

Summer 1993

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EDITORIAL

As I send Greetings to our members, we here in the United Kingdom, and those in America and Canada are entering our summer, and we think especially of our New Zealand and Australian friends who are about to experience winter. We have had a mild winter in the south of England, although our northern members have not been so lucky, but now we are enjoying a beautiful spring.

The daffodils are over, but as I sit at the typewriter I can see lilac trees, laburnum, apple and pear blossom, and beech trees coming into brilliant green leaf. In case you should think that we live in a mansion with a park, I must add that this is the view from our 'office' (back bedroom) window, overlooking our own and neighbours' gardens, with a glimpse of a public park in the distance!

Since we last wrote our researchers have been busy, with John in particular achieving some most interesting results - all will be revealed in due course.

Witheridge Day has come and gone, and there is a report later in this issue. Our representative from Canada, Kathy Witheridge, was not able to arrive in time for Witheridge Day, but has visited us since. Kathy has been enterprising and tireless in her efforts to trace Witheridges, alive or dead, and has made contact with some more relatives of Mr. Clarence Ayre, whose story appeared in the magazine of Summer 1992. It appears that Clarence, at eighty two, is as lively as ever.

We would still like to hear from anyone who has a story to tell of Witheridge lives, or a comment to make. So make a resolution, even if it is not New Year, to let us hear from you, wherever you are. We are still interested in the whereabouts of 'Nelson's Men' - see the magazine for Winter, 1992. So if you know any stories about sailors who sailed in Nelson's fleet, do let us know.

Happy searching!

Joyce

FAMILY NEWS Sent by John Witheridge

We are sorry to hear that Pam Wetheridge, wife of Ralph Sidney, (Members No. 102/3) has been in hospital for an operation for gall stones. We wish her a speedy recovery, and hope that she is up and about soon.

We would also like to express our sorrow at learning of the sudden loss of Ralph's guide dog, Zorro, with whom we made firm friends on Witheridge Day, 1992.

Pam and Ralph have changed their address and now live at:

24, Rhiw Tre Maen, BRIDGEND, Glamorgan, S. Wales CF31 2JA

We hear that Mrs. Joan Payne is suffering from a broken finger, which must be very uncomfortable. We hope that she soon recovers, and that Harry does not have to wear his fingers out answering all his wife's letters!

Get well soon.

___,

In April I received information that Elizabeth Witheridge, nee Plumb, wife of the Rev. David Witheridge in the USA, has been ill for the past six months. She fell badly and broke her hip. As most of you will know she has not been well for some time, and this last problem resulted in her being in hospital for three weeks, followed by three months in a nursing home, but we are pleased to know that she is making slow progress, both in her walking and general health.

She has progressed from wheel chair to walking frame on the slow road to recovery, and is able to water her beloved violets and feed her little dog.

We hope that in the near future we shall hear better news from her devoted husband, David.

Our blessings on them both.

SPECIAL ITEM FROM MRS. PHYLLIS COCKING

104 YEARS OF AGE!

Today as I sit watching my mother eating her portion of ice cream birthday cake, surrounded by her companions and the matron, all sharing the abundance of food, I am reminded of all our members of the Witheridge Society who took the time and effort to send birthday greetings to my mother.

I wish to tell you all that you have made a happy occasion a much happier one. I would like to say on behalf of my mother, "Thank you all very much".

I have included a photograph of Mum cutting the cake, blowing out four candles. All your cards are in foreground. The floral arrangements are from my daughters.

Below is a list of members who sent their greetings and cards · -

Betty Rossiter Joan Payne Dorothy Witheridge John and Mayda Witheridge Vel and Rod Metcalfe Paul and Kathy Witheridge Joyce and Graham Browne Rod, Sue, Grant and Lance

Barbara, Larry and Carl Smith John and Kathleen Witheridge Witheridge

God Bless You All.



Foreword by John Witheridge to "Captain Sammy and Co."

I would like, as a preface to this story, to set the scene. Not that I could do it justice, or even draw a parallel to these delightful thoughts of a child.

These are the memories of a child who was living in the household of Joseph Edwin Witheridge, and his wife Mary Ellen, née Totterdell, both of exemplary character, living life within the stern codes of the Salvation Army, but at times bending with the generosity that this faith offers to those who are in need - those who require true love in all its caring forms. When I first read the story I was spell bound from start to finish and my eyes moistened at the thought of the little girl who could see honesty of character as only a child could.

The story was written in gratitude for devoted grandparents.

CAPTAIN SAMMY AND CO.

By Albertina Rossiter, née Witheridge

When Captain Sammy went fishing I was scared. He paced the aisles singing "Though your sins be as scarlet", stopping every now and then to speak to someone.

Captain Sammy was fishing for souls of men, and I was five years old. As he came nearer to where I was sitting with Grandma I would start to fidget and wonder if I could somehow move over and sit on the inside of Aunt Nell away from the aisle, but Grandma was singing the prayer chorus and had her eyes shut tight. As he came to our row he would bend his tall frame and whisper in my ear, "Give it all up, Tina - that flashy bracelet, that hair ribbon!" I would gaze most earnestly at him and assure him, "I am saved, truly I am." With a wink at me, he would continue down the aisle, and I was safe until next Sunday night.

At five, I didn't realise that Captain Sammy was a big tease. When he came to dinner at Grandma's I liked him, he was fun, but on Sunday nights in the Prayer Meeting I was scared of him.

Captain Sammy often came to dinner, for in those days. Salvation Army Officers, who are the ministers, were not paid a regular stipend, but had to rely on the collection or the offerings for their living. If it happened to be a small Corps, then you didn't get much in the collection box.

Captain Sammy would have gone hungry many days if it had not been for Grandma's generosity and her marvellous cooking.

I wasn't an orphan, it was just that I like to be with Grandma and Grandpa, they were always the same, you knew where you were with them. Strangely enough, as I look back, I have very few recollections of my Mother and Father from childhood. I was glad to escape from my Mother, for I was made to sit just so, stand just so, keep my clothes immaculate, and when out on visits or outings, keep my gloves on. Mother took great pride in keeping me spotless, from my beautifully arranged curls, inevitably tied with the most expensive ribbon, to the toes of my white kid shoes.

I was the only one, of course, if Mother had had two or three others to cope with, I might have enjoyed her company more

Now Grandpa I really loved. He was kind and gentle, he never ranted on, and he never once to my knowledge spoke ill of anyone. He didn't want to know when gossip was around. He took his religion into his daily life, he took the texts from the Bible as the Word of God, and didn't twist them around to fit his own ends.

The Bible said "If your brother has no coat and you have two then it is your Christian duty to give one of your coats to your brother." Who is your brother? Again as per the Bible, all men were Grandpa's brothers. Grandpa was often conned out of money, but his theory was that it was better to be conned by many, than to turn away one deserving case. Now Grandma was nobody's sucker, and she didn't really approve of all this giving away. She was an excellent business woman, which is perhaps why Grandpa still managed to keep his business, despite all his good works.

When I was seven, and just getting over chicken pox, Grandma and Grandpa retired, taking Aunt Nell and 'Sal', our old horse, with them to a little cottage near Weston.

If Mother could be dodged, I liked to go with Grandpa and feed and bed down the horse, which was kept for deliveries. Grandpa had a way with horses, cats and all animals. He wasn't a chatty man, but when talking to the horse or the cats he had a sort of cooing tone. The horse was called 'Sal', no doubt she too was a Salvation Army horse, by name anyhow.

Often, when I had been 'missing' for some time, they would find me curled up fast asleep with 'Sal'. Mother would be

frantic, thinking of the germs and the dirt, but Grandpa just smiled and patted my head.

It was then that Mother really got on my nerves. I had no one to escape to. Now I don't know if it was me being contrary, or Mother being unrealistic, but we didn't really see eye to eye. Finger nails for instance - she cut them so short she almost took the top of my fingers off and they felt awful. Then the hair! It wasn't that I objected to her washing it, or even getting the soap in my eyes, but it was the way she twisted it to get the water out - just like wringing out a floor cloth!

Another thing that Mother ought to have known was that I was keen to learn about cause and effect. I didn't always believe everything I was told. Not any more. I had sat through hours of sermons, listening and believing most earnestly. What was it Captain Sammy always said? "Ask and ye shall receive", "Believe, and it shall be so". Well, on two occasions I had tried this out and it hadn't worked.

The first was when my little cousin Emma died. She was only two years old, and was so tiny and doll like in her little coffin. Her baby hands were clasped over a bunch a violets. Mother shouldn't have shown her to me, it really upset me to see her and to see my very dear Aunt Liza crying for her baby girl.

I went home thinking all the way of Captain Sammy and what he had said - "Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find". I asked every night for weeks, a codicil to my prayers, "Please, Jesus, send Emma back". The first time I saw Aunt Liza after the funeral I said "Don't worry, Aunt Liza, I am asking Jesus to send Emma back, He will". Then every day for about two weeks I called in to see Aunt Liza, popping my head round the door and calling out "Is she back yet, is Emma back?" Aunt Liza would hold me tightly saying, "Not yet, my darling, not yet".

After two weeks I gave up and became very disillusioned. My only solace was a new bright star that I noticed. "It must be Emma."

My second try was with my large German made doll. I was supposed to put it in its doll's pram, coach-built, and sway up and down the road with it, making all the other little girls and their mothers envious. Well, I didn't want to do that. I didn't mind trying out Mother's curling tongs on the doll's hair, or cleaning her teeth, and then I had an idea. What about the breathing thing? I would do that!

After all, if He could do it, why couldn't I? "And God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." Right, that's it. I laid the doll on the ground and huffed and puffed into her mouth for what seemed hours. It stayed cold and stiff and stupidly grinning. That was it, I didn't believe any more. All those things just didn't work out.

My annoyance with my Mother culminated when she kept me home from school and sent me to buy custard tarts in Cumberland Road. It was quite a long way from home and the biggest mistake was that the baker's shop was right opposite the bus stop for Weston. I didn't reach the cake shop. The Weston bus, number 25 from the centre, came trundling round the corner and I put up my hand and it stopped. Next thing I was at Grandma's cottage, and Aunt Nell, thoroughly disgruntled, was being despatched to Weston to send a telegram to Mother to say not to expect custard tarts for tea.

When all the fuss had died down, I stayed for two years. Funnily enough, those two years are the ones I remember best.

I went to the local school. It's still there, looking just the same, perched happily next to the Church. There were just two classes, under sevens and over seven. Mr. Bell, the headmaster took the over sevens, and his wife the under sevens. It was all in an open plan room. Mr. Bell used to call me "The Cheshire Cat". He told my Grandparents that wherever he went in the village, I seemed to appear over a hedge grinning at him. On Empire Day we were all taken to Congresbury for sports. The local farmer called for us at the school and we went in style in the farm carts. There were three legged races, egg and spoon races, competitions for the best flower decorated bicycles, and all manner of jollifications.

Twice a week Grandpa harnessed the horse to the cart, which held a large water tank, and off we went to Banwell to get the drinking water from the village pump. I often took the reins and drove while Grandpa sat beside me. What peaceful, blissful memories. Twice a week Grandpa went to Weston to get the papers and my comics from Mr. Jelly's shop in Meadow Street.

Sal always got a cake from the baker's in the High Street, and once, when it seemed to be a long time coming, Sal complete with cart trailing behind, mounted the pavement and poked her head into the shop doorway.

Sal never worked on Sundays. Grandma and Grandpa walked the five miles into Weston every Sunday, to go to the services. Grandpa wouldn't break the fourth Commandment.

Now me, I would have given the horse Tuesdays off and used her on Sundays. But not Grandpa. He remembered Captain Sammy!

Letter to the Editor,

Dear Editor,

May we, through the pages of the Witheridge Times, express our thanks and appreciation to all those who worked so hard to make our latest Witheridge Day such a success.

Those who weren't able to be there missed a really excellent day, a good mixture of fun, information, chat and food!

To those who haven't yet managed to get to one of our gatherings, perhaps we should emphasise that, although we do have the formality of an AGM, this is only a small part of the day, and is always conducted very smoothly and efficiently by our able Chairman, Graham. The rest of the day is very relaxed and informal, with fascinating exhibits of Witheridge arts and crafts, and the food is always typical Witheridge fare - delicious and plentiful.

We'd also like to thank the speakers, who combined fascinating information with a light touch of humour. Our special thanks also to Joyce, who once again produced an excellent Witheridge birthday cake - worth breaking any diet for!

Some of those who travelled up on Sunday afternoon got together for a delicious meal in a lovely old pub in Winchcombe on Sunday evening, where a great time was had by all.

Altogether, it was a really enjoyable time, and we look forward to meeting up again with old friends, and making new ones too, on the May Day holiday next year.

Once again, our thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's gathering so enjoyable.

Signed: Roy and Kim Cook West Wickham, Kent

THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 3rd May, 1993

Chairman: Graham Browne

- 1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Annette Witheridge, Kathy and Paul Witheridge, Harry and Joan Payne, and Mayda Witheridge.
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 4th May, 1992: These were accepted as published in Volume 6, Number 3, of the Witheridge Times, Autumn 1992.
- 3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report: Graham expressed his thanks to all those who had travelled to Alderton for this year's meeting, and also praised the Officers and Committee members for their work throughout the past year, which had resulted in some remarkable discoveries, and he thanked those responsible for the organisation of Witheridge Day. Whilst he felt encouraged by the interest of new members, he regretted that some of the previous members had expressed disquiet at the lack of a published financial statement, and he hoped that this situation would be remedied during the course of the meeting.
- 5. Secretary's Report: Mayda wrote that this year had been a very busy year indeed, with hundreds of letters being posted all over the world. Also that there had been a staggering amount of research material collected. At times, there did not seem enough hours in the day to cope with the work load.

(See separate report)

6. Membership Secretary's Report: John reported that prior to his taking over as Membership Secretary in May, 1992, the Society had lost several members, some of whom he managed to persuade into staying as members for a while longer. He went on to say that we must do more to maintain interest for the existing members as well as the new members. Several new members had joined and this had helped to boost numbers. He had opened a separate banking account into which to deposit members' subscription cheques, so that errors which have occurred in the past should never happen again

- 6. i.e., cheques not being paid in to the Society's account in time to cash them. From now on each cheque will be lodged in this account within one week of being received, and a receipt will be sent to the member concerned.
- 7. Treasurer's Report: Jason Cook reported on behalf of Kim, who had not been able to carry out her duties during the year on account of ill health. He stated that the accounts were near completion and that the report he was submitting showed that the balance at the moment stood at over £300.00. There would be a completed statement which would be produced for the next magazine, and this would show in detail all transactions to and from the account over the last few years.
- 8. Research Co-ordinator's Report: Richard reported that outwardly he did not have much to show, but his work of computing various records was going on as quickly as possible.
- 9. Election of Officers: It was voted that the undermentioned should carry out the duties for the coming year:-

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Editor and PRO
Membership Secretary
Research Co-ordinator
North America's

Representative Committee Members

Publisher, Distributor and Committee Member

Graham Browne
Mayda Witheridge
Richard Witheridge
Joyce Browne
John Witheridge
Richard Witheridge

Kathy Witheridge Susan Witheridge Annette Witheridge Philip Witheridge Carl Smith

Philip Witheridge

It was also suggested that Richard should ask his daughter, Susan, to assist him in his duties as Research Co-ordinator with a view that at some later date she could take over and ensure that some younger members continue the work that the retiring members leave.

10. Any other business: It was agreed that the Society should affiliate with other Family History Societies of the United Kingdom.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Accounting Periods					
INCOME	1987-1988	1988-1989	1989-1990	1990	1991	1992
Subscriptions	212	148	151	81	223	242
Other Sales (Copies, Certificates & Journal)	7	5	2	0	0	0
Fund Raising (Witheridge Day)	0	70	18	0	5	36
Total Income (a)	219	223	171	81	228	278
EXPENDITURE						
Witheridge Day; Hire of Hall	dp	dp	dp	dp	45	32
Consumables on Day	14	dg	dg	dg	dg	dg
Invitations	0	Ō	28	7	8	7
Witheridge Times; Production	117	117	57	15	68	58
Distribution	50	50	24	13	77	61
Other Expenditure; Secretarial	0	0	0	0	0	50
Membership, Other Societies	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total Expenditure (b)	181	167	109	35	198	216
Balance for year (a-b) Credit (+) Debit (-)	+ 38	+ 56	+ 62	+46	+ 30	+ 62
TOTAL BALANCE Carried forward year to year	+ 38	+ 94	+ 158	+ 202	+ 232	+ 294

Explanatory Notes:

In the above financial statement the accounts for the Society's first six accounting periods are shown. All values are given to the nearest whole £1.

The first three accounting periods were from Witheridge Day to Witheridge Day (May to May). In 1990 the accounting period was changed so that in each of the following years, 1991 and afterwards, the period covered would be January 1st to December 31st. This left the accounting period for 1990 as from Witheridge Day (May) to December 31st, less than a full year.

The Society has benefitted from a number of donations from it's members.

In the above statement where a payment has been made directly by a donor then 'dp' is used. When goods have been given by one or more donors then 'dg' is used. It should also be remembered that nearly all of the money raised on Witheridge Days by fund raising is from items given by members.

It should also be remembered that up to the present time all of the expenses, incurred during the research into the history of our families, have been borne by the individual researchers.

We wish to express our thanks to all who have given their time and support over the years, thank you all.

10. It was agreed that John should join the Cornish Family History Society for at least one year.

It was agreed that we should also contemplate registering with the International Federation of Family History Societies in order to advertise in their world wide Journal. John will enquire about details and report back next year.

The Society should continue its membership of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

It was agreed that an alternative date for the Annual General Meeting should be set to cover the eventuality that the May Day Bank holiday might cease as a national holiday. Agreement was reached that, should Monday 2nd May, 1994, not be available to us, then the alternative date should be Spring Bank holiday Monday, 30th May, 1994.

It was proposed by John Witheridge, and seconded by Joyce Browne, that a new position in the Society should be created - that of Honorary Life President. It was agreed that this position be offered to Mrs. Kim Cook. We were honoured that Kim accepted our proposal.

Secretary's Report 1993

We had a very busy year indeed, with hundreds of letters being posted to members and non-members all over the world. By 'we' I mean John and I. For as you may well remember, I took on this post on the understanding that we would do the Secretary's work together. I think that those who have seen the amount of research material that we have collected from our friends and correspondents from around the world will agree that it has been worth while. In all there have been over two hundred letters posted out in this section.

A further one hundred and twenty odd letters of invitation have been sent to non-members and ex-members, and perhaps another fifty letters to members of the committee. We have made some startling discoveries and have been welcomed into many houses by our letters. In fact we now have to regulate our replies to the incoming letters, one for one if we can. Sometimes we feel a little guilty that at odd times some of our correspondents write again before we have answered their first letters. But one thing we are sure of - we have made a lot of new friends, both for ourselves and for you, the Society.

Mayda Witheridge Secretary

Membership Secretary's Report

My first job as Membership Secretary was to follow up on the late payments of last year. In all, there were seven. Two of these promptly paid, with their profound apologies. Two wrote back saying that they no longer wished to be members, the others did not answer, even though I had included a stamped addressed envelope with my reminder. I have to confess, I was a little put out. Then I told myself that it was due to the depression. My next shock was to find out that we had been sending magazines for four years to someone who was no longer a member. Our publisher/distributor had not been informed.

I decided that this would never do, so with the help of all concerned we have set up a system which cannot be beaten. We have two accounts - one to receive the incoming subscriptions. This will mean that all cheques will be paid into an account within days of being received. A receipt will be posted to the member concerned. Never again will we have to ask members to re-submit their money. At the end of the year the money collected will be transferred to the main account in one payment.

I managed to regain all the money which appeared lost, or as much as I know about, and have begun in the way in which I mean to go on.

I have recruited two new members this year - two who I am sure will be very important to our records and research, and I hope that there will be more to follow from Australia, USA, and perhaps Canada. We might even gain a few more from Wales. With the help of Kathy in Canada I managed to persuade two members to remain with us for another year, and it may be longer.

One thing does bother me at the moment. I am concerned that membership subscriptions do not seem to be coming in very quickly, but perhaps I have nothing from previous years to compare with.

John Witheridge Membership Secretary

WITHERIDGE DAY 1993

In spite of the weather forecast, the day was fine and sunny on May 3rd, and sixteen members of the Society made the journey to Alderton. We were delighted to see four new faces, Mrs. Albertina Rossiter and her daughter Jill came from Somerset, and Fenwick and Peggy Witheridge drove from Newport, Monmouthshire.

We missed the company of Annette Witheridge who was unwell, and feeling shocked at the death of a friend and colleague who was killed by a bomb explosion in the City of London the previous week. Who could have imagined that our small gathering would be affected by the actions of I.R.A. terrorists?

Graham made the opening speech, welcoming all the members, and outlining the programme for the day. We were off to a good start as we listened to John Witheridge speaking on "The 'Perks' of being a Secretary". Some of us, aware of all the work John does, doubted that there could be any 'perks', but John, in his inimitable style, assured us that the making of new friends, gaining their trust, and sharing their confidences, made it all more than worth while.

Philip followed with his equally entertaining talk "Antiques Road Show, Beware!". What the Antiques Road Show has to beware of is Philip's assertion that hand made bricks and other useful artefacts are of a value equal to the finest piece of pottery we may see exhibited. Philip said that he would rather have a hand made brick on his mantelpiece than a vase. (Did we all believe him?)

Zoe and Kim were "bricks" in the kitchen and drinks department, and as usual we sat down to an excellent lunch followed by the cutting of the birthday cake.

The Annual General Meeting, Chairman Graham Browne, was the first item in the afternoon, and the Minutes of the meeting and the results of the Election of Officers are in a separate report.

Members had brought some very interesting items for the displays. There were family trees, photographs, oil paintings by Gordon Rossiter, our member in Sweden, and photographs of more of his paintings and models of houses and villages. Fenwick Witheridge showed an oil painting of his ancestor, James Witheridge, Master Mariner, a ship's log, and other naval mementos. Several members said that they wished they had had more time to look at these, so perhaps he will bring them on another occasion.

June Witheridge showed her talent for water colours with her floral paintings, and we 'ooh'd' and 'ah'd' over Zoe Cook's lovely wedding dress.

A view of Watersmeet, Devon, was the outstanding entry in the photographic competition. Taken by Jill Rossiter. it deservedly won first prize, although Susan Witheridge's study of roof tops was a close second. Graham was a runner up with his interior view of the east window in St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds.

The 'poets' among us, if not exactly Wordsworths or Shelleys, provided some amusement, and Mayda and Kim featured here. I hope to publish these poems later. A Family History Quiz caused some pencil biting, and as we might have expected, Kim was the clear winner.

More tea and conversation followed, and a brief speech from Kim who expressed her surprise and pleasure at being appointed Life President of the Society which she had founded, and which she hoped would long continue. Graham closed the meeting, and once again we left Alderton with some very pleasant memories.

Editor

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

Reminder of procedure for investigating a surname listed by the Guild

Write to Mrs. Mayda Witheridge, Secretary, giving the name on which you would like to receive information, or giving any information you would like to be passed on.

With this letter send three stamps and three envelopes. One envelope should be self addressed. The second is for Mayda to pass to the Guild member, and the third is for the Guild member to return any information.

In the case of the Guild member who is to be contacted living abroad, one of the stamps must be sufficient to cover the charge of postage to the particular country, and the third stamp should be replaced with three international reply coupons. This system is to ensure that the person supplying the data does not pay for any postage, only the person requiring the information has to foot the bill.

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

SURNAMES REGISTERED AS AT OCTOBER 1992

Ab Adam Abbott Addice Adlam Adrian Agar Aislabie Alabaster Aldcroft Alderdice Aldersley Alderson Alefounder Allaby Allaker Allbery Allcard Allen Allflatt Allistone Allmark Allsopp Alvey Ambridge Amphlett Amsden Amy Angell Annal Annett Anning Anscomb Anstis Appleby Apthorp Arch Argent Aries Arkle Arlidge Arlosh Armin Arnison Arridge Ash Attfield Ashby Ashfield Askey Aslett Aspeling Astridge Attree Attwell Attwoll Atyeo Austerberry Avann Avens Avis Ayton Babb Baber Badby Badham Bagnall Bagshaw Baigent Bakes Balchin Baldwinson Ball Bailey Balm Bangay Banham Bann Banning Banwell Barchard Bardsley Barham Barkley Barley Barrett Barrow Barsby Barty Barwick Barling Barnhurst Baty Baugh Basker Baslington Bassano Baster Bath Batten Baughan Bazire Bazzone Beakhurst Beamish Bearsby Beatson Beavis Beckham Bedenham Bedser Bedward Beecheno Beecher Belam Belany Belcher Bending Benians Bennewith Benting Beresford Berjew Bettinson Beverley Bevins Bevis Bewsher Bezzant Bible Biddulph Bidwell Bilbruck 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By John Witheridge

You will no doubt remember the sad story, written by my brother, Philip, concerning the plight of Harry Witheridge and his wife Annie Elizabeth, in their loss of three sons killed during World War One. (Magazine Volume 5, Number 2, Summer 1991.) This was prompted by letters from Alice and Percy Witheridge from Western Australia. I think we all felt a sense of loss as we read this article.

I would now like to add a little extra to this. It seems that the family was blessed with six sons, as listed below:-

Donald H. born 1887 Frederick J. born 1891 Harold Hinley born 1893 John A. born circa 1894 Reginald B. born 1896, died 1898 William Henry born 1898

The dates noted above are the correct years as copied from the Australian birth, marriage and death records. The item noted as "circa" is taken from Philip's article, which my correspondent did not see. These dates being correct, then it would seem that Philip's assumed date for Harry and Annie's marriage should be moved backward a few years. at least as far as 1886.

Taking the thoughts on this family one stage further, you will see that on the Certificate for Inclusion on the Roll of Honour (copy of which accompanies this article) the last son to be killed, William Henry, died on the 20th September, 1917, and was stated to be the son of Annie Elizabeth and the late Henry Witheridge. So Annie not only lost one son at the age of two years, and three sons in the war, she had lost her husband as well. It is sad to think that she may have suffered all the grief and sorrow on her own, with no comfort in her hour of need from a husband. I hope that she had a long and relatively happy life with the two sons who were left, and that they were a comfort to her and made up in every way they could for the loss of those who were taken.

I would like to thank Dorothy Witheridge and her son Brad for all this information. Dorothy has been working like a true Witheridge researcher! You will see more of her work in the future.

Editor's Footnote to 'The Bideford - Australia Family Extra'

As I read John's "Extra" on the Bideford family, my mind went back to previous articles which contained references to Witheridges who had been killed in World War I.

Kim's article, "We Will Remember Them", in the magazine Volume 1, Number 2/3, Winter 1987, mentioned the references to War Deaths in the GRO, St. Catherine's House, indexes. These are: -

1916 Witheridge, George, Pte.16812 Devon Rgt. Vol.I 59 P.180

1917 Witheridge, Frederick J, Acting Leading Stoker, H.M.S. Vanguard R.N. Vol. Page 4305

Kim put forward theories as to who these two men might be, and she had also heard that there had been a Frederick Witheridge on board H.M.S. Amethyst.

In Volume 2, Number 1 magazine, Spring 1988, our former member George Smith, who is descended from the George Causey Witheridge (Bideford) family, gave us some very interesting information about his family and about War Graves. He told us that Frederick John was the son of Harry and Annie Witheridge of New South Wales, and first cousin to George's own mother, Eleanor or Ellen Frances Witheridge.

George told us the sad story of the two cousins, Ellen and Frederick, meeting, falling in love, and becoming engaged. Frederick overstayed his shore leave, missed his ship the Amethyst, and was sent to H.M.S. Vanguard, which was sunk at Scapa Flow on 9th July, 1917.

Frederick John is commemorated on Panel 23 of the Naval Memorial at Chatham, Kent.

I believe that Frederick's brother, John, was killed whilst serving at sea, and that their cousin, Jack, son of Jack Witheridge, was also in the Navy, and lost at sea. Those two deaths will also be recorded on Naval Memorials somewhere.

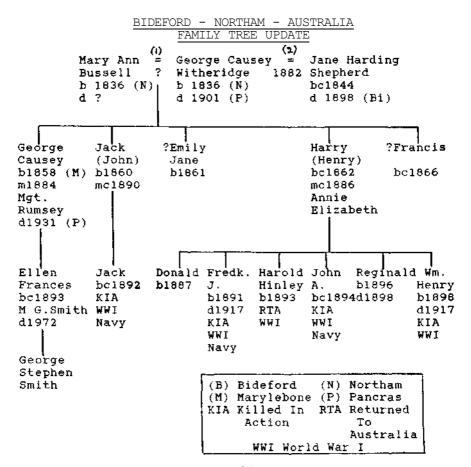
In his article George Smith referred to "the other cousin, George", and told us that he was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and has no known grave, but is commemorated on Pier 1, Face C, of the Thiepval Memorial, France. I am still not able to place George on a family tree. Perhaps our Australian readers will be able to help here?

At the time George Smith wrote his article, he thought that his branch of the family was the only one to suffer loss in World War I, but now that our research has progressed and our knowledge increased, we know that this was not so.

The Roll of Honour Certificates show where three of our Australian Witheridge dead are buried or commemorated.

As a result of the information from Dorothy and Brad Witheridge we are able to up date a section of the Bideford family tree, and further details may emerge.

If any of our readers are going to France or Belgium, perhaps they might like to visit these Memorials and pay respects to the dead on behalf of us all.



Name, WITHERIDGE.

W.H. Town

Regtl. No. 6403

Rank.

ROL S FOR

Unit.

6175.

Honcur Roll Form

WITHERIDGE, Pte. William Henry, 6403. 18th Bn. 20th Sept., 1917. Age 19. Son of Annie Elizabeth Witheridge, of "Stafford-Ville," Lincoln St., Campsie, New South Wales, and the late Henry Witheridge. Native of Balmain, New South Wales.

NAME APPEARS IN NOM. ROLL OF A. I. F. DECEASED.

Memorial Register No. 29. The Ypres (Menin Gate)
Memorial, Belgium.

DETAILS FOR State. A

State. N.S. Wales.

PLATE Nº42

WITHERIDGE, Pte. Thomas, 5688. 4th Bn., Australian Inf. Killed in action 2nd March, 1917. Age 32. Son of Philomon and Mary Witheridge, of Prince Alfred St., Berry, New South Wales. Native of Greenwell Point, New South Wales. IV. B. 6.

CE 385. Warlencourt British Cemetery.

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19th Battalion	13-12-15		10-1-18
4th Pioneers	24-10-16	R.T.A.	
4th Battalion	20-1-15	R. T.A.	13-12-18
5th Battalion	26-11-16	R. T. A.	25-1-19
4th Battalion	14-3-16	HSI.A.	2-3-19
18th Battalion	19-6-16	K. I.A.	20-9-17

Name-WITHERIDGE.

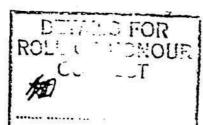
A.R.

Town.

Regtl No. 2754

Unit.

Rank.



WITHERIDGE, Ptc. Alfred Richard, 2754. 32nd Bn. 25th Oct., 1917. Age 28. Son of Alfred and Polly Witheridge, of Queen's Park, Western Australia.

\$3 Honour Koll Form

NAME APPEARS IN NOM. ROLL OF A.I. F. DECEASED.

Memorial Register No.

9. The Ypres (Menin Gate)

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North Devon Record Office, Tuly Street, Barnstaple, Devon

Devon Family History Society,
New Members Secretary,
Miss Valerie Bluett,
63 Old Laira Road,
Laira,
Plymouth
Devon PL3 6BL (Tel.No. 0752-662985)

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