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Summer 1996

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(To be sent new applications and all renewals of Society membership, complete with subscriptions)

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EDITORIAL

Summer Greetings to all our readers although as I write the weather is unusually cold and miserable.

I always feel that the first magazine after Witheridge Day is a special one. I come away from the meeting with renewed determination to track down the elusive, and bring together the far flung, and in spite of the cool weather and disappointing attendance this year I was conscious of the good wishes of absent members, especially of those overseas. Our thanks go to Mrs. Carol Goins, who had the generous thought of sending a contribution to the cost of hiring the hall at Alderton.

One special aspect of this particular edition is that it features our first (and I'm sure it will not be the last) article on computers in genealogy, and for this we have to thank Paul Witheridge of Ontario. I cannot claim to be surfing the Internet, but as a result of Paul's efforts I *am* dabbling my toes in the water!

This can be a controversial subject, and if anyone has any comments or ideas on ways in which computers might be of help to us, we shall be pleased to hear them.

Kathy Witheridge has been doing her bit, as well. As a result of her work, we have two new members, Ivor and Myrtle Witheridge from Ontario - welcome to the magazine and our society!

The facsimile edition of Holden's Annual London and Country Director for the year 1811 has just been published and I have bought all three volumes. These contain thousands of names and addresses of people in trade in the principal towns and some villages. So far I have not discovered a single Witheridge! This does not necessarily mean that they were not there, but probably did not subscribe to the Directory. I would be happy to look for any other name, so if you would like me to search, write to me - address inside front cover - or telephone on 01582 29573.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, together with the Officers' Reports, will be published in a later edition. Meanwhile, consider the information we have brought you in this magazine, and do let us know of any 'finds' you may make.

Joyce

WITHERIDGE DAY, 1996

by Joyce Browne

We set off for Alderton on Sunday, 5th May, via Cheltenham, where we were to meet Paul and Kathy Witheridge. The long distance bus from Yorkshire was right on time, and we were able to welcome them to a fine but chilly evening. Kim and Roy Cook and Philip Witheridge joined us , and we fortified ourselves for the next day's activities by having dinner at a picturesque local Inn, and we were quite reluctant to go back to our hotel at the end of the evening.

Alderton looked as pretty as ever, but we were disappointed at the number of people who came to spend Witheridge Day with us. We had reason to hope that this year the numbers would be higher, but it was not to be, in spite of the company of friends Ernest Hamley, and Tom and Sheila Jewell, all the way from Exeter.

Despite the fact that there were only twelve members present (not counting the baby - Cheryl's Christopher John), the Annual General Meeting was a lively affair. There was much discussion on a proposed change of venue for the next meeting, which will be our tenth anniversary. There was a feeling that we should meet in Witheridge, Devon, and discussion centred on ways of canvassing members to find out their preferences, and what form the celebration should take. Several members are working towards making a firm decision, and we shall know more later.

The afternoon opened with a talk by Kathy Witheridge on her researches after she discovered a grave stone dedicated to a John Witheridge who died in Ontario in 1932. It has taken her five years to discover his history. Her tireless efforts have resulted not only in a great deal of knowledge about him, but the discovery of his son, Ivor John Witheridge. Ivor and his wife, Myrtle, are our latest members. Kathy presented a beautifully produced book about Sgt. Major John Witheridge, which will be treasured by all.

Paul Witheridge then entertained us with a talk "Probing the past with the future". I say "entertained", but for an ignoramus like me it was more of an education! The talk was about computers in genealogy, and was excellent both in content and delivery. There was much lively discussion, and it was obvious that although computers are machines they can generate a lot of emotion.

Our friends Tom and Sheila Jewell, and Ernest Hamley, made very helpful contributions to the meeting, and we feel that they are more like family than visitors, and we hope that we shall see them again next year, wherever Witheridge Day may be held.

FAMILY NEWS

Kim and Roy Cook are flying to Minneapolis , USA., for a holiday shortly. They are to visit the Rev. David Witheridge and his family, and hope to have a Witheridge get-together at which they will present David with a token of our appreciation for all the research and work he has done which has so benefitted our Society. Our thoughts and good wishes will be with them all.

OoooOoooO

KENT WITHERIDGES

by John Witheridge

No, this is not the family we have called the 'Kent, London and Birmingham Witheridges'. This is a family, who over the years, we have not even bothered to investigate, due to the specific difference in the spelling of their surname. I have always maintained that there could be a link and felt that the name could be a variant of the group of names included for research within the Witheridge Society, but have bowed to the thoughts and arguments of other researchers until one day I sat down to puzzle this problem.

With the production of the 1994 IGI, a name similar to ours in spelling became more noticeable in the Kent indexes. This spurred me to take a greater and more in depth look at the earlier index (1984) Here I noted the entry:-

"Whitridge. Matthew and Susanna Ismay married at Dover , St. Mary the Virgin, on the 6th January, 1807"

This same entry was also to be found on the 1994 index, and also there were others of this name, and in the 1994 index these two items were added:-

"Whitridge. Mary, a relative of Jonathan Hunt" - Female registration and celebrating a marriage on the 18th October, 1694, at a town named Taversham. (Well, there is not and never has been a town of this name) Like a good detective I substituted an 'F' in place of the 'T', and arrived at the town of Faversham, though I must admit that I cannot claim all the credit for this discovery, owing to the fact that the entry two places lower on the index was as follows:-

"Witheridge. Richard, a relative of Jonathan Parker" - this was listed as a male entry and was also celebrating a marriage, on the 13th May, 1674, at Faversham.

Were they related? If they were, which one was the incorrect spelling? My bet was that it would be Richard's surname that would be the incorrect entry, based on the theory of the odd man out. The only way to prove my point was to research the Faversham registers. This is what I found, and it made the issue even more complicated.

To begin with I tracked down the two marriages above - Whitridge. Mary, and Witheridge. Richard, on the local registers. Richard I found quite easily, but in doing so found that his surname had been misspelt on the IGI. He was a Whitridge!

Burials

"1672	September 10th	Richard	Whitteridge	a child
1685	May 3rd	Elizabeth	"	a child
1688	January 27th	Ann	"	a child
1692	February 16th	Isaac	Whitheridge	Child
1696	December 17th	Richard	Whitheridge	Cooper"

No, there is no record of a burial for Mary. Could the Bishop's Transcripts be of help in finding the missing item?

Elizabeth dies at the age of nine years
Margaret marries as we have already noted
Isaac dies at the age of one year
We have a burial for Richard but not a baptism

With the last burial entry we have two choices - was Richard the father of the family, or another son for whom we have no baptism? Please note the occupation, that of a cooper. The two main industries of the area were "Brewing of Ales and the gunpowder manufacture", both with an inexhaustible demand for barrels.

Noting the four changes in the spelling of this name, I am convinced that our two families are connected.

There is another twist to this story - whilst researching another parish, midway between Faversham and Chatham, I came across this little gem:-

Upchurch Parish. Kent Burials Register

"1788 August 15th Weatheridge. Ann"
This lady is buried in the same church burial ground as Edmund Drake, the father of Sir Francis Drake. Who will turn out to be Ann's relations? As yet, I haven't a clue!

The incidence of these two or three similar family names extended into the London area, with children being born to Matthew and Susanna Whitridge (nee Ismay) as follows: -

1809 April 12th Thomas Ismay Whitridge of Matthew and Susanna at St. Ann, Blackfriars
1810 November 7th Susanna Whitridge of Matthew and Susanna at Camberwell, St Giles.
1812 February 27th Mary Whitridge of Matthew and Susanna at Allhallows, Bread Street

There is also a family line which ended in Sheerness with the burial of :-

"From Sheerness From Gaftchurch ?? (I think Eastchurch) - Alice ye Wife of John Whitteridge was buried August 26th, 1712"

"1742 May 4th John Whitteridge buried" A strange point was raised in this register. In the same line and with brackets around both items and names, a Dinah Knowles was included. This might mean that this lady died on the same day and that is where the significance ended, or it might mean that they died together and that they lived together. Perhaps on my next excursion I will find the truth.

My primary object in researching these registers at Sheerness was to list the deaths of Mariners and Army personnel, and I came across an entry that I know will interest some of our researchers:-

Burials

November 4th 1757 David Stephenson, (Master of Ye EAGLE "Merchantman")
Question - When did 'our' Eagle sail on the Maine?

Whilst this last entry has no direct bearing on the subject of this article 'Kent Witheridges' I feel that it leads on to my last item of information and also strengthens my argument about accepting possible variants until you can prove that they are not 'ours'.

Joyce Browne (in Volume 8, No. 2. Summer 1994) gave us an insight into one Witheridge family and their naval careers. One man in particular is brought to mind with article - Quote Page 21… "1652 Edward Witheridge Commander of the 'Success'. 90 men and 30 guns"...

Try this one for size!

"1654 HMS Kentish 170 men and 40 guns Captain Edward Witteridge" The same man, just with a variation in the way his name was written down. So I think it should be assumed - you must agree - that any name which resembles our own should be registered in our records if only for future reference either to dispel the notion or to prove the fact.

I rest my case!

This is a footnote to the naval information given in the article above - I have become greatly interested in our naval ancestors:-

'Kentish' built by Johnson's at Deptford in 1652 (which gives Edward Witheridge the honour of being the craft's first Master) was 104 feet long, 32 feet 6 inches wide and had a draft of 13 feet 6 inches and weighed 601 tons. She was wrecked in 1672. She was a fourth rate frigate of the Ruby Class.

The 'Success' a much older vessel probably built before 1600 as there is no reference to its construction on record, and my lists go back to the year 1599. However, in my personal research records I can date this same boat, or to be more precise a vessel of the same name in port at Sheerness on the 12th July, 1746, nearly one hundred years later. Even though our timber ships were built to last for 75 years I am sure it would be unreasonable to assume this vessel to be the one in question from the year 1652. Subsequently to finding the original information on this vessel I discovered that the 'Success' had been captured from the French on the 19th October, 1650, when she was known as the 'Jules'. Armed with 34 guns she sailed as a British fourth rate gun ship until 1662, when she was sold. From the date 1660 she was known as the 'Old Success'.

A vessel by the name of 'Success' was purchased on the 20th August, 1692. She was a stores hulk, and was sunk as a breakwater at Sheerness on the 13th January, 1707. A stores hulk was a de-masted ship, usually beyond an acceptable cost of maintenance.

This shows that there were at least three ships of this name in the time period of 150 years. Throughout the marine history of this nation there have been eighteen vessels of this name.

For those of our readers who have an interest in facts and figures concerning our ships of war, I do have information and dates for the 'Garland' and the 'Bonadventure', which will be part of an article in the future.

GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

Secretary for the Sub Committee for "A" category Members.
Representative for "A" category Members to the Executive Committee.

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4th May 1996.

Dear Joyce.

Please receive this letter as a form of receipt and thanks, confirming the fact that the undermentioned copy/ies of your research magazine/ Newsletter have been sent to me. To be included in a collection of similar publications, that will b placed on show for one year. This collection will be taken to and displayed at, all venues that I attend as a representativ of the Guild of One Name Studies. This will include perhaps five or six Guild conferences, Many County Family History Society conferences and fairs/open days. They will also be shown at many other meetings throughout the country. Finally after one year they will be secured in the Guilds Archives fo posterity. Allowing access to any serious researcher, to reac at the Guilds box G address, ie Charterhouse buildings, Londo

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It is hoped that throughout this period you will gain many enquiries concerning your society and the research you so carefully undertake. We the Guild promise to take great care your property, showing it off to the best of our ability.

Hoping that this meets with your approval

Yours Sincerely
John

John Witheridge
Executive Committee member of the Guild Of One Name Studies

WANTED!

JOHN WITHERIDGE

KNOWN IN NORTH TAWTON 1798-1799

AND

HALWELL IN 1802-1809

This man is wanted in connection with a felony. The felony being:- "Marrying and taking wife Jane Emmet on 23rd September, 1802, at the Parish of Halwell. (His former wife Mary Witheridge to whom he was married on the 14th October, 1798, at the Parish of North Tawton by the name of Mary Atkins, being then alive.)

On Wednesday, 2nd August, 1809, at the Devon Summary Court, John Witheridge was sentenced for the felony of bigamy "To be imprisoned in the house of correction for this county, there to be kept at hard labour for two years and further imprisoned until the fine be paid."

The discovery of this information in the Devon Summary Court Records, and the note of the sentence, obtained at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London,and coupled with previously unconnected scraps of data affects the structure of at least two of our published family trees. They are: the Bideford tree - Magazine Summer 1991, and the Totnes and Newton Abbot tree, Magazine Winter 1993. In each case, we can now go back a further generation and show what we did not know before - that these two families are connected.

The information

1. Marriage Parish of North Tawton - Marriage by banns of John Witheridge, SOJ (Sojourner) to Mary Atkins OTP (Of This Parish) 14th October, 1798

2. Baptism Parish of North Tawton - Baptism of William, son of John Witheridge by his wife Mary baptised February 1799.

3. Marriage Parish of Halwell -"John Witheridge, Bachelor, and Jane Emmet, Widow, both of this Parish were married in this Church by banns this twenty third day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two by me, Ralph Barnes, Vicar."

4. Baptism Parish of Halwell - David, son of JohnWitheridge and Jane Witheridge or Emmet baptised 19th March 1809.

5. Census 1851 Higher Gunstone. Bideford Head of house: William aged 54 born North Tawton, Wife: Fanny (Causey) aged 54 with children Mary Ann, George, and Elizabeth.

It appears that William was the son of the marriage of John and Mary Atkins (we have not found other children), and David was the son of the bigamous union of John and Jane Emmet.

Previously, it was thought that the William who married Fanny Causey in Northam in 1824 in Northam was the William who was born in Littleham in 1791, as we could find no other suitable candidate, but the discovery of the birth of William in North Tawton in 1799, and the evidence of the 1851 Census, has changed our minds. We now believe that it was the latter William who married Fanny Causey, and from this couple came what we call "the George Causey Witheridge" line. This family left Devon for London, and one of George Causey's descendants is a member of our society.

Another William, born 1806 in Dittisham, was also a child of the John/Jane Emmet union. In spite of his father's conviction in 1809, he continued to use the name "Witheridge", and he married Susan Brimmicombe at Stoke Gabriel in 1829. Their descendants are shown on the Totnes and Newton Abbot tree.

Until the Halwell baptism came to light, we were unaware of a David Witheridge of this era and we could find no other record of him. He was born five months before his father was convicted of bigamy, and it may be that he was known in the locality as "Emmet". In the parish register of Halwell there is a record of a burial of a "David Emmets" on the 11th January, 1811.

Both families must have suffered hardship. Mary Atkins' child, William, was only three when his father 'married' Jane Emmet in 1802. It is unlikely that John was in a position to support two families. When John was sentenced to gaol, Jane Emmet was left with two children to care for - William, aged three, and David aged five months.

The sentence imposed on John Witheridge was one of hard labour for two years, with a proviso that he was not to be released from prison until he had paid his fine. This would seem to imply that the fine had not been paid at the beginning of the sentence, and that there was a possibility it would still not be forthcoming at the end of the two years. The record does not state the amount of the fine.

Did John survive his sentence? We don't know his age when he began it. He was in prison in 1810, but unfortunately the prison records for the next sixteen years are lost so we cannot say when he was released.
The origins and the fate of the three principals in this drama are unknown to us at the present time. We have no burial records for Mary Atkins Witheridge, Jane Emmet, or John Witheridge. Nor have we found a likely birth record for a John.

As he named two of his sons "William", could his own father have been a "William"?

John Witheridge is still 'wanted', but this time it is we who are looking for him!

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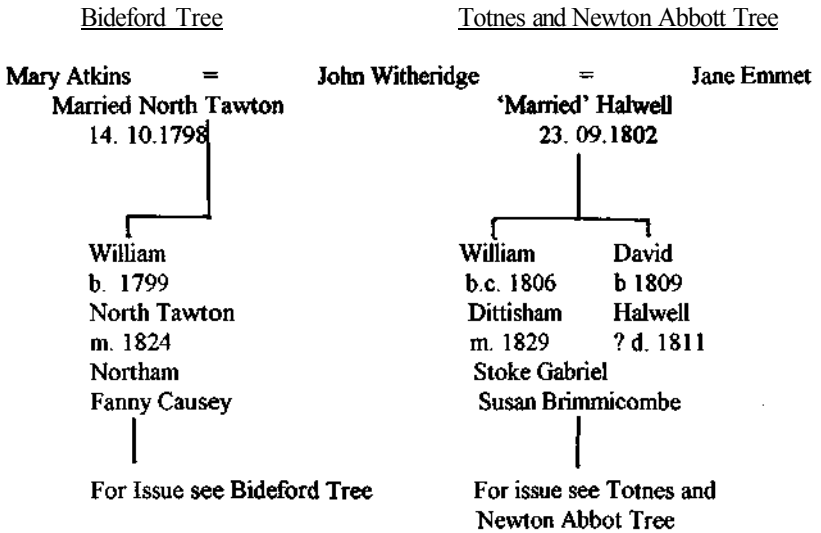
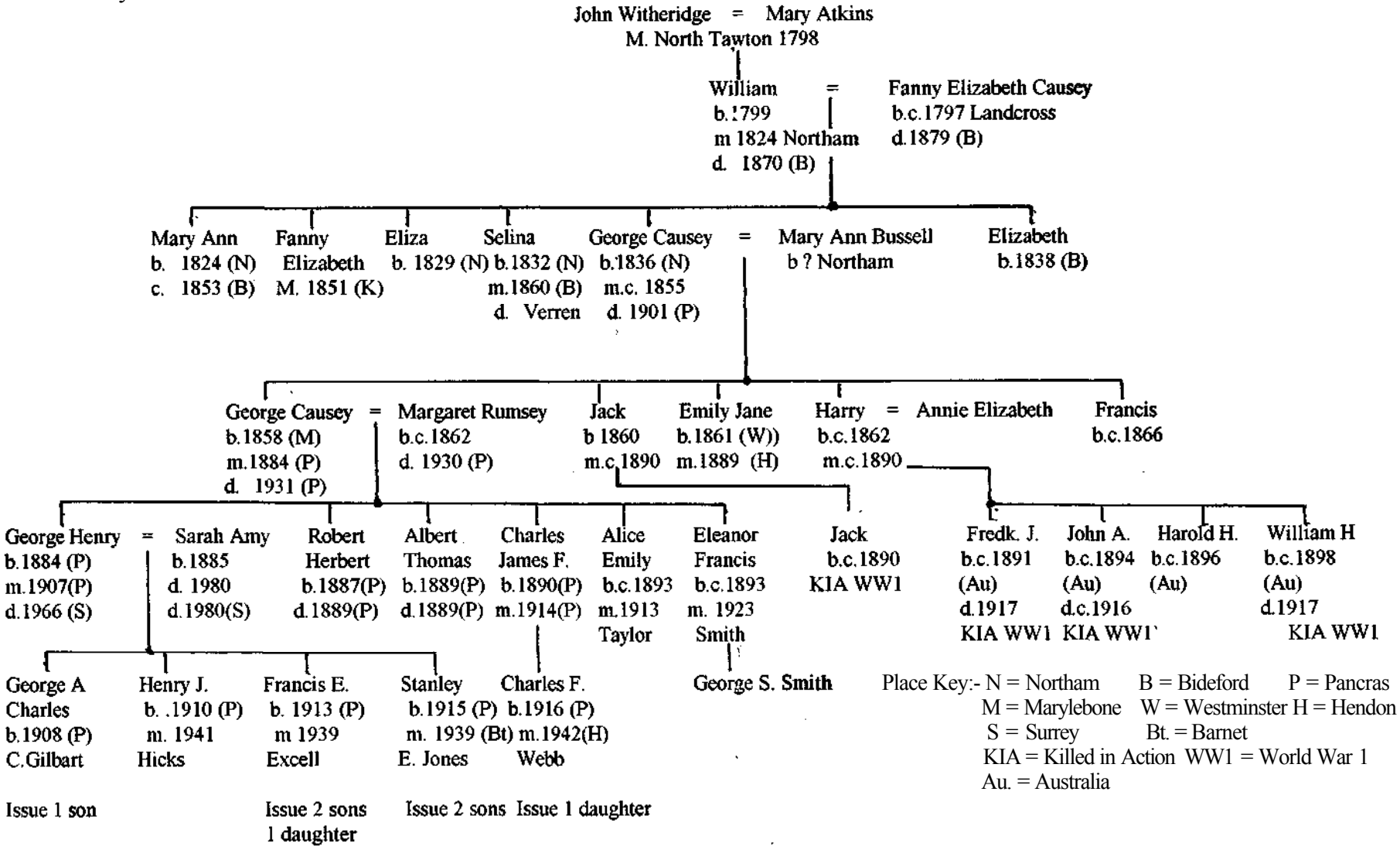


Joyce Browne
May, 1996

BIDEFORD WITHERIDGE FAMILY TREE

Revised May 1996



PROBING THE PAST IN THE FUTURE

A talk given by Paul Witheridge on Witheridge Day, 1996

Introduction

Genealogy is many things to many people. It's a profession; it's a hobby, it's certainly a challenge! But above all, it is the collection of a huge amount of data. For us humans, collecting, organizing, storing and retrieving data can be time consuming at best and error-prone at worst. Computers, on the other hand, have come to be known as everything from horribly complicated machines to toys - depending on your particular perspective. The use of computers in any compilation of data is sometimes viewed as an exercise in enshrining erroneous information. Computerized data deserves no higher regard than any other data simply because it can be displayed quickly and neatly, and it deserves no lesser opinion of its accuracy merely because it was deposited via a keyboard. Computers are but modern tools which depend heavily on humans to verify the data fed to them every bit as much as do hand-written notes. In fact, their ability to quickly and neatly correct erroneous data rivals any other collection tool. One thing that computers *do* bring to the party is the ability to perform tedious, repetitive jobs very quickly. Anybody see a fit here?

Collecting

The heart of the science of genealogy is certainly in the collecting of the data: knowing where to look, knowing what to look for and recognizing what you've found when you find it. These are skills I could not *hope* to discuss since I am not a genealogist, but one who *supports* a genealogist! But I can appreciate the need for contacts in this business - and this is yet another area in which computers have shown their mettle.

Computers can serve as very capable communication devices enabling the genealogist to network -oops! - "share information with" others of similar interests. The addition of (or connection to) a modem enables a computer to connect to the telephone line and hence to other computers. This need not be a frightening concept, since "connected" to those other computers are folks just like you and I with information to share and needs for information to fill in the gaps.

One avenue (not intended to be a pun on "the information super-highway!" open to the computer/modem user is as simple as a call to a local Bulletin Board System, or BBS. Most such systems are simply home-operated hobby systems which for a nominal fee (or free!) allow users to connect and use their resources. Why do people run BBSes? I can only suggest that it may be analogous to why people climb mountains: because it's a challenge. They can be difficult to maintain and certainly demonstrate a charitable nature

in allowing complete strangers access to one's computer. Not all BBSes will be of interest to the genealogist, just as genealogy isn't of interest to all people. One needs to learn or "be in the know" of those BBSes which do provide useful information and/or contacts for the genealogist. Other genealogists or other computer enthusiasts are good sources of the necessary telephone numbers.

Some genealogical societies operate their own BBS and can be a gold mine of information. Other hobbyist BBSes may simply provide access to message networks which include "conferences" devoted to the discussion of genealogy and the sharing of helpful information. You *may* even encounter a long-lost relative! "Networks"? "Conferences"? Let me explain briefly.

Bulletin Boards - the electronic version - are , in their simplest form, similar to the cork variety in the messages are "posted" which are available to everyone who calls in. Messages may be addressed to an individual or to "All", but everyone still has access to it. "Private" messages can also be posted; however, the "privacy" is limited to you, the addressee and the system operator or "sysop". To put some order in the potential chaos this suggests, conferences are set up according to topic so that one can post questions and answers about the care and feeding of pigeons in a separate area from those concerning genealogists such as a request for the address of the registry office in Zaire. Therefore, finding the message area and then the *correct* message area are two tasks one should master early in one's visit to a BBS.

But surely a local call won't turn up much information you say. This is often true, however, many - dare I say most? BBSes today belong to (or "carry") networks. These networks are simply an association of BBSes in which one system makes a daily call to another and that BBS does likewise to the next one and all the messages in the various conferences are shared forwards and backwards. In that way, you may post a message on your local BBS and have it read - an hopefully replied to - by someone across the country or even across the world! Of course, the point-to-point transfers take a modicum of time and replies can often take as long as regular mail. The major advantage lies in the number of people your message is exposed to and the fact that they are reading it *because* they are interested in the topic.

BBSes are also great repositories for computer programs and adjunct utilities and data. Computer programs you say? Yes, but a brief word of explanation: Most people (without modems) are familiar with purchasing computer software at a store. Generally software sold in the fashion is referred to as "commercial software". But software or computer programs are often written by people like you and me and they want to share their accomplishments with others for a fee or for free. Don't make the mistake of assuming that the quality of such software is necessarily inferior simply because it isn't sold in a store! It may be, but is not doomed to be. Software which is distributed on bulletin boards is called either public domain software also known as "freeware" (the author

retains the copyright, but you may use or copy it freely) or "shareware" (like freeware in that copying is encouraged, but you are expected to pay the author if you continue to use it beyond a reasonable evaluation period). Commercial software must *not* be shared over BBSes or any other means. There are several very popular shareware programs for the genealogist, but more on this later. A good general reference book I can recommend is Computer Genealogy. A guide to Research through High Technology (Revised Edition Edited by Richard A. Pence ISBN 0-916489-02-7. The edition we have was published in 1991 however. As a result many of his hardware recommendations are out of date and most of the software has been improved. Otherwise the information is quite valid.

The other "avenue" *is* the Internet. Similar to accessing a BBS, your computer makes a telephone call to connect to another; but the technology differs from that point on. There are fewer Internet Service Providers, or ISPs, than there are BBSes and they are run strictly for profit. In North America yearly access averages about £100. You may have access to one locally or may have to make a long distance call. While computers also require communications software to connect to BBSes, the software required to make the Internet "user-friendly" is a bit more complicated, and virtually all of the latter require that you be working in a Windows or Macintosh environment. Examples of DOS based software for computer-to-computer or BBS connections are Telix and Cybercom. Examples of software for Internet access are Internet-In-A-Box, and Netscape Navigator.

With the Internet, you are not sending and receiving information to a single remote computer such as a BBS; you are connecting to any one of a vast network of computers - often a series of them per on-line session. Here when you send a message (commonly called electronic mail or "e-mail"), it is most often a person-to-person or private communication. There *are* mailing lists and news groups which operate in a somewhat similar fashion to BBS network conferences, but they are not as well known. E-mail sent on the Internet arrives at the recipient's "address" instantly - wherever they may reside. The next time they "log on" or connect to the Internet, their mail will be waiting for them. A mail reader program such as Eudora or Pegasus is necessary to receive e-mail. Using it, mail may be read "on-line" (while still connected via the telephone) or offline. Replies may be composed and - if done offline - queued for sending during your next online session. Many mail readers offer various organization tools for the sorting and storing of mail as well as for sending and receiving it.

The "newsgroups" I mentioned above have even more similarity to the network conference system used by BBSes and, in fact, some BBSes provide access to them in the same fashion. Three popular genealogical newsgroups are alt.genealogy, soc.genealogy surnames and soc.genealogy.uk+ireland. As you might guess, there are newsgroups specializing in various countries and in which you would expect to find discussions of research in those regions. In any BBs conference or Internet newsgroup etiquette dictates that you should try to keep "on-topic" in order to help everyone zero in on the information they seek without having to wade through reams of non-related messages.

A news reader program such as Free Agent may prove useful just as a mail reader did for e-mail.

Because the of the sheer volume of "news" articles, you would normally receive a list of "headings" in each newsgroup to which you subscribe and then select those which you want to read in their entirety. On your next online session, you would request the articles you "tagged" from the list of headings and the selected articles would be "downloaded" to you. You can reply to news articles in the same way that you would to a BBB network conference - for all to see - or privately via e-mail.

Bu the Internet provides far more than just a postal service. Using a "browser" such as Netscape Navigator, one can visit "sites" all over the world. We are now talking about the World Wide Web or WWW and the "sites" are "Web sites" or information packages prepared by people, companies and institutions for public access. Simply by supplying the software with an "address" (known as a universal resource locator of URL), you can visit other genealogists' web sites, those of genealogical societies of those of libraries world wide. Most sites will not only provide information specific to that location, but will also provide "links" to other sites. Perhaps now the concept of a web will become clearer.

To the beginner, the World Wide Web can seem like being given a jet plane while not having any maps or a flight plan - and it is. But you will find that newspapers, magazines, television and books are already making references to web sites, "home pages" or URLs. All of these are merely synonyms for addresses on the Internet. Once you use one or two, you will find the links I mentioned and - from there - more links. As you "Surf" the WWW, you can save the addresses on interesting sites simply by the click of your mouse as "bookmarks". The "browser" software will create a list of these bookmarks from which you can select them for future visits. It is really very comparable to beginning your genealogical research, each "find" often leads to other resources.

And the WWW provides the ability to search for information on an interactive basis much as you might in a library reference section. There are many "search engines" available on the WWW and all are available from your keyboard. Each search engine will allow you to input words or names and then search the entire network - using many computers simultaneously - for any data which contains the information you are seeking. Genealogical sites often provide the added bonus of including information about other people who may be researching the same name. By contacting *those* people, you open up another "network" entirely - including even *their* resources which may not yet be on the Internet. Here are a few Internet site addresses (or URLs) as starting points:

http://genealogy.org/
http://genealogy.org/NGS/netguide/welcome/html
http://www.sfo.com/~genealogysf/
http://www.sfo.com/~genealogysf/tms.html/
http://www.rand.org/cgi-bin/Genea/rsl

http://web.wingsbbs.com/brotherskeepr/
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/reference.html
http://www.cs.ncl.ac.uk/genuki/DEV/
http://www.everton. com/
http://midas.ac.uk/genuki/

http://midas.ac.uk/genuki/big/eng/SFK/
http://www.compulink.co.uk/~gentrace/welcome.htm
http://www. geocities.com/Athens/2155/
http://www.innerlight.com/genepool/welcome.htm
http://www.zeta.org.au/~dwalker/roorythm/htm
http://www.archives.ca/
http://www/logicnet.com/melanie.mccluskey/
http//boulmer.ncl.ac.uk/genuki/SoG/Booklist
http://www. islandnet.com/~anna/gene.html
http://gen.roc.wayne.ed/fsl.html
http://genealogy.tbox.com/genealogy.html

As mentioned above, other sources of web site addresses include books, magazine or newspaper articles and television programs. Family Tree Magazine computer section editor David Hawgood has been a useful resource to me in researching web sites for this document through both his column and through his recently released book entitled Internet For Genealogy, ISBN O 948151 12 9. The book by Richard Pence does not include using the Internet, thus David's book makes an excellent complement.

So - as you can see - computer "connections" can lead to a vast supply of information either from other genealogists, from genealogical societies' databases or from government archives - all without leaving your keyboard!

Software

Software is the set of coded instructions which your computer must have in order to do anything useful at all. That said, we must also understand that there are many different kinds of computers available and therefore a similarly wide variety of software to instruct them. What to choose? Fortunately, as time goes on, the list of choices is dwindling as people learn which systems provide them the greatest capability due either to their hardware specifications or to the range and abilities of software written for them. I'll save my comments on hardware for later, but merely point out that one ***must*** select software which has been designed to run on their particular computer and which does not require more "horsepower" than their system can manage. **Always** check the "system requirements" before spending money on **any** software! If you do not yet own

a computer, this advice alone will tell you that you should always consider the software that you intend to use *before* you decide on the hardware.

One of the system requirements you may encounter is that your computer be running "Windows" software. Windows software must be purchased separately and serves as an "operating environment" in which to run other computer programs. Generally speaking, you will first require a computer with an 80386 ('386') or higher central processing unit (CPU) or chip and at least 2 megabytes (preferably 4 megabytes) of random access memory or RAM in order to run Windows software. To further complicate things, we now have Windows' version "95" as well as the more common Windows 3.0 and 3.1 versions. The Windows 95 software will require a total of at least 4 megabytes (preferably 8 megabytes) of RAM and would perform more satisfactorily on a computer with an 80486 ('486') or higher CPU. Most important, however, is the fact that software written specifically for a "Windows 95 computer" will not run on a "Windows 3.x computer"! Happily, the reverse is usually not true, so you can buy software for the older versions of Windows and reasonably expect it to still run when you upgrade to Windows 95.

Windows software itself provides a graphical (pictorial) operating environment (often called a graphical interface or "gui") which serves as a "menu" from which to run other programs while also providing certain additional advantages such as the ability to juggle information between more than one program at a time. Programs which do not require Windows software often run faster but often require a bit more expertise to install and get started. Once set up, however, many are quite capable programs but will always lack - at least - the ability to share information with other software which Windows provides. If you are headed for the Internet, Windows is a must.

Earlier I mentioned that genealogical software and many other popular programs are available as shareware which can be "downloaded" or copied from other computers over the modem/telephone connection. ("Uploading" is the process of sending computer files or programs *to* other computers.) I will skip discussing the variety of other software such as that used to operate the modem connections, but point out simply that the range of shareware programs is tremendous. The best starting point - regardless of your interests - is to ask others to share their opinions, experiences and sources. One thing you will find is that we all depend on those who have discovered something before us to share their experiences. Never be too shy to ask or to report on your computer discoveries!

Come of the more capable and popular genealogy software are Personal Ancestral File from the Mormon Church in Utah, Brother's Keeper and Family Tree Maker. Each offer a database format for the input and organization of data. All have been reviewed in Family Tree magazine by computer section editor David Hawgood - FTM being reviewed in the current (April '96) edition. These programs are especially designed to allow you to create relationships between each person or record you enter. Some also permit the

addition of pictures to help bring your data to "life". Most will offer some degree of facility to produce a tree chart of your data as well. The real power of the computer comes to the fore when data must be updated, reprinted or when specific information must be retrieved; and each user will quickly recognize a program's strengths or weaknesses in these areas. When evaluating a computer program for a genealogical database, consider how easily and quickly it will perform the tasks which *you* find to be the most difficult and which you will use most often.

Other features to look for in computer software are the abilities to check your work for errors - either automatically or manually. Does it provide a spelling checker? Does it catch erroneous dates like February 30th? Does it allow manual corrections at a later time? Does it offer any help in entering data which repeats from record to record? Will it import other electronic data without extensive manual manipulation? Does it accommodate more than one style of date format? Does it provide for adoptions as well as natural children? Can you annotate data with your sources and other information?

Hardware

As I mentioned above, we are cursed with a considerable range of different kinds of computers. I say "cursed" because all computer users dread the inevitable news that "this computer cannot read data from that computer" or "there is no software to do that job on that computer". What is a beginner to do? The best advice (once again) is to gather advice and opinions from those who have "travelled the road before you". Sales people can sometimes help, but we must be wary of those who would advise us to buy what would be most to *their* advantage rather than to ours. Suffice it to say that anything you can afford is already obsolete and will depreciate at a rate of 50% per annum. Do not let that deter you from jumping into the technological fray! Those facts are unlikely to change any time soon, so there is no "good" or "bad" time to take the plunge.

Look for a computer type which has the broadest "compatibility" both with other computers with which you expect to share information and with the types of software you expect to run. Some computer manufacturers which have either declined in popularity or failed to win adherents as fast as others are the Commodore, Atari and in many markets, the Amiga. "IBM compatibility" is an aspect to seek out, but even world-renowned IBM-produced machines are not as popular a purchase as many non-branded "clones". Apple Computers are quite capable machines - especially in the field of computer graphic arts. World wide, however, Apple commands less than 10% of the personal computer market while the "IBM compatibles" occupy virtually all of the other 90%

Why would I not buy a computer from IBM if "IBM compatibility" is important? For the same reason I would prefer not to buy a Compaq or a Toshiba or a Tandy. All may well use quality components, but they generally charge more to pay for keeping their name in front of us and - more importantly - when I want to upgrade my system or add additional

capability (sound cards, CD-ROM players, more or larger hard disk drives, etc.), I prefer to be able to shop for the best-rated components at the best prices and not be required to buy them only from the original manufacturer. This is doubly true for Apple computers.

Today, the "state of the art" is moving beyond the pentium pro computer. If you want to begin at that level, be prepared to pay handsomely for it. The pentium is on the verge of becoming attractively priced since being superseded by the "pro" model a year or so ago. But the best value today is undoubtedly found in the '486' computer. Technically obsolete, their prices have tumbled to very affordable levels, yet the majority of popular software will run quite adequately on it - even Windows 95. The see-saw battle between hardware and software is invariably led by the former. As a result, the software companies are still catching up with the pentiums and pentium pros. You can also expect many software packages to require more than one attempt to "get it right". Taken in summary, most software has by now been "perfected" for the 486.

Buy a computer with as much random access memory or RAM and as large a hard disk drive as you can afford. Both are reasonably priced currently and both are commodities which you will consume like closet space.

Look for a monitor with at least VGA (or Super VGA) capabilities, a non-interlaced screen and a dot pitch of 0.28 or less. All that this means is that you will suffer far less eye fatigue from a sharp non-flickering image. Virtually every software package today takes advantage of a colour monitor. Don't deny yourself the pleasure!

Last, but certainly not unimportant, is the selection of a comfortable chair and desk. It may seem strange to mention such peripherals in a document such as this, but you will find them to be essential to your enjoyment or displeasure with the many hours you may spend computerizing your genealogical data! Choose a well-padded, adjustable chair with lumbar support. When choosing a desk, remember that keyboard height is *not* normal desk height - it is lower. If you cannot get a desk designed specifically for the proper keyboard height, get one which will accommodate a keyboard drawer at the correct height. Add a "wrist rest" to complete the ensemble and use it! Many aches and pains can either result or be prevented by the careful attention to details such as these.

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NEW MEMBERS News from John Witheridge

No. 142 Mr. Ivor John Edwin Witheridge
143 Mrs. Myrtle M. Witheridge née Beattie
Contact address:- 46 Hoover Point Lane, Selkirk, Ontario, Canada NOA IPO

(1) Ivor Witheridge 1921————) (2) John Northmore Witheridge 1872-1932 (3) Mary Jane Knight 1880/1-1923 (4) John Northmore Witheridge 1845-1914 (5) Maria Tall Sandover 1841-1877/81?? (6) William Knight c. 1841/42-? (7) Elizabeth Ann ? c.1847 (8) Philip Witheridge 1791-1872 Mary Northmore 1804-1880 (16) Arthur Witheridge 1757-1848 (17) Elizabeth Bowden c 1757-1839 (18) John Northmore 1773 - (19) Mary Horton.
Ermington 1540 - 1910s Canada 1910s to present day.

It is nice to see another member of the Ermington family joining the society. There are not enough of us! I think that most of the details about this family, and Ivor's ancestors have been written, so in this case I am not going to keep to the normal family history, but will add a little data concerning the Knight links in Ivor's family.

1881 Census - Knight family of Ermington

Knight, William	39	Male	Head	Marr.	Self	born	Devon	Yealmpton
Elizabeth Ann	34	Fml.	Wife	Marr.	Wm.	"	"	Ermington
Louisa	14	Fml	Serv.	Unm.	Kerswell	Wm.	"	"
Thomas	11	Male	Son	Unm.	William		"	"
Annie	8	Fml.	Dau.	Unm.	William		"	"
Bessie	6	Fml.	Dau.	Unm.	William		"	"
John	4	Male	Son	Unm.	William		"	"
Mary Jane	1	Fml.	Dau.	Unm.	William		"	"

Mary Jane was listed as one year old in the Census, giving her a minimum birth year of 1880. This is why I have written 1880/81 in the genealogical chart. The headstone noting Mary Jane's death sttes 1881 - perhaps just a few months' difference, or even a mistake on the enumerator's entry.

William Knight's parents could have been one of two couples. Perhaps Ivor will remember a name from these two possibilities?

William, son of John and Jane Knight, bapt. 30th May, 1841, Yealmpton - or
William, son of Richard and Ann Knight, bapt. 27th March, Yealmpton

From the census, William's birth would work out at 1842, but both of these could be assumed to be correct. So Ivor, what names did your maternal grandparents have? Give me the names and I will research the family line some more.

Let me welcome you, cousin to our family society on behalf of all our members. We all hope that you will find an interest in your new found family, in time locating more history concerning family members forgotten.

SEQUEL TO "DESTINATION - NEW ZEALAND"

by Velma Metcalfe

Since I completed "Destination - New Zealand some months ago, Joyce Browne has found some significant information to add to our knowledge of this Tavistock branch of the family.

Joyce had originally had some doubts that the two lads who travelled to New Zealand were brothers. While three of William and Hannah Witheridge's children were born in London, there is no record of Thomas being born there. However, Joyce now believes that Thomas was born in Birmingham in 1855, perhaps while his mother was visiting relatives in the area. (St. Catherine's House Index 1855, March quarter - Thomas William Witheridge Birmingham 6d 126.

William's father, Thomas, settled in Birmingham after his work as an Excise Officer took him from Tavistock to Plymouth and later to Derby. Thomas senior died in Birmingham two years after his namesake was born.

William's brother and sister, Richard Minhinnick Witheridge and Betsy Minhinnick Witheridge also died in Birmingham and another sister, Mary, probably married there. It's possible that Thomas and George were living with relatives in the Birmingham area before they left for New Zealand in 1875.

In the later stages of their lives, Thomas and George lived within a mile of each other in East Dulwich, and Joyce believes that with their deaths, the male line of this family died out.

We wondered about the Helen Parker who administered Thomas's estate. Thomas and George had a sister named Helen, but she didn't appear to have married, and for a time it was thought that Helen could have been Thomas's daughter. Then Joyce discovered the marriage certificate for which she had been looking - but years later than one would have expected. It was at the age of 72 years that Helen Witheridge married William Parker at the Register Office, Camberwell, in July 1926. William was a widower, a retired house painter, five years Helen's senior.

Was Helen keeping house for Thomas and after his death cared for William Parker? She and William shared the same address, which is not far from Friern Street, where Thomas lived.

George's Will was made in August, 1925, shortly after his brother died. It reveals that George worked as a commercial traveller, but was retired at the time of his death in 1929.

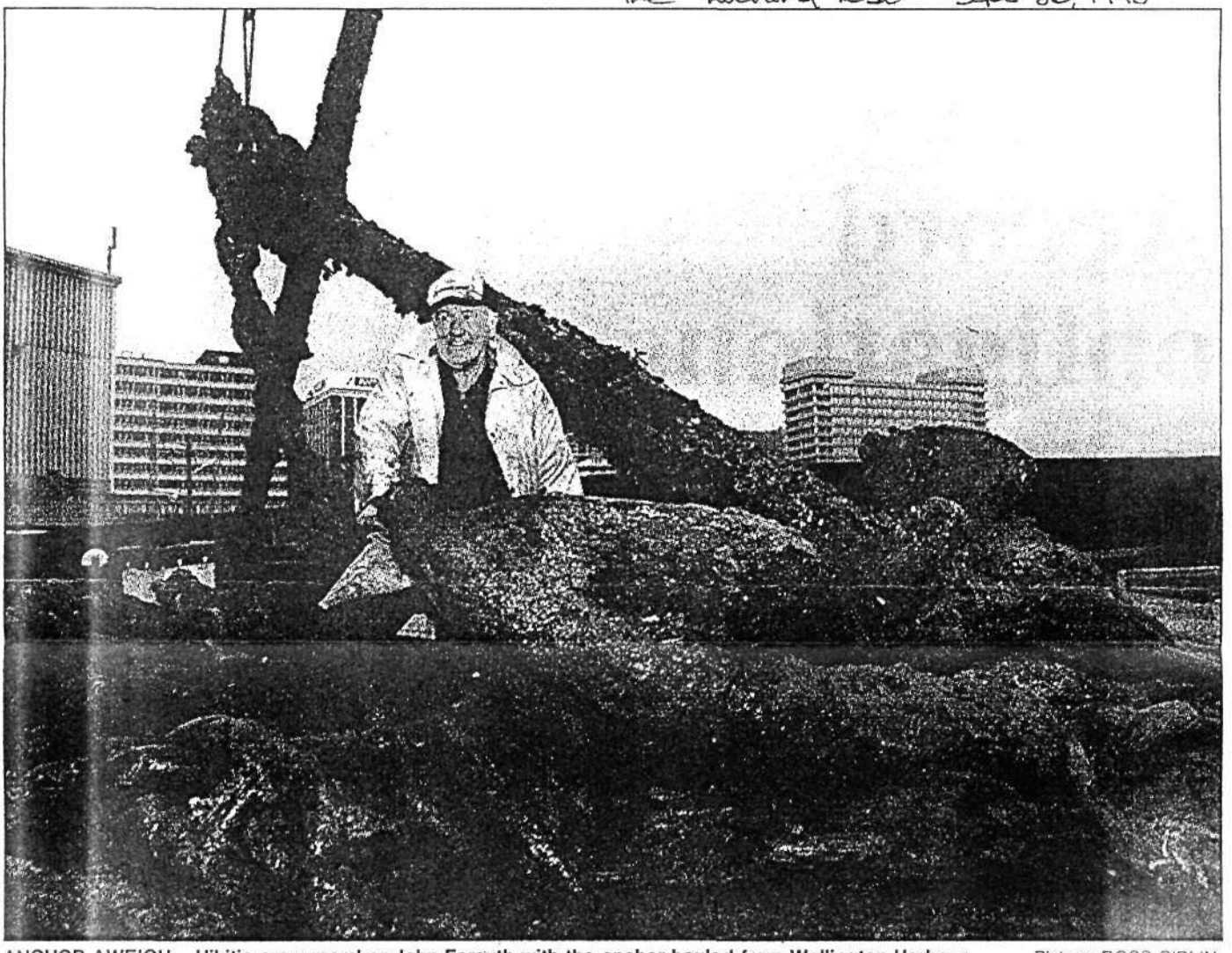
There is no mention of relatives in the Will, although he left ten pounds to Mrs. Emily McGregor, in whose house he resided. The rest of his estate was divided between King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, and the Hospital for Nervous Diseases in connection with the Royal Bethlem Hospital, St. George's Road, London.

There just might be one final footnote to this story. While researching the voyage of the Dallam Tower I noticed a newspaper report that that she had sailed from Wellington on May 6th 1875, under the command of Captain Mitchell, for Callao after being unable to recover a lost anchor and 60 fathoms of chain. Recently a huge anchor and cable were dragged from Wellington Harbour. It was described as an admiralty-type anchor and thought to be over a hundred years old. I wrote to the Evening Post pointing out the newspaper reference that I'd found six months earlier.

To stop deterioration the anchor has been returned to the sea until restoration work can be organised. When that is completed it will probably become a feature of the waterfront development.

If the anchor proves to be from the Dallam Tower what a thrill that will be for me - not to lmention the descendants of hundreds of immigrants who made the long journey to New Zealand aboard her.

The Evening Post Sept 30, 1995



ANCHOR AWEIGH – Hikitia crew member John Forsyth with the anchor hauled from Wellington Harbour. Picture: ROSS GIBLIN

Huge anchor found in harbour

By JULI MALO

It's been lying at the bottom of Wellington Harbour for possibly 100 years and no one knew it was there - until now.

Harbour users were stunned at the discovery of an old anchor and cable dragged from the sea with the help of the floating steam crane Hikitia yesterday.

The anchor, about 4.6m high, "definitely predates 1926" and is likely to have come from the old ex-sailing ships used as floating coal storers, says harbour master Captain Mike Pryce.

It took the Hikitia five hours to "pull the anchor aboard. It was about 100m south of the Interislander ferry terminal.

"Initially we were expecting a concrete block at the end of the cable. We weren't expecting the anchor itself," he said.

"It was almost disappointing there wasn't a boat at the end of it"

The admiralty-type anchor and cable were not used at all today, Mr Pryce said.

They were awkward, anchors to carry aboard a ship and a bar at the top of the anchor meant boats had to carry extra machinery just to hoist the anchors aboard. Otherwise it "just stuck out" over the side of the ship.

Mr Pryce said it would take several weeks to determine the anchor's origins and age.

It was discovered on August 1 when the ship Rangitata hooked it with its own anchor while berthing at Aotea Quay.

Mr Pryce said the anchor could be used as a feature of the waterfront development.

The Evening Post, Oct 6 1995

Anchor away, again

By JULI MALO

A huge anchor found after possibly more than a century at the bottom of Wellington Harbour has been put back in the sea for its own protection.

The 5.6m-long anchor was discovered last year and lifted from the harbour a week ago by the floating crane Hikitia.

Harbourmaster Mike Pryce said that, after being in the sea for so long, the anchor was getting damaged by exposure to the air.

"It is clear that artefacts recovered after a long immersion in marine environments generally contain high concentrations of chlorides or salt. Leaving them in the air to dry out often results in rapid disintegration."

It had been hoped the anchor could be "cleaned up" and feature on the waterfront development.

However, to stop deterioration, it has to be fully immersed in a diluted caustic soda to reduce corrosion and stabilise the metal.

"It's too big for that to be easily achieved," he said.

While the restoration work is being organised, the anchor has been returned to the sea.

The Archaeological Association recommended the anchor go back into the harbour - this time on purpose and where it wouldn't be forgotten.

Mr Pryce said the anchor was a piece of maritime history. The admiralty-type anchor required special machinery on the sailing ship to pull it out of the water.

Mr Pryce has been researching to find the anchor's origin, so far with little success.

GOING DOWN - The old anchor is lowered back into the harbour near Taranaki Street wharf. Picture: CRAIG SIMCOX

However, a Post reader pointed out an article in The Evening Post on May 6, 1875. It said Captain Mitchell of the sailing ship Dallam Tower had been unable to find its anchor despite a three-day search. Mr Pryce said it was possible the anchor belonged to the Dallam Tower, a sailing ship which brought passengers from England during the 1870s.

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