



Volume 9

Number 2

Summer 1995

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E D I T O R I A L

With another Witheridge Day come and gone I can say how pleased I was to meet old and new friends and some "new" relations. I do hope that the news of the happy day we had will encourage more members to take part next year.

One 'spin off from the week-end was that Kathy Witheridge and I were able to trawl through all the records I have to try to find the parentage and place of birth of Sergeant Major John Witheridge who was buried in Toronto in 1932 and was supposedly born in England in 1874, but our net failed to catch him. We are now testing out a new idea - so we may yet track him down!

How I wish that all my records were on computer! In spite of giving this much thought, my ignorance of computers is such that I fear to take the plunge - in spite of the valuable advice given me by Richard and Philip. As Kathy and I were painstakingly going over all the family trees I thought that I really do need a data base, but all sorts of considerations hold me back. One of which is that I feel I hardly have the time to really think the project through. If anyone out there has any advice to offer, it will be gladly received!

I would like to think that we, the officers and researchers of the Society, at are the hub of a wheel which radiates information to our members around the globe. Some of you have visited England to find your ancestral homes, and it would be lovely to have your impressions on what you found and saw.

If you have visited England, do please write and tell us your experiences and emotions - even if it was nothing but frustration if things were not as you hoped! If you have never been able to visit, but are still hoping, tell us what it is that you would like to see.

Have a happy summer -

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

FAMILY NEWS FROM JOHN WITHERIDGE

A little bird tells me that Joan and Harry Payne celebrate fifty years of wedded bliss this year. I am told that they married on the longest day of the year. Could this be the 21st June? We wish you both many more years of marriage and many never ending days.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

In her last two letters, Dorothy Witheridge has mentioned the possibility that a Witheridge Family Picnic may be organised in the month of October 1995, to be held somewhere in New South Wales. I think that this is a brilliant idea I am positive that Dorothy would love to hear from any one who is interested in attending. I wish I could!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

For those of you have not yet realised that we have lost our celebrity journalist to the USA., I can tell you that Annette Witheridge of the Kent, London and Birmingham family has departed for pastures new.

I somehow find it hard to believe that the grass is greener in New York, but we wish Annette every success in her new job and surroundings. Annette did promise that she would do her best to visit next year - perhaps next Witheridge Day.

Annette is leading a very hectic life over there, and has had three separate assignments in Texas in as many months, travelling non-stop all over the country. She sends her love to everybody, and tells me of a Witheridge who has contacted her from New Jersey.

Annette's new address: A. Witheridge,
28A, 300 East 40th Street,
New York NY 10016
USA

Take care, Annette, and we look forward to seeing you again when you are next in the old country.

John Witheridge

THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Alderton on Sunday, 7th May, 1995

Recorded by John Witheridge

Chairman: Graham Browne

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Jenny and Mark Witheridge, Peggy and Fenwick Witheridge, Annette Witheridge, Albertina Rossiter, Mayda Witheridge, and Susan and Maureen Witheridge.
2. Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on the 2nd May, 1994: These were accepted as published in the Witheridge Times, Volume 8, No.2.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes: There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report: Graham expressed his thanks to all officers of the Society for the momentum in research and the advancement in the field of family history. It had been a difficult and in some cases, tragic, year for some members and officers alike and Graham expressed his personal thanks to all in these circumstances for continuing their Society work under such difficulties. The production of a new handbook which had been discussed last year had not been forgotten, but had had to be put aside until time could be allocated to it by the committee and officers concerned.
5. Secretary's Report: Mayda's Report was read by John. Mayda wrote of the extremely busy year that ended on 31st December, 1994, with the production of 1249 letters - keeping our many families in close harmony and well informed of the vast amounts of information which had been uncovered in the last year. The letters also described the many meetings and committees in which the Witheridge Society had taken part, all over this land, and its close association with many organisations and persons of great knowledge and standing. She again repeated her thanks for all the assistance that our membership had given in the last year.
6. Membership Secretary's Report: John reported that membership was being maintained at a constant level. The losses that were caused by those not wishing to

continue as members were compensated for by the new members who came forward to join our Society. In the last year we had welcomed three new family groups, each from different sections within the Witheridge families. Although every conceivable way of attracting new membership is being adopted, still only 5% proved to be interested, but a great deal of information did come from those who did not have interest in joining the Society. From this information there were at least twenty or more articles waiting to be printed in the Witheridge Times.

Treasurer's Report: Richard reported that this year's statement had been much easier to prepare and that it had changed format from the previous years. The recouping of previous year funds had prevented showing a comparison from the last few years, but from this year comparisons would be very obvious. There was a balance of £761.62 in the bank. He also recommended that membership subscriptions stay at the existing level for another year. (The same subscription rate which was set at our inauguration 8 years ago). Richard said that researchers, committee members and officers paid for much of the cost of research themselves. It was this situation which made our future secure.

Research Co-ordinator's Report: Richard reported that his year had been very similar to the previous year. The Witheridge Times itself was the best guide to the research that had been obtained. A large amount of information had been found by Tom and Sheila Jewell, and the activities of the Membership Secretary should lead to interesting links in the future. Richard reported that he was still adding information on to the computer, and that he had tried two different programmes. This appeared to be a good way to store information, but he was not satisfied with the print-out formats.

Election of Officers: It was voted that the undermentioned should carry out duties for the coming year.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Secnd.</u>
Chairman	Graham Browne	Philip	John
Vice Chairman	June Witheridge	John	Kim
Secretary	Mayda Witheridge	Philip	June
Treasurer	Richard Witheridge	John	Philip
Asst.Treas.	Susan Witheridge	Kim	Philip

Position	Name	<u>Proposed</u>	Secnd.
Member. Sec.	John Witheridge	Philip	Joyce
Res.Co-ord.	Richard Witheridge	John	Philip
Editor	Joyce Browne	Philip	Kathy
N/Amer. Rep.	Kathy Witheridge	Graham	Philip
Publisher/ Distributor	Philip Witheridge	Joan	Kim
Comm. Mem.	Philip Witheridge		
	Susan Witheridge		
	Mark Witheridge		
	Annette Witheridge		
	Joyce Stephens	John	Kathy

It was proposed by John Witheridge and seconded by Philip Witheridge that another committee seat be made, and that Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge of Australia be asked to take up the role of the Society's representative for the Eastern Territories. John Witheridge is to make the representations to Dorothy in his next letter.

10. Any Other Business: Federation of Family History Societies 21st Birthday celebrations:-
Two members volunteered to attend the function -
Mrs. Kim Cook, our Life President
Mrs. June Witheridge, our new Vice Chairman
It was proposed to choose our representative by the age old method of tossing a coin, but before this could take place June gracefully stepped aside to allow Kim the honour of attending, proving that the ladies of the Witheridge Society are second to none in the Grace and Esteem Stakes.

There was a suggestion that the 10th anniversary event be made into a special occasion perhaps being held at the village of WITHERIDGE in central north Devon - proposed Jointly by June and Kim.

Kim suggested that we should have a Witheridge Banner. Anyone wishing submit a possible design should send it to Kim. In this same light thoughts were exchanged on the subjects of producing a Witheridge tie for men, and a Witheridge brooch for the ladies.

Next Annual General Meeting

May 6th, 1996 (Bank Holiday Monday) at Alderton Village Hall

Mayda Witheridge

Item of interest for those who attended the AGM and also those members who could not make it to our meeting this year:-

This year, for the first time, our AGM was recorded on tape. It is a perfect memento of the morning's procedure, showing the items covered and how each subject was discussed, how agreements were reached, and much more. It shows the humour and ability of those present to overcome even the happy and gentle barracking from Christopher John, the youngest member there that day.

If you would like to have a copy of this tape to have as your own personal record of the day, please send to me a new blank D90 audio tape and I will return it as soon as possible.

John Witheridge

SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY, 1995

With the chance that once again I repeat the words from previous years, I hope that you realize that even though my name is listed as being the Secretary of the Witheridge Society, the work is done by John - with my assistance in the correction of his bad spelling, grammatical errors, and the occasional metaphoric size five and a half from the rear, and generally organising his work.

We have had a very busy year, even more so than previous years. Until 31st December last year in total we turned out 1249 letters. This covers Witheridge Society secretarial, members' secretarial, letters to other societies, research groups, organisations, general research archives, record offices, libraries, etc. To add to this we write letters for and on behalf of the organisations with which we are involved, to gain knowledge and access to new methods of research, and to keep in touch with the ever quickening pace of the world of genealogy.

The Witheridge Society is represented in the highest meetings throughout the land, and is indeed now in general, part of the world's on-going research mechanism. The Society's name is registered on Compu-serve and also Internet (world wide computer networks). It is also advertised in the Federation News and Digest, again with a world wide coverage. Last and very far from least, we have enjoyed being part of and indeed helping to form an elite group of Societies again with world wide coverage - the

Council of Family Societies. Each member society within the Council is a fully international society, and as we have already found in these very early days, the contacts and the assistance from each member society to the other is invaluable.

We have kept in touch with all of our members who wish to correspond with us on a one to one basis. Some overseas members write and receive as many as five or six letters a year. I think that most members see this as a family link to the Witheridge family here in the UK. We try hard to find continuing research to interest the more senior of our members, and in many cases our letters have now taken on the role of letters between friends and between relations. In my way of thinking this is what our society should be doing all of the time - cementing our family links all around the world.

MAYDA WITHERIDGE SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY, 1995

It has become very hard in the last few years to separate the work of the Secretary and the Membership Secretary. In the main the work is done simultaneously and cannot be separated.

Membership has stayed basically at the same level, with some not renewing their membership and new members coming along to take their place.

In the last year we have welcomed Amanda Calder and her family. Amanda is from a new branch (the Melbourne family), tracing her ancestry back to the Combe Martin and Berryнарbor family. We welcome also Joyce Stephens and her family. Joyce is from the Ermington line, later the Dorset branch of that family, and our newest member is David Davis from Nottingham. He can trace his family back to the Totnes family via Weston-Super-Mare.

It is strange how new members find their way to our society. Amanda joined us as a result of a saturation of letters that I posted for the Melbourne area. I did not know that Amanda existed, or her father for that matter, although I did know about her grandmother who passed the letter on to Amanda's step-mother, and then it was passed to Amanda.

Joyce Stephens found us all on her own, with letters to Phillip and Joyce Browne, and then finally to me.

David wrote to me after finding my address, stating that he had heard that there was a Witheridge Society, and also that he had heard of an international Witheridge Society.

I try every conceivable way of finding prospective new members, although at the most never more than five per cent of the total contacted become members. Our growth in membership generally comes from overseas, but this year the trend has been reversed. I try to keep in contact with all members who wish to write to us, writing letter for letter, and keeping a computer record of all facts that are written in these letters. These facts usually end up on Joyce's desk as articles for the magazine.

This is where my system breaks down slightly. Please believe me when I tell you that I must have at least twenty or more articles for the Witheridge Times in various stages of layout and research, and waiting to be sent to Joyce. All these covering some break-through in family research.

That is an outline of the work I have been doing. May I say a thank you to all our members who allow me to invade their homes at least four or five times a year by letter. Thank you for the information you research on our behalf.

JOHN WITHERIDGE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT MAY, 1995

Generally speaking, this year's report is very similar to last year's. Throughout this year our researchers have been busy, as can be seen in the various topics published in the magazine. Some areas of research still have to be resolved, and will be shown later. In some of this research, use has been made once again of the services offered by the Devon Family History Society, i.e., searches made by Mr. and Mrs. Jewell in Exeter. They have found what appears to be a Marriage Bond between John Witheridge and Margaret Brooking dated 1728. This shows that there is still a lot of information available if only we look in the right place.

Mrs. Jewell has also unearthed some school records at Ermington, and this is interesting, particularly for me as I went to that school. Fortunately they do not appear to have found my school reports - although I do not think they will be too bad!

Work is also continuing with the areas around Kingsbridge in South Devon, one of the other early Witheridge settlements.

Our Membership Secretary continues his various activities in building relationships with other societies and has now linked us in with quite a few groups, hopefully this will give leads to further finds.

I am still adding all the information onto the computer and have recently tried two different family tree programmes. Whilst the print-out formats are not very good, they appear to be a useful way to hold the information. I have brought a couple of examples with me to show members.

RICHARD WITHERIDGE RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY, 1995

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIETY UP TO 30TH APRIL, 1995

This year's Financial Statement has been much easier to prepare and has a slightly changed format from last year's. In future it should be possible to read across to last year's figures and see where costs have altered. It has not been possible to do so this year, as last year's figures were showing some recouping of funds.

It should be noted that this year I have made the statement for the year up to 30th April, 1995. This is to make sure that all payments for the year, since the last AGM., have been included and that the final total reflects the funds currently held at the time of the AGM.

There is little to say about the funds, except that I believe we have just the right amount in the bank for a society of our size.

I know that some of our researchers are spending their own money on certain aspects of their research. Should they wish to claim for all that they spend, then the research undertaken would have to be agreed beforehand by members of the committee, and funds allocated accordingly. This would make the research much more difficult.

I recommend that the subscription rate stays as it is for another twelve months at least.

RICHARD WITHERIDGE TREASURER

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR TO 30TH APRIL 1995.

INCOME.

Brought forward from 1993/94	£618-67.
Membership subscriptions.	£477-52.
Donation to Society.	£ 28-00
Printing on Witheridge Day	£ 0-50
Sales of back copies of magazine	£ 21-00
Postage paid in for back copies	£ 8-61
Interest in Membership Secretary Account	£ 0-97
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£536-60.</u>
GRAND TOTAL.	<u>£1155-27.</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Payment for hire of hall.	£ 36-00
Payment re P H Witheridge claim for printing 4 vols and despatch plus Witheridge Day invitations.	£ 179-63
Membership Secretary account for correspondence etc.	£ 125-02
Subscription to Guild of One Name Studies.	£ 8-00
Subscription to Federation of Family History. Part Year 1994 paid Aug 1994 .	£ 20-00
Subscription to Federation of Family History. Year 1995. Paid Dec 1994.	£ 25-00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO APRIL 30TH 1995	<u>£393-65</u>
FINAL BALANCE. (Statement dated 21/04/95)	<u>£761-62</u>

We believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30th April 1995.

R Witheridge
R H Witheridge
Treasurer. Dated 24/4/95

S L Witheridge
S L Witheridge
Assistant Treasurer. Dated 24/4/95

A Brown

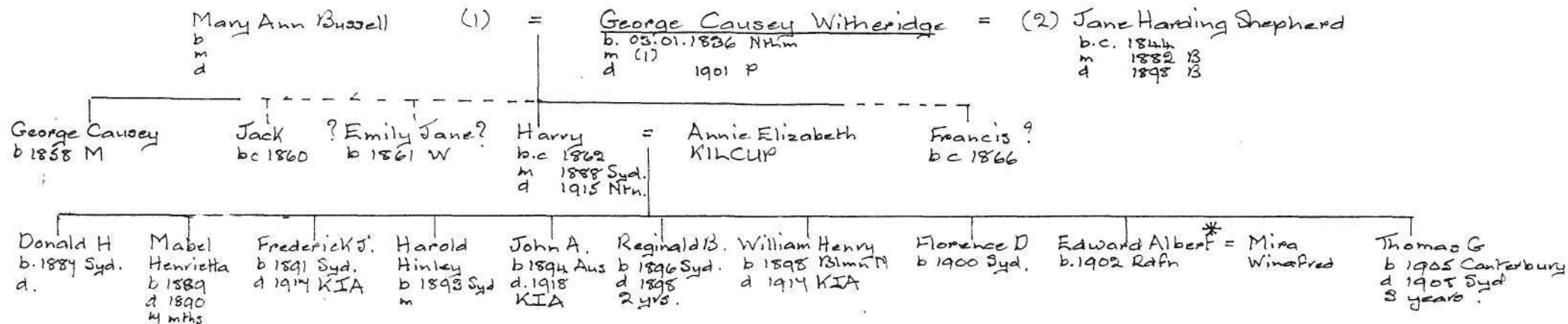
Auditor. Dated 26.4.95.

PROVISIONAL TREE

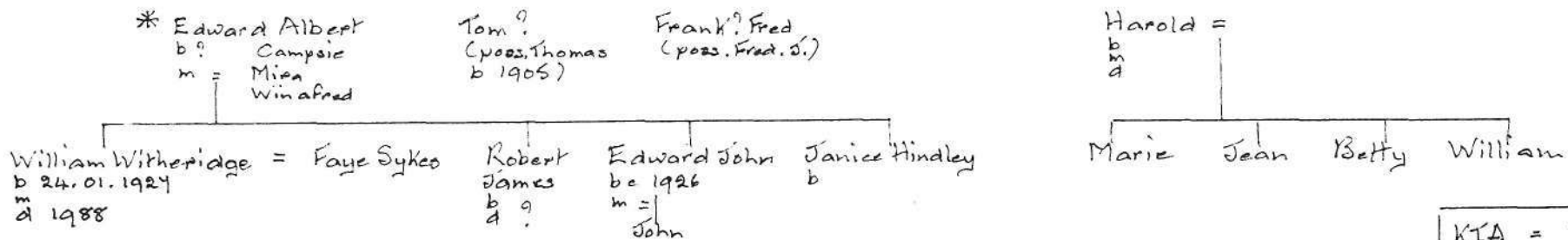
by
John Witheridge
May 1995

THE BIDEFORD FAMILY - EXTENSION INTO AUSTRALIA

Constructed from information from Australia through personal contact with relatives
Confirmation required



This tree shows how the family was devastated in World War I. The later generation tree is from memories of the family. I will endeavour to find more facts to substantiate the memories.



This tree is basically from the memories of Edward John and those of the late William Witheridge related by his wife, Faye Sykes. Originally the details given by Faye led me to attach these names to a completely different family. Research on-going - John Witheridge

KIA = Killed in Action
B = Bideford
M = Margatebone
N = Northam, Devon
Nth = Newtown, Australia
P = Panoras
Rafn = Redfern
W = Westminster

THE CHANGING YEARS - THE BIDEFORD FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

by John Witheridge

This article is a tribute once again to the combined efforts and diligence of our researchers in Australia, New Zealand, and in England. So many items have been posted off to me under the heading of 'general data' and just as a matter of course. These items are of extreme interest to me, and have given me the complete facts on which this article is based. Give yourselves a pat on the head, girls, and please pardon the usual pun.

This story is about the introduction of pain, intrigue, and frustration which began some years ago with Kim's article "We will remember them" (Autumn/Winter 1987). I think that all the officers of the Society have written articles about this branch of the family, and for many years the tree that accompanied each article was really no more than a list of hypothetical dates. Not a great deal was really known.

You may well remember Philip's article about the family devastated in the first World War (Summer 1991), out of four sons from this family, only one came home. I know that Philip shed a tear as he wrote his article, and I am sure that we all did likewise as we read it. I have already made one attempt to correct some of the unintentional errors which existed in previous reports, so now let me tell you the true story, or at least the 1995 version.

I begin with a lady, the wife of George Causey Witheridge. Her name as you can see on the tree is Mary Ann Bussell. You could not begin to appreciate the turmoil this lady has caused. Perhaps I do her an injustice but time will tell.

We have no date for her birth, and we have no date for her marriage. At this time, I would swear that she and George never married, and I am certain that she was not buried under the name of Witheridge. It is as though she never existed, and except for the fact that on some of the certificates of birth for the children accredited to her she is actually named as the mother of the child, we could not be sure of her name. As you will see from the tree only two births are thought to be proved - George and Emily Jane, though here again there is a doubt. Emily Jane, according to the charts we have printed in the past, is probably not the daughter of Mary Ann Bussell. You will also find her located on the Yealmpton tree (Winter 1987) as the last daughter of William Baker Witheridge and Rebecca nee Northmore.

So as you will now agree Mary Ann Bussell has only one child who we can state is definitely hers. There are others who we still assume to be her children, so I am very happy to prove another mother/son relationship.

One of the main characters in this play of life, 'Harry', was never to give us this satisfaction, his birth has always been noted as bc 1862 (birth circa) - approximate - just an assumption. This has always rankled, and I set out, probably two years ago, to change the situation.

But I digress - back to Mary Ann! Both Velma and I have been searching for her and that assumed brother of hers, John Pengelly Bussell Witheridge. Joyce joined the chase, but neither are to be found. We have checked all the usual areas of research, but have failed to find a reference to either. I have enlisted the assistance of many Bussell and Pengelly family researchers from every corner of the world. This couple still elude us and will now have to wait until there is another reason for research and another story. But... one reference to Mary Ann's existence has turned up in Australia:-

Item four on the Witheridge listing of the NSW Pioneers Index 1786 to 1888.

Witheridge Harry M 1888 KILCUP Annie Sydney 1888 1533

Item twelve on the index for the period 1889 to 1918

Witheridge, Harry D 1915 GEORGE MARY A Newtown 1915 792

This ties the two families to each other without doubt. Harry, or Henry as he is some times known, is the son of George and Mary A (Ann) Witheridge, he died in Newtown, New South Wales in the year 1915. If you care to read my last article on this subject you will note that I had suggested that Harry had died during the War years (Vol.7 No. 2 Summer 1993), but did you realise that in this same index we have at long last found Annie's surname - KILCUP? This indeed breaks new ground for this family for we had surmised for many years that Annie's maiden name was Hinley. There is still a possibility that this is so. Perhaps a certificate would show that Annie was a widow when she married Harry. I think that this might be a time to spend a few pence to prove or disprove this theory.

Now to the family of Annie and Harry Witheridge. From what was thought to be a family of four sons, it grew to six sons in my last article (Summer 1993) and my closing thoughts and prayers in that article certainly have come true. Annie did

have the comfort from her other children in her hours of need. Not only did Donald and Harold Hinley survive those dark days to comfort their mother, so did Edward Albert and possibly the only living daughter, Florence D. Oh, I bet that young lady was spoilt, in those balmy days before that terrible war to end all wars! I must admit that for the time being I have mislaid both Donald and Florence D.

The Witheridge family of today? Yes, it is still flourishing. In a recent letter from Dorothy Witheridge, who is one of our researchers in that part of the continent, this rather hazy family tree has emerged from her reports of the recollections of the descendants of this family. Dorothy tells us that this branch of the family has been living in and around the Sydney area, at place names such as Coffs Harbour and Campsie, which are suburbs of Sydney, and that one branch of the family has moved to New Zealand. When we have more data perhaps Velma Metcalfe will take up the trail in the areas she knows so well?

The lower section of the tree is taken from word of mouth, and as such cannot be accepted as absolute fact. These names have been given to us by Edward John and Faye Witheridge, nee Sykes. In some parts they were quite garbled, but finally Edward John made it reasonably clear. Edward Albert was a man of very few words, speaking very little about his Witheridge forbears (Where have we heard this statement before?) In this case it would not be hard to understand. He was the youngest surviving member of the family. He would not remember Mabel or Reginald. Probably that last time he saw his three brothers (Fred, John and Bill) in 1915, he would be barely 13 years of age. Young Tom only lived for three years, so Edward's memory served him well in this, remembering that Edward himself would only be six years old when Thomas G. died.

We can, I am sure, use this lower tree as a sounding board for future research. It does show the accepted family names, used repeatedly down through the generations, and notice the recurrence of the name Hindley albeit spelt in a different style. I wonder what happened to Donald and also Florence. I have no doubt that when the next issue of indexes are released in the year 2005 we will find many more descendants and learn what became of them.

Oh yes - Faye Sykes! She married William Witheridge at about the same time as Dorothy married her Michael. In fact there is a strange quirk of fate that has been left until these last few lines to relate: Both Dorothy and Faye knew

each other as young ladies before they married, and they lost touch when Faye married William. Sadly now both husbands have passed away and recently Faye's name has turned up in the 'phone book, heralding a resumption of an old friendship and we hope a great deal of revived memories.

Faye has four children, Robert Gerry, Karren, Kim and Michelle. It is understood that son Robert Gerry has two children, though as yet we have not been given their names.

Other data to validate the family chart, again from the Pioneers Indexes is as follows:-

Surname	Given Name	Year	Event	Birth/Death Father Marriage Spouse's Surname	Birth/Death Mother Marriage Spouse's 1st Name	Place of Regi- stra- tion

1788-1888						
Wetheridge	Donald	1887	B	Harry	Annie E.	Sydney
"	Harry	1888	M	Kilcup	Anne	Sydney
1889-1918						
Wetheridge	Edward A	1902	B	Harry	Annie	Redfern
"	Florence					
	D.	1900	B	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	Frederick					
	J.	1891	B	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	Harold H.	1893	B	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	Harry	1915	D	George	Mary	Newtown
"	Reginald					
	B.	1896	B	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	Reginald					
	B.	1898	D	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	Thomas G.	1905	B	Henry W.	Annie	Canter- bury
"	Thomas G.	1908	D	Harry	Annie	Sydney
"	William					
	H.	1898	B	Harry	Annie	Sydney

Please note the variation in Harry/Henry's name in the two registrations for Thomas G. Had they not been situated together then one could have been omitted, under the assumption that they were different references.

Victoria Deaths 1889-1913

1890 Mabel Henrietta, 7 months, dgt. of Harry and Anne (Hindley) at Carlton.

Note the Hindley surname. This bears out my suggestion that Annie might have been a widow, i.e., Annie Kilcup Hindley, showing why Hindley was and still is a family name.

A strange happening occurred while I was writing this last paragraph. A letter from Colonel Anthony Witheridge dropped in at the front door (a lapsed member wishing to take up membership again) Why strange? Anthony is our only member within the Society to bear relationship to the family about whom I am writing. He shares his 2 x great grandfather and mother, George Causey Witheridge and Mary Ann Bussell, with his Australian cousins. Perhaps with a little luck and perseverance we might be able to encourage the Australian cousins to join the Witheridge Society, and introduce correspondence between these newly found relations.

RECOLLECTIONS OF WITHERIDGE DAY, 1995

by Joyce Browne

"Horse chestnuts, pink and white, mauve lilacs, dark and light, roadside hawthorn tumbling white" - a poem on the beauty of the British countryside? No - a description of the roads to Alderton on the 7th May. The fields were fresh green and some were brilliant yellow with oil seed rape. The air was heavy with its perfume with the sizzling temperature in the 80's but such are the vagaries of our weather that, as I write, the temperature has plummeted to the 50's and an icy north-east wind is blowing the blossom from the trees.

Nothing spoiled the atmosphere of our re-union. There were more members present than last year, and we welcomed more young people, including our youngest of all, Christopher John (grandson of John and Mayda) and his proud parents. Joan and Harry Payne were able to be with us again, new members Joyce and Terry Stephens came from Corfe Mullen, Dorset and Kathy Witheridge came all the way from Ontario, Canada.

We welcomed three visitors, Doreen Heaton and her sister Anne Potter, and Mr. Amand, all from the Northmore family.

The Annual General Meeting took up most of the morning quite a lively occasion during which members were able to

express their views on the running of the Society and its future.

Lunch was, as usual, a very happy affair - rounded off by delicious fresh raspberries from the garden of June and David Witheridge, and the ceremonial cake made and donated by Zoe Cook. We are extremely grateful to member Carol Goins, who although she could not be present, sent a contribution towards the cost of the Hall.

Kathy Witheridge began the afternoon by reading extracts from the diary of a Mr. Yeo, from Bradworthy who emigrated to Canada in 1835 on the same ship as George Witheridge, an ancestor of Kathy's husband, Paul. They sailed from Plymouth, but were several days before they could clear the coast. The writer gives us a picture of the privations endured by the voyagers, and the dubious welcome they received in New York.

Many of the emigrants were robbed, or defrauded by the practice of demanding money to secure an interview for non-existent jobs. Those who made it to Canada seemed to fare better.

George Witheridge was one of these, and was able to return to England, marry in Bradworthy and take his bride back to Canada where eventually he had his own farm. The Witheridge farm is still in existence today, although no Witheridges farm it now.

"Possible Genealogical Sources" was the theme of Philip's contribution, and he illustrated this with a booklet containing drawings, photographs, comments and poems about the village which is now so near his home - Alderton. The author of the poems, Eric Eaton, evokes an image of an age now passed, although to our urban eyes the village is still very rural.

Philip stressed that the most rewarding source of information is conversation with the inhabitants of a place. Ask if they have letters or diaries, seek out old photographs, and study newspaper reports and advertisements.

Continuing the theme, John spoke about the information to be discovered from families who married into the Witheridge lines, and there were contributions from Doreen Heaton and Anne Potter, and Mr. Amand mentioned convict ancestors. This developed into a discussion on transportation to the Colonies, and John reminded us that there are numerous sources of information in the Dartford and Chatham areas concerning prison hulks and transportation.

We all visited the display tables to examine the family trees, exchange notes and study photographs. June Witheridge's paintings and beautiful patchwork quilts were much admired, and we were intrigued by Joan and Harry Payne's notes and pictures of Belsay Castle - almost an ancestral home!

Philip had arranged a thoughtful and interesting exhibit representing his father's Naval and Air Force career, and Doreen Heaton had brought information on her family, and copies of a Newsletter she produces.

Everyone had made a contribution, but as usual, I felt that I had been unable to do justice to each exhibit, the time passed so quickly.

I can only look forward to our next re-union, the ninth, 6th May, 1996.

AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The following list was sent by Kathy Witheridge of Ontario, who thought it might be useful to anyone searching for a death and unable to find it in United Kingdom records. None of the names is from Kathy's Bradworthy family. The information is available under the United States Freedom of Information Act.

Name: WITHERIDGE, William Birth Date 23 Jan 1881
Social Security No. 360-32-9651
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: Michigan
Death Date May 1963

Name: WITHERIDGE, Florence Birth Date 10 Sep 1883
Social Security No. 554-76-4147
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: California
Death Date Feb 1976
Death Residence Localities 91340
San Fernando, Los Angeles, California

Name: WITHERIDGE, John Birth Date 23 Apr 1885
Social Security No. 562-16-7381
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: California
Death Date Apr 1970
Death Residence Localities 90802
Long Beach, Los Angeles, California

Name: WITHERIDGE, George Birth Date 4 Mar 1887
Social Security No. 568-07-5456
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: California
Death Date Feb 1987
Death Residence Localities 91340
San Fernando, Los Angeles, California
Death Benefit Localities 91340
San Fernando, Los Angeles, California

Name: WITHERIDGE, Edward Birth Date 7 Sep 1891
Social Security No. 534-09-6948
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: Washington
Death Date Jan 1975
Death Residence Localities 98368
Port Townsend, Jefferson, Washington

Name: WITHERIDGE, John Birth Date 10 Jun 1907
Social Security No. 195-09-4093
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: Pennsylvania
Death Date June 1975
Death Residence Localities 18634
Nanticoke, Luzerne, Pennsylvania

Name: WITHERIDGE, William Birth Date 10 Mar 1910
Social Security No. 382-28-2517
State of Issuance of Social Security Number: Michigan
Death Date Apr 1964

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Members Nos. 36-40

Col. Anthony Witheridge,
Mrs. Françoise M. Witheridge and family.
Little Manor, Gravel Lane, Charlton Marshall,
Dorset, DT11 9NS

We would like to welcome Col. Anthony and his family back to the Witheridge Society after a few years' absence. We are looking forward to the possibility that his family might be able to attend next year's re-union and AGM., it would be very nice to meet him at long last. At great deal of research has been carried out on the family tree to which Anthony belongs, mainly on the Australian branches of the Bideford family.

Welcome back, Anthony, and may your stay in England be longer than usual.

LANGUAGE TAKING SIDES

by Kim Cook

I wonder, have you noticed that
In many a different tongue,
The right is always just that - right,
But left (they say) is wrong.

The images of right are good,
They're clever, skilful, strong,
While left is clumsy, evil, even
Treachorous - and wrong!

In ancient Rome the Latin word
Was dexter for the right.
Dexterity's now neat and skilled,
With not a fault in sight.

The other side was sinister,
And left was all it meant,
But now they say it's villainous,
Malign, evil intent.

In France of course you drive à droit -
The side you're on is right,
Droit gives a legal right as well
To exercise your might.

The French for left is gauche, you know,
And that means awkward, too,
Clumsy, inept and tactless -
You just haven't got a clue!

The German recht is right and true,
And full of rectitude,
Correcht and proper, accurate
Legitimate, not crude.

But link means left, and yes, you've guessed
The connotations are
Clumsy, wrong-sided, blundering,
Mistaken - very far!

The Russian for left-hander means
(Whisper under your breath)
Black-marketeer, whose evil crime's
Punishable by death!

LANGUAGE TAKING SIDES

And English too, is just as bad -
In fact I think it's worse;
So much discrimination, I
Can't put it all in verse.

For right is true, correct and sane,
Has justice on its side,
Is well advised, restored, complete
And fully justified.

But left handed is insincere,
Ambiguous in tone,
And left-over and left behind
Deserted and alone.

Yet left-handers are not like that
I know because I'm one,
And so are many colleagues, friends
And neighbours, and my son,

Between us we have many gifts,
Creative talents, skills.
We're tactful, kind and generous
And not the source of ills.

Nor are we odd, peculiar,
Or even very rare,
Perhaps ten million in our land,
And millions more elsewhere.

And every day we listen to
Right-handers, who demean
Our laterality with words
Unkind, untrue and mean.

So think before you use a phrase
That denigrates, derides;
For left-handers have had enough
Of language taking sides.

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(I know that a number of other Witheridge Society members are left-handers. It would be interesting to look at family trees and see how many of us there are!)

Kim Cook

NEW MEMBERS

We give a warm welcome to the following new members:-

128 Mr. David Francis Davis,
6 Alford Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham, NG2 6GJ
David's wife is Alma, née Wiseman, and they married in
Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1961.
(1) David Francis Davis 1937- (2) Francis Rodney Davis
1905-1990 (3) Florence McFall 1907- (4) Francis
Edwin Davis 1878-1926 (5) Susan Edith Witheridge 1875-
1962 (6) John Henry McFall 1878-1969 (7) Lily Hartley
1882-1952 (10) James Witheridge c 1845-1918 (11) Hannah
Jerman c 1851-1912 (12) Thomas McFall 1848-1921 (13)
Sarah Moss 1851-1938 (14) Joseph Hartley ()
(15) Emily 1858-1935 (20) William Witheridge c 1808-
1890 (21) Susan Brimmicombe c 1805-1890 (24) Joseph
McFall 1815-1903 (25) Mary Tomlinson 1815-1877 (39)
John Witheridge c 1780 - (40) Jane c 1780.

Dittisham, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Newton Abbot,
Axbridge, 1780-1904. Weston-Super-Mare 1904/5,
Manchester 1905-1961, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Nottingham
1961 to present day.

David is proof that advertising does pay. He had heard
of an international Witheridge Society and through this
had found my address. Welcome David! We have no
immediate relations for you in the Society, although we
are in contact with many cousins in the Oxfordshire and
Yarmouth areas, both families descendants of your Great
Uncle Arthur Witheridge, and his wife Florence Rose
Filer, nee Rugg.

I have been following this family line for some time,
from the marriage of Susan Edith, so I am grateful to
David for making life a little easier.

NOW I KNOW!

The 'Cambridgeshire Journal' mentions that the East Anglian
Education Forum are trying out new crafts including
"creating colleagues from natural materials".

So that's why there are some people as thick as two short
planks!

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY - continued from front cover

Committee Members

Miss Annette Witheridge
28A, 300 East 40th Street,
New York NY10016
USA

Mr. Mark Witheridge
163, Wesley Avenue,
Selly Oak,
Birmingham, Warw.
B29 6PV

Mrs. Joyce Stephens,
95, Phelipps Road,
Corfe Mullen,
Wimborne, Dorset
BH21 3NL

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Devon Record Office, (Tel. No. 01392-53509)
Castle Street,
Exeter,
Devon EX4 3PQ

West Devon Record Office, (Tel. No. 01752-26485)
Clare Place,
Coxside,
Plymouth,
Devon PL4 OJW

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. 01752-662985)

Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7BA (Tel.No. 0171-251 8799)

