

ISSN 1365-8883



Vol.15 No. 2

Summer 2001

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Honorary Life President	Mrs. Kim Cook, Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS
Honorary Life Vice President	The Rev. David E. Witheridge 2425 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55405 USA
Chairman	Mr. Graham Browne, 5 Greenhill Avenue, Luton, Beds. LU2 7DN
Secretary	Mr. John Witheridge, 9 Swale Close, Stone Cross, Nr. Eastbourne East Sussex BN24 5QY
Membership Secretary	Mr. Richard Witheridge, 2, Apsley Road, Newbridge, Bath, Somerset BA1 3LP
(To be sent new applications and all renewals of Society membership, complete with subscriptions)	
Treasurer and Research Co-ordinator	Mr. Richard Witheridge, Address as above
Assistant Treasurer and Committee Member	Mrs. Maureen Witheridge, Address as above
Editor	Mrs. Joyce Browne, 5 Greenhill Avenue, Luton, Beds. LU2 7DN
(To be sent all items for publication in the Witheridge Times - family news, articles, etc., and all requests for copies of the certificates held by the Witheridge Society)	
Publisher and Distributor	Mrs. Kim Cook Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS

Continued on back cover



Volume 15 Number Two

Summer 2001

CONTENTS

PAGE

Editorial	2 and 3
Family News	4
New Members	5, 6, 7, 8 and 9
Finders... Seekers	9, 10 and 11
Impressions of Witheridge Weekend	12, 13 and 14
Beauchamp Henry - A Name Unique?	15, 16, 17 and 18
A Little Bit of Mystery!	19, 20 and 21
Family Archive	22
The Last Word	23 and 24
Disaster In Devon	25 and 26
Did You Know?	27
Reports	28, 29, 30, 31 and 32

© 2001

The Witheridge Times is the official publication of the Witheridge Society. Articles appearing in this magazine must not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Society's Committee.

EDITORIAL

Once again I greet our readers after an enjoyable Witheridge Weekend. The spring weather in this country has been so wet that we almost expected to have to row to our destination, as some areas are still flooded. We were pleasantly surprised that the weather was fine, although bitterly cold.

Sussex, where we met, is an area of fine houses and stately homes, but most of these were closed to the public because of the out break of foot and mouth disease, and the risk to their farm lands and animals in their deer parks.

The Hotel which was our headquarters stands in grounds awash with bluebells and primroses, and because of the wet spring all the greenery was particularly lush.

We met four new members over the weekend - Barbara and Terry Finemore from Plymouth, Dorothy Linter from Middlesex, and all the way from Wales, Carolyn Green from Newport, and we were delighted to have their company. Barbara and Dorothy descend from branches of the Ermington family, and Carolyn from the CombeMartin/Newport branch.

In this edition we have some information on the South Milton and Thurlestone family and a branch of the CombeMartin/Bradworthy family.

The item 'Finders...Seekers' has information on families already known to us, and on some persons previously unknown. I remind readers that the 'Seeker' part of the title is intended to convey that the section is open to those looking for information, as well as those providing it. If you are looking for someone who is connected with our families send your query - you never know - you may strike 'gold'!

Whilst on the subject of finding and seeking - I have the CDRom of the 1881 Census of England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and the Royal Navy. I shall be happy to look up a name for a reader (it does not have to be 'Witheridge'). A clue as to location and age would be helpful. I also have the CDRom of the 1851 Census although this is limited to the counties of Devon, Norfolk and Warwick.

At first glance this seems a disparate choice but the compilers of the disc had their reasons. They chose areas which had a variety of economic factors, and spread of population.

Devon and Norfolk both have rural communities, with some heavily populated towns, i.e., Norwich and Plymouth, and both counties have sea ports. Warwickshire was experiencing the flood of people to the towns in the thriving industrial areas like Birmingham.

Again, I draw attention to the need for articles for the magazine. You need not be a master of English prose to send us something - perhaps on how you came to be interested in family history, or about the area in which you grew up. We would be interested to hear from overseas readers with a description of the area in which you live now. Remember, without your support we cannot keep in print!

Have a happy summer read!

Joyce



FAMILY NEWS

Kathy Witheridge, who was looking forward to meeting Clarence Howard Witheridge at the Bowmanville Reunion in June, has written to tell us that Clarence passed away on 11th February, 2001.

Clarence, of Kingston, Ontario, was the father of John Witheridge of Orono. He and his wife had just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary, and they and their children went out for a family meal. Clarence returned home and went to bed and did not awake from his sleep - a peaceful end for Clarence but a shock for all his family.

Kathy has sent condolences on her own and our behalf to Clarence's wife and family.

From Australia has come news of Mavis Witheridge. A Mrs. Jean O'Connor, who lives in the same complex as Mavis and is interested in family history, wrote to say that Mavis thinks of her visit to England and the friends she met here. Mrs. O'Connor's family come from the Liverpool area. Mavis's address is now:-

4A House,
Gracehaven,
2 Westralia Gardens,
Rockingham
Western Australia 6168

Mavis would love to hear from any member in England.

A letter from member Gina Couch (of the South Milton and Thurleston family) congratulates the Society on having a web site, and gives her own e-mail address:-

gina@willaston76.freemove.co.uk

Thank you, Gina!

NEW MEMBERS

Introduction and information from Richard Witheridge

Mem. Nos. 176 **Mrs. Carolyn Lesley Green (née Witheridge)**
177 **Mr. Howard Murray Green**

2 Thornhill Gardens,
Newport,
South Wales NP10 9GA

Carolyn Lesley Green b.1955 Newport M. (1) Stephen Evan Edward Davies
son Benjamin Mark Davies born 1977

M. (2) Howard Murray Green

(2) Leslie Bernard Witheridge 1917-1969 (3) Ada Maude Hassell 1922-2000
b. Crossgates, Yorkshire (4) James George Witheridge 1889-1970 (5)
Virtue Louise Deacon 1891-1969 (8) James Witheridge 1855-1921 (9)
Catherine Drummond Fenwick 1865-1924 (10) James Witheridge 1817-
1871 (11) Isabella Ann Redmore c.1829 -1862 (16) John Witheridge 1775-
1866 (17) Elizabeth Harris bc.1773 - (18) Thomas Witheridge 1751-
1819 (19) Mary Howe b.? - ?. From James, born 1817, this family was based
in Wales, but before him this line of descent goes back through the
Berryarbor/Combe Martin family to Nicholas Witheridge, b.c.1531 d.
1587, who married Mary Somer in CombeMartin, 1553.

Welcome Carolyn and Howard. Carolyn's line of descent is from possibly
our most prolific family, whose branches are widespread, and we hope that
you may have happy contacts through your membership of the Witheridge
Society.

Mem. No. 178 **Miss Dorothy Linter**

202 Ashridge Way,
Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middlesex TW16 7RS

(1) Dorothy Linter 1940 (2) Eric Linter b. Lutterworth 1918-1947 (3)
Winifred Thomas 1908-1970 (6) George Thomas b.c.1882 -

(7) Ada Gertrude Witheridge 1882-1938 (14) Francis Robert Witheridge 1853-1899 (15) Sarah Jane Curtis 1858-1936 Dorothy was born in the Middlesex area, but her line of descent goes back through the Witheridge family of Poole and Bournemouth, to the Ermington family with Arthure Witheridge and Johane Edgecombe of Ermington as her 9 x great grandparents.

We are glad that you have joined us Dorothy - and we look forward to a happy and fruitful association.

Mem. Nos. 179 **Mrs. Barbara Finemore**

180 **Mr. Terry Finemore**

(note the 1 'n' in 'Finemore)

1 Corfe Avenue,
Hartley Vale,
Plymouth,
Devon PL3 5SQ

e-mail address: Bartel7@hotmail.com

(1) Barbara Finemore née Johnson and Terry Finemore
(2) Leonard Frank Roy Johnson 1908-1978 (3) Iris Edna Dawson 1910 - ?
(6) Samuel Henry Dawson 1881-1956 (7) Laura Emily Pearce 1883-1918
(12) Samuel Dawson 1844-? (13) Thirza Ann Witheridge () Philip Bowden Witheridge 1818-1873 () Jane Ann Netherton 1813-1887 () William Bowden Witheridge 1789-1861 () Mary Wills c.1790-1864 () Arthur Witheridge 1758-1847 () Elizabeth Bowden c. 1765-1839. From William Bowden Witheridge on, the events in Barbara's family took place in Plymouth, but William Bowden W., was born in Ermington, and in direct line back to Arthure Witheridge and Johane Edgecombe, married 1607.

This makes Barbara kin to Dorothy Linter, and the rest of the Ermington family. Terry's family has a Plymouth background, and I believe, a Cornish connection.

Barbara's research into her family history began comparatively recently, and we are pleased that she has joined the Society, and hope that we are able to help her in her quests.

Mem.Nos. 181 **Mrs. Gwenda Mason**
182 **Mr. John Mason**

37, Thornfield Road,
Heaton Mersey,
Stockport,
Lanes. SK4 3JT

(1) Gwenda Mason née Howarth 1952 m. 1974 John Mason
(2) Ronald Howarth 1923-1947, Manchester and Worsley (3) Nellie
Witheridge 1921 Llanelli (6) Beauchamp Henry Witheridge 1884-1951 (7)
Elizabeth Munro b.1882 Kilmarnock d. 1939 Llanelli. () George Witheridge
1840-1913 () Dorcas Hammett c.1841-1905 () William Witheridge 1800-
1870 () Mary Ralph 1800-1871.

We have traced William, who married Mary Ralph in Liverpool in 1825, to
the South Milton and Thurleston family, and so Gwenda's line has
connections with Devon, Lancashire, Scotland and Wales. Articles have
been written about the complex South Milton and Thurleston family and
Gwenda may already know that she has kin in our Society.

We are pleased, Gwenda, that you have joined us - and as for the name of
your ancestor - 'Beauchamp Henry' - we are working on it!

Jenny Smith of New Zealand has been helpful in sending us the names of
Beauchamp Henry's children - thank you Jenny!

Mem. No. 183 **Mrs. Catherine Shingler**
81 Wear Bay Road,
Folkestone,
Kent CT19 6PR (Temporary address)

e-mail address: shingler@supanet.com

(1) Catherine Shingler née Smith b.1969 Kirby Muxloe, Leicester m.1996
Folkestone

(2) Alison Smith née Milnes 1943 - (6) John Eric Milnes 1915-1944 b.
Nottingham d. Fraserburgh, Scotland m. 1939 Leicester (7) Marjorie Ethel
Kemp 1915-1964 () John Harry Kemp 1871-1937 () Edith Annie Welch
1837-1934 () James Welch 1836-1917 m. 1876 Mary Grace Witheridge
1842-1923. () Thomas Witheridge 1816-1899 m. Ann Moore.

This family line has connections with various counties, including Hampshire, Berkshire, Leicester, Nottingham and also with Scotland. The Thomas Witheridge who married Ann Moore was of the Bradworthy family, who are descended from a CombeMartin line.

Kathy Witheridge of Ontario has been instrumental in finding information on Catherine's family, and Kathy believes that Catherine is the only member of the Witheridge Society with Bradworthy connections who is living in England.

We hope that you will find your association with us interesting and fruitful for your researches, Catherine.

Mem. No. 185 **Mr. James P. Witheridge**
3404 Emerson Avenue, S.
Minneapolis, MN55408
USA

(1) James P. Witheridge
(2) David Edward Witheridge (3) Elizabeth Plumb

We are very pleased to welcome as a member James Witheridge, who is the son of our Vice President, The Rev. David Witheridge. Jim is already known as a friend to several of our members, and as his line of descent goes back through David, William Allen Witheridge and Edith Sophie Nemits, William Witheridge and Mary Jane Allen, John Witheridge and Clara Blackmore, back to Nicholas Witheridge who married Mary Somer in 1553, he is connected with many members who are of the Berryarbor/CombeMartin line.

A hearty welcome, James, and may you find your membership interesting and profitable!

Mem. Nos. 186 **Mrs. D. Marlene Thomas**
187 **Mr. Royston Thomas**

14, Beech Grove,
Pwll
Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 4AR

- (1) D Marlene Thomas née Couldrey b 1945 Gorseinon, Wales M.1966
Royston Thomas, Llanelli
(2) Sidney John Couldrey 1912-2000 (3) Elizabeth Witheridge 1916-1998
(6) Beauchamp Henry Witheridge 1884-1951 (7) Elizabeth Munro 1882-
1939.

Readers will see that from Beauchamp Henry Witheridge back, Marlene has the same ancestry as new member Gwenda Mason, but her more recent family is settled in Wales.

Welcome, Marlene - we hope that you enjoy your researches and that your association with the Witheridge Society will be helpful.

FINDERS...SEEKERS

'Finders...Seekers' is intended to present items from any source which do not necessarily fit in to any particular family theme. It is hoped that these snippets could provide interest and perhaps an answer to someone's searching - so if you find any 'odd' item, particularly if it comes from an unexpected source - please send it.

Bankruptcy

'The Times' of 24th August, 1895, carried a bankruptcy notice on 'Witheridge, Arthur .. Drayhill Cottage, near Ivybridge, Devonshire, Carpenter.'

This was Arthur, of the Ermington family. Born in 1837, he was the son of Philip Witheridge and Mary Northmore, and in 1866 he married Charlotte Honey Fredrick. Builders and carpenters abounded in the Ermington family, and they were usually successful in their occupations. One wonders what went wrong in Arthur's case, and we hope that this set back did not contribute to his death in 1898 at the age of 58.

Sheila Jewell has sent us some more titbits of information which could be helpful in our searches:-

South Milton and Thurlestone Family

Elizabeth Witheridge b. c.1738 (daughter of John Witheridge and Anne) married William Oldrieve , 16th November, 1763 at South Milton.
We did have a record of this marriage, but had the name as 'Oldriffie'

William and Elizabeth had a daughter, Elizabeth, baptised at South Milton, February, 1765
Information from Parish Registers

Ilfracombe/Bradworth Family

Jane Witheridge daughter of Nathaniel Witheridge and Emma Eastaway baptised Ilfracombe, 1st June 1671

Jane Witheridge married Henry Eastaway 9th January 1697 ? *cousins*
Information from Parish Registers

A surfeit of Mary Anns

Whilst in pursuit of Mary Ann Bussell Witheridge I went mad and obtained certificates for three Mary Ann Witheridges. These were entries in the G.R.O. indexes about which I had long been curious.

1. Birth

GRO ref: Dec. qu. 1844 Witheridge, Mary Ann St. Pancras I 246
(This event is also on the I.G.I.)

"Born 20th October at 10.40 a.m., in St. Pancras Workhouse - Girl
Father: William Ball Occupation: Gardener
Mother: Mary Ann Wetheridge, late of 4 Pleasant Passage, Camden Town
Those two Mary Anns cannot have been having a very pleasant passage!

2. Marriage GRO ref: Dec.qu. 1864 Wetheridge, Mary Ann Marylebone 1a
1002 Married 25th December, 1864, at Trinity Church, St. Marylebone, Middlesex.

The groom was Henry Castle, of full age, bachelor, occupation: Tailor father, George Castle, blacksmith, deceased.

Mary Ann Wetheridge was stated to be of full age and a widow. Her father was James Haley, deceased.

I cannot trace this Mary Ann to any of our known families, but I suspect that she came from the Camberwell Wetheridge family. Our information about this family, who have always spelled their name with an 'e' comes mainly from person contact by Kim Cook, and it has been difficult to carry our knowledge back beyond about 1800, and even this is uncertain. We do know that the names William and James occur in this family, and the names William and James Wetheridge appear on the certificate as witnesses.

3. Marriage

GRO ref: June qu. 1885 Witheridge, Mary Ann Holborn lb 1094

This was Mary Ann Cook, widow of George Henry Witheridge. He was the son of Henry Light Witheridge and Mary Jane Williams, Ermington family. This branch of the family moved to London from Plymouth, but Henry Light Witheridge then went to Poole, Dorset. George Henry became a Hackney Carriage Driver, and died in London in 1882, at the age of 28. His widow, Mary Ann, married a William Frank Poulton, a 'Master Carman', at the Register Office Holborn, in 1885.

Sheila Jewell has found a baptism previously unknown to us:-

Walkhampton

8th January. 1837 George, son of John and Mary Witheridge, Plymouth, Mariner.

I do not seem to have any other record of George. It could be that he died as a baby, and the death was just before the date of civil registration. John Witheridge of Plymouth, mariner, is also unknown to me, but the most likely candidate seems to me to be John, baptised 1805, son of John of the South Milton and Thurlestone family, who married Catherine Lamble.

The John baptised 1805, married 'Mary Ann of Thurlestone' and we have a record of the birth of two children, Eleanor, baptised 1832, and James, baptised 1835. Could George be the third child baptised 1837? I have no note of the occupation of John Witheridge, father of Eleanor and James, but this branch of the family did produce mariners, notably John's brother William who was a Master Mariner and married Mary Ralph.

IMPRESSIONS OF WITHERIDGE WEEK-END, MAY 2001

by Joyce Browne

New venue, new friends, new experience, and fresh pleasure - this was our Witheridge Week-end. The venue was the Abelands House Hotel, at Merston near Chichester, an historic Cathedral city in West Sussex.

There were more members attending the Annual General Meeting than in the two previous years, and it was a lively and productive meeting. We were pleased to welcome four new members, Miss Dorothy Linter, Mrs. Carolyn Green and Mr. and Mrs. Finemore - Barbara and Terry, and we greatly appreciated their contributions to the deliberations.

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close just in time for lunch, which was a cold buffet, and afterwards, Kim, our President, cut the ceremonial cake.

The programme after lunch was informal, and family trees were perused, photographs inspected, and questions asked. Kim then showed us a video film which she had recently obtained, and it was a wonderful sequel to her articles on Samuel Witheridge who was killed in 1881 at the battle of Majuba Hill. This film, made in South Africa and spoken partly in Afrikans, depicted the abject defeat of red-coated British Army Regiments by khaki clad Boer guerrilla sharpshooters. It did show some of the part played by the Naval Brigade to which Samuel Witheridge belonged, noting that they did not run away, and it was a poignant reminder of the perils and sadness faced by our ancestors.

There are further developments in our knowledge of Samuel, and Kim will reveal them later.

We had worried that we might have to change our plans for our Sunday visit. Because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in cattle and sheep which has swept England, Wales and the lowlands of Scotland, many tourist attractions have closed, but the Weald and Downland Museum which we had planned to visit, reopened, although some of the animals had been taken to a place of safety.

This museum is set in 50 acres of the South Downs countryside, and is a collection of over 40 historic buildings which have been rescued from destruction, moved to this site, and restored or re-built in their original form. Great care has been taken to preserve the authenticity of these buildings which range from the mediaeval, through the Tudor period up to the Victorian, represented by a labourer's cottage.

Here and there the fabric has been cut away to show the inner detail of the building, and the method of construction demonstrated.

Craftsmen are at work at ancient crafts, and in some of the dwellings fires burned on open hearths. These were especially popular as the day was bitterly cold, and we were inclined to linger around the open fires in the mediaeval hall and the Tudor farmhouse.

Although the cattle, sheep, and pigs were missing, there were chickens, ducks and geese to provide movement and realism, and the baby moorhens on the lake were an instant attraction.

Everyone agreed that they had had a fascinating day, although I did not hear anyone say that they would like to go back in time and live as our ancestors did.

Bank Holiday Monday was to be a morning visit, and we drove to Chichester, a few miles from Merston.

A charming small town, Chichester has a large cathedral with a beautiful decorated spire. Although 900 years old, the cathedral is light and airy with Norman Romanesque arches in the Nave, fascinating side chapels, some attractive tiled flooring, and some vividly coloured and beautifully executed modern tapestry and needlework. A modern font and other modern additions are impressive and I thought in keeping with the concept of the ancient architecture. Roman tessellated flooring found under the ambulatory is on display, and we marvelled at that before we had to leave.

Chichester has some fine Georgian architecture and an interesting High Street where Morris Dancing was taking place as part of the holiday celebrations. (In case our overseas readers do not know about Morris Dancing - it is folk dancing by men, who jig about wearing flower garlands and jingling bells tied to their legs, and wielding short sticks which they clash together from time to time.)

Unfortunately, some of us had to leave the dancers and our Witheridge friends to make our way home after a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, for which we offer our thanks to Kim for her efforts in organising this event.

**A GROUP OF MEDIAEVAL BUILDINGS AT THE WEALD AND
DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM**



BEAUCHAMP HENRY - A NAME UNIQUE?

by Joyce Browne

BEAUCHAMP HENRY WITHERIDGE - a name which draws attention to itself, and certainly stands alone on the family trees. Beauchamp Henry - I feel that he could not possibly be called just 'Beauchamp', was born in 1884 and was the thirteenth child of George Witheridge and Dorcas Hammett. George was the son of William Witheridge, a master mariner, and Mary Ralph.

George was a sailmaker employed in H.M. Dockyard in Devonport, and all his children were born in Stoke Damerel, which is the registration district for Devonport, Plymouth. Beauchamp Henry did not stay in Devonport, but went to Scotland, where he became the superintendent of a department of Nobel's factory, working with the explosive TNT.

He married in Scotland in 1907 (Elizabeth Munro), and at some stage, possibly during World War I, when munitions factories were being opened in Wales, he and Elizabeth moved to Llanelli. Their fifth child, Elizabeth, was born in Llanelli in 1916.

Beauchamp Henry and Elizabeth had two sons, but neither of them was named after their father, unless you count Henry, born 1918, who had Beauchamp's second name.

The family trees of the South Milton and Thurleston families, who were Beauchamp's ancestors, do not have the name, and I cannot find it on any other Witheridge trees. So perhaps we should look to the Hammett side for clues?

On the Census for 1851, I found Beauchamp Henry's mother, Dorcas Hammett, living with her parents in Kingsbridge:

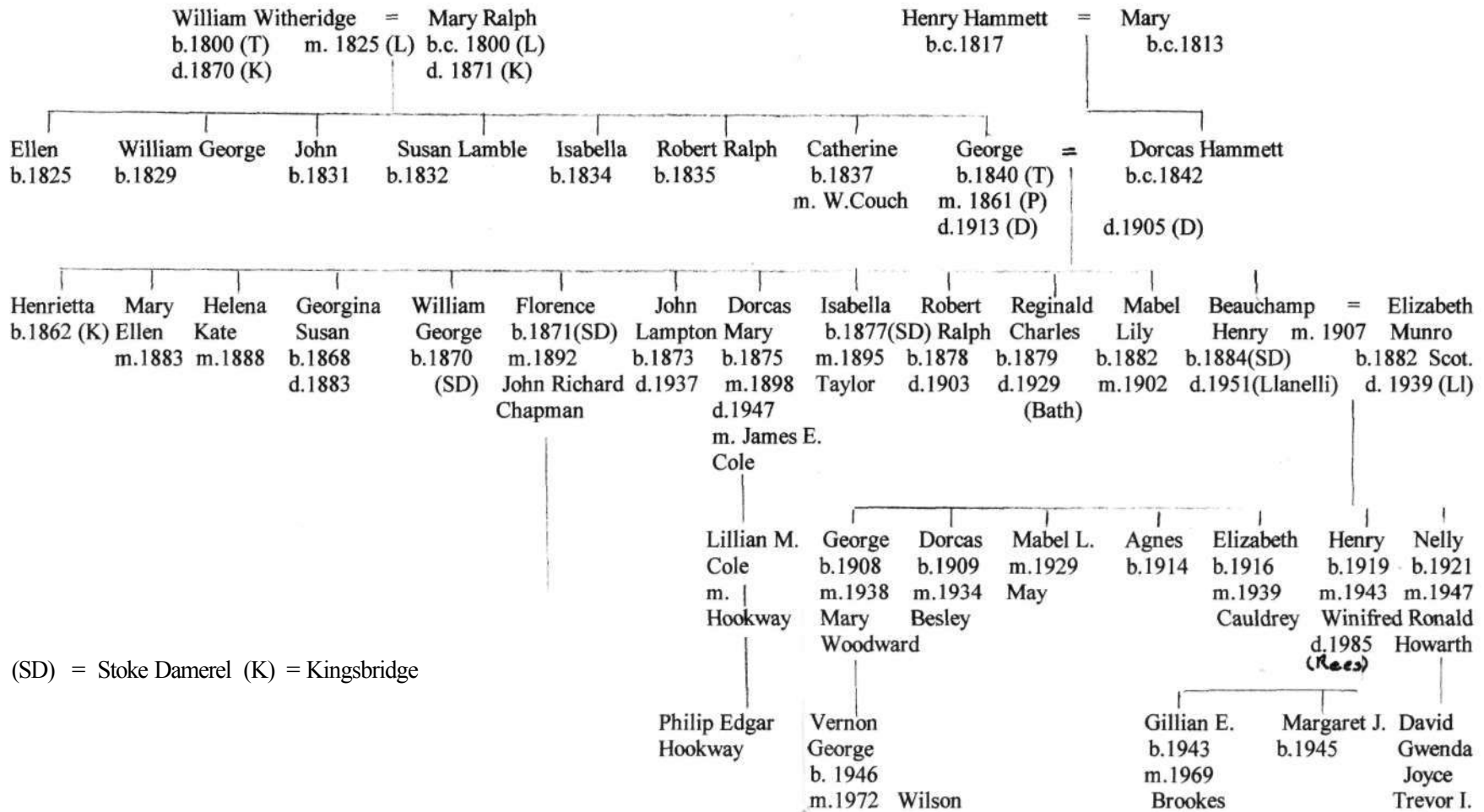
Address: Fore Street, Kingsbridge
Census Place, Kingbridge, Devonshire
PRO Ref: HO/107/1876 Folio:9 Page: 11 FHL Film: 0221024

Henery HAMMETT	Head	M	34	M	Hair	Draper	b. Kingsbridge Dev.
Mary HAMMETT	Wife	-	38	F	—		b. Malborough Dev.

SOUTH MILTON AND THURLESTONE FAMILY TREE EXTENDED INTO STOKE DAMEREL AND LLANELLI

(Constructed from family information and data available May 2001 - Joyce Browne)

SHEET 3 (a)



(SD) = Stoke Damerel (K) = Kingsbridge

Jennifer Anne Smith
née Turner

BEAUCHAMP HAMMETT

	son	11 M.	Scholar	b. Kingsbridge Dev.
Dorcas HAMMETT	Daur.	9 F.	Scholar	b. Kingsbridge Dev.
Arabella HAMMETT	Daur.	8 F.	Scholar	b. Kingsbridge Dev.
John L. HAMMETT	son	5 M	Scholar	b. Kingsbridge Dev.
Mary P. HAMMETT	Daur.	3 F.	Scholar	b. Kingsbridge Dev.

Here we have our first clue. Dorcas Hammett had an older brother named 'Beauchamp', and she combined the names of her father 'Henery' and that of her brother for her youngest son.

Could it be that Henry Hammett's father was called 'Beauchamp'? I searched the 1851 census for Devon for that name, but did not find it. I looked up all the Hammetts I could find in Kingsbridge, with no result. I was hoping to find a grandparent or an uncle, but there was nothing. I searched for the surname 'Beauchamp', also with no result.

I noted that Mary Hammett had been born in Malborough - could she have been 'Beauchamp' before marriage? There were no Beauchamps in Malborough, or it appeared, in the whole of Devonshire.

The Census for 1881 was equally disappointing. The national index revealed nothing. George and Dorcas were in Stoke Damerel with their children, but had no other relatives living with them, and I could not find Beauchamp Hammett - it may be that he had died.

Kim Cook, David Witheridge and Jennie Smith have all looked into their archives, and have sent me information. One item from David Witheridge may give us an answer to our question: Elizabeth Couldrey, daughter of Beauchamp Henry, told him that her grandmother Dorcas was of French extraction. I know that it is quite common for families to claim French extraction - I was once told that our name was really 'de Witheridge'!! However, this explanation might lead to our finding out about THE name, and so I think the next step is to try to find the maiden name of Dorcas' mother - the Mary Hammett, born Malborough, shown on the 1851 census.

This I shall endeavour to do, but if, in the meantime, anyone can come up with any other explanation - do let us know!

A LITTLE BIT OF MYSTERY!

by Kathy Witheridge

A few months ago I found one of our newest members, Catherine Shingler of Peterborough (temporary address Folkestone), on the Devon Mailing List. Catherine was trying to find the father of one of her ancestors, Clara Witheridge. Catherine knew that Clara's mother was Mary Grace Witheridge, but did not know who her father was.

Upon my suggestions, Catherine ordered a birth certificate for Clara Witheridge, whom I knew was born in the December quarter of 1868 in the Bideford registration district. Upon receiving the certificate, Catherine found that Clara was born at Upcott, Welcombe, Devon, on August 30th 1868 and was the daughter of Mary Grace Witheridge, but the name of the father was blank!

Catherine then felt that she should obtain a marriage certificate for Clara and perhaps that would reveal the information she still needed. The certificate read:-

"Sep.15, 1893, at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Ilfracombe, in the registration district of Barnstaple, George Taylor, 24 years, bach., mason of Landkey, son of John Taylor, mason, and Clara Witheridge, 25 years, spinster, of Upcott, Welcombe, daughter of Thomas Witheridge, farmer."

This was when we realized that something just wasn't right! I began to do some look-ups in my 1851 census and found:-

Upcott. Welcombe. Bideford. Devon

WYOTHERIDGE, Thomas	head	35	farmer (120ac)	Bradworthy
WYOTHERIDGE, Nancy	wife	35	farmer's wife	Bradworthy
WYOTHERIDGE, Mary G.	dau	9		Bradworthy
WYOTHERIDGE, James	son	7		Welcombe
WYOTHERIDGE, Susan	dau	5		Welcombe
WYOTHERIDGE, Sarah J.	dau.	2		Welcombe
WYOTHERIDGE, Elizabeth	dau.	3/mo.		Welcombe

Now we knew that Mary Grace was the daughter of Thomas Witheridge, but who was Nancy? I then looked in my Bradworthy records to see what I could find there.

Thomas, son of John and Grace Witheridge was baptised at Bradworthy on January 18th 1816. Now we knew who Thomas was - the younger brother to George Witheridge, (Paul's 3 x great grandfather). The only difference being that this Thomas Witheridge did not marry anyone by the name of Nancy! I immediately went back to my Bradworthy Parish Records to search for a marriage of Thomas, and here is what I found:-

"April 7th, 1841, Thomas Witheridge, bachelor, labourer of Bradworthy, son of John Witheridge, farmer, and Ann Moore, spinster, of Forda in this parish, daughter of James Moore, farmer.

WITS: John Witheridge and James Moore"

This had to be the correct marriage and 'Nancy' was obviously incorrect in the 1851 census, but just to confirm this I looked in the 1881 census to see what it said:

"Upcott. Welcombe. Devon

WITHERIDGE, Thomas	head	65	Farmer (50 ac)	Bradworthy
WITHERIDGE, Ann	wife	65	Farmer's wife	Bradworthy
WITHERIDGE, John	son	21	Farmer's son	Welcombe
WITHERIDGE, Clara	g/dau	12	Scholar	Welcome"

Now all our theories were confirmed! Nancy was really Ann, and Clara was brought up by her grandparents. All this now began to make sense, as Mary Grace Witheridge had moved to Berkshire, as I found in the 1881 census.

"Near Berks Asylum. Cholsey, Berkshire

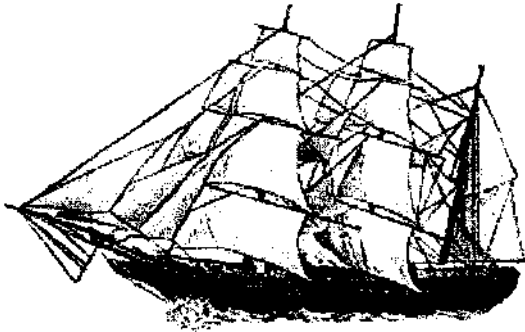
WELCH, James	head	45	Head Gardener	Eversley	Hants.
WELCH, Mary G.	wife	38		Bradworthy	Devon
WELCH, Louisa	dau.	9	Scholar	Cholsey	Berks
WELCH, Edith A	dau	3		Cholsey	Berks
WELCH, Albert E.	son	2/mo.		Cholsey	Berks
WELCH, Eliza	mother	Widow		Eversley	Hants"

This information put the icing on the cake! We now know for sure that we have the correct Mary Grace. It was next confirmed that Mary Grace Witheridge married James Welch in the September quarter of 1876 at Wallingford.

What is not known is why Clara was left behind with her grandparents and perhaps we will never know this. It is known that James Welch had a previous marriage and that Louisa was the daughter from his first marriage.

Catherine has the remainder of the information on this family. She also has some lovely pictures that she may wish to share with the Society in the future.

Welcome aboard Catherine!



FAMILY ARCHIVE

WOULD YOU LIKE OUR SOCIETY TO HAVE A FAMILY ARCHIVE?

This would consist of 'profiles' of Witheridges, past and present - details and remembrances collected by friends and family.

Write down your recollections of a particular friend or relation. The subject need not be a remarkable person, just a family member. Your recollections will provide articles for the magazine, and form a basis for a collection which will be of interest to all members.

It is important that information and memories are not lost, but preserved for future generations, so write down your thoughts now and send them to our President, Kim Cook, or to me, the Editor. Our addresses are on the inside of the magazine cover.

THE LAST WORD

by Joyce Browne

Adolph Hitler, when his Luftwaffe bombed Exeter in 1942, deprived the family historian of much family knowledge - especially of Wills and Testaments which went up in the flames of the city.

Now and again one emerges from some hiding place which escaped the general conflagration, and one such is that of Miss Eva Witheridge of 33, Belgrave Road, Torquay. Eva was the daughter of William Witheridge, Gardener and Nurseryman, and his wife Mary Hannaford (South Milton and Thurlestone family). She was born in 1855 and died in 1941, and for some years lived with her unmarried sister Elizabeth who, in 1934, pre-deceased her.

The Will was made in 1935, after the death of her sister. We are not allowed to reproduce it but it states that she appointed Thomas Rogers of the China Stores, Belgrave Place, Torquay, to be her sole executor. She bequeathed to

"my niece Mrs. Campton of 375 Clifton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, United States of America all my silver plate and plated articles.

"to Miss Amy Sanders my companion and help the sum of Ten pounds in appreciation of her kindness to my late sister and myself.

The remainder of her estate, real and personal, she bequeathed to Thomas Rogers absolutely.

The Will was signed and witnessed on the 30th August, 1935.

Eva had six brothers and two sisters, but by 1935 they were either dead or scattered from Devon. Her brother Andrew Hannaford went to America, and also her brother Charles. David Witheridge has traced descendants from three of Andrew's sons who lived in the Newark area of New Jersey. These men would have been Eva's nephews.

David knows of at least thirteen children descended from these nephews, and the names of their spouses, but a Mrs. Campton does not appear among them, but the Will appears to show that the family had remained in touch.

Two years later, in 1937, Eva Witheridge was not so appreciative of Amy Sanders' kindness, for she revoked the clause in her Will leaving Amy Ten pounds.

Somewhere, and at some time, I think there was a 'falling-out'! We shall never know what happened, but on 17th June 1937, Eva Witheridge added this Codicil to her Will:-

"I revoke the bequest of Ten pounds to Amy Sanders contained in my said Will she having now left my service". This codicil was witnessed by a Solicitor and a Solicitor's Clerk.

If Amy had left the service of Eva for a compelling reason, and without rancour, surely the Will would have been left as it was, especially in view of the kindness to Eva and her late sister?

When Eva died in March, 1941, Britain was at war with Germany, and America had not yet entered the conflict. There was trade across the Atlantic, but much shipping was sunk by German U-boats, and the Atlantic crossing was very hazardous. At that time, more goods were dispatched by sea than air freight, and one wonders if Mrs. Campton of Newark, New Jersey, ever received her inheritance of silver plate? Could those British articles have become treasured antiques, or are they at the bottom of the ocean?



DISASTER IN DEVON

'Disaster' is not too strong a word to describe the impact of foot and mouth disease in the county of Devon. It has been a disaster for other parts of Britain too - the western lowlands of Scotland, Northumbria, Cumbria, and Wales. Strangely enough, the impact has not been nearly so great in East Anglia, where the disease was first identified, possibly because the sheep affected had not been reared there but had been brought into the area to be slaughtered.

'Foot and mouth' is a disease of sheep, cattle and other animals such as deer, and causes them to have painful blisters on the feet and tongue, so that they cannot graze and eat. Sometimes, but not always, it kills, and it leaves them in poor condition, and a danger to other animals.

Control of the disease is particularly difficult in counties such as Devon, where sheep and ponies roam free over Dartmoor, but the animals are not wild, as some people imagine. They belong to farmers and have a folk memory which enables them to stick to a territory and be rounded up and cared for when the need arises.

The discovery of foot and mouth has a catastrophic effect on any area of the countryside. The whole herd has to be killed, and the farmer loses his livelihood in one stroke. Compensation is paid for each animal slaughtered, but there is no compensation for subsequent weeks and months of loss of business, when the farmer is not allowed to re-stock until some months after the area is declared clear.

Farmers whose land abuts contaminated farms also have their animals 'culled' - a polite word for slaughtered, and other farmers are in great difficulties as they are having to feed their herds, but because of the restrictions on movements of animals, cannot take them to market.

The whole of mid Devon has been affected, right across Dartmoor to the north coast. Names we know - Tiverton, Shebbear, Witheridge, Tawton, Barnstaple, Bideford, Lydford, come into the news every day.

Rights of way have been closed to walkers, shops and hotels are losing business - The Tiverton Hotel, where we have held our AGM., reported that it had lost £15,000 in one week.

Consider some of the humans who have been affected by this plague -

Children - because if they live on a farm they are not allowed to go to school.

Teachers - some of them live on farms, and some of them have no children to teach.

Housewives - if they live on an infected farm they are not allowed to leave.

Road Hauliers - they cannot transport animals

Walkers and Cyclists - beauty spots and rights-of way are closed.

Motorists - cannot pull off at the side of some roads, or drive up farm lanes.

Cafés and Restaurants - the tourists are not coming to Devon

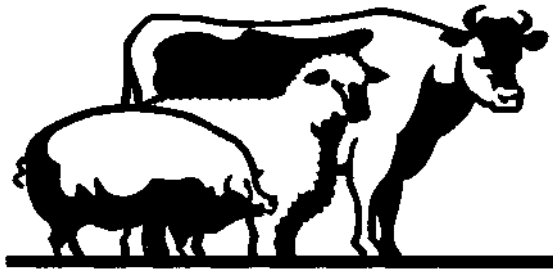
Food Manufacturers - the supply to the food chain has been interrupted

Marine Commandos - most surprising this - but they train on Dartmoor which is closed to them. There was talk that they would have to go over to France to do their training!

When killed, the animals have to be disposed of quickly and there has been outrage at the sight of pyres of bodies and the smell of rotting carcasses which pervades some areas. The Government had to bring in the Army with its logistical experts to expedite the disposal of the animals, but still the smoke has covered large areas with a black pall. Recriminations about the handling of the situation fly to and fro, and from February until May, the situation seemed to worsen from day to day. Like the Black Death and subsequent plagues it seemed that no intervention from man could halt the spread of the disease. Science has not yet conquered nature. Up until the end of May there have been over 1,630 outbreaks in Britain.

In Devon, mercifully, it seems to be dying out, but it has now broken out in a previously unaffected area of Yorkshire.

Devon has weathered other plagues, and become prosperous after adversity. Let us hope that the sheep which helped its recovery in the Middle Ages can contribute again to its prosperity.



DID YOU KNOW?

For those of you who come across legal documents in the course of your research, particularly if you study court records, it may be helpful to know that although the use of Latin in the courts was abolished in 1733, Latin abbreviations continued to be used. Some of the most common are:-

ca null catalla nulla: no goods or chattels to forfeit

cogn ind cognovit in dictamentum: confessed to the indictment, that is - pleads guilty

cul culpabilis: guilty

ign ignoramus: we do not know, that is, the grand jury finds no case to answer - usually endorsed on the indictment when it is not endorsed billa vera - true bill

non cul nec re non culpabilis nec retraxit: not guilty and did not flee (and therefore did not have to forfeit possessions)

po se ponit super patrium: puts herself (or himself) on the country (jury) that is -pleads not guilty

sus suspendatur: let her (or him) be hanged



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 4th MAY, 2001

My thanks, as always, go to our overseas representatives, who, I am glad to say, have agreed to be re-elected. They have served the Society creditably and deserve our appreciation.

Kathy and Paul Witheridge of Ontario deserve our special thanks for establishing the Society's first Web Site. About 233 visits have been made to it at the time of writing, which is very encouraging!

As in 1999 and the year 2000 we are still greatly disturbed by the lack of attendance at the Annual General Meetings. Suggestions which were made to try to counteract the apparent lack of interest in the Society have not borne fruit, and we still need volunteers to assist in various activities.

I say "apparent" lack of interest but we have attracted seven new members in the past two months, thanks to Joyce, Kim, Richard and Kathy - and queries regarding the Witheridge name and history continue to be asked.

Finally, I would like to thank all our officers - including Richard who has kindly taken on extra duties.

We give our special thanks to Philip Witheridge, for his invaluable efforts and for the printing and distribution of the magazine from the formation of the Society. We shall miss his dedication, but unfortunately his home commitments make it impossible for him to carry on.

We express thanks also to John Witheridge, our retiring Membership Secretary, whose efforts in the past have brought in many new members and who has contributed to our knowledge of many families. John has agreed to continue as Secretary of the Society.

Signed: GRAHAM BROWNE Chairman

RESEARCH REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 2001

Research into the Bradworthy/Tavistock families has been carried out by Joyce, in co-operation with Kathy in Canada, and this has resulted in finding an American connection with a new member coming to the Witheridge Society. Further research into these families has produced more information about Emma Jane Witheridge who married the writer William Crossing.

David Witheridge, our Vice President, made his research available to us about Thomas Witheridge Gubb of a South African family, leading to more research into the Berrynarbor/CombeMartin family. All this led to the article "Just William" in the magazine.

Much work was carried out on the history of the Bideford family, with investigation into George Causey Witheridge and wife Mary Ann Bussell. Her birth and history is not yet found, but several new items came to light and were printed in the magazine article "George The Lad".

Sheila Jewell carried out an investigation into documents of Newneham in South Devon but this failed to reveal a connection between Robert Wetheridge, who live there in the 1500s, and the Ermington family. Present thoughts are that he was connected with the Wembury family.

Kathy Witheridge sent details of Witheridge burials in the Abney Park Cemetery, Hackney, which she found on the Internet Web Site. All names were already known, but this solved one mystery of a Devon family who 'disappeared' and whom we now know went to London.

Kathy has also found more information on immigration lists into America which are shown on a new site on the internet. These show some Witheridges, some known, and some unknown.

Sheila Jewell also came up with an item concerning a lease signed for properties in Berrynarbor and Ilfracombe. The signatory was a Thomas Witheridge, son of Francis Witheridge of Bristol "Gent". Richard and Maureen searched some records in Bristol Library. David Witheridge searched his records, and Kim Cook searched her archive material, but whilst the names Francis and Thomas occur in the Berrynarbor/Ilfracombe families, none fit the details given on the lease. Richard has started to search in Bristol at another record office and has found the Apprenticeship record of Francis, son of Nicholas Witheridge, to Robert Pickering (already known to Joyce) but nothing further.

Separately Richard found information on a Joan Witheridge from Devon, and Stephen Witheridge from Cornwall, Felons transported from Bideford to Maryland in 1734. Also Isaac and John Witheridge transported in 1743 - not sure whether these were previously known.

Various CD ROMS have been searched including (a) Vital records index of the British Isles which is said to contain 5 million births, christenings and marriages from 1538 - 1888 and yielded few names, which we already knew. (b) Passenger and Immigration lists to America 1500-1900, with no result. Searches (including the 1851 and 1881 census) have been somewhat disappointing after all the hard work.

Kim Cook has been doing a great deal of research into all the places bearing the Witheridge name, and in particular Witheridge Farm, Exton, Somerset, which she was able to visit after the Witheridge Society 10th anniversary weekend at Tiverton in 1997. This has led to an article appearing in the Magazine, with more to come - Watch this space!

Kim is also following up the story on Samuel Witheridge, one of the sailors on HMS Boadicea who joined forces with the British Army in South Africa. The story is in recent magazines.

Research now shows that there may be more to tell about previous involvements. Whilst records are scant, Kim has found that some of the ship's crew are commemorated on a memorial at Haslar, and maybe Samuel's name could be there also. Kim has been advised that her work is probably the most definitive work carried out into the Naval Brigade to date, although a lot remains to be done.

One exciting result has been the discovery of a full length film made on location in the 1960s, entitled MAJUBA. Kim has a video copy which shows the battlefield, participation of the Naval Brigade and the war graves of those who fell. Future magazines should be even more exciting to read.

Big thanks to all our researchers for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

Signed: RICHARD WITHERIDGE Research Co-ordinator

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL
2001**

INCOME

Brought forward from 99/00	£536.96
Additional money paid into membership account for 2000 and transferred after last statement	£ 16.76
Membership subscriptions transferred from Membership Secretary's account	£272.00
Donations to Society by two members, one for year 2000, and 1 for year 2001	£90.00
Membership subscription and for buying back numbers of the magazine	£ 26.50
Membership subscription for four members for year 2000 paid at the AGM 2000	£ <u>48.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£436.26</u>

TOTAL £990.22

EXPENDITURE

Payment for hire of hall + Buffet meals, tea/coffee at Tiverton Hotel	£153.00
Payment re Philip Witheridge claim for printing 3 vols. of magazine for yr. 2000 and 1 vol. for yr. 2001, plus despatch, plus printing Witheridge Day 2001 Invitations etc., and postage of back numbers for a new member	£329.00
Membership Secretary account for all correspondence etc., for 2000	£000.00
Subscription to Guild of One Name Studies	£ 30.00
Subscription to Federation of Family History Societies.	£ <u>12.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£524.99</u>

FINAL BALANCE £465.23

We, the undersigned, believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30th April, 2001.

R. WITHERIDGE
Treasurer
Dated 9th May, 2001

M. WITHERIDGE
Assist. Treasurer
9th May, 2001-05-12

G.BROWNE
Auditor
12th May, 2001-

If we can maintain the balance at this level or more, then the membership subscriptions can be kept at the existing level. However, with the costs rising each year we will need to watch carefully how our expenses are being used and try to find ways of reducing the costs whenever possible.

Signed: RICHARD WITHERIDGE Treasurer April, 2001



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY - continued from front cover

Representative Australia	Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge, 95, Vimiera Road, Eastwood, N.S.W. Australia 2122
Representative Canada and North America	Mrs. K.M. Witheridge, 343, Bright Street, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada N7T 465
Representative New Zealand	Mrs. Velma Metcalfe, 49 Chester Road, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand

Committee Members:

Mr. Jason Cook 2, Rusthall Close Addiscombe, Croydon Surrey CRO 7YH (Responsibility for liaison on Youth projects)	Mr. Mark Witheridge, 27 Shenley Fields Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, Warw. B29 5AG
Mrs. Barbara Finemore 1 Corfe Avenue Hartley Vale Plymouth, Devon PL3 5SQ	Mrs. Carolyn Green 2 Thornhill Gardens, Newport, South Wales NP10 9GA

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002 ARE DUE ON 1ST 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 Membership Secretary:-

Mr. Richard Witheridge

Address on inside front cover

