

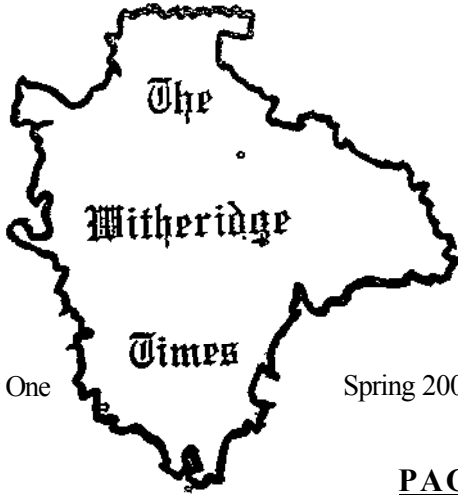


Vol.15 No. 1 Spring 2001

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Spring 2000

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EDITORIAL

For the first time in the year 2001, Greetings to all our members!

The year has come in, in this country at least, with miserable weather situations. We have had snow, followed by very low temperatures which did not allow the snow and ice to melt. This was followed by torrential rain which meant that some people who had already suffered floods in the Autumn were again flooded. Freezing fog added to the discomfort, and gardens are sodden with the continual dampness. If we lived in ancient times, it would be said that these are portents of doom and gloom, but as it is we look forward all the more to spring and summer.

Canada too, has had a bad winter, and Kathy Witheridge says that they are waiting for the summer, and also looking forward to the Witheridge Re-union which is to be held on 23rd June, 2001. Rooms are booked at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Bowmanville, Ontario. It is hoped to visit the Witheridge Farm in Bowmanville, and this should be an interesting and joyous occasion.

Anyone who would like to join the party should contact Kathy without delay at her postal address, which is on the inside back cover of the magazine, or e-mail at:

kathpaul@ebtech.net

The Society's Annual General Meeting and re-union weekend is to be held at the Abelands House Hotel, Merston, Chichester, West Sussex, and details of this are given on a separate leaflet included with this magazine. Do try to join us - it should be an entertaining week-end, and the AGM, needs your presence.

This edition has family news from near and far, and research reports from various quarters. Kim has begun an in depth report on places which bear the Witheridge name, but which do not appear, at first, to have a Witheridge connection, and I think that this will prove to be an ongoing feature - so, dear readers - read on!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce", followed by a horizontal line underneath.

FAMILY NEWS

Christmas and the New Year brought news from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. From New Zealand we heard of Velma and Rod Metcalfe, who are both well and leading busy lives.

A lovely newsy letter from Judith and Allan Witheridge of Figtree, New South Wales, brought us up to date with them and their family's activities. Allan has survived a gall bladder operation and (very strange reading for us in England) has survived a dramatic spider bite!. The children and grandchildren are doing well, and Judith manages to combine Pre-school work with all sorts of other activities, and serves on the Church Council.

We are sorry to hear that life has changed somewhat for Mavis Witheridge of Rockingham, West Australia. Because of deteriorating health Mavis had to leave her Unit in the grounds of Gracehaven to move into the Hostel where she can have more direct care, and she has to use a wheelchair to move any distance. Nevertheless her letters are full of appreciation for the care given by her family and doctors, and show a brave acceptance of her situation.

Mavis sends her love to all those whom she met whilst on her trip to Britain, and wishes to be remembered to them all.

Mavis reports the death of Hazel Witheridge, who was the widow of John Witheridge, youngest son of Polly and Alfred Witheridge of the Bradworthy/Tavistock family.

The Rev. David Witheridge of Minneapolis, USA., says that in spite of advancing years he is still very active, but has to do things more slowly, and other news from the Northern Hemisphere, namely Canada, gave us a picture of the comings and goings of Pat and John James of Burnaby, British Columbia. Pat and John travelled extensively in the year 2000, visiting Easter Island, cruising around South America, and managing to include a visit to Austria where they saw the Passion Play in Oberammergau. What a wonderful and varied itinerary!

John sent a verse which, although written for Christmas, can be appreciated at any time and which is reproduced below.

Also from Canada came news from Brenda and Bill Dwyne. This was a very cheerful letter, with news of their full life, and the doings of their family. Sadly this was followed by news of the death of Brenda's father, Ronald Gordon Clarke, on the 7th January, 2001.

Ronald Clarke married Sylvia Maud Witheridge, Brenda's mother, on the 23rd January, 1944, in Canada. Sylvia Maud was born in Cornwall, England, and her father was John Northmore Witheridge, (Ermington family). He was a Sergeant Major in the Devonshire Regiment who saw service in South Africa in the Boer War, in India on the Khyber Pass, and in various sectors in the 1914-18 War. After his travels he decided to emigrate to Canada, and settled there.

We are sorry that the New Year has begun on a sad note for Brenda and her family and we send our sympathy.



The tides flow out from the Inner Sea at Christmas
They find their way to many shores
With gifts of remembrance,
Thoughts of love.

Though the world be weary and days afraid
The heart renews its life,
And the mind takes hope from the tides
That flow from the Inner Sea

WITHERIDGE WEEKEND 2001

'Witheridge Day', which includes the Annual General Meeting, is to be held at Abelands House Hotel, Merston, near Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6DY, on Saturday, 5th May, 2001. Phone 01243 532675 Fax 01243 788884

It is hoped that visitors will take part in outings (car sharing) on Sunday, 6th May, and Monday 7th May.

Saturday, 5th May

- 10. 0 a.m. Reception and coffee in the Abelands House Hotel
- 11.0 a.m. Annual General Meeting
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch
- 2. 0. p.m. Informal Forum - Members' queries; Witheridge connections; family information share; Research in Scotland (Kim Cook); getting to know each other
- 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea
- 6. 30 p.m. Meet for evening meal

Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be provided. Cold lunch can be served to members and friends at a cost of £4.75 per person.

Three course evening meals for non-residents at the Hotel are offered at a cost of £13.50 per head. As Abelands House Hotel is a small family run establishment, advance booking would be appreciated.

The Hotel has seven bedrooms, all with en suite facilities, and offers a bar, lounge, and evening meals.

Sunday, 6th May

10. 0 a.m. Assemble for journey to Singleton (car sharing)
- 10.30 a.m. Arrive at Weald and Downland Museum
- 12.30 p.m. Meet at Lakeside for lunch
5. 00 p.m. Reassemble at car park for return to Merston
6. 30 p.m. Meet for evening meal

Visitors will be responsible for their admission fees to the Museum. The museum is a collection of regional historic buildings which have been rescued from destruction and carefully restored. They have been rebuilt in their original form in 50 acres of beautiful countryside. This is an opportunity to see how our ancestors lived and worked.

Location 6 miles north of Chichester, off A286 to Haslemere Road, in the village of Singleton.

Monday, 7th May

- 9.30 a.m. Assemble for outing - choice of: Chichester Cathedral; Boxgrove Priory; West Dean Gardens; Roman Fishbourne
- 1.00 p.m. Meet for lunch. Disperse after lunch

There is bed and breakfast accommodation in the area, including Abelands Barn, which has four rooms with en suite facilities, but no facilities for evening meals. Phone 01243 533826 Fax 01243 555533

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WITHERIDGE SOCIETY TO BE HELD AT THE
ABELANDS HOUSE HOTEL, MERSTON, NR.
CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX, ON SATURDAY, 5th MAY,
2001**

I hereby give notice of the above meeting and invite all members to attend. If it is not possible for you to attend, perhaps you will let me know if you would like to put forward the name of any member for election as an officer - having first obtained his/her consent. I remind you that, according to a proposal put forward and adopted at the last meeting, it is possible to vote or make a proposal by post or e-mail, provided that the request is with me one week before the meeting, but it will not be disclosed until the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Society at Tiverton on the 29th April, 2000
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Officers' Reports (as circulated prior to the meeting)

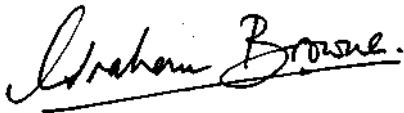
Chairman's Report
Secretary and Membership Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Research Co-ordinator's Report
5. Election of Officers*
6. Any other business (including arrangements for **the** meetings of the years 2002 and 2003)

* (5) Please give the matter of the election of Officers serious

thought, as the question of the appointment of a new Membership Secretary will arise, owing to the resignation of John Witheridge, who gave notice of his intent last year.

Also there must be consideration of the publication of the magazine as Philip Witheridge, our publisher and distributor, wishes to give up this post.

It would be appreciated if officers would send me their reports as soon as they have completed them in order that they may be printed and circulated prior to the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Browne." The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

GRAHAM BROWNE
Chairman

IN THE QUIET OF A DEVONSHIRE CHURCHYARD

Whitchurch, on the edge of the small town of Tavistock, and on the fringes of Dartmoor, is mainly a farming community in a beautiful moorland setting.

The 15th century Church is a successor to an even more ancient one, dating from the 11th century. The churchyard has memorials to several prosperous local families, the Moorings of Moortown, the Pengellys and a branch of the Courtenays.

Several Witheridge families lived and worked in the area and they lie in the peaceful churchyard. Sheila Jewell has sent us some inscriptions from their graves.

"In memory of William Witheridge and Ann his wife,
Died 11th February, 1828, age 70 years.
William died 20th July, 1838, age 79 years."

This was William, born 1759, son of Thomas Witheridge and Mary Mountjoy of the Ilfracombe/Bradworthy family. He was of the first generation of that family to leave Bradworthy and settle in the Tavistock area where he became an 'inn holder' and a yeoman farmer. He married Ann Moore in Tavistock in 1786, and they were the ancestors of London and Birmingham families and others.

On a marble and granite tombstone are the words:-

"In loving memory of Richard, beloved husband of
Eliza Witheridge who died May 20th 1897 age 62.

The light is from the household gone,
The voice we loved is still.
The place is vacant in our home
which never can be filled."

"Also Eliza the beloved wife of above who died at
Finsbury Park North, March 30th 1907 age 73"

Richard was the grandson of William Witheridge and Ann Moore, the son of Samuel Witheridge and Mary Atwill, and he married Eliza Chowen in Tavistock in 1863. In the G.R.O. indexes the registration district for Eliza's death is given as Edmonton.

Richard's brother James did not live for very long after him. James died on the 17th February, 1898, and he is named on a stone which says:-

"In loving memory of James Witheridge who died at
Lower Grenofen February 17th 1898, age 60.
Also Grace his beloved wife who died at Cudlipp Down
22nd February, 1925, age 79 years.
Thy Will be done"

James married Grace Foot in Tavistock in 1872, and as far as we know, had only one child - Samuel who was born and died in the December quarter of 1874.

A PLACE IN THE FAMILY?

by Kim Cook

Over the years, we have gradually become aware of a number of farms and cottages bearing the Witheridge name. These include Witheridge Farm at East Ogwell, near Newton Abbot, Witheridge Cottage in Newton Ferrers, and Witheridge Farm at Exton in Somerset.

Many of us have wondered how these places came to bear the Witheridge name. Did they take their name from some geographical feature, or were they occupied by any of our Witheridge forebears?

Certainly we know that in the 17th century there were Witheridges living in Newton Ferrers, but is there anything to suggest that Witheridges lived either in East Ogwell or in Exton?

Recently, I have tried to explore some of these places, and their history, and even though it hasn't always been possible to prove any direct link with our ancestors, the stories of these houses and their occupants have proved most fascinating.

Witheridge Farm, Exton, Somerset

Part 1 - The visit and first research

In 1995, in the numbers 3 and 4 issues (Autumn and Winter) of the Witheridge Times, David Witheridge wrote about a Witheridge Farm in Somerset, describing how he had met someone from a family named Norman whose family had once owned that very farm, and who had himself actually visited the farm many years earlier.

David was fascinated by this, and anxious to visit the farm for himself. I tried to find out who were the present owners, in the hope of writing to them about the farm. However we decided that if we were ever in the area, we would at least try to see the outside of the farm.

The chance came a couple of days after the Witheridge Society's 10th Anniversary reunion in Tiverton. Having visited other members of David's family in north Devon, David and I decided to make our way home across Exmoor and see if we could find Witheridge Farm. Armed with a good map, we found our way to Exton and were delighted to see Witheridge Farm well signposted.

The lane leading to the farmyard was flanked by fields of grazing sheep (most appropriate), and as we drove into the farmyard, we saw a young woman working with the sheep. She approached us,

and when we explained the reason for our visit, I'm sure she must have been very suspicious, although she was too well mannered to show it. However, David's transatlantic accent obviously allayed her suspicions, and she fetched her husband, who came out to greet us, accompanied by three beautiful and very friendly springer spaniels. The couple very kindly downed tools and showed us around the ground floor of their lovely home.

The house is long, with a slightly split-level ground floor. This immediately brought to mind the style of the old Devon longhouses. These were long, single storey buildings, with family living quarters at one end, and the shippon (animal housing) at the other. The shippon floor was usually lower than the floor of the dwelling end, for obvious reasons! Often the dairy, wash-house or other functional room would separate the living rooms from the animal quarters. Was Witheridge Farm perhaps built in the style of a Devon longhouse because it was built for a Devonshire family?

The front of the house has a steep sloping roof which overhangs the ground floor windows by a considerable amount, with only one upper window on this side of the house. Although the house now has a slate roof and guttering, the construction is typical of that for an ancient thatched house which would have had no guttering. The back of the house has more of an early Georgian appearance, having windows on two storeys. My initial guess was that the house was probably built in the 1600s, and perhaps even earlier, with the additional upper room having been created at a later date.

The present owners had bought Witheridge Farm only four years earlier, and were themselves keen to find out something of the history of the place. Already they had done some remarkable restoration work, discovering in the sitting room a long-hidden double inglenook fireplace, complete with bread ovens, and original Tudor nails in the bressummer. (The bressummer is the main cross beam above the hearth opening; the word derives from breast - as in chimney breast - and summer, meaning a supporting timber.) The dining room has a further smaller inglenook fireplace,

and stripping back some of the plaster around the square internal doors had revealed that these had originally been arched, in the style of the sixteenth century.

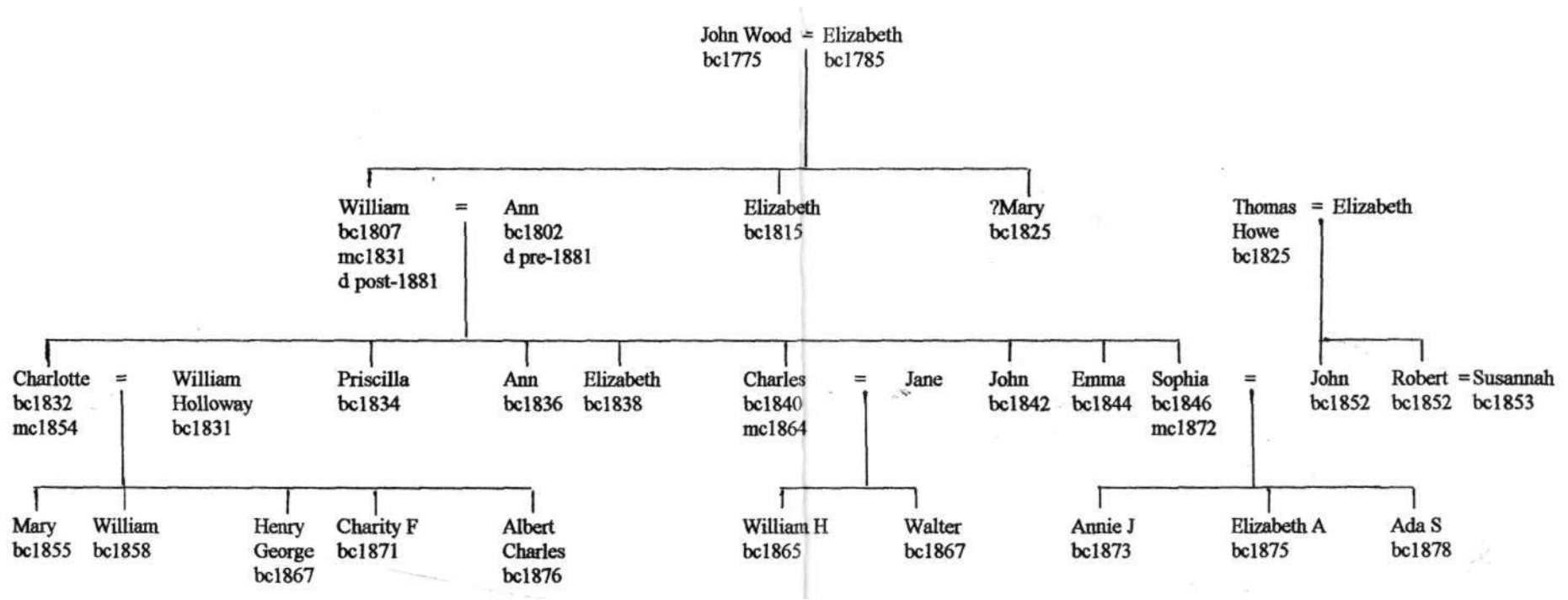
The owners showed us a very heavy internal door, well studded with ancient nails, and told how they had heard that part of the house had at one time been used as some kind of a jail for holding prisoners awaiting trial by a judge who lived on a neighbouring farm - a story we all felt would be worth pursuing. This door may well have been the one which separated prisoners from the household.

Another fascinating door in the dining room conceals an amazing curved staircase, which branches in two directions at different levels. In the dining room itself, a bank of four drawers is built into the wall (without any accompanying carcass) obviously making the most of the space under the stairs. Never had we seen a staircase quite like this one!

No had we ever seen a privy quite like the one in their beautiful garden. A spring arises in the garden and feeds a small stream which runs into a slightly larger brook. Where the small stream begins to flow freely, some sensible owner had constructed a stone and thatch privy, with the stream running through the floor of the privy and flowing out of a hole in the base of the wall. Was this one of the first examples of a self-flushing lavatory? Sadly the thatch has gone, and the wall are crumbling, but I thought it was beautiful, and I bet Lucinda Lambton would have loved it too! Was it constructed by a canny Witheridge, or by some later occupant I wondered?

After the owners had so kindly showed us around the ground floor and the garden, we came away delighted with what we had seen, and determined to find out more about the farm and its earlier occupants.

THE WOOD FAMILY OF WITHERIDGE FARM, EXTON



Compiled by Kim Cook from information available, November 2000

The first step was to check the 1851 census, which lists the occupants of the farm as:-

Wood	William	Head	Marr.	43	Farmer 134 acres Soms. Kingsbrompton
Wood	Ann	Wife	Marr.	48	Farmer's Wife Soms. Exford
Wood	Charlotte	Dau	Unm.	18	Farmer's dau. Soms. Exford
Wood	Priscilla	Dau	Unm	16	Farmer's dau. Soms. Exton
Wood	Ann	Dau	Unm	14	Farmer's dau Soms. Exford
Wood	Elizabeth	Dau		12	Farmer's dau. Worcs. Dudley
Wood	Charles	Son		10.	Farmer's son Worcs. Dudley
Wood	John	Son		8	Scholar Staffs. Sedgely
Wood	Emma	Dau		6	Scholar Soms. Exton
Wood	Sophia	Dau		2	Soms. Exton
Jones,	Elizabeth	Lodger	Widow	74	Lodger, Indep. Soms. Old Cleave
Jones,	Jane	Lodger	Daur.	40	Dau.to above Soms. Bristol
Croker,	James	Servant	Unm.	24	Farm servant Soms. Exford
Bennett,	Austin	Servant	Unm.	18	Farm servant Soms. Timberscombe

Having seen the house, I'm not surprised that it supported no less than 14 occupants. It is likely that the four older girls would have shared one of the large bedrooms. At this stage, the four younger children might also have shared a bedroom, if not a bed, although Sophia, the youngest might still have been in a cot in her parents'

room. The two lodgers, Elizabeth and Jane Jones, would have shared a smaller room, and the two farm servants would have shared an even smaller room, probably tucked away under the eaves.

Who the lodgers were, and why they were taken in, remains open to speculation. They might have been related either to William Wood or to his wife. Or maybe the farm wasn't doing so well at this period, and William and Ann needed the extra income that lodgers of independent means could provide. However, as the older children don't appear to be specifically employed, either on the farm, or elsewhere in the village, perhaps hardship wasn't the reason.

The places of birth of the various members of the family show some surprises. The microfilm clearly shows Kingsbrompton, Somerset, as William's birthplace, but initially I could find no record of such a place. However, I did eventually find it listed as a census parish in the Tiverton/Dulverton area, close to where the village of Brompton Regis now stands (think about it!). So, if both husband and wife were locally born and bred, what led them to live in the West Midlands between about 1838 and 1844? Sedgely is just a few miles north of Dudley, so even though the family moved during that time, they clearly remained in a very specific area of the West Midlands.

The marriage of William and Ann probably took place in about 1830, and the parish registers of Exford may well have details of either the banns or the marriage, or both.

From the details of the census, it seemed as though William Wood and his family had come to live at Witheridge Farm sometime around 1845. So who had lived there before them? And why had the farm changed hands?

The answer to these questions can be gleaned from the 1841 census. This carries less information than later censuses, giving only the names of the occupants, their ages (for adults rounded to the nearest five years), occupation, and a simple Y or N for whether they were

born in the county in which they were residing. In 1841, the occupants of Witheridge Farm are listed as:

Wood, John	65	Farmer	Y
Wood, Elizabeth	55		Y
Wood, Elizabeth	25		Y
Wood, Mary	15		Y
Wood, Charlotte	8		Y

As the 1841 census doesn't indicate relationships, on the basis of this entry it would be difficult to guess how these members of the Wood family are related. Clearly, it is unlikely that Elizabeth at 55 (perhaps a rounded-down age), would have been the mother of Charlotte, aged 8. But when we look at this entry in conjunction with that for 1851, things become a little clearer. Charlotte, aged 8 in 1841, is still at Witheridge Farm, aged 18 in 1851, and clearly the daughter of William and Ann. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that William was the son of John and Elizabeth and that he moved in on either the death or the retirement of his father.

Why Charlotte was living with her grandparents in 1841, we can only guess. Maybe when the time came for the younger family to move to the Midlands, Charlotte was too ill to travel, or maybe the accommodation in the Midlands wasn't large enough for the whole family.

Elizabeth, aged 25 in 1841, was probably the daughter of John and Elizabeth, and sister of William. But who was Mary? She could have been a younger sister of William and Elizabeth, but she could just about have been the eldest child of William and Ann. Only a check of the parish registers of Exton and Exford can provide the answers.

Although the first census was conducted in 1801, this, and the next three censuses (1811, 1821, 1831), were purely numerical, and therefore are of no use to the family researcher. To go back further and find out who occupied Witheridge Farm before 1841 involves checking the local land and tax information, making use of tithe maps and any deeds that might be available in the Somerset Record Office.

By 1861, the Wood family lands at Witheridge Farm had decreased from 134 acres to 100 acres, perhaps an indication of hard times. The household had also decreased in size. The census (RG9 1606 MC1184), taken on the 14th April, shows the household at Witheridge Farm as follows:

Wood	William	Head	Marr.	53	Fanner 100 acres Soms.
Wood	Ann	Wife	Marr.	58	Kingsbrompton Farmer's Wife
Wood	Elizabeth	Dau.	Unm.	22	Soms. Exford Farmer's dau.
Wood	Charles	Son	Unm.	20	Stafford. Dudley Ag. Lab.
Wood	John	Son	Unm.	18	Stafford. Dudley Carter
Wood	Emma	Dau.	Unm.	16	Stafford. Sedgely Dairy Maid
Wood	Sophia	Dau.	Unm.	12	Soms. Exton Dairy Maid
Jones	Jane	Boarder	Unm.	51	Soms. Exton
Steer	John	Servant	Unm.	58	Soms. Bristol Ag. Lab.
Bowes	William	Pauper	Unm.	36	Soms. Winsford Ag. Lab.
					Soms. Exton

Charlotte, Priscilla and Ann Wood had all moved on, possibly to marriage, or perhaps, if times were hard, into service. The lodger, Elizabeth Jones, had presumably died, but her daughter Jane is still a member of the household.

A further suggestion of hard times comes from the occupations of the children still at home. Instead of the genteel description of 'farmer's son' or 'farmer's daughter' the children are now working, with Charles a menial 'ag.lab', John a carter, and Emma and Sophia both dairy maids.

Ten years later, in April, 1871, the household has again shrunk, but there is evidence of a return to prosperity. The farm has grown again, and is bigger than ever. William, now 63, describes himself as a 'farmer, 160 acres, employing 1 man'. His wife Ann is now 68, and only three children remain at home, all unmarried. Emma is 26, Sophia is 22, and John at 28 is described as a farmer's son. Also in the household are four farm servants, again different from the 1861 employees.

Interestingly, one of these farm servants turns out to be William's own granddaughter, Mary Holloway, aged 15, born in Kingsbrompton. William's eldest daughter, Charlotte Wood, had married William Holloway, a local farmer. Mary born about 1855, is believed to have been their eldest child, followed three years later by William, who later became a wheelwright. The next surviving child was Henry George, born about 1867. Nine years seems a long gap, but there may have been other children who didn't live long. After Henry came Charity F. (c.1871) and Albert Charles (c.1876).

William Wood's eldest son Charles had married at some time since 1861, and in 1871 he is farming the nearby 100-acre farm of Huckham. His wife Jane was born in Cutcombe, Somerset, and they have two children, William H. aged 5, and Walter aged 2. Charles employs one servant boy, 15-year-old James Middleton, a local lad born in Exton.

By now I was finding it difficult to work out the relationships of all those involved in Witheridge Farm, so using information from a variety of sources, I drew up a family tree. This shows a century of the Wood family history, and was to prove very useful when I examined the 1881 and 1891 census returns.

But had the Wood family always been at Witheridge Farm? How long did they stay there? And most importantly, could there ever have been a Witheridge family at Witheridge Farm? Further research revealed some very interesting answers, which you can read about in Part II.

CULPABILIS!

I plead guilty to being dotty! That is I am inclined to put dots and dashes into e-mail addresses where none should exist. I repeat the e-mail address of Tony Witheridge of Texas, USA, in what I hope is the correct form;-

AJWTC@email.msn.com

Tony tells me that he is a consulting scientist 'who tends to fly anywhere for interesting project work', and for professional purposes he can be contacted on:-

www.tkeval.com

Tony's brother is an expert in Sediment and Erosion Control, and should anyone be interested or need training in this area they should apply to:-

www/catchmentsandcreeks.com

~~~~~

Anyone who read my lament in the last magazine will hardly credit that I am now on the Internet. I cannot claim to be surfing the web, as John Witheridge put it I am only dabbling my toes in the water, but here is my e-mail address:-

[BROWNEJ392@aol.com](mailto:BROWNEJ392@aol.com)

~~~~~

The address of the Witheridge Society Web Site is:-

<http://www2.ebtech.net/~kathpaul>

(and yes, it is a curly dash and not a straight one) The site has had 226 'visits' so far - if you can, give it a try.

A QUESTION ANSWERED

Mary ROLPH or RALPH?

Mary married William Witheridge in January 1825 in Liverpool. William was of the South Milton and Thurleston family, son of John Witheridge and Catherine Lamble. There has long been a question of the spelling of Mary's name, as it appears in various places as 'Ralph' and then as 'Rolph'. Now, thanks to Gina Couch, we can say that it was definitely 'Ralph'.

Gina has sent us a copy of the register entry of Mary's baptism, which is readable, but too dark to reproduce here. Mary Ralph was baptised on the 18th June, 1799, at the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel, Church Street, Liverpool. She was the daughter of Robert Ralph, a cordwainer (shoemaker) of what appears to be Highgate Street, Liverpool. Her mother was named as Isabella, and in the space to indicate the mother's maiden name is a word which seems to be 'widow' and what could be the name 'Steward'.

William Witheridge was a mariner, and this was given as his occupation on his marriage certificate. He and Mary Ralph were married on the 23rd January, 1825, in St. Peter's Church, Church Street, Liverpool. There were no Ralph witnesses to the marriage, and it is not surprising that there were no Witheridge names as William's family lived a long way away in South Devon.

William became a Master Mariner, and details of some of his ships and voyages are in the Autumn/Winter Witheridge Times, 2000.

Two of William and Mary's sons also became Master Mariners - William George, born 1829, and Robert Ralph born 1835. While her husband was at sea, Mary and her family lived at Thurleston, South Devon, and both she and William died in that area.

Thank you Gina for your information.

RESEARCH REPORT

Kathy Witheridge of Ontario when 'surfing the internet' found a web site for a cemetery in Hackney, London. With her usual thoroughness Kathy investigated for Witheridge names, and found four names of persons buried in the Abney Park Cemetery, Hackney, London, which she thought would be of interest to us:-

Witheridge, Florence Eliza	buried 8 th November, 1952 179494 8S10
Witheridge, John	buried 13 th April, 1945 171298 8SO6
Witheridge, Mary Ann	buried 28 th November, 1923 140076 BO2 7S07
Witheridge, Philip	buried 17 th May, 1954 181119 8S11

We know that Philip Witheridge was the brother of our Brenda Dwyne's grandfather, and was the son of John Northmore Witheridge and Maria Tall Sandover. He was 83 when he died. Florence Eliza was his wife, and she was 75 at time of death. Beyond that we know little except that Philip was described at the time of his wife's death as 'Retired Almoner', and that although they both lived in London, he died at Wolverton, Bucks.

Mary Ann Witheridge who was buried on the 28th November 1923 was unknown to us until we obtained her death certificate. We then discovered that she was 64 years old and the wife of John Witheridge, a retired Grocer's Manager, and was living in Stoke Newington, London.

The death certificate for John Witheridge, aged 85, buried 13th April, 1945, confirmed that we did have previous knowledge of this couple.

The magazine of Spring 1996 contained an article by John Witheridge entitled 'The Family Thomas' and was a comment and investigation into the large number of Thomas = Witheridge family marriages.

On pages 23 and 24 there is part of the family tree of John Witheridge and Mary Ann Thomas who we now know was the Mary Ann buried in Hackney Cemetery in November 1923.

John Witheridge was born in Weymouth and Mary Ann Thomas in Constantine, Cornwall, and they were married in Cornwall. After the marriage date we seem to have lost sight of them, probably because our searches did not extend to London.

We knew that John Witheridge was a grocer, a trade which was not usual in his side of the family, most of his connections were sailors or fishermen.

Recently, our John Witheridge has discovered a bankruptcy announcement which may explain John Witheridge - grocer's- move from Cornwall to London. The Times newspaper of 3rd May, 1890 carried an announcement under the Bankruptcy Act of 1883, that John Witheridge of Falmouth, Grocer, was under adjudication.

The death certificate for John describes him as 'Retail Grocer, Retired' and another interesting note gives the name of informant of death as 'N. Witheridge - daughter'. This confirms our thought that the Nora Kathleen Witheridge, born Falmouth. 1893, was the daughter of John and Mary Ann Thomas, and it would appear that by 1945 she had not married.

The G.R.O Deaths Index records of these four people are:-

Dec. qu. 1923 Witheridge, Mary Ann (64) Hackney 1b 389*

June qu. 1945 Witheridge, John (85) Stoke Newington
1b 245*

Dec. qu. 1952 Witheridge, Florence E. (75) Edmonton 5c 399

June qu. 1954 Witheridge, Philip (83) North Bucks
6a 339

* = death certificates held by Witheridge Society

GEORGE-THE-LAD

by Joyce Browne

You have heard of Jack-the-Lad - now meet George-the-Lad, our George-the-Lad. We had records of his birth and his parentage, but the first we heard of his peccadilloes was when Tom Jewell, in his talk at Witheridge Day, 1997, drew our attention to an item in the North Devon Journal Herald. The item read:-

"BIDEFORD 15th January, 1857. BEFORE THE BOROUGH BENCH. The petty sessions for the borough were held on Monday, at the Town Hall: present, the Mayor (J. Thompson Edq.,) T. H. Chanter, and H.O. Ley, Esqs.

BASTARDY - Mary Elizabeth Gale, "single woman", appeared to charge the paternity of her child, now four months old, on one *George Witheridge*. Defendant had been both before and after the event that was bringing him into trouble, working in London, but thought he might just venture home to see his friends and spend a "merry Christmas". No sooner had he returned to the home of his youth, and was anxiously waiting the savoury odours of goose and onions for the festive season, when instead of goose, he "smelt a rat", in a summons conveyed to his father's house, requiring him to "shew cause" etc.,etc.

It was too late, the "false fleeing" Lothario was off from whence he came, and "service" not being proved, the case was not heard."

Amusing for us to read, but not so amusing for Mary Elizabeth Gale.

Who was this Lothario? He was George Causey Witheridge, son of William Witheridge and Fanny Elizabeth Causey (see section of the Bideford family tree Witheridge Times Autumn/Winter 2000)

This Bideford family has been the subject of many researches on account of George's grandfather, John Witheridge, who married Mary Atkins - but let us concentrate on George.

On the Census of 1851 he is shown as living at home in Higher Gunstone with his father and mother and sisters Mary Ann and Elizabeth, his occupation given as 'Cordwainers Apprentice'. Some time between 1851 and 1857, when he was due to appear in Court in Bideford, he had gone to London.

He was resident in London when, in May, 1858, he did own paternity of a child, and gave him his own name. We have the birth certificate for:

"George Causey Witheridge, born 11th May, 1858, at 45 Castle St., East (registration district Marylebone) Father: George Causey Witheridge. Mother: Mary Ann Witheridge, formerly Bussell. Father's occupation: Bootmaker Journeyman"

Because of this certificate we thought that George had married Mary Ann Bussell, and had settled down in London until 1882, when he married Jane Harding Shepherd in Bideford.

The last child born to George Causey Witheridge and Mary Ann Bussell Witheridge was Emily, born in the Pancras area of London in 1867. We thought that it was possibly the death of Mary Ann Bussell which had precipitated George's return to his native Devon, and we searched for a death certificate for Mary Ann between the years of 1867 and 1882. We did not find one!

Imagine our surprise when Sheila Jewell searched the 1881 Census return for the St. Pancras area of London and found Mary Ann Bussell/Witheridge living at 55, Swinton Street, as head of household, status- "M" = married. Where was husband, George?

He was in the household of one Jane Shepherd "U" = unmarried, in Higher Gunstone, Bideford, Devon, and she was not the only one in the household said to be 'unmarried'.

Look at the information on the Census return:-

Jane Shepherd	Head	U	38	F. b. Parkham, Devon
	Dressmaker			
May Shepherd	Daur.		6	F. b. Bideford, Devon, Eng.
	Scholar			
Blanch Shepherd	Daur.		2	F. b. Bideford, Devon, Eng.
George Wetheridge		U	44	M.b. Northam, Devon, Eng.
	Boarder			
	Bootmaker			

There was another surprise on the Census return of 1881. Not only was Mary Ann Bussell alive and living in London, but she had four Witheridge children living with her, two of whom we did not suspect had been born in America.

George 'Wetheridge'	son	aged 22	B. Marylebone, Middlesex
<u>Fanny</u> <u>Wetheridge</u>	<u>dau.</u>	<u>aged 18</u>	<u>B. America</u>
<u>Henry</u> <u>Wetheridge</u>	<u>son</u>	<u>aged 16</u>	<u>B. America</u>
Emily <u>Wetheridge</u>	<u>dau.</u>	<u>aged 13</u>	B. Marylebone, Middlesex

(We think that there was another son, Jack, born about 1860, who went to Australia, and as we have not been able to find a birth record for him it may be that he too was born in America)

It would appear that George and Mary Ann were in London in 1858 when George junior was born, left for America circa 1860, and were back in London before 1867. I have searched some shipping records and immigration records, but so far have not found either Mary Ann or George Witheridge.

Is it possible that they did not both go to America, but one went and came home with children which were taken into the household?

That George had left Mary Ann by 1881 is clear, unless he was leading a double life and popped to and fro between two households!

He married Jane Harding Shepherd on the 15th October, 1882, in the Parish Church of Bideford. Jane is described as a 'spinster' (in spite of her two children) and George is described as 'Bachelor'. Did George commit bigamy, or as seems more likely, he did not marry Mary Ann Bussell in the first place?

Ten years later, in 1891, the Census return for Bideford shows George and Jane living at 34 Hill Street, Bideford, and with them is a 'daughter' Blanche - now surnamed ' Witheridge'. George's occupation is given as 'confectioner'.

I have not yet discovered where Mary Ann Bussell was, I think in London, but she was certainly still alive. In fact she outlived George by nine years.

Jane Harding Shepherd Witheridge died, aged 54, in Bideford in 1898, and once again, George left Devon for London. He did not live for long after that as, in September, 1901, after a fall in the front garden of his home, he died of an injury to his head.

We have his death certificate, but, unfortunately for our purposes there is no family informant of death, as there had to be an inquest, and the certificate is signed by the coroner. George's address is given as '44, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, Pancras, London'. One wonders, if after all his wandering, George went back to Mary Ann Bussell. When we can look at the census for 1901 we may find them both.

Mary Ann died on the 10th October, 1910, in the St. Pancras Infirmary of a cerebral haemorrhage and heart failure. She was 82 years old. The informant of death was her son, George Causey Witheridge, junior. The death certificate gives her name as 'Mary Ann Witheridge' and describes her as 'Widow of George Witheridge, a bootmaker' so although George described himself as a bachelor, the family thought of Mary Ann Bussell as his wife.

In this family history there remain one or two 'glistories' for us to unravel.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number R.0104851A

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Marylebone
1858 BIRTH in the Sub-district of All Souls in the County of Middlesex

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10*

No. When and where born Name, if any Sex Name and surname of father Name, surname and maiden surname of mother Occupation of father Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar Name entered after registration

145	Eleventh May 1858. 45 Castle Street East	George Caudey	Boy	George Caudey Witheridge	Alley estate Witheridge formerly Bussell	Broth Maker Journeyman	M. A. Witheridge Mother 45 Castle Street East Marylebone	Tenth June 1858	(1862) in ham Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 7th day of August 1997

*See note overleaf

BXBY 203866

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WARNING: THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON PRESENTING IT.



PAS576289/4/2000

1882. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Town of Bideford in the County of Devon

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
295	15 Oct 1882	George Cassey Withridge	full	Bachelor	Shoemaker	Bideford	William Withridge	Gardener
		Jane Harding, Shepherd	full	Spinster	—	Bideford	Samuel Shepherd	Shoemaker

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by None or after Banns by me, None

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Cassey Withridge } in the Presence of us, William Gregory Carpenter }
Jane Harding Shepherd } Emily Mary Carpenter }

Bideford

6th

September 2000



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number R109117

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Pancras
1901. DEATH in the Sub-district of British Town in the County of London

Column— 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No.	When and Where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
339	17 th September 1901 In front of garden of 44 Prince of Wales Road	George Wetheridge	Male	59 years	Shoemaker Late of 44 Prince of Wales Road	Concussion of Brain and Shock Injury to head Fall in front garden of his house Accidental P 47	Certificate received from G. D. Thomas Parsonage Lane, London Insquest held 10 th September 1901	Twentieth St. Register September 1901	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the

24th day of May 19 88

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DX 412808

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CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number PA5 581252/2/2000

REGISTRATION DISTRICT
<u>1910</u> DEATH in the Sub-district of <u>North St Pancras</u> in the <u>County of London</u>

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

<u>162</u>	<u>10th October 1910</u> <u>St Pancras Infirmary</u> <u>Highgate</u>	<u>Henry Ann</u> <u>Witheridge</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>82</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Widow of</u> <u>George Witheridge</u> <u>in Roper Street</u> <u>81D</u> <u>Warden Road</u> <u>St Pancras</u>	<u>Cerebral</u> <u>Haemorrhage</u> <u>Heart Disease</u> <u>Certified by</u> <u>D. J. Jones</u> <u>M.D.</u>	<u>George Witheridge</u> <u>15 Warden Road</u> <u>St Pancras</u>	<u>10th October</u> <u>1910</u>	<u>H. G. Fresh</u> <u>Registrar</u>
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 10th day of October 2000

DXZ 765300

See note overleaf

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Mr. Richard Witheridge

Address on inside front cover

