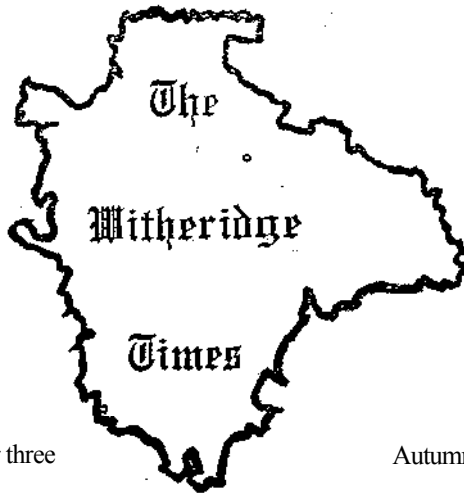


Vol. 14 No. 4 Autumn/Winter 2000

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

|  |  |
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| Honorary Life Vice President   | The Rev. David E. Witheridge,<br>2425 Irving Avenue South,<br>Minneapolis, Minn. 55405 USA               |
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| Secretary  | Mr. John Witheridge,<br>9 Swale Close,<br>Stone Cross, Nr. Eastbourne,<br>East Sussex BN24 5QY           |
| (For all communication with the Guild of One Name Studies)   |  |
| Treasurer and Research Co-ordinator<br>Acting Membership Secretary   | Mr. Richard Witheridge,<br>2, Apsley Road, Newbridge<br>Bath, Somerset BA1 3LP                           |
| (To be sent new applications and all renewals of Society membership,<br>complete with subscriptions)   |  |
| Assistant Treasurer and<br>Committee Member  | Mrs. Maureen Witheridge,<br>Address as above   |
| Editor   | Mrs. Joyce Browne,<br>5, Greenhill Avenue, Luton,<br>Beds. LU2 7DN                                       |
| (To be sent all items for publication in the Witheridge Times - family<br>news, articles, etc., and all requests for copies of the certificates held by<br>the Witheridge Society) |  |
| Publisher, Distributor and<br>Committee Member   | Mr. Philip Witheridge,<br>The Paddocks, Gretton Fields,<br>Nr. Winchcombe, Cheltenham,<br>Glos. GL54 5HJ |

Continued on back cover



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Autumn/Winter 2000

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## EDITORIAL

Greetings to all our readers, and these greetings are projected to Christmas and the New Year. It is difficult to think of Christmas when we are in the middle of a heat wave (I know that our Australian and New Zealand families do it all the time!) Our garden is in late bloom because we had had such cold wet spring, and delayed summer.

I expect you will have noticed that this magazine is larger than usual, and is a combined Autumn/Winter edition. This has come about because our publisher and distributor, Philip, has discovered that the minimum packet weight to qualify for postage at Printed Paper Rate has been raised. If we post a magazine at under the minimum weight, we are in effect losing money. We are trying the experiment of producing three magazines per year instead of four, but each with a larger number of pages (dependant of course on contributions). Three editions will also use a smaller number of covers, which will save a little money.

Readers will find that this edition has articles with a wide geographical range and time spread, and we ask you to give your attention to the "Help Wanted" feature and let us know your views.

I send my warmest greetings to all our members and their families, hoping for a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year for you all!

*Joyce*

Greetings and Best Wishes to all our readers and their families. I was disappointed not to meet more of you at our gathering at Tiverton this year, especially after all the hard work by Richard to provide an entertaining programme, but I do hope to see many more in the year 2001 at the meeting proposed for Chichester.  
A happy and prosperous New Year to you all!

Chairman: *Abraham*



## H E L P      W A N T E D !

At the Annual General Meeting we discussed possible reasons for the fall in numbers of those attending Witheridge Day, and it was suggested that we ask members their views on possible venues for the Meeting, and how they would like to see the Society progressing.

The objectives of the Society as set out in the constitution are:-

- To bring together families bearing the Witheridge or Wetheridge surnames and the descendants of these families.
- To encourage the study of genealogy and family history of these families, the study of their occupations and place of residence, and to provide guidance in the procedures necessary to compile accurate genealogies.
- To co-ordinate research into the Witheridge and Wetheridge families, to record the results of that research, and to make this information available to members.
- To produce, regularly, an information bulletin or journal.
- To seek out, transcribe, index, and whenever possible publish, or make available, material relevant to the interests of the Society
- To arrange meetings, lectures, visits and other activities relevant to the aims and interests of the Society.

At the AGM., (following correspondence with John James) it was suggested that we keep a central record of all our family information and archive material. This was felt to be desirable (and it is already done in part), but this would need someone to act as librarian and to receive and collate all material, and possibly commit it to computer.

No-one at the meeting felt able to volunteer for this task, and it was decided to publicise our need for help. We need members to take an active interest in the Society, and if you feel that you could help in some way, either by acting as librarian, doing research, writing for the magazine, serving as a committee member or an Officer of the Society, please let us know.

We are also keen to know what members hope to gain from their membership, and how they would like to see the Society progress.

You could write to the President, Kim Cook, Graham Browne the Chairman, Richard Witheridge, Treasurer, or the Editor - addresses inside the front cover, or contact one of the representatives with an e-mail address.

Joyce and Graham Browne can be contacted by telephone - 01582 729573

Do let us hear from you.



Our Treasurer, Richard Witheridge, has agreed to take on the duties of Membership Secretary for the time being. He can be contacted at:-

2 Apsley Road,  
Newbridge,  
BATH,  
Somerset  
BA1 3LP

Richard now has an e-mail address:-

[richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk)

## CAPTAINS ALL!

by John Witheridge

During my search for information on our sea-faring ancestors I came across some interesting details in the Lloyds Registers. The first concerns James Witheridge, of the Berrynarbor/Combemartin/Newport family, ancestor of our members Fenwick Witheridge and his sister Catherine Houtz.

### Captains' Register 1869: 765

1869 WITHERIDGE, JAMES (Born:) Devon 1817  
(S.1 49,324)

Served as Master of the MARY ANN (Official No: ) 13,138, 1856-64

M2 = Mediterranean Black Sea Sea of Azof Adriatic

Ct.3 = Coastal Trade inc: Holland. Belgium. France from River Elbe to Brest.

F.P. S4 = France south of Brest. Portugal. Spain outside straits of Gibraltar.  
Azores.

Served as Master of the SALADIN (Official No.) 46,818, 1864-5 M. F.P.S as above.

Served as Master of the AMITY (Official No.) 46,883 1865-8

F.P.S. = as above

S.A5 = Brazils River Plate

W.16 = West Indies. Vera Cruz. Belize. Caribbean Sea.

N.A7 = North America. British Territories. Greenland. Iceland

A8 = Africa. West Coast. Canaries. Cape de Verde

The next two captains mentioned were brothers - William George and Robert Ralph Witheridge, of the South Milton and Thurleston family, sons of William Witheridge and Mary Ralph.

WITHERIDGE, ROBERT (Born) Devonshire (*he was born in 1835*) C. 17,234  
Plymouth 1862

Served as Master of the CYNOSURE (Official No.) 5,408 1862-3

M. = Mediterranean

W.I.= West Indies

Served as Master of the SOUVENIR (Official No) 5,365 1863-4

M. = Mediterranean

Served as Master of the SUSAN ELIZABETH (Official No.) 20,174 1864-5

M. = Mediterranean

F.P.S. = France, Portugal, Spain, etc.,

B. = Brazils, etc.,

Ct. = Coastal trade

Served as Mate of the MARGARET HAIN (Official No.) 62,863 1866-7

A. = Africa etc.,

M.= Mediterranean

Served as Mate of the QUEEN OF THE FLEET (Official No.) 18, 754 1867-8

W.I. = West Indies

S.A. = South America

Served as Master of the CUBAN (Official No.) 50, 599 1867-8

W.I. = West Indies

S.A. = South America

---

WITHERIDGE, WILLIAM GEO. (Born) Devonshire 1829 C.11332

Plymouth 1858

Served as Mate of the AGATHA (Official No.) 6.507 1858-9

M. = Mediterranean

N.A. = North America

Served as Master of the AGATHA (Official No.) 6,507 1859-64

N.A. = North America

A. = Africa

M. = Mediterranean

F.P.S. = France, Portugal, Spain etc.,

Served as Master of the FIRST FRUIT (Official No.) 15,810 1864

N.A. = North America

Served as Master of the PRIDE OF THE ISLES (Official No.) 18,751 1866-8

M. = Mediterranean

N.A. = North America

I will write to Lloyds for more data on these captains, but meanwhile our member Gina Couch, who is descended from Catherine Witheridge, a sister of William and



Robert Ralph, has sent me more detailed information concerning William's ships. Gina, who lives in Cheshire, has been corresponding with a Malcolm D. Darch of Salcombe, and this has produced data concerning the origins and ownership of some of the vessels commanded by William Witheridge.

In the article "Home Port" in the magazine Vol. 11. No. 4 - Winter 1997. Philip Witheridge reproduced the ship's log of the vessel "Loveday" - Master - William Witheridge. Now we know more about the "Loveday" - thanks to Gina.

"Loveday" was a sloop of 41 tons. She was built in France in 1800 and captured by the Salcombe privateers. This was during the Napoleonic wars. It was allocated to the Salcombe owners as a war prize on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1808 and was later sold to the Plymouth traders - 18<sup>th</sup> September 1846.

Next as we see above, William was Master of the "Agatha" , a Salcombe owned fruit schooner which was built at Kingsbridge in 1848. It is stated that there is a painting of this vessel held at the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge. The cargo that she carried was exotic and citrus fresh and dried fruits, racing them home before they perished.

William's next vessel was the "First Fruit", again a schooner built by Cox at Bridport in Dorset. She was 98 tons, and built in 1854. William was her Master in 1864.

Next William was in the "Pride of the Isles", again built by Cox at Bridport. She was a Newfoundland trader, schooner rigged and with a yellow metal sheathed hull, at 126 tons.

His next command was the "Queen of the Fleet", a brig rigged vessel built by Cox in 1866, launched in June of that year as a deep water trader at 265 tons.

Lastly records show that William commanded the "Fairy", a barque rigged vessel at 482 tons built in 1866 at Southwick, Sunderland. The vessel had been used in the China trade, and certainly William took her to South Africa.

What a history!

My thanks go to Gina Couch of Cheshire who supplied this later and more detailed information. Gina asks members who may be related in any way to contact her.

## BY THE WAY..... THE HOUSE WHERE I LIVE...

by Bob Thomas

I think I am the only member of our Society who lives in the Isle of Man, a place few people know much about unless they are interested in motor cycle racing.

In fact it is a place of great interest, particularly in respect of seafaring, with which so many of our own forebears are associated.

Now this house, Milntown, in Ramsey, in the north of the Island, is of great historic interest also. It is said to have its origin somewhere around 1150, when Viking invaders by the name of **McCristen**, found their way up the Sulby River to this point, and settled. In time the name became shortened to '**Christian**', and the family, very prolific, soon became the virtual rulers of the Island.

The Island already had a well developed forerunner of modern Parliament, called "Tynwald", of which the current Members of Parliament were and are called "M.H.Ks" - Members of the House of Keys. Many of the Christian family became M.H.Ks, and/or Deemsters - Chief Judicial Officers.

To avoid too long a story, I will jump a few centuries to the fourteenth documented head of the Christians of Milntown - one John (1688-1745) who had five sons, the fifth being Charles, and Charles' fifth son was named '**Fletcher**' - his mother's maiden name, and in 1786 young Midshipman **Fletcher Christian** was, at the recommendation of a relative, Captain Taubman, taken on in the crew of the merchant ship Britannia, under the command of one **Captain Bligh**. The Britannia made two voyages to the West Indies, during which Bligh and Christian became firm friends.

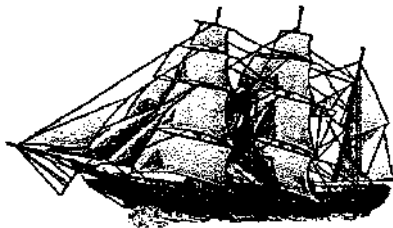
In 1787 the English Government decided to transport breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies, for which they bought a two year old coastal trading ship called the "Bethia" , which after re-fitting was renamed "**Bounty**". It was quite a small ship, only 91 feet in length and 24 feet in width - and had to accommodate forty five people! It was really quite inadequate for the job, so it is hardly surprising that there was friction resulting in the famous Mutiny! It is known that from time to time **Fletcher** had visited his uncle at Milntown, but after the mutiny even his name was taboo, and **John Christian** felt the disgrace and changed his name to **Christian Curwen**.

Around the year 1750 - the exact date is not known - a young Manx lad was press-ganged into the English Navy. His name was **John Quilliam**. The life obviously suited him, for he quickly worked his way up to commissioned rank, quite an achievement in those days, and by 1757 he was Acting Lieutenant. At the battle of Copenhagen he was in the "Amazon" - the frigate in which Nelson had the day previously made his reconnaissance of the Channels. In the battle **Quilliam** was thrust into command when all his superiors were killed, and his coolness and efficiency ensured that he was promoted and later transferred to Nelson's ship, and by Trafalgar had become Nelson's "No. 1".

Two other Manx men were in the crew of Victory, **John Cowle** and **John Lace**, both from Bride, a little village just north of Milntown. In the battle of Trafalgar, when Victory's wheel was destroyed, it was **Quilliam** who rigged tackle to operate the tiller below the deck, and steered the ship by shouted commands from above.

When **Quilliam** retired in 1815 he came to live back on the Island at Castletown in the south - he was elected to the House of Keys, married a local lady, and took a very active part in the running of the Island. He was also involved in the design of a new type of fishing boat, which was built at the shipyard in Ramsey, which at that time was probably in part of the Milntown estate, so it is reasonable to suppose that he also was a visitor to this house.

Ramsey shipyard at this time built a number of quite large ships, both of wood and of iron, one of which, the "Euterpe" built of iron, and launched in 1863, is preserved in San Diego, and still sailed on occasion. She is 202 feet long, of 1246 tons, and sailed after restoration in 1976. She is now named "Star of India".



## EDWARD'S SPURS

by John Witheridge

If you re-read my article in the Witheridge Times, "Men, Ships and the Sea" - Volume 10, No. 3, Autumn 1996, page 9 onwards, you will understand that in order to achieve such rapid promotion, **Edward Witheridge**, Captain in the Commonwealth Navy, must have taken part in some outstanding event or succeeded in some extra-ordinary deed to have warranted his meteoric rise in status.

Well... towards the spring of 1652 the Admiral/General Blake, who had a short time before been defeated by the Dutch in a battle off Dungeness, asked the Admiralty to accept his resignation. *#{Blake to C.o.S. 1<sup>st</sup> December}*. This was, of course, not accepted. Luckily, our Edward had not taken part in this battle, as many good officers and even more good men were lost under very trying circumstances. Many ships remained outside the field or range of fire from the Dutch ships of the line.

The British lost two good ships. Both were hired merchantmen, the "Garland" captained by Robert Batten, and the "Bonadventure" commanded by Captain Hoxton. Both were lost in the throes of boarding the "Brederode", Admiral Tromp's flag ship, but each ship giving a good show of the British fighting spirit *#{G. Penn i. 458 Blake to C.o.S. December 1<sup>st</sup>}*. They did take one prize in the later stages of the battle - "The Mary" - later known as "The Mary Prize". You will know, also, that in the year 1653 Edward vacated this ship "The Mary" to take command of the Middleborough. In that interim, 1652/3, Edward won his spurs.

In these same years as a result of Blake's demands, thirty new frigates were built and launched. Many Commanders were removed from their ships in disgrace, many confined to the Tower of London, the most notable being Saltonstall, Taylor, Young, Brown and Chapman. There was one very harsh new order:- crews were to be kept aboard their ship at all times when not at station.

In truth until this time Edward was just a sea captain with no special standing, except that of being John Witheridge's younger brother.

To counteract the Dutch domination of the Channel all available ships of the line had been recalled to home ports and stations, but Edward found himself in the company once again of the Straits Fleet, patrolling the Mediterranean.

It was here that Edward found himself blockaded in a neutral port, whilst awaiting reinforcements in the shape of Captain Peacock and his fleet, this fleet in turn being

returned to Dover to assist there. So in the two ports of Leghorn and Elba sat the remnants of the proud Mediterranean fleet. Yes, - proud! They had just succeeded in recapturing the Phoenix, which had been captured from them by the Dutch some months before. Now the boot was on the other foot. It was the Dutch who were holding them in port, anticipating their need to vacate port, and waiting to pounce.

I hear you question "Why the need to vacate if it was a neutral port that they occupied?" Simple, it was this same port where they had attacked the Dutch to extract the Phoenix. Now the Grand Duke was demanding their removal, even to the setting of a date for this removal.

At LEGHORN with Captain Appleton in the Leopard, 50 gun, was the hired merchantman, The Bonadventure, (another vessel completely), the Samson, The Mary (prize), the Peregrine and the Levant Merchant.

At PORTO LONGONE (ELBA) with Richard Badiley in the Paragon, were the Phoenix, the Elizabeth, and Constant Warwick, plus two hired merchantmen sadly not named by the records *#(Cp.Penn letter to Cromwell G.Penn i466)* Both British squadrons blockaded by superior forces.

Van Galen's Dutch fleet was mainly deployed off LEGHORN whilst a squadron covered the ELBA roads. The British had conceived a plan some time before and it was now put into action. The plan was that Badiley at Elba would force his way out of port and make sail towards Leghorn. This he did and drove the Dutch squadron before him. It was intended that as soon as Badiley's sails were seen by Appleton at Leghorn, Appleton should weigh to meet him. If the wind was on shore, and in Badiley's favour, the Elba squadron was to keep to the windward until Appleton's force was about to engage. Appleton should then break through and join Badiley, but if the wind were to be off shore Appleton was to avoid the Dutch as long as it took Badiley to attack first.

When Badiley eventually presented himself, the wind was off shore. Val Galen made a feint as though to be attacking the Elba squadron. This move induced the addleheaded Appleton to make sail too soon. This showed that he had not understood the purport of his orders. He hastened in with no idea as to how he could withstand a prolonged sea battle until Badiley was able to support him. As soon as the Dutch saw his sails let fall they changed course to attack Appleton. Now all that was open to Appleton was to run before the wind and take the fight to the Dutch and hope that Badiley could make up on his windward tack.

The engagement was doomed from the onset. The Bonadventure received a shot in

her magazine and blew up. Either from this or from her cannons, a shot shattered Van Galen's leg. She then foundered.

The Mary, running to port, received much of this blast, damaging much of her upper structures. As the smoke and carnage ebbed, the Mary found herself close to Van Galen. Pulling hard to port she grappled and boarded the Admiral's ship, almost overwhelming her crew. The intervention of the Dutch Vice Admiral drove the English boarders back to the Mary.

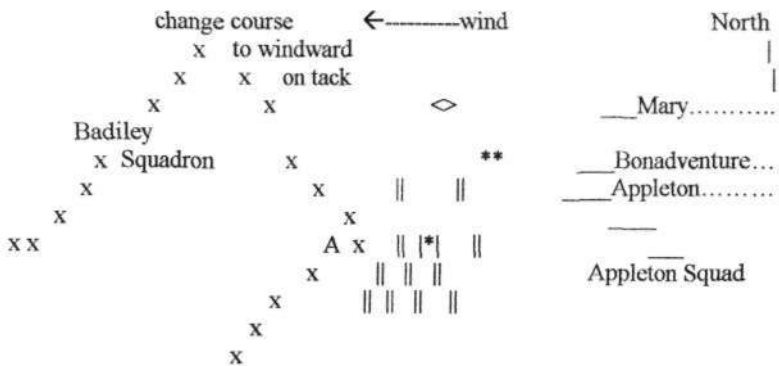
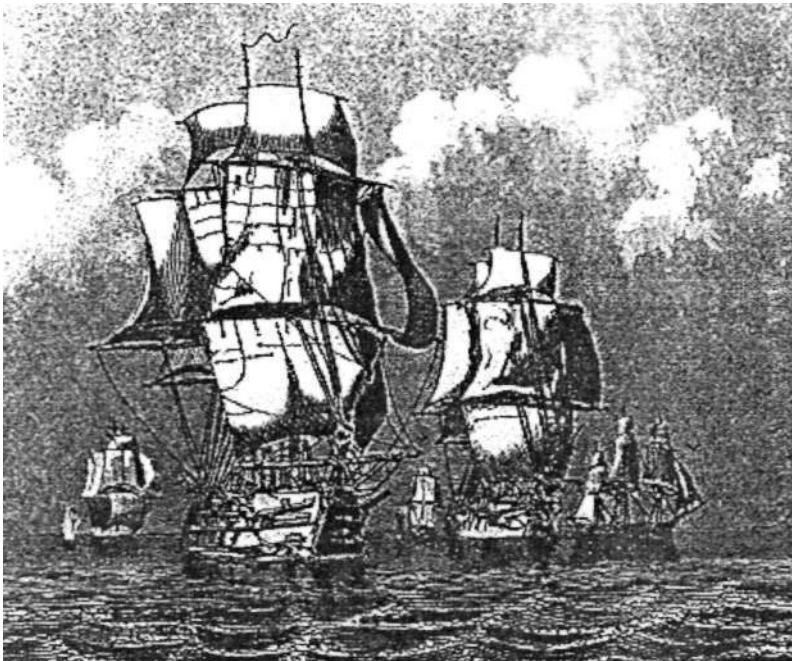
As she pulled away the Admiral and the Vice Admiral both broadsided her. Once again the smaller ship escaped the intended shot and returned a volley through both hulls. As the Mary made weigh forward she pulled starboard across the Admiral and broadsided her bowsprit, nosing her to meet Davy Jones. The Mary ran the gauntlet of the remaining fleet, trading shot for shot with each in turn until she sailed out into the open sea to join Badiley's squadron. Joining his battle line, they again attacked the Dutch fleet, inflicting much damage, but now without hope of rescuing the remaining English sail. They eventually changed course for Elba, Messina and then home, with nothing to be salvaged or saved.

This was how Edward met and became firm friends with Captain Richard Badiley. The friendship lasted to the end of their lives, enduring through many battles and actions. I can only assume that Edward was pleased to be rescued by Richard's squadron. Later the next year Edward was able to return the favour. He sailed into Santa Cruz to tow Richard's ship, the Plymouth, out of the harbour (under very heavy bombardment from the ramparts), later being made commander of this same ship.

Eventually, Richard gained promotion to Vice Admiral, many times passing promotion to Edward as a captain/commander who could be relied on and trusted.

At this time in history Edward's brother John was killed in the Bonadventure, 60 gun ship of the line. Edward's cousin Thomas Witheridge joined the fray to protect England's shores - sailing and commanding the Middleborough when Edward vacated its stateroom to command the Kentish.

God Bless Them All!



Back to Elba

A .. point where the Mary broke through

◇...point where Van Galen was sunk

\*\*.. point where Bonadventure blew up

|\*|....Van Galen

**NOTES FROM THE IGI RELEVANT TO THIS FAMILY OF  
CROMWELL'S CAPTAINS - ORIGINALLY FROM BARNSTAPLE**

Marriage

15 Oct. 1602 John Wytheridge married Judith Bryne at St. Bride's Fleet St.,  
London

Baptism

16 Sep. 1604 Wetheridge, John, of John Wetheridge at St Bride's Fleet St,

Baptism

7 Aug. 1640 Wotheridge, Thomas of Thomas and Mary, Stepney, St. Dunstan

Baptism

27 Jan 1656 Witheredge, Edward of Edward and Rachell, Stepney, St. Dunstan

9 Mar. 1659 Witheridge, John of Edward and Rachell, Stepney Bull Lane  
Independent

31,Mar, 1659 Witheridge, John of Edward and Rachell, Stepney, St, Dunstan  
*(The same child possibly re-baptised at St. Dunstan's which at the time was  
politically more acceptable than the Independent Bull Lane)*

Baptism

3 Apr, 1669 Witheridge, Thomas of Thomas Witheridge, Stepney, St. Dunstan

Baptism

11 Sep. 1670 Witheredge, Armonell, of Thomas Witheredge, Stepney, St. Dunstan

---



## FAMILY NEWS

News has reached us of the death, on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1999, of member Stanley Robert Witheridge of Queensland, Australia. 'Stan' as he was known, is buried next to his wife in Nerang, Queensland. He was 84.

This news came in a very interesting letter from his son, Michael Witheridge, who lives in the Philippines. Michael wrote that his father had died after a long battle with cancer - "He was a well loved man, and will be missed by all who knew him". Stan came from what we have come to call 'the Bideford family'. He was uncle to member Col. Anthony Witheridge, who died in December 1998. He is survived by his two sons, Michael and Christopher, a former member, and by two brothers, George and Harry. Stan was one of four talented boys born to George Henry Witheridge and his wife Sarah Amy Warren.

Michael is married to a Philippino lady, Maila, and they have two sons, Miguel and Morgan. In his letter Michael points out that our name is now known as far away as the Philippine Islands. Miguel and Morgan Witheridge have the right to come and live in Britain should they wish, and so one day we might have a closer acquaintance with this branch of the family.

We send our sympathy to those who mourn.



Our member Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge, of New South Wales, Australia, sends us happier news. Her son, Brad, was married on the 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2000. We send him and his bride our congratulations and good wishes.

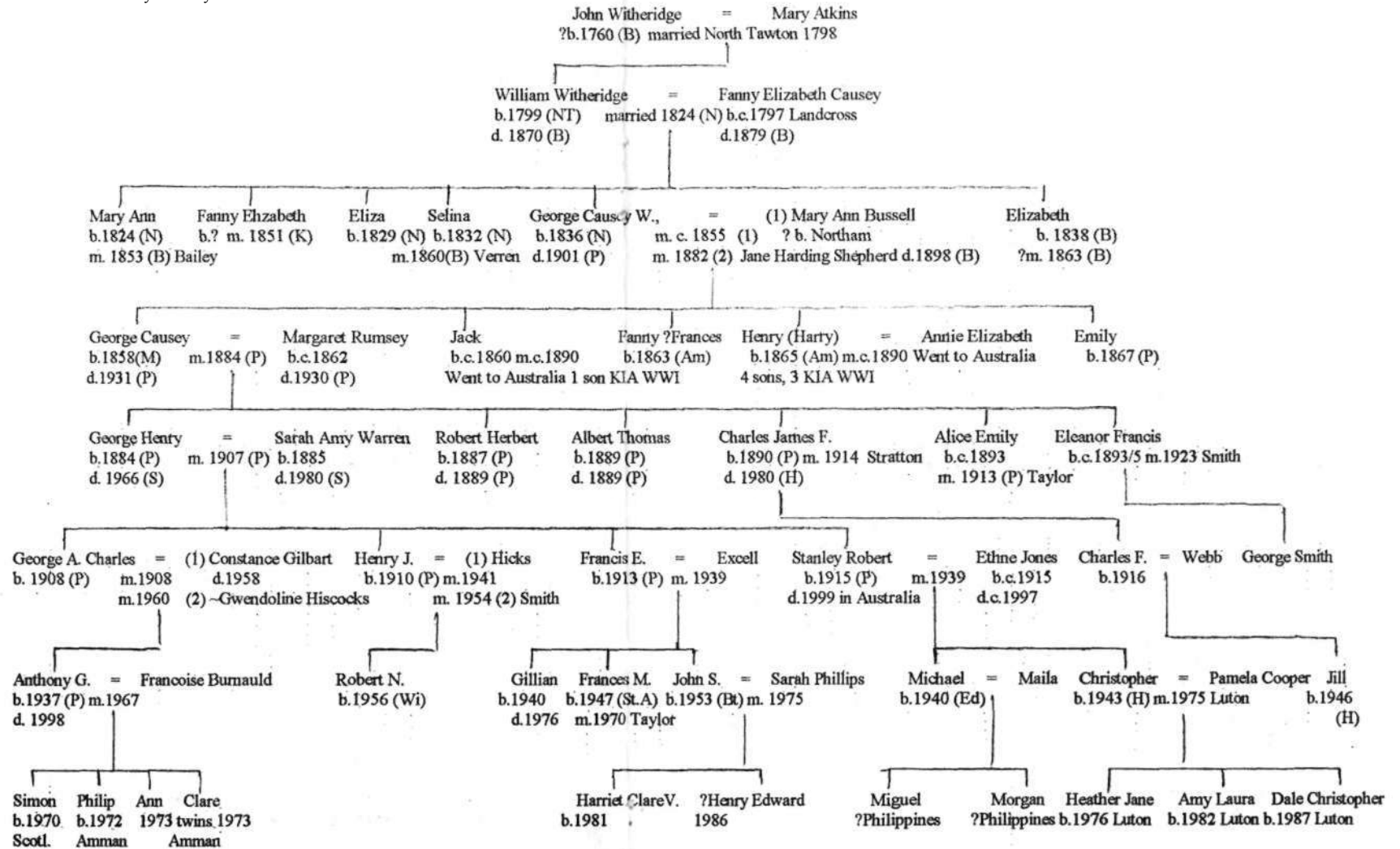
Dorothy, (Member No.84) also tells us of her change of address. She is now at:-  
2/66 Abuklea Road,  
Eastwood 2122  
Australia

There is also a change of address for another son of Dorothy's - Member No. 113, Mr. Anthony Witheridge is now at:-

3115 Sable Bend,  
San Antonio,  
TX78259  
USA

**BIDEFORD WITHERIDGE FAMILY TREE**

Section Revised May 2000 by J.R. Browne



(Am) = America (B) = Bideford (Bt) = Barnet (Ed) = Edmonton (H) = Hendon (K) = Kensington (M) = Marylebone (N) = Northam (NT) = North Tawton (P) = Pancras, London (S) = Surrey (W) = Westminster (Wi) = Windsor (St. A) = St. Albans  
 KIA = Killed in Action WW1 = World War I b. = born or baptised m. = married

Constructed according to data available May 2000

*(I like the sound of that address - it makes me think of Davy Crocket and the Alamo, and all the Westerns I've seen where the hero comes riding into 'San Antone' - Ed)*

Anthony also has an e-mail address:-

ajwt@e-mail.msn.com.

We have heard that Simon Witheridge, elder son of our former member the late Col. Anthony Witheridge and his wife, Francoise, has recently married Camilla, second daughter of Major and Mrs. Anthony Philippi of Gonvieux, France. Simon's younger brother, Philip, is shortly to marry Camilla's best friend the Hon. Bettina Vinson, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Vinson of Alnwick, Northumberland. We wish both couples every happiness.

### **FINDERS .....SEEKERS**

Some time ago Kathy Witheridge of Ontario sent me a list of names which she had found when she consulted the Ancestor Search Web Site of the LDS. At last I have been able to go through the names, and I find that most of them are known to us, but I have no record of the ones which follow. I type them as they appear on the list:-

Abijah WEATHEREDGE IGI/British Isles Gender M.  
Christening 12 Oct 1760 Eton, Buckingham, England

Absolon WITHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender M.  
Christening 1 Apr 1666 Langtree, Devon. *(Langtree is North Devon, near Great Torrington and Bideford)*

Adams WITHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender M.  
Christening 16 Jul 1749 South Huish, Devon

Anys WETHERIDGE IGI British Isles Gender F.  
Christening 17 Apr. 1554, Littleham by Bideford, Devon

Agnes WITHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender F.  
Birth 26 Jan 1560 Uffculme, Devon. *(As this is noted as a birth it is possible that we have noted it as a baptism in some other parish)*

Agnis WITHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender F.  
Christening 16 Sep 1570 Littleham by Bideford, Devon

Annes WETHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender F.  
Christening 27 Nov 1597 Gwinear, Cornwall

Agnys WYETHERIDGE IGI/British Isles Gender F.  
Marriage 23 Jan 1615 Dunchideock, Devon (*Nr. Exeter*)

James WETHERIDGE Ancestral File Gender M.  
Birth abt. 1580, Devon England

Jane WITHERIDGE Ancestral File Gender F.  
Birth 1671 Ilfracombe, Devon

I would be pleased to hear if anyone can connect these to a family (*Ed*)

~~~~~  
Sheila Jewell sent us the following notes which she found in the records of the  
Bideford Bible Christian Chapel:-

Baptism: 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1879 Maria - of Thomas and Elizabeth Witheridge  
do Alice " " " " "

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1882 George -of Thomas and Elizabeth Witheridge Bideford  
Porter  
~~~~~

Devon Record Office Deeds and Documents Vol 13 Carew and Martin Papers

"Thomas Witheridge of Rew gone into the Parish of Netherex 1668"  
~~~~~

### **FOUND!**

Found by John Witheridge - at least he says he saw it first! He found it in the  
Library at Eastbourne - one gold brooch - inscribed and signed Wirergig WIR-er IG!  
Dated Medieval times - he found it on page 80 of "The Oxford Illustrations of the  
Medieval Europe" with illustration on the opposite page.

## LEASE OF THE MANSION HOUSE, COMBEMARTIN

by Joyce Browne

I wish I could have seen the original of the lease between Rebecca Watson, Lady of the Manor of CombeMartin, and John Witheridge, Yeoman, of Berrynarbor. It always gives me a thrill of pleasure to hold a document signed and witnessed by an ancestor of long ago, but now that documents are 'fiched', photo-copied and computerised, such occasions are rare.

Sheila Jewell found this lease for us. It could not be photo-copied, but Sheila transcribed it.

Transcription of old documents is difficult, not least because there is hardly any punctuation, and in some documents abbreviations were used which are not standard today. There is some punctuation in this lease of 1773, and the words are more or less familiar. We know 'messenger' - a dwelling house with outbuildings, and 'courtlage' (we usually see it written as 'curtilage') - an area attached to a dwelling house. 'Standols' is less familiar, and is not in any dictionary I have, but in the context of the lease could refer to a tree in the intermediate stage of growth.

What is not usual, in the lease of a dwelling house, is to have a clause allowing the landlord, or landlady, to enter for the purpose of mining and carrying away all 'Tin, Copper or Lead and all other Metal and Mineral'. Ordnance survey maps show silver and lead mines on the north side of the highway, where the Mansion House stood, near the site of the old Manor House, and obviously Rebecca Watson, Lady of the Manor was not going to lose a chance to take a profit.

Imagine how Mary Witheridge might feel at the sight of a gang of miners going through her orchard to do 'anything that shall be requisite and necessary for the working (of) any mines on the said premises'!

The John Witheridge who signed the lease probably had a very good idea that no such procedure would be necessary, although the silver and lead mines of CombeMartin were not finally abandoned until about 1875.

John Witheridge came of a prosperous family. He was born in Berrynarbor in 1715/16, the son of John Witheridge and Jennet Lewis, and had land known as 'Hodges' passed to him from his father. His status is described as 'Yeoman', and it

would appear that as Mansion House was a dwelling with gardens and orchards and not a farm, he would be making his living elsewhere.

He was still in possession of 'Hodges' when he died in 1792, and it passed to his wife Mary, as did the subject of the lease - Mansion House.

One of the three 'lives' mentioned - William Witheridge, did not outlive his father for very long. He was buried at CombeMartin in 1792. His brother Thomas lived until 1819, and so it was possible for him to have inherited Mansion House.

The term of the lease was for 99 years, and so it is possible for it to have been in the Witheridge family until 1872, unless the lease had been given up, or the house demolished.

Perhaps someone who knows the CombeMartin history better than I do will tell us?

#### **Lease 787/m/L48**

**JOHN WITHERIDGE**

And **Mrs. Rebecca Watson.**

**The Mansion House, CombeMartin 1<sup>st</sup> March 1773** Counter Party Lease

For 99 years £90.00

Lives: **Wm. Witheridge** aged 16 years

**Thos. Witheridge** aged 21

**Mary Witheridge** aged 50

Sons and wife of Lessee

??ffantion

Rent 0.5.0.

1.0.0.

Between **Rebecca Watson**, Lady of the Manor of CombeMartin and **John**

**Witheridge** of Berrynarbor, Yeoman.

In consideration of £90.0.0. of lawfull money in (withn.) £45 paid unto the said

**Rebecca Watson** paid by the said **John Witheridge** the receipt whereof is hereby

acknowledged and £45 residue thereof agreed to be paid by the said **John Witheridge** his executors or administrators unto the said **Rebecca Watson** on the 29<sup>th</sup> September next ensuing thereof. The said **Rebecca Watson** has granted demised and leased and by those present doth grant lease unto **John Witheridge** his heirs and administrators all that messuage and dwelling house called or commonly known by the name of **Mansion House** together with the Outhouses, Courtlage, Backsides, Great Orchard and garden thereunto belonging with the appurtenances. Lying and being on the northside of the King's highway thro the down of CombeMartin and now in the possession of **John Hartnell** tenant thereof except and always reserved unto the said **Rebecca Watson** her heirs and assigns, all timber, Trees, Standols and young saplings of Oak, Ash, Elm and Beech and all other trees likely to become Timber now growing or hereafter to grow in or upon the said premises also at her own will and pleasure except all mines of Tin, Copper or Lead and all other Metal and Mineral and do any other thing that shall be requisite and necessary for the working (of) any mines on the said premises and for carrying off the minerals and metal those found at her and their will and pleasure during the term granted to have and to hold the said Premises with the appurtenances except before excepted unto the said **John Witheridge** his executors administrators and assigns from the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March next for 99 years.

If **Wm. Witheridge** aged about 16

**Thomas Witheridge** about 21 years and **Mary Witheridge** aged about 54 years the sons and wife of **John Witheridge** or any or either of them should happen to live Yielding and paying therefore yearly and every year during the said term unto the said **Rebecca Watson** her heirs and assigns the Rent of 5 shillings of lawfull money by 4 quarter payment on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June and the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March by even and equal payments.

Also yielding and paying upon or after the death of them.

Signed **JOHN WITHERIDGE**



## RESEARCH ON RECORDS PRE 1600

by John Witheridge

*(With notes by Joyce Browne)*

### Patent Rolls 36 Henry VIII xx m 53

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1545 Westminster

Grant in fee to John Haydon of Ottery St. Mary County of Devon and Thomas Gibbes. For £899. 23d. of rents of 31s. 8d. and services from lands in the city and suburbs of EXETER. And all the Messuages in the tenure of- all formerly the possessions of the priory of St. Nicholas in EXETER.

NO WTTHERIDGES

Those in the possession formerly of the Priory of Pollesto:

NO WTTHERIDGES

Those formerly in the possession of Monastery at Dunkwell:

NO WITHERIDGES

Those formerly in the possession of Forde:

NO WITHERIDGES

Those formerly in the possession of the monastery at NEWNEHAM:

Tenant: ROBERT WETHERYGE

Newneham (now Newnham) is a Manor in the parish of Plympton St. Mary, near to Plymouth.

Who would imagine that the life of one of our ancestors could be affected by the love affair of a King?



**Robert Wetheryge**, living at **Newneham** in South Devon, certainly felt the impact of Henry VIII's desire to divorce his wife, Catherine of Aragon, and marry Anne Boleyn. (This was before Henry fell into the habit of beheading his wives)

In 1527 Henry petitioned the Pope, Clement VI, for a divorce or an annulment, but Catherine appealed against it. On religious grounds, the Pope might have found a loophole to grant it, but Catherine's nephew, the powerful Charles V of Spain, put pressure on the Pope to refuse. The Pope needed the support of Charles to fight battles of his own.

For six years the legal battle raged on, and might have had little impact on people such as Robert Wetheryge, but their lives were regulated by the Church, and the nobles and lords of the Manor to whom they owed allegiance. The Church punished those who did not side with it against Henry, and Henry punished those who did not side with him. Lives were lost and estates were lost, with consequences for those living in the shadow of prominent men.

In 1533 Henry lost patience with the Pope, and found a compliant Archbishop, Cranmer, who declared that English Courts were competent to hear Henry's case, and in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, not five miles from where I write, the King obtained his annulment.

Henry now had the bit between his teeth! He decided that he had no further need of the Pope, an Act of Supremacy was passed, and the King was declared Head of the Church in England.

The Church owned vast areas of land. Many of its monasteries were rich and powerful. They were responsible for education, the treatment of the sick, leper hospitals, providing accommodation for travellers, and the distribution of food and clothes to the poor. They also collected large amounts of money in rents, which were often sent abroad, back to their mother houses in France and Italy.

Henry had a brilliant idea. Aided and abetted by his close adviser Thomas Cromwell (not to be confused with Oliver), he disbanded and closed the monasteries, and pensioned off the monks. Treasures were sold, income was diverted to Henry's coffers, and the buildings were either sold or left to decay, or be looted for building purposes by the local populace.

This affected everyone in the land, particularly those, who like Robert Wetheryge, were tenants of a monastic house.

Of course, Henry gave this a semblance of legality, and we know from John's research that, in April 1545, Robert's holding was legally transferred from the monastery at Newneham to John Haydon and Thomas Gibbes.

Was Robert secure in his tenancy or did these events force him to move?

We have no other records of **Robert** at **Newneham**, but we do have a record for the 1580s of a **Lion Witheridge** paying rent for Strode Manor Farm at nearby **Ermington**. This is the first record of a Witheridge at Ermington, and it is of significance because Lion was a tenant of the Strode family, who had originated at **Ermington**, and moved to **Newneham** in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Could it be that Robert left Newneham for Ermington, under the patronage of the Strode family who owned land in both places?

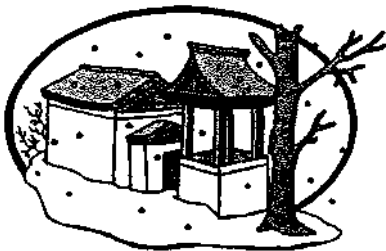
There are many ifs and buts, but John's research may take us back a generation or two and help us find the origins of the Ermington family.



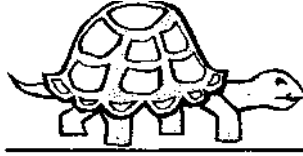
Would you too like to live in a desirable residence in Devonshire? How about this one - advertised in *The Torquay Herald Express*:-

"A spacious apartment, being part of a Victorian villa.

The bathroom stands in communal gardens, with parking space."



## THE EDITOR AND THE INTERNET



This was me -  
And this is what I hoped to become -



an Internet tiger ready to frolic with the best of them.

I knew that my computer was not able to facilitate this change - it needed a modem and a memory up-grade, and so, at some cost, I had this done.

Full of pleasurable expectation, I switched on the computer, put in a CD and tried to get myself on to the wonderful world web. Nothing happened.

Friends tried to help me, but nothing happened for them either. "Complain to the engineer" they said, I did, and he came to see what was wrong with the new modem. Nothing was wrong with the modem, he said, but he could not connect me with an Internet Service Provider, and he left - baffled!

Another computer expert came, cups of tea and coffee flowed, but he too left - equally baffled.

Friend Harry volunteered to help. He said he was determined to get me on the 'net' - a matter of personal honour! He telephoned several 'Help' lines, which were no help at all, but at last one man seemed to have a better grasp of the problem and said "It is nothing to do with the modem, there is another defect in your computer which prevents a connection".

So here was another problem - try to have the defect on the old computer investigated and put right, or splash out on a new more powerful monster?

Mortgaging birthday and Christmas presents for years to come, I decided on the latter, and in a surprisingly short space of time, there I was, all a quiver with anticipation, trying once more to become a citizen of the new world.

Friend Harry came again, pleased to have a go on this new computer, but for all the joy we had, we might as well have been using the old one. "The modem is not ringing out properly" said Harry "Send for the engineer".

I did, and a gentleman of foreign extraction appeared and said that there was nothing wrong with the modem, the fault was in the telephone connection, and had been all the time! He installed a different 'phone connection and began his tests on the computer. "Ah", he said "now the modem has gone wrong, and I shall have to install a new one" (Computer all of one week old)

This done, he professed himself satisfied that I could get on to the Internet on the instant, and with no pre-amble, began what I thought was an extra-ordinary conversation.

"This is a nice neighbourhood" he said, "What price do you think you would get for this house?" "I wasn't thinking of moving" I replied. "Ah" he said with a gleam in his eye- 'Ah' seemed to be his favourite word -" but you might have a bigger room for your computer, and I think you'd get a good price for this house".

"I might" said I, " if it weren't for the murder"

"Has there been a murder?"

"Not yet", I said, with what I hoped was a smile. I offered coffee, but he left abruptly, without connecting me to the internet.

At the first opportunity friend Harry returned, confident that within the hour he would have me posting e-mail. At first this seemed likely, but then we met the same old difficulty. I was trying to register with BT, having received their promotional CD, and when this effort failed, again resorted to the help line. I think the girl was trying to be helpful, although she did seem a trifle embarrassed. "I am sorry we cannot connect you, but that service is not yet in operation in your area. Where did you get the CD?" "Through the post" I said, mailed by you!"

"We can put you on a waiting list", and with that she rang off.

By this time, the blood was beginning to simmer, and it reached boiling point at the next attempt to connect with a Freeserve provider who asked me what my income was - £10, 000 - £20,000???

I flipped - "Enough is enough" I cried, "Out - damned dot com."

You have heard that 'Hell hath no fury like woman scorned' - I can tell you that Hell can't even imagine the fury of a woman scorned by a computer!



In view of the unseasonal weather, (the midlands of Britain have just experienced an earthquake!!) here is a recipe for pot pourri instead of Christmas Pudding!

Tiny pink rose buds

2oz. Orris root powder

2 drops damask rose oil

2 drops rose geranium oil

2 drops lemon verbena oil

Place all the flowers in a large bowl, add the orris root powder, mix together gently, cover and leave for two days turning a couple of times.

Add the oils in turn, mixing well.

Place in a large waxed bag and seal.

The pot pourri should be left for two days to mellow.



## **SMALLPOX - AN APPEAL FROM PROFESSOR R. A. SHOOTER**

Our Secretary, John Witheridge, has received the following letter from Professor R.A. Shooter, a member of the Jenner Education Trust:-

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2000

"Dear Mr. Witheridge,

I am writing to you to ask for your help. As a member of the Jenner Educational Trust I am searching for things related to smallpox - a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease eradicated by deliberate action so far.

The Jenner Trust is based on Jenner's house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, where he carried out his first vaccination against smallpox. I would like to think that future visitors to the Jenner Museum will be able to learn about smallpox and how it was eradicated, and perhaps take something away that helps in the eradication of another disease.

In the past families of some of your members may have been victims of smallpox. I would be most grateful if you could spare the time to put a note in your Newsletter asking any of your members with references to smallpox or vaccinations to send them to me. For many Societies this has provided valuable material. In case you come this way I enclose a leaflet about the Jenner Museum - now open for the summer."

Yours sincerely, R.A. SHOOTER

*Perhaps some of our overseas members have information on this subject - the address to write to is:-*

Professor R.A. Shooter,  
Eastlea, Back Edge Lane,  
The Edge, Nr. Stroud,  
Glos. GL6 6PE

*Dr. Edward Jenner was the discoverer of vaccination and an 18<sup>th</sup> century scientist and naturalist. For information on the museum in his house, with details of opening times etc., write to:-*

The Custodian, The Jenner Museum,  
High Street,  
BERKELY, Glos. GL13 9BH

Telephone: Dursley (0453) 810631

## **FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**

The Federation of Family History Societies has sent us a Newsflash, giving changes in their addresses for correspondence, and asking us to ensure that all future correspondence is sent to the correct destination.

Federation of Family History Societies,  
PO Box 8684  
Shirley,  
Solihull,  
B90 4JU

Phone/fax 07041 492032  
e-mail [admin@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:admin@ffhs.org.uk).

Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd.,  
Units 15/16 Chesham Industrial Centre,  
Oram Street,  
Bury,  
Lancashire, BL9 6EN  
Phone 0161 797 3843  
Fax 0161 797 3846  
Email [sales@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:sales@ffhs.org.uk).

e-mail address for general enquiries is [info@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:info@ffhs.org.uk).

Most information about the FFHS is on the website at [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

E-mail addresses of most FFHS staff and Executive Committee members are on a web page at [www.hawgood.co.uk/ffhs.htm](http://www.hawgood.co.uk/ffhs.htm)

The Registered Office of the Federation of Family History Societies is still at:-

The Benson Room,  
Birmingham and Midland Institute,  
Margaret Street,  
Birmingham B3 3BS

Company No. 2930189 (England) Registered Charity No. 1038721

## JUST WILLIAM - BUT JUST WHICH ONE?

by Joyce Browne

For years I have known the Berrynarbor/CombeMartin family tree to be well researched and documented, and due to the efforts of others, felt reasonably confident that I knew who was who on that one. Now I find that my knowledge falls short, and in case I am not the only one who has been under a misapprehension, I write this comment!

My confusion is all to do with a '**William**'. It began with the story, in our last issue, of the South African family descended from **Mary How Witheridge**, who married **William Gubb**. Mary was descended from **Thomas Witheridge**, baptised 1650, and **Mary Sherman**. **Thomas** and **Mary**, via their sons **John** and **William**, were also the ancestors of our American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and some British families.

Or so I thought, and so did Kim Cook when she wrote her articles "The CombeMartin and Berrynarbor Family" for the magazine of Summer 1988, and so did John Witheridge when he wrote "CombeMartin Neighbours" for the magazine of Summer 1994. They thought this because of the documented evidence of a baptism in Berrynarbor in 1690, of a son '**William**', born to **Thomas Witheridge** and **Mary Sherman**. Then later, in 1723, there was the record of a marriage of **William Witheridge** to a **Rebecca Ley** - so we have believable ages for marriage, right location, subsequent record of the birth of children - and there we were - new family lines established!

I was unaware that there was another **William** lurking in the registers, and he came into my view only through my correspondence with David Witheridge, our Vice President, concerning the Thomas Witheridge Gubb story.

This **William** was born in 1698 in CombeMartin to **Nicholas Witheridge**, born 1663 and his wife, **Prudence**. **Nicholas** and the **Thomas** who married **Mary Sherman** were cousins, both descended from **John Witheridge**, baptised 1585/6 and **Jane Norman**.

Why had we not known of **William** born 1698, and the likelihood that he was the **William** who married **Rebecca Ley**? David tells me that new information came to light through a relative of his, Michael Beaumont, a local and family historian, who on consulting the parish registers which had been deposited in the record office, discovered entries of Witheridge names which had not previously been transcribed.



Parish Register Entries

CombeMartin bap. June 29 1693

**Henry Witheridge** son of **Nicholas** and **Prudence**

CombeMartin bap. Feb 26 1698

**William Witheridge**, son of **Nicholas** and **Prudence**

**Henry Witheridge** married **Susanna Ley** in CombeMartin in 1715 and

**William Witheridge** married **Rebecca Ley** in CombeMartin in 1723

In the light of his researches and all the other information he has, David is convinced that we now have the right **William** in the correct place on the family tree.

What did happen to the **William** born to **Thomas Witheridge** and **Mary Sherman**? Nothing more is known from the records we have - he just disappears.

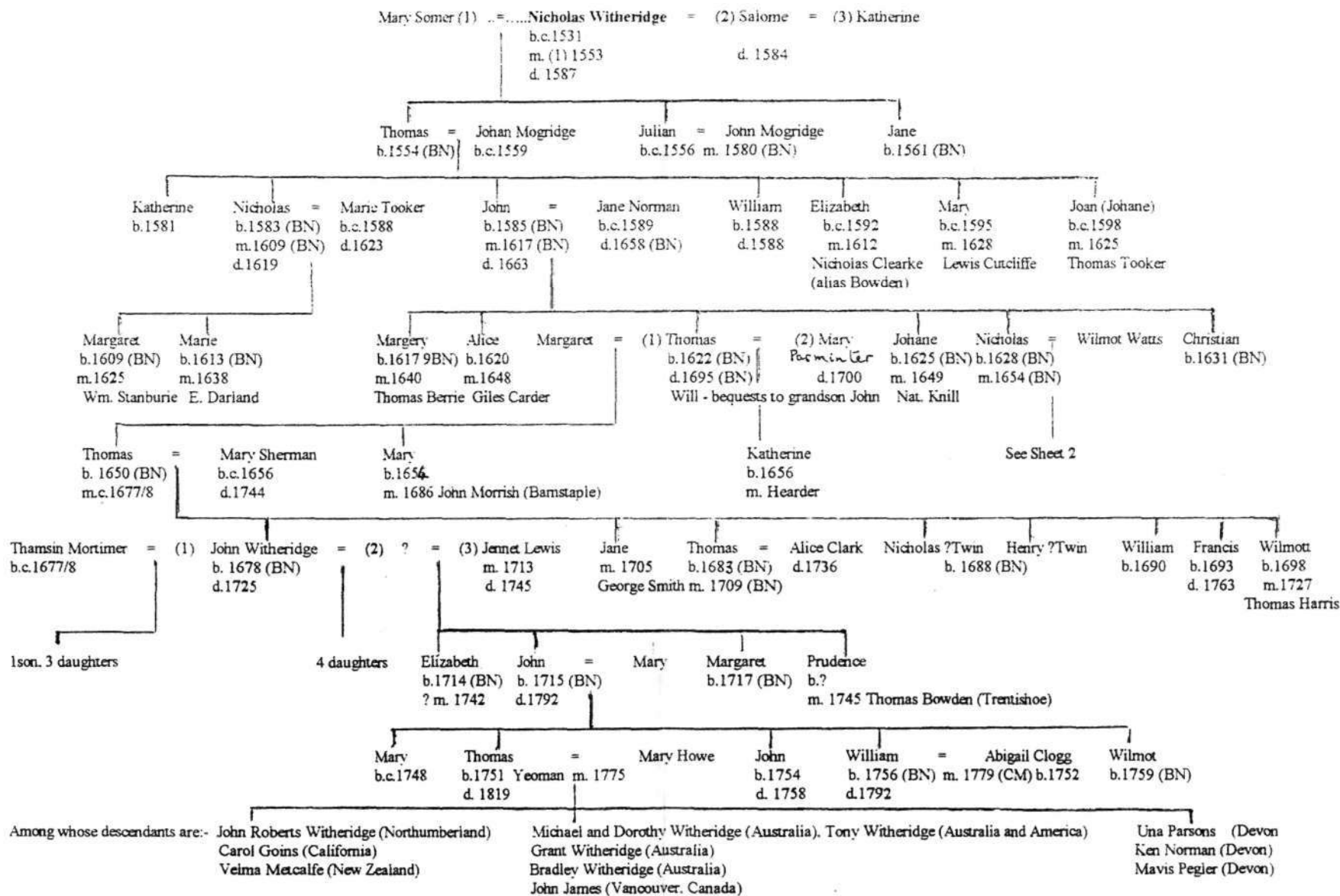
David cautions us by saying "Records this old are inadequate because of meagre information in the early parish registers, gaps in the parish registers, the destruction of Devonshire Wills in 1942, and the lack of censuses before 1841. Corrections are certain to be made as new information turns up".

Let us hope that some new information will tell us what happened to the **William** who didn't marry Rebecca Ley, and if you trace your family back to **Thomas Witheridge** and **Mary Sherman**, you may be interested to look at the two sections of Berynarbor/CombeMartin trees published in this issue.



SECTION OF THE BERRYARBOR AND COMBEMARTIN FAMILY TREE

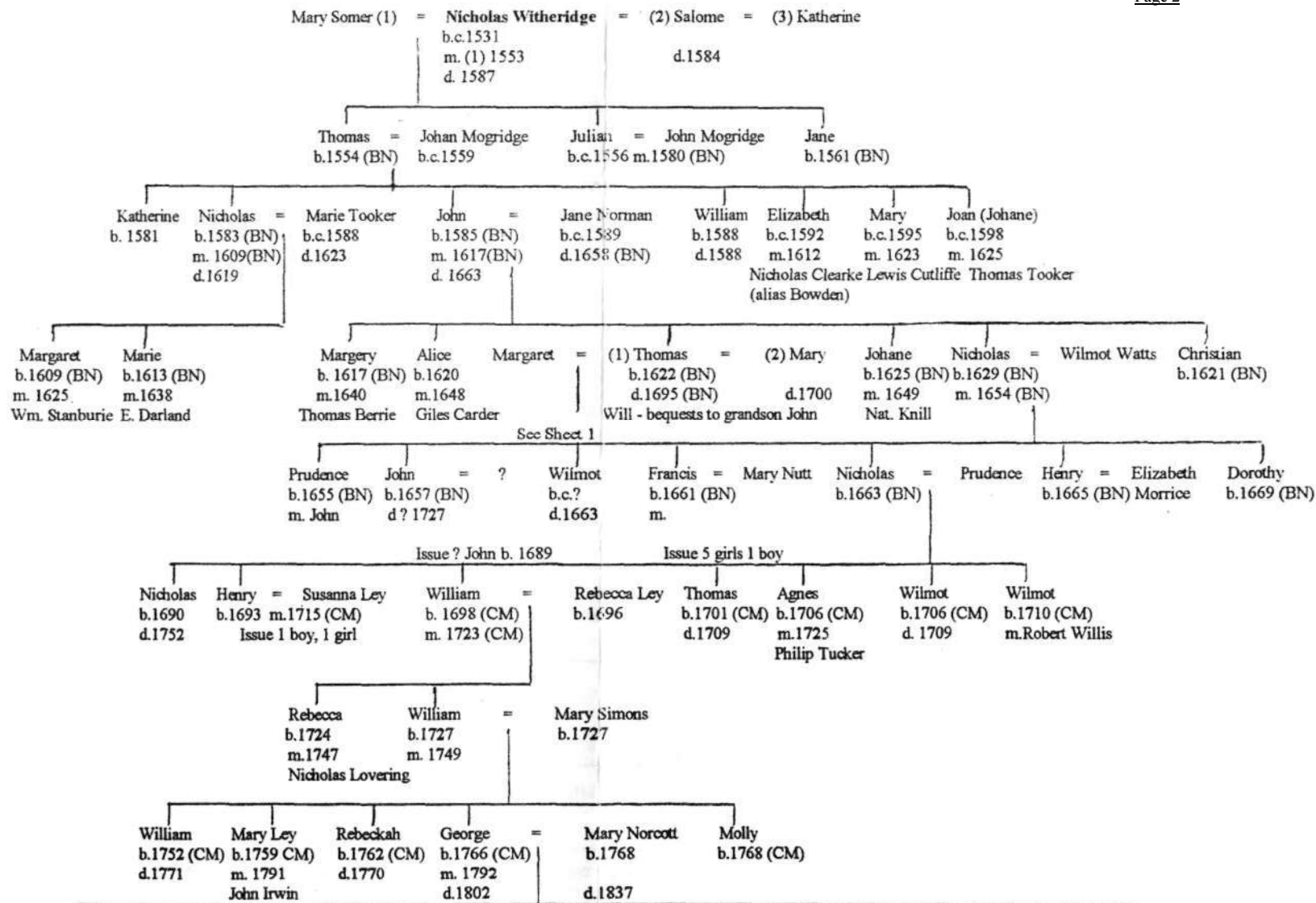
Compiled from Parish Register Transcripts, notes and information supplied by David E. Witheridge, May 2000



J.R.B.  
 June 2000

SECTION OF THE BERRYNARBOR AND COMBEMARTIN FAMILY TREE

Compiled from Parish Register Transcripts, notes and information supplied by David E. Witheridge, May 2000



Among whose descendants are:- David E. Witheridge, Jim Witheridge, Tom, Virginia and Rebecca Witheridge (Minnesota) Jean, Dennis and Michael Tomlinson and Patricia Johnson USA., Joyce Aldrich, Lansing Jill Rossiter, England

J.R.B.  
June 2000

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY - continued from front cover

|                                            |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Australia                   | Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge,<br>95, Vimiera Road, Eastwood,<br>N.S.W. Australia 2122 |
| Representative Canada<br>And North America | Mrs. K.M. Witheridge<br>343, Bright Street, Samia Ontario<br>Canada N7T465       |
| Representative New<br>Zealand              | Mrs. Velma Metcalfe,<br>49 Chester Road,<br>Tawa, Wellington,<br>New Zealand     |

### Committee Members:-

|                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Miss Annette Witheridge<br>28A 40 <sup>th</sup> Street,<br>New York NY10016<br>USA         | Mr. Mark Witheridge,<br>27, Shenley Fields Road,<br>Selly Oak,<br>Birmingham, Warw. B29 5AG                                            |
| Mrs. Joyce Stephenes,<br>95 Phelipps Road,<br>Corfe Mullen<br>Wimborne,<br>Dorset BH21 3NL | Mr. Jason Cook,<br>2 Rusthall Close,<br>Addiscombe,<br>Croydon,<br>Surrey CR0 7YH<br>(Responsibility for liaison on<br>Youth projects) |

### **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2001 ARE DUE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY!**

|                                         |        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| Subscriptions are:- Overseas Membership | £12.00 |
| UK Family Membership                    | 10.00  |
| UK Individual Membership                | 7.00   |
| Economy Membership                      | 5.00   |

Overseas members may pay for three years' membership in one payment  
Subscriptions should be sent to the Acting Membership Secretary:-

**Mr. Richard Witheridge**

Address on inside front cover

