions which would enhance its interest to members. If there are any lines of research which you would like to see us develop, let us know, or if there any items which might interest fellow members, do please send them in.

I have not been able to follow up the idea of research at Kew - there seems to be a 'jinx' on my attempts to get there. Would you believe - a fire at a signal station on British Rail which stopped all trains from Luton short of London - another day, stuck on a train which could not proceed because of brake failure - another day, another train which could not move because the doors wouldn't shut? You wouldn't believe? Neither would I if it hadn't happened to me!

I'm hoping for better things in 1993!

Joyce

FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry to learn that Kim Cook is still having difficulty as a result of an accident which occurred when she was attending a business conference two years ago. Kim sustained an injury to her foot, and has to have treatment at home and visit a hospital twice a week for physiotherapy. In spite of this painful and time consuming treatment, Kim is somewhat restricted in mobility, and, unfortunately, this appears to be a long term problem.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, 3rd May, 1993, in the Vallage Hall, Alderton, Gloucestershire, at 2.0 p.m.

The Agenda is as follows:-

- 1. Apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes of the fifth Annual General Meeting held on the 4th May, 1992.
- 3. Matters arising
- 4. Chairman's Report
- 5. Secretary's Report
- 6. Membership Secretary's Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report
- 8. Research Co-ordinator's Report
- 9. Election of Officers
- 10. Any other business

The Annual General Meeting is incorporated in our Witheridge Day re-union, and if you are not able to attend, but would like to nominate a person to hold office in the Society, please complete the form attached to the Witheridge Day invitation (which accompanies this magazine), and return it to me, the undersigned, or to Mayda Witheridge, Secretary - addresses inside the front cover.

It is necessary to obtain the consent of the person nominated.

If there is any matter which you would like to be considered under 'Any other business', it would be helpful if you would notify me, or our Secretary, Mrs. Mayda Witheridge.

Stalam Frank

COINCIDENCES?

By Bob Thomas

I sometimes wonder if there really is some power we know lttle of, which not only looks after us, but even inanimate objects. What follows is the true story of an unusual motor cycle:-

It begins - as most good yarns do - at Christmas, in this case back around 1923/4 when I was six or seven, and it is one of my earliest memories. We were spending the holiday in Luton with my aunt and uncle. Aunt Win was Winnie Witheridge, my mother's sister, and I clearly remember her husband, uncle Will, telling my father "The Firm is making a motor bike, I don't know if anything will come of it..." ('The Firm' was Vauxhall Motors.)

I knew no more until nearly thirty years later, in 1951, when at a Club lunch I sat next to someone I had not previously met, and we got to talking about the bikes we had owned, and I mentioned that I had just parted with a four cylinder F.N. and now regretted it. He said "Would you like a Vauxhall?" He had acquired it, dismantled, and quite a bit had gone for 'salvage' during World War II, but enough was there to be interesting, so I said "Yes, please", and duly collected the remains.

At this stage I must explain things I did not know at that time. In 1922/3 Vauxhall Motors, thinking to make use of small machine tools left over from World War I, made two experimental motor cycles. They were very advanced, and in the luxury class, and never went into production. In fact, they never really went off the 'secret list' - few people ever knew about them.

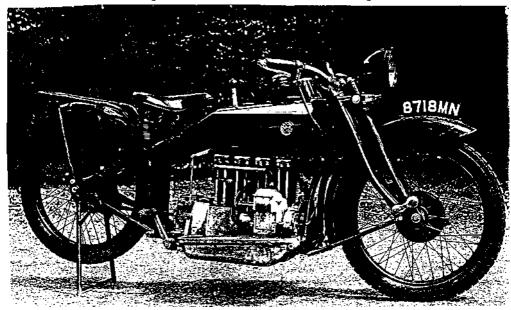
Well - back to the story. There were the remains, but there was a lot missing, and a rebuild seemed impossible without at least a picture. An elderly friend said "I've got a picture - it's in a Boys' Book of Motorcycles of 1928, but there is no name on it". That allowed a start to be made.

Next a friend in Coventry said "I know the Chief Designer at Vauxhall", and he gave me an introduction to him. The Chief Designer made a search, and produced prints of all that existed of the original drawings. A few weeks later there was a fire in the drawing office of Vauxhall Motors, and the remaining drawings were destroyed!

Eventually I made enough parts to get the bike running, but

To right. Bob Thomas riding his Vauxhall bike on the Gooseneck Bend on the T.T. Race course, Isle-of-Man.

Below. Bob Thomas's Vauxhall motor cycle. The engine designed by Major Frank Halford, will pull around the entire T.T. course in top gear. Two prototypes were made in 1922: This is the only known survivor. Picture by Richard Adams.



it was without the correct speedometer, magneto, carburetter or lights, all rather special to this machine. I advertised for the speedometer, and received just one reply. It was the right one, and brand new!

I made lots of enquiries for the magneto, but no one even knew of such. Then a friend found one in a dustbin of junk. Later another friend found exactly the right headlamp, but I despaired of ever finding the very unusual carburetter, yet just recently, more than thirty years after getting the bike running again, a man I did not know bought a box of 'junk' carburetters which included an 'odd' one. It reminded him of one he had seen in a old photograph - yes, in the same Boys' Book. He remembered reading that I wanted one and wrote to me asking if I was interested.

Was I interested?! Indeed I was - again the carburetter was exactly right, and brand new. So now, nearly sixty years after it was dismantled, and more than sixty years since a small boy first heard of it, the motor cycle is reassembled correctly, complete - and running.

Coincidences - or ?

Some years back, I met an acquaintance from the War years and in conversation he said "My father broke up the other Vauxhall bike in 1935, for scrap. I wish he hadn't...."

Information from John Witheridge - from a contact in Bradworthy

Deaths not listed on the Bradworthy family tree - see Magazine, Spring, 1991:

Samuell, born 1702, died 24th August, 1715

Mary Witheridge, nee Osborn, Samuell's mother, died 9th September, 1715

 $\frac{\text{Thomas}}{\text{died}} = \frac{\text{Witheridge}}{\text{October}},$ husband of Mary and father of Samuell,

The parents and child died within a space of two months - one wonders about the cause of death.

RESEARCH REPORT ON FAMILIES CONNECTED TO THE WITHERIDGE LINE IN COLLAROY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

By John Witheridge

I have purposely begun the family tree with one of our favourite characters from the Combe Martin and Berrynarbor tree, or to be exact, trees - for there are so many that it is hard to count them all. But I digress - Thomas Witheridge was born in 1808 in Ilfracombe to Francis and Ann nee Eastaway. The various families who have descended from this man Thomas and his wife, Jane Thomas, are at this moment virtually beyond counting. It has been said that this family in its entirety is the most prolific of all our Witheridge families. In the next year if I am allowed time and space within the magazine, I would like to prove what an insufficient description that statement is.

Thomas, as you can see, had nine children (sometimes I fully expect some more to rise up and claim to be counted). We have been told in the past that he was a coast guard. In fact he was also an able bodied seaman/boatman and must have spent his whole adult life connected with the sea. I am in possession of a copy of the 1871 census for Pitsdeep, Hants, in the registration area of Lymington. This gives his age as 62, and classifies him as a Superannuated Coast Guard. This was the year before his death. Although I am tempted, I will not deviate at this time to array all his children and their families in any order. All I will say is "Watch this space in future issues."

In this issue I would like to tell you about the descendants of Thomas's sixth son, John (Jack) Witheridge, born 1848, in the registration area of Williton, Somerset. That same 1871 census shows the town as Minehead, Somerset. John married Esther Jennings in Helston, Cornwall, in the year 1871. It is only within the last few months that the extent of their family has become known.

Esther Jane, their first child, lived barely two years. John junior was born in Helston, as were all his brothers and sisters. John junior met and married his wife, Charity Veal, when his parents moved to Penzance so that the daughters of the family would have a better chance of finding employment. Charity was born in Penzance in 1874 and died there in 1859. John and Charity had three children - first another John, born 1810, then Benjamin S., and lastly, Madeline P. (Have you noticed that our Witheridge men have a yen for ladies of the Thomas family?) - John married a lady surnamed "Thomas" whose Christian name is not yet revealed.

We now know that the 'S' in the records after the name Benjamin stands for 'Sisley' (in memory of the artist?) and the 'P' after Madeline is for 'Peace' (Madeline was born in the year of the Armistice - 1918). Benjamin married Peggy Waller, and Peggy is still living in Bury St. Edmunds, and I hope to be hearing from her shortly. Benjamin and Peggy named their oldest daughter in memory of her Aunt Madeline, and their younger daughter, Christine. It is not known whether these two girls have families of their own, but one point is clear - this section of the family name ends here, as so many of our Witheridge branches have done in the last half century.

As you can see from the family tree, Esther Jane, born 1875 married Nathanial Ball, a widower. Although Esther and Nathanial had no children, Nathanial had two or three children by his first wife. I am reliably informed that noone from this family exists today.

Not much has ever been known about Emma and Annie, born 1877 and 1879, apart from the fact that we have only recently discovered the names of their husbands. The next child of John (Jack) and Esther Jennings, was Samuel, born 1882, who married Elizabeth Mary Carne. The only record of children born to them in this country is that of their only son Samuel, who was born and died in the third quarter of the year 1911. However the family turns up in Australia with a daughter being born in 1917. She remained unmarried. She is being sought by our Australian members who maintain that her name was listed in the telephone book only a few years ago. Of Ellen and Mary, born 1884 and 1887, we know only what is recorded on the tree.

Now for Philemon Thomas - the last son of John and Esther. He was born in 1890, and like his father and both brothers, was a Cornish fisherman, living and working from Porthleven and later Penzance. The family would have probably owned its own fishing boat, and it must have been a fair sized vessel because we do know that all four of them worked together. What a hard life, and what a toll the inclement weather could take on a man's health! This, I presume, is what happened to Philemon Thomas. His health deteriorated to the extent that he had to find work other than that of a fisherman, and so after his marriage to Ellen Richards in 1917 at Swansea, he took work in a flour mill.

Ellen was born in February, 1889, and so was a year older than her husband. Some time after their marriage and while they were still living in Swansea, Philemon's health became worse. On Doctors' advice to find a warmer climate, Philemon and Ellen emigrated to Australia, arriving on the first of June, 1925. Their daughter Phyllis May was seven years old, born 1918. What a marvellous adventure at that age!

Philemon's first job in the new country was with the Australian Iron and Steel Company who made and supplied the materials for the Sydney Harbour bridge. During the depression he was unemployed, and throughout these hard times he studied and obtained a lift operator's licence. This enabled him to find employment as a lift attendant at the Salvation Army People's Palace, which had been built to accommodate country travellers. Later still, he worked at the Marcus Clark's Store - a large retail store opposite the Central Station in Sydney - until his retirement in 1960.

As we have made reference to the Salvation Army, it would be a good time to expand on this. Both Philemon and Ellen have been closely connected with the movement for most of their lives. Philemon was a bandsman playing with the Corps bands in Penzance, Swansea, and Marrickville, their home town. When he died in 1972, at the age of 82, he was honoured and remembered with a large Salvation Army funeral. Ellen is still living in a retirement village maintained by the Salvation Army at Collaroy, New South Wales, just a short distance away from her devoted daughter, Phyllis.

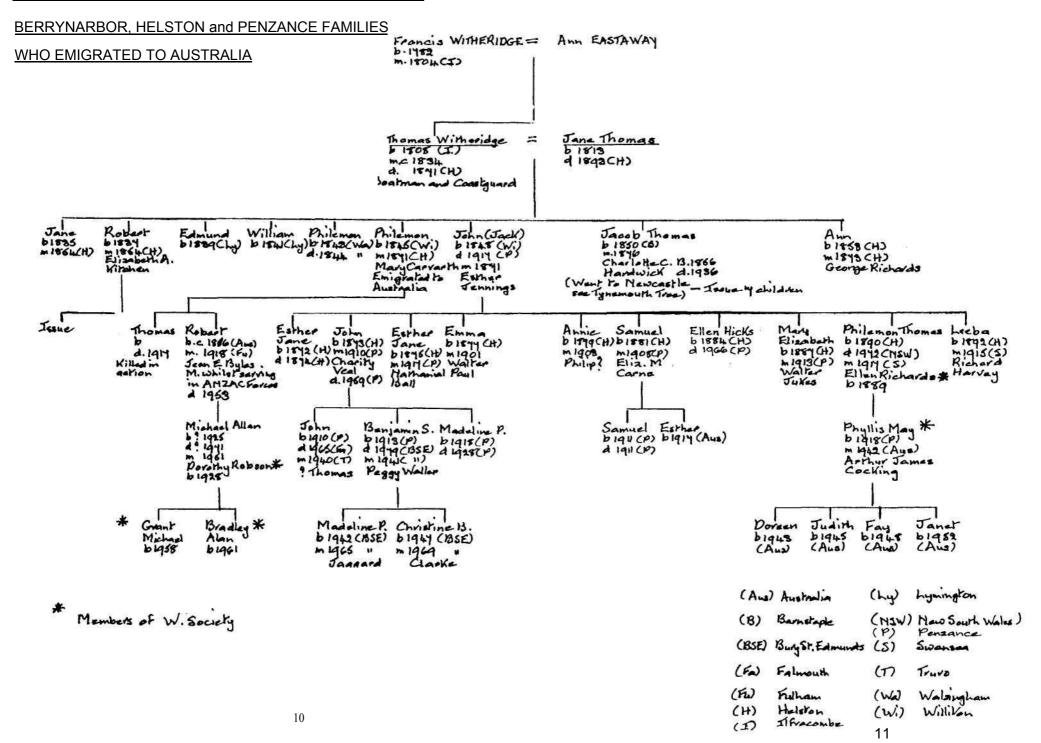
Ellen received from the Queen, the Prime Minister, and other V.I.Ps., the usual, or perhaps I should say, the not so usual telegrams, which are sent to Centenarians - that was nearly four years ago!

Philemon and Ellen had one trip back to England, in 1954, and they stayed in Penzance with Philemon's sister, Leeba. I was amazed when I first heard that Leeba was a woman. I think this was because elsewhere in the family (the family of Jacob Thomas, younger brother of John (Jack) born 1848) there is a Leeba Percival, born 1881. I had always assumed the Harvey name which is in our marriage record books to be a female so I was quite shaken when I was informed that Leeba had married a Richard (Dick) Harvey in Swansea, in 1915. (Now be honest, I bet most of you thought the same!) I also wonder why both Philemon and Leeba were married in Swansea. Did their mother or grandmother come from there? this may emerge later.

Leeba and Richard had no children, and so another branch of the family ends here.

Phyllis May Cocking, nee Witheridge, was aged seven when she

EXTENSION OF THE FAMILY TREE OF THE COMBE MARTIN



arrived in Australia, and is really the author of the facts you read here, with the help of her new found relative, Dorothy Witheridge, a member of our Society for some time. I had the pleasure of introducing them when I asked Dorothy to investigate a new Witheridge name which had been sent to me by another member and family in Western Australia. These were Alice and Percy Witheridge, (members) and their relatives, Flo., and Hazel (whom I hope to coax into membership soon). If I can you may well see another remarkable tree on the centre fold of your magazine.

The two ladies, Phyllis and Dorothy, had no idea that the other existed, and they live only half an hour's drive apart. When they began to investigate the histories of their respective families it was found that they had relations in common. This could also lead to another tree and report in the future.

Back to the report in hand - In the year 1942, Phyllis married Arthur James Cocking. He was also of Cornish extraction, and his family emigrated from the Redruth area of Cornwall, when the mines there closed down. His grandfather was a mining engineer at Redruth, and the family settled in an area of South Australia called Little Cornwall, where every second year a Cornish Festival is held.

Phyllis and Arthur visited the festival several times, enjoying each one better than the last, and it appears from Phyllis's letters that each Cornish pasty she tasted was better than the last as well. Sadly, Arthur died suddenly of a heart attack in November, 1989, at the age of 73, leaving Phyllis and their four daughters, Doreen, Judith, Fay and Janet.

One last amusing picture is dawning in my mind's eye as I close this report - perhaps something we can all relate to. I can see Phyllis and Arthur, on a visit to the Old Country, driving through Somerset and Devon, getting lost and desperate, but finally finding the destination Phyllis had imagined so many times in the past, and standing to have that photograph taken by the signpost at the edge of the township of Witheridge, North Devon.

by P.H.Witheridge.

If our society had to fund the full costs of researching our family name, as well as running our one-name society, then we would have to pay far larger subscriptions each year. The society has a number of philanthropic members who give freely of their time, their research, their knowledge and will even forgo part, if not all, of the expenditure they incur on behalf of the society. It is the generosity of our membership that allows our society to exist and to continue to thrive.

Each year we look at the level of our subscriptions and check that they will generate sufficient income to cover the society's expenditure. I have worked out a budget for the year commencing January 1st 1984 (see page 14). From this it can been seen that our estimated income exceeds expenditure by £55.00. On this basis perhaps, following a vote at the A.G.M. on May 3rd, the society will be able to continue into 1994 without increasing subscriptions.

The subscriptions have remained unchanged since the society was formed in 1987. They are as follows; Overseas member, (an individual and household) £12. Family member, (all in one household) £10. Individual member, £7. and Economy member, (Pensioner or unemployed) £5.

We have been asked to consider if we can allow an overseas economy membership, similar to that allowed for UK members. This seems fair, but we would lose some income. If, however, this loss could be made up in some way, then there could be nothing against this being proposed and considered at the AGM.

The society has been taking too long to present members' cheques to the bank. Some cheques became out of date and have not been credited to the society's account. These delays occurred as cheques were passed between officers before being banked. We are now asking that all subscriptions be sent directly to the membership secretary who will bank them without delay. This is one problem which has delayed the preparation of the society's accounts, but we hope that the accounts will be presented for approval shortly.

The largest expense for the society is postage. The cost to send four issues of the magazine each year to UK members is about £1.20p, to New Zealand and Australia about £4.00p and Canada and the USA, £5.00p. The postage charges are the reason why overseas subscriptions are set at a higher rate.

Printing costs are being kept at a low level. Your publisher has a duplicating machine and the printing costs are set at 1.5p per printing pass. This just covers the machine maintenance charges of, £120.00 plus 17.5% VAT, per 10,000 copies (printing passes). An A4 sheet printed on both sides is charged at 4p and a cover at 5p. Commercial printers charge 10p or more for an A4 sheet printed on both sides.

The society has published four issues of the magazine in each of the last two years, 1991 and 1992. The society prints at least 50 copies of each issue. Those that are not distributed immediately are held in case any member would like to purchase a back-copy. Back-copies of all past issues are available from the publisher at a cost, including postage, as follows; Each copy £1.50p to UK addresses and £2.50p to overseas addresses.

Budget For Year 1994.

<pre>Income:</pre>	
Subscriptions paid 36 as follows;	
Overseas members, 14 off @ £12. 168.00	
UK Family members, 11 off @ £10. 110.00	
UK Members, 4 off @ £7. 28.00	
UK Economy members, 7 off @ £5. 35.00	
Sales of Magazine Back Copies. 5.00	
Sales of Certificate copies. 5.00	
Witheridge Day Fund Raising. 10.00 Total Income. £3 $\overline{61.00}$ £36	C1 00
Total Income. £301.00 £30	61.00
Expenditure:	
'Witheridge Day' Expenses as follows;	
Hire of Hall, 7 hours at £6. 42.00	
Consumables, drinks etc on day. 20.00	
Mail shot to possible members. 30.00	
Members invitations. 8.00	
Total 'Witheridge Day' Expenditure. £100.00 £10	00.00
'Witheridge Times' magazine production & distributi	Lon
costs for 4 issues per year.	
Paper & Duplication (4X50 copies). 55.00	
Envelopes & Postage 36 subscribers. 85.00	40 00
Total 'Witheridge Times' Costs. £140.00 £1	40.00
Membership of other societies;	
Devon Family History Society. 7.00	
Guild of One Name Studies. 9.00 Total Membership Costs. £16.00 £	16.00
	10.00
Correspondence, letters to members, officers etc. Total Correspondence Costs. £50.00 £	EO 00
	50.00
Total Expenditure. £3	00.00
Balance. Income less Expenditure. £	55.00

A GENEALOGIST'S PRAYER

O rend the veil of time for me Dispel mist of antiquity, Help me find those I seek.

I seek more than names and places

I seek characters and faces,

I look for strong and weak.

Maybe but shadows as through glass, But let me glimpse them as they pass Times of joy and sorrows.

I would know all their pain and fears, Their woeful and their happy years Hopes for bright tomorrows.

Perhaps not all were true and kind, Merry of heart and strong of mind, I view with charity.

Please help me Lord, to go my way, With spirit meek, yet strong as they, And one they'd wish to see.

Joyce Browne

OFFICIAL OPENING

OF THE

GLOUCESTER & CHELTENHAM AIRPORT

Lessees and Controllers:
The Westgate Motor House Company (Gloucester) Ltd.

THURSDAY, JULY 16th, 1936

At 2.30 p.m. by

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT SWINTON G.B.E., M.C.
(H.M. Secretary of State for Air)

The FLYING DISPLAY will include

No. 40 (Bomber) Squadron of the

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Aerobatics by two

GLOSTER "GAUNTLETS"

By kind permission of the Gloster Aircraft Company Ltd.

Flying Display by the COTSWOLD AERO CLUB

THE

"COTSWOLD HANDICAP RACE"

Crazy Flying by Herr Kronfeldt
(The Famous Austrian Cliding Expert)

EXHIBITION of many of the LATEST TYPES OF AIRCRAFT

Gates Open 1.30 p.m. Car Parking Free

Admission 6d.

Flying will continue till Dusk

Sidney Philip Witheridge of the Ermington Family flew as an Air Gunner with No.40 (Bomber) Squadron from March 1933 until July 1935. The Squadron performed at the opening of the Cheltenham's Airport see poster above.

FOUND

By John Witheridge

Ever since we made the connection between the Rochester, Kent, London, and some of the Birmingham families (see Family Tree, Handbook 1989), we have been aware of the name "Inwood Witheridge" which has appeared in several generations following the marriage of a Robert Inwood Witheridge, of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, London, to Elizabeth Stokes at St. John's in Hackney in 1796.

Robert Inwood Witheridge died in Aston, Birmingham, in 1855, and was the ancestor of several Witheridge families in the Midlands who are known to us.

Whilst doing some research in the Gillingham Library into the ancestry of Sarah King, who married John Witheridge, 1768, I found the following records:-

Marriage

 $\underline{\text{John Witheridge}}$, Bachelor, of the Parish of Strood in the County of Kent, and $\underline{\text{Sarah King}}$, Spinster, of the Parish of Gillingham in the County of Kent. Married by Licence on the 11th day of May, 1768. (Both John and Sarah signed their names). Witnesses: Mary Witheridge, assumed to be John's mother, Mary Mills, and Mary King.

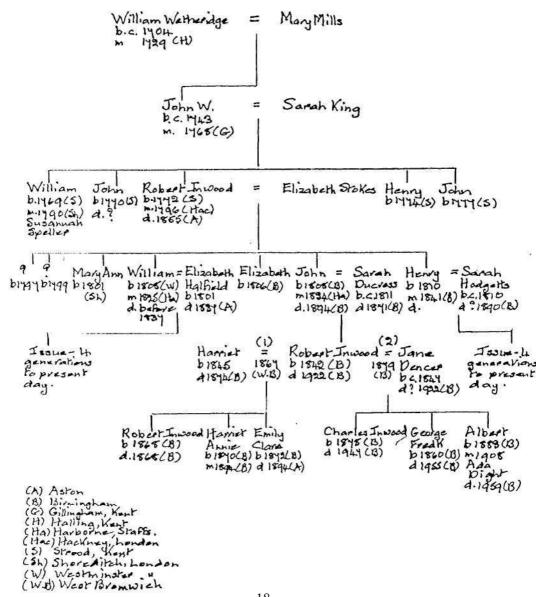
Mary King could be Sarah's mother or her sister. I think the latter is more probable as I found a later record of a marriage of a Mary King, spinster.

Mary King, Spinster, of the Parish of Gillingham in the County of Kent, and Martin Smith, of the same parish. Marriage by Licence the 12 day of September, 1770. Witnesses: Elaine Stephens and Mary Inwood - a cousin perhaps?

This indicates to me that the Inwood connection comes from the King family, and that it is likely that Sarah King's mother was an Inwood before marriage.

Perhaps someone in the present day Birmingham families would like to follow this up?

KENT, LONDON, BIRMINGHAM



PPR WILLS AND ADMONS - Wetheridge and Witheridge, 1982 on

1982 We - no entries

Witheridge, Alice Sarah Ann, Oakbank, Cunnery Road, Church Stretton, Salop. Died 03.04.1982. Probate Birmingham 10th June.

<u>Witheridge, Mary Edith</u>, 1, Town Moore, Doncaster, Yorkshire. Died 02.02.1982. Probate Birmingham 12th August.

Witheridge, Winifred Emily Frederica, 30, High Street, Wheaton, Aston, Staffs. Died 28.07.1982. Admin. 10th November.

1983 We - no entries

Wi - no entries

1984 We - no entries

Witheridge, Laurence Stanley, 40, St. Mary's Close, Chirk, Wrexham, Clwyd. Died 15.04.84. Admin. Newcastle-on-Tyne 29th June.

Witheridge, Vera Lillian, 4, Alverdiscott Road, East-the-Water, Bideford. Died 23.12.1983. Probate Bristol 1st March.

1985 <u>Wetheridge, Horace Albert</u>, 54, Greenside Road, West Croydon, Surrey. Died 11.01.1985. Probate London 11th April.

Witheridge, Dorothy Victoria, 21, Poplar Avenue, Orpington. Died 29.09.1985. Probate Brighton 3rd December.

<u>Witheridge, Henry</u>, 7 Penbybiggin, Llanelli, Dyfed. <u>Died 05.10.1985</u>. Probate Llandaff 10 December.

Witheridge, Thomas Henry, 358, Barking Road, London E13. Died 07.03.1985. Admin London 3rd June.

1986 We - no entries

Wi - no entries

1987 We - no entries

1987 Witheridge, Maisie Isobel, - see May Isobel

Witheridge, May Isabel, otherwise May Isobel, otherwise Maisie Isobel, 3, Beverley Road, Chiswick, London W4. Died 26.01.1987. Admin Oxford 14th April.

1988 We - no entries

Witheridge, Samuel Leslie Mumford, 48 Darwin Crescent, Laira, Plymouth. Died 27.11.1987. Probate Liverpool 11th January.

<u>Witheridge, Sidney</u>, 42, Scarborough Road, Walsall. <u>Died 05.08.1988.</u> Admin Birmingham 29th September.

1989 We - no entries

Witheridge, Brian Henry, 5, West Street, Axminster. Died 13.08.1989. Admin. Bristol 9th October.

Witheridge, Thelma, 13, Priory Road, Weston-Super-Mare. Died 06.08.1989. Admin. Bristol 2nd October.

1990 We - no entries

Witheridge, Dorothy,
Folkestone, Kent. Died 31.10.1989. Probate
Brighton 3rd January.

Witheridge, William Harry, 62, Tresham Road, Gt. Barr, Birmingham. Died 08.12.89. Admin. Birmingham 2nd April.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SOCIETY SHOULD BE PAID TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Devon Record Office, (Tel.No. 0392-53509)
Castle Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3PQ

West Devon Record Office (Tel.No. 0752-26485)
Clare Place,

Coxside, Pymouth, Devon PL4 OJW

North Devon Record Office Tuly Street, Barnstaple, Devon

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

Society of Genealogists, (Tel.No. 071-251 8799) 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA