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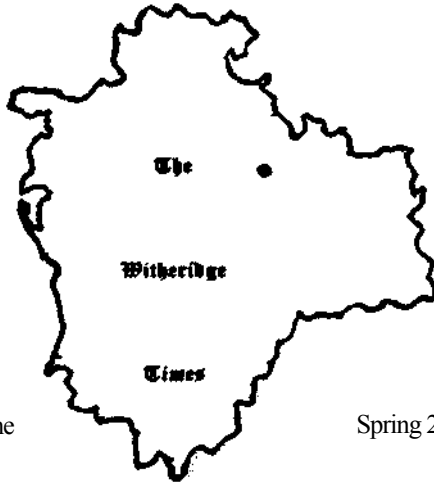
Vol. 16 No.1

Spring 2002

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| (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) | |
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Continued on back cover



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VISIT THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY WEB SITE!

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

EDITORIAL

Greetings to all our readers for the first time in the year 2002. It is too early to say what the Spring will bring, but at the moment we are being buffeted by gale force winds accompanied by torrential rain. In Britain yesterday seven people died as a result of the gales - some hit by falling trees, and others in road accidents where high sided lorries were blown off the motorway. So we look forward to May and better weather for our Witheridge re-union.

This year we plan to be in a part of England never before visited by the Society - Kent - 'the garden of England' famous for its apple orchards, and fields of hops used in the making of beer. The hops used to be picked by hand, and gangs of pickers would come from the East End of London to pick the crops. Whole families would come and live in huts, cater for themselves and make merry in the evenings (if they had any energy left). The experience was often the only holiday East End children ever had.

We look forward to meeting friends in the home of Kim and Roy Cook, and to exploring some of the attractions in the region. Do come and join us if you can.

We thank those who responded to our appeals for profiles and stories, and in this edition we have a profile of a Witheridge man, Roland Adrian Witheridge, who was loved by his family and we are glad that we can place his life on record.

Jennie Smith, of New Zealand has sent the memoirs of her Grandfather, Reginald Edgar Witheridge Chapman (to give him his full name). Reg's conversational style is easy to read and the first part of his story will take many readers back to the south coasts of Devon and Cornwall. For those who have never seen these areas it will give them an insight into what village life was like in the early part of the 20th century. There is more to follow in later editions.

The Hammett family is still under scrutiny, and there is more to come about them after they left England.

Kim's story of Witheridge Farm at Exton, Somerset, concludes in this issue, and we would like to hear more about places with a Witheridge name.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time and trouble to research and contribute to the magazine, and thank you to all those who continue to read it!

Carry on reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joyce', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**INVITATION TO THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING AND RE-UNION WEEKEND COMMENCING
ON SATURDAY, 4th MAY, 2002**

Roy and I look forward to welcoming you to our home for the Witheridge Society Annual General Meeting. The enclosed leaflet has a map of the area to help you to find us, but if anyone is travelling by rail, please let us know so that we can arrange for you to be met at Headcorn station.

Refreshments will be served from 10.0 a.m. to 10.45 a.m., and the AGM will start at 11. 0 a.m., sharp. After the AGM., we will adjourn for a local pub lunch, and if time, a brief visit to the parish church of St. Mildred, which will serve as a preface to Graham's afternoon talk on Admiral Nelson's connections with Tenterden. This talk, with refreshments, will again be in our home, and there will be plenty of time to chat, renew old friendships and make new ones. In the evening, we will meet up for a meal at the Collina House Hotel. Those who wish to stay overnight are advised to book their accommodation now, those not staying at the Collina House should be sure to book for the evening meal.

On Sunday afternoon there will be a steam train excursion from Tenterden to Bodiam Castle. The Kent & East Sussex Railway is hosting a special 'Weekend at War' event, with Tenterden in 'enemy' hands and Rolvenden and stations beyond in Allied territory! As well as tickets, we will be supplied with travel permits and other documents, and gas masks will be on display, but I'm assured that there will be nothing to alarm children or the faint-hearted!. Combined tickets for the train journey and the visit to Bodiam are available, but National Trust members may find it cheaper to book the train journey separately.

Events for Sunday morning and Monday will be confirmed nearer the time, depending on weather, but are likely to include visits to Willesborough windmill, Tenterden Vineyard, and Great Dixter house and gardens.

We hope as many as possible will stay for the full three days, but if you can't we'll be delighted to see you for as long as you can stay.

Roy and Kim Cook

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 4th MAY, 2002. AT THE HOME OF KIM AND ROY COOK:

CHERRY TREES
INGLEDEN PARK ROAD.
TENTERDEN.
KENT TN30 6NS

I hereby give notice of the above meeting and invite all members to attend. If you are unable to be at the meeting, but would like to nominate a member as an officer, (having first obtained his or her consent) it is possible to do so by postal vote or by e-mail. A postal or e-mail vote should be with me one week before the meeting, but it will not be counted until after the votes are counted at the meeting.

If anyone would like to raise a matter for discussion, or make a proposal, it is possible to do this by post or e-mail, and it would be helpful if this could be with me at least a week before the meeting. My postal address is on the inside front cover of the Witheridge Times, and I can be reached by e-mail at:-

BROWNEJ392@aol.com or WitheridgeSocUK@aol.com

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Report on the 14th Annual General Meeting held at Merston, Chichester on 5th May, 2001
3. Matters arising from the Report
4. Officers' Reports (as circulated)

Chairman's Report, Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report,
Membership Secretary's Report, Research Co-ordinator's Report
(It would be appreciated if Officers would send me their reports as soon as they are completed in order that they may be printed and circulated prior to the meeting)

5. Proposal to change the name of the Society. Two proposals have been received
 (1) Change to 'The Witheridge Family History Society'
 (2) Change to 'The Witheridge Family Society'

6. Proposal to insert an additional clause into the Constitution. This clause is given at the end of this notice, and proposals for amended wording to the clause will be discussed at the meeting.
7. Election of Officers
(I ask members to give this matter serious thought, and to volunteer for office if they feel they can contribute to the running of the Society)
8. Any other business (including arrangements for the meetings of years 2003 and 2004)

GRAHAM BROWNE CHAIRMAN

CLAUSE PROPOSED FOR INSERTION INTO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

"The Executive Committee of the Society may suspend the membership, and/or recommend the termination of the membership, of any member, who, in the opinion of the Committee

- i) behaves in a way likely to bring the Society into disrepute
- ii) discloses information of a personal or sensitive nature relating to any living member of the Society or their immediate family
- iii) behaves in an unruly or unseemly way at any meeting or social gathering organised by the Society
- iv) consistently fails to perform the duties of any Committee or sub-committee post to which the member has been elected
- v) behaves in any way to the detriment of the Society and/or its members provided always that
- vi) such member has been given the option of either appearing before the committee with a friend if the member so wishes, or of presenting a written defence to the Committee which shall have been read by all those Committee members entitled to vote
- vii) in the case of an ordinary member, 75% of the Committee vote for the suspension, whether in person, by post or by e-mail
- viii) in the case of a Committee member, 75% of the remaining members of the

Committee vote for the suspension, whether in person, by post or by e-mail

- ix) that any suspension is considered and voted upon at the next AGM, or the next Extra-ordinary General Meeting, at which time the members may vote for the suspension to be ratified for a further year, to be set aside, or to be converted into a termination of membership, and that any such motion requires a two-thirds majority of the members casting votes
- x) that in the event of an unclear decision, the Chairman (or acting Chairman) will have an additional casting vote"

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY HELD AT ABELANDS HOUSE HOTEL, MERSTON NEAR CHICHESTER, ON SATURDAY, 5th MAY, 2001

Present:- Graham Browne Joyce Browne Kim Cook Roy Cook
Terry Finemore Barbara Finemore Carolyn Green Dorothy Linter
David Witheridge June Witheridge John Witheridge
Richard Witheridge Maureen Witheridge

New members Barbara and Terry Finemore, Carolyn Green and Dorothy Linter were welcomed.

Apologies for absence were received from:- Jason and Zoe Cook, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Carol Goins, Tom and Sheila Jewell, Velma Metcalfe, Rev. David Witheridge, Jim Witheridge, and Kathy and Paul Witheridge.

The minutes of the 13th AGM., of the Society held at Tiverton on the 29th April, 2000, were taken as read and accepted.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 29th April, 2000

Electronic magazine: It was agreed to continue to explore this possibility, although the majority of members whose views had been sought preferred to receive a hard copy.

Central record keeping as suggested by John James: This was thought to be desirable, but require a member to act as a librarian and record keeper. Efforts during the year to recruit someone had had no success.

Falling attendance at the AGM: It was decided to reduce the number of people required to form a quorum from ten to eight for a period of one year.

Postal or e-mail voting: This suggestion from Paul Witheridge was accepted and will be put into effect.

There was discussion on venues suitable for future meetings.

Election of Officers: John Witheridge agreed to remain as Secretary for one more year, and Richard agreed to take on the duties of Membership Secretary in addition to those of Treasurer and Research Coordinator. Graham Browne continued as Chairman, and Joyce Browne as Editor. New members Mrs. Barbara Finemore and Mrs. Carolyn Green were prevailed upon to become committee members. Kim Cook agreed to publish and distribute the magazine for the time being.

The Chairman thanked those overseas members who had worked hard in our interests, and all of whom had agreed to continue as our representatives.

Any Other Business: There was discussion on a proposal to amend the constitution with regard to the right of the President and Vice President to vote at committee and other meetings, and it was agreed that the constitution should be amended to read:

"In a situation where the position of President is held by someone outside the Society, the appointment confers no right to vote or to stand for election, however, where the appointment is made to someone within the Society, the acceptance of such appointment does not negate the right to vote at committee meetings, or to stand for any position on the committee"

It was felt that the amendment could take immediate effect.

Date, time and place of the next meeting

A suggestion was made that this should take place on the 4th May, 2002, in the Medway area of Kent. The re-union weekend would include a visit to the Chatham dockyard.

(It has not been possible to implement this and the venue for the Annual General Meeting for 2002, and Witheridge Weekend is at Tenter den in Kent. The Annual General Meeting is to take place at the home of Kim and Roy Cook, address given in the Notice of the AGM for 2002.)

FAMILY NEWS

Judith Witheridge, of Figtree, Australia has "battled against the headwinds of Time" to send us a lovely 'report' on her branch of the family (Berrynarbor, Combemartin, Australia). In spite of the death of her mother in June, and the loss of two aunts during the year, Judith says that it has been a good year for them, until Christmas that was. Christmas Day was horrible weatherwise, with a hot wind and a build up of smoke from the forest fires which were all too near them.

All the family were with Judith and Allan for Christmas Day, but two of the families could not get home as all roads going north to Sydney were cut. They managed to reach home by a circuitous route the next day, but for ten days Judith and Allan lived in a pall of smoke, with ash and burnt leaves covering everything outside. Mercifully, a major fire about ten kilometres away did not reach them. Then, two weeks later, there was heavy rain which caused flooding!

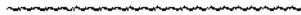
The health of Allan's younger brother, Jack, and his wife Rita, has been precarious and Jack is awaiting another operation. We send our hopes for a better time for them in 20Q2.

Judith and Allan's four sons, Greig, Neil, Ian and Paul continue to thrive and do well, and between them have produced eight grandchildren for Judith and Allan.

The children and grandchildren have interests as varied as dirt bike riding, weight lifting and music, and it sounds as if there is never a dull moment in the Witheridge family.



John and Pat James, of Burnaby, Canada, sent greetings and an appreciation of the work of the Society. In spite of some adverse health problems, John and Pat have continued to travel and increase their knowledge of the world.



In December Terry Finemore of Plymouth was seriously ill with pneumonia and heart problems. The good news is that after an operation Terry has made a good recovery, and is able to take walks with his wife, Barbara. We send them our best wishes for a steady return to good health.



A Place in the Family?

by Kim Cook

Witheridge Farm, Exton, Somerset

Part III - Where there's a will.. !

John Wood had occupied Witheridge farm at Exton from 1841, (and perhaps 1835), and his son William had continued to run the farm until 1871. By 1881 William had been widowed and had retired to live with his married daughter Sophia Howe and her farmer husband John. Witheridge Farm had been taken over by another Howe, Robert, who may well have been related both to Sophia's husband John and to her sister Elizabeth's husband, Thomas Howe. Nearby Huckham Farm, which had been run by William Wood's son Charles in 1871 had, by 1881, been taken over by Daniel Bryant and his family. By 1891, the Bryants had moved on to Witheridge Farm, and there was no trace of any male Wood descendants in Exton. As there had been no Witheridges at Witheridge Farm in Victorian times, could the name have come from the fact that this was, and still is, sheep farming country? Or could the farm have been occupied by Witheridges at some stage in the more distant past?

In an effort to find out whether there had ever been any Witheridges at Witheridge Farm, I managed to make a brief visit to the Somerset county record offices in Taunton to search through the early parish registers. In the short time available, and coping with poor microfilm copies of damaged registers, I could find no reference to any Witheridges.

However, there were a number of families named Wither or Withers. The earliest recorded baptism is of a John Withers, with no father named. On 25 February that year, Mary, daughter of John Wither, was baptised, and a succession of Wither/ Withers baptisms follows (see list).

The first recorded marriage of a Wither in Exton was on 17 July 1583, when Joan Wither married a man whose surname appears to be Barrle (the Christian name being illegible). Subsequent Wither marriages, are all of women - the Wither men must all have married women from outside the parish, until, on 22 June 1622, Richard Wither married Thomazine Bowden, and on 18 April 1638, Nathaniel Withers married Charity Taylor.

From the brief extract printed below, it is clear that the Withers family were living in and around Exton for many years. This is confirmed by entries in an index to Landholders of Somerset, 1235-1653. The main index shows a Laurence Withers, and Lawrence Wither (Eliz 1), Laurence Wither (Eliz 1) and Nicholas Wither (Jas 1) are mentioned in Appendix B. So could Witheridge farm originally have been owned by the Wither(s) family and called Wither(s) Ridge Farm? At this stage of my research, this certainly seemed the most likely explanation.

Extracts from Exton baptisms, 1565 - 1686

| Year | Date | Child | Parent(s) |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1565 | (no date) | John Withers | (not named) |
| 1565 | 25 Feb | Mary, | John Wither |
| 1566 | 13 Apr | (no name) | John Wither |
| 1569 | 22 Sept | Agnes | John Wither |
| 1571 | 14 Feb | Joan | John Wither |
| 1573 | 13 May | William | Robert Withers |
| 1573 | -Sept | Thomas | John Withers |
| 1575 | 20 Nov | Joan | John Withers |
| 1576 | 26 Apr | Mary | John Withers |
| 1578 | 19 Jul | Alice | John Withers |
| 1578 | 2 Aug | Joan | John Withers |
| 1582 | 20 Jun | Thomas | John Withers |
| 1597 | 3 Apr | William | Mary Wither |
| 1607 | 5 Sept | Nathaniel | Jane Wither |
| 1624 | 6 Jan | John | Richard Withers |
| 1640 | 25 Apr | Richard | Nathaniel & Charity Withers |
| 1641 | 20 Feb | Mary | Nathaniel Wither |
| 1643 | 3 Dec | John | Nathaniel Wither |
| 1645 | 30 Nov | Robert | Nathaniel Wither |

Extracts from Exton marriages 1558-1686

| Year | Date | Husband | Wife |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1583 | Jul 17 | ?? ? Barrle | Joan Wither |
| 1591 | Nov 16 | Richard Crook | Thomazine Wither |
| 1595 | 11 Aug | Thomas Chilcot | Margaret Wither |
| 1603 | 26 Jan | Mark Bishop | Agnes Wither |
| 1605 | 2 Feb | John Trott | Mary Wither |

| | | | |
|------|--------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1606 | 30 Jul | Robart Devey | Joan Wither |
| 1614 | 22 Jun | Richard Wither | Thomazine Bowden |
| 1638 | 18 Apr | Nathaniel Withers | Charity Taylor |

Some early entries in the marriage register were quite illegible, so there may have been others which I was unable to recognise.

However, like all good mystery stories, this one has a twist in the tail. Recently, I decided to tidy up my filing system, and found some pencil notes made back in 1980. At the time, David and Elizabeth Witheridge were over from Minneapolis, and we had all gone to the Public Record Office to search for wills relating to Elizabeth's Amos, Kendall and Penn(e)y ancestors.

Needless to say, I kept my eyes open for any Witheridge wills also, and I did find a few. Only one turned out to be of immediate interest, that of Katherine Witheridge of Wembury. Katherine was a member of my own branch of the Witheridge family, and possibly my 12 x great grandmother! So great was my excitement at getting a facsimile copy of her will (she died in 1654) that the other notes were tucked away as strays and forgotten.

Twenty years later, sorting through my files and remembering the good times we had had with David and Elizabeth, I suddenly spotted an entry in my notes that had never registered at the time, or indeed since. In the list of wills for 1605-1619 was the following entry:

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|----|
| 1608 | Witheredge, Johane, widow. | Exton, Somerset | 98 |
| | Windebanck | | |

In 1980 I hadn't even known there was a Witheridge Farm at Exton, so the entry hadn't seemed important. Now, having discovered the farm, visited it and researched its history, this forgotten piece of information opened a whole new perspective on the case!

It was some time before I could get to London to examine the microfilm copy of the will, and when I did, my time was very limited. Given a clear copy, a magnifying glass and plenty of time, my palaeography is reasonable. With microfilm, a maximum film magnification of x 18, and less than an hour to work at it, a complete reading was impossible.

However, this is how I transcribed it, with original spellings, capitals and punctuation. Where words occur which I have so far been unable to

transcribe, I have put three dots. Words which I have transcribed but am unsure of have (?) after them.

*In the name of God Amen the ffower and twentieth day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lorde god one thousand six hundred and Eighte, I **Johane Witheridge** of the parish of Exton in the County of Somerset, widow, sick in bodye but perfect of memory God be thanked, I do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following. ffirst I commend my Soule into the hands of Almightye God and my body to the earth. I give and bequeathe to the poore of the parish of Exton in the County of Somerset thirtie shillings. Item I give and bequeathe unto **Anne Avery** my daughter in Lawe fortie shillings. Item I give unto **Philippe ffrogwell** fortie shillings. Item I give to the poore of Exton tenne shillings. Item I give to the poore of ? ? ? (possibly Brompton ?) tenne shillings. Item I give unto **John ffrogwell** fortie shillings. Item I give unto **Ellen Bates** my servannt fortie shillings and seven (?) yardes of clothe to make a blankett. Item I give unto every of my godchildren . . . one live sheepe (?) . . . a yeere. Item I give unto **Margaret Bates** and **Anne Griffyn** (?) one heifer (?).... Item I give unto **Henry Atwill** my . . . sheepe (?) Item I give unto **Margaret Honnywill** my best pettycoate and my best covercoate (?). Item I give unto **Annie Shallirfe** (?). my best gowne and halfe kirtle. Item I give unto my sister **Elizabeth Bone** (?) my taffata Apron. Item I give unto **Agness** the wife of **Thomas Doarts** (?) of Exton one pettycoate. Item I give unto **Johane** the wife of **John Ashe** (?) one pettycoate. Item I give unto **Johane** the wife of **William Dawe** (?) my wedding gowne. All the rest of my goodes and chattels which I have or of right ought to have not given or bequeathed I give and bequeathe unto **William Avery** my sonne whome I make my full and whole executor to pay my debts and legacies and discharge my ffunerall in such sorte as shall redowne to the glory of God and to see this my will performed. And further I do appoynte my wellbeloved. . . **John Bone** (?) and **Thomas** (?) **Tribell** (?) to be my overseers, in witness whereof I have caused this my will to be written the day and yere above sayed in the presence of these whose names be underwritten **Sampson** . . . **Peter Bryant**, **John ffrogwell** and **Philip ffrogwell** with....*

This is a fascinating will, but also a frustrating one. There is no mention of the name Witheridge other than as Johane's own surname. The contents of the will indicate that her marriage to the late Mr Witheridge was her second marriage, and that her first husband was a Mr Avery, by whom she had a son William. It seems likely that Joan's first marriage was Mr Avery's second,

for Anne Avery, described as Joan Witheridge's daughter-in-law, is left 40 shillings. At this time, the term daughter-in-law was used for what we would now call a step-daughter. There is no mention of any other child, so perhaps her marriage to Mr Witheridge took place late in life and was childless.

So who was this Mr Witheridge, and where did he come from? So far I have found nothing in the parish registers to suggest that the widow Joan Avery married her second husband in Exton. However some of the early registers are virtually indecipherable, so the evidence may yet be there. If the Bishop's Transcripts for Exton at this time are available, they could also shed some light on the matter.

One interesting name in the will is that of Peter Bryant, one of the witnesses, and obviously a local resident in 1608. In 1881 and 1891 the Bryant family, Thomas, Samuel and Daniel, seem to be playing musical houses with the Wood and Howe families and eventually come to live at Witheridge Farm. Coincidence? Could they be descended from Peter Bryant of Exton? Perhaps they came to Exton because their forebears had lived there for many years in earlier times.

A search of the IGI produced nothing relevant for the names of Witheridge, Avery or Bryant in either Devon or Somerset in the late 16th or early 17th century. I could find no record of the Christian name, occupation or original place of residence of the mystery Mr Witheridge.

The twice-widowed Johane was obviously a woman of substance. Was this money inherited from her own family, or did it come from one of her husbands? Maybe we shall never know. But we do at least have firm evidence that, in the early seventeenth century, there was a Witheridge living in Exton.

Could Johane's husband have been the one who built this house in the Devon longhouse style, and from whom the property took its name? Certainly, parts of the house are old enough to have been built in the late 16th century. I'd like to think that this is the truth of the matter, but proving it will undoubtedly prove very difficult.

But whether or not there is any direct Witheridge family link, Witheridge Farm at Exton is certainly of the traditional Devon longhouse type, and is probably very similar to those occupied by some of our ancestors across the

county boundary. Tracing the history of such a house and its occupants, and the ups and downs of the families who owned it, gives a fascinating glimpse of life in a small farming community in the Victorian era. It also gives a very good insight into what life might have been like for our Witheridge ancestors who owned, rented or simply worked in, similar properties in Devon.



CORRECT POSTAL ADDRESS

Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge, Member No. 84, would like to ensure that we have her correct postal address. It is:-

2/66 Abuklea Road,
Eastwood 2122,
N.S.W.
Australia

Three more e-mail addresses:-

Member No. 176 Mrs. Carolyn Green:

carolyn.green14@virgin.net

Member No. 183 Mrs. Catherine Shingler:

shingler@supanet.com

Member No. 186 Mrs. Marlene Thomas:

tinman@tinman.worldonline.co

UPDATE - TOTNES, NEWTON ABBOT, WOODLEIGH

by Joyce Browne

You may have seen this tree in the magazine of Winter, 1999, but thanks to some information from Sheila Jewell, we are now able to make some additions.

This family was deprived of its father when John Witheridge was sent to prison, in 1809, for bigamously marrying their mother, Jane Emmett. Now, with the discovery of two more children of this union - Mary, baptised on the 17th April, 1803 at Blackawton, and Betsy, baptised on the 7th September, 1803 also at Blackawton - a possible reason why John went through a form of marriage with Jane Emmett becomes apparent.

It is obvious from the date of the marriage, 28th October, 1802, and the date of Mary's baptism 17th April, 1803, that Jane must have been three months pregnant at the time of the ceremony. In spite of our investigations, we still do not know how John's misdemeanour came to be found out, or where he went when released from gaol, but we keep our eyes and minds open!

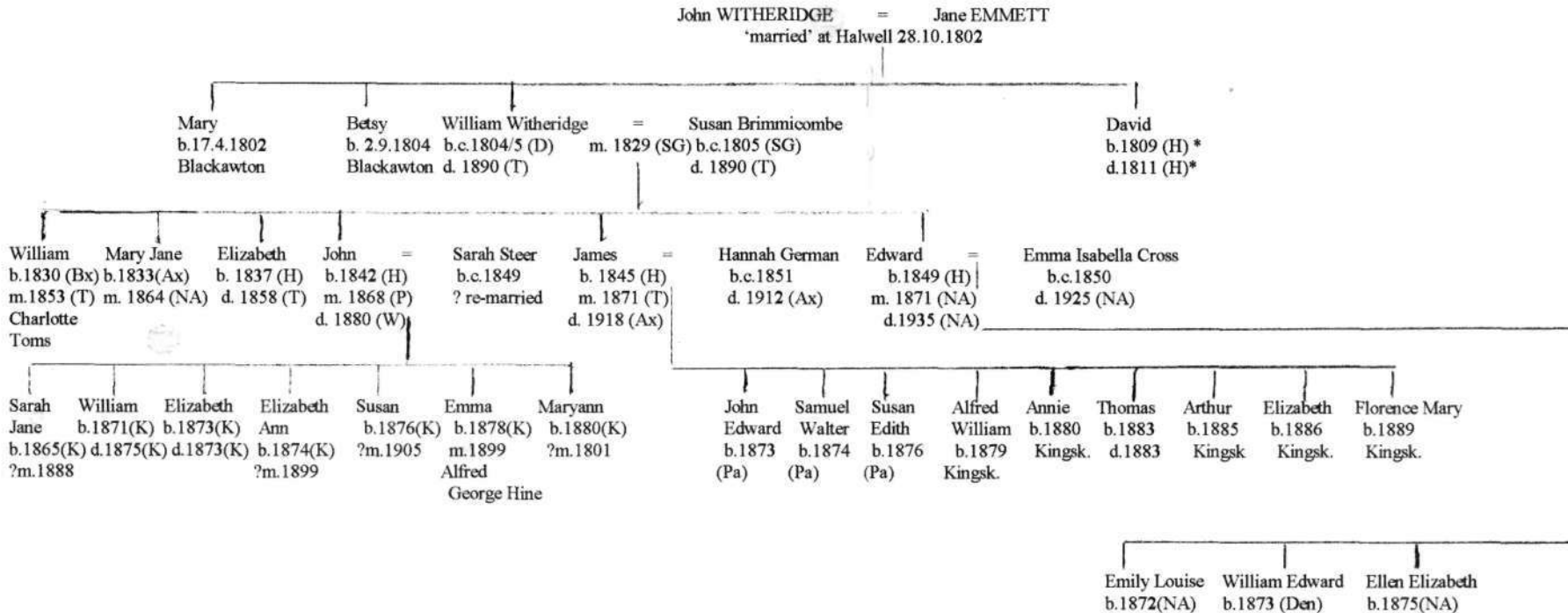
I have found no trace of Mary or Betsy after the registrations of their baptisms, they are not on the Census for 1851, but of course, they could have married or died in the intervening time. William, born 1804/5, who married Sarah Brimmicombe, lived to a ripe old age in spite of hardships, and David, born 1809 only lived until three years of age.

We now know that the wife of William, baptised 1830, was named Charlotte Toms and not 'Tones', and an addition to this tree are the names of three of the children of Edward Witheridge, born 1849, and Emma Isabella Cross. They are Emily Louise, born 1872, William Edward, born 1873, and Ellen Elizabeth, born 1875.



SECTION OF THE TOTNES, NEWTON ABBOT, WOODLEIGH FAMILY TREE

Compiled by Joyce Browne from data available July 1999, additions May 2000 and January, 2002



- (Ax) = Axbridge (K) - Kingsbridge (T) - Totnes
- (Bx) = Brixton (NA) = Newton Abbot (W) - Woodleigh
- (D) = Dittisham (Pa) = Paignton Kingsk. = Kingskerswell
- (Den) = Denbury (P) = Plymouth
- (H) = Halwell (SG) = Stoke Gabriel

Note: Totnes includes the Halwell district and Kingsbridge includes Woodleigh

* David registered as 'son of John Witheridge and Jane Whheridge/Emmett'
* David buried as 'David Emmett'

Constructed from Parish registers and P.R.O. indexes and Census

FINDERS....SEEKERS

This information comes from Jennie Smith in New Zealand. Jennie is in correspondence with a Jack Steer who has been transcribing the parish registers of West Alvington, and Jennie thought that this information could be of interest to us. It certainly is interesting as it establishes a connection of Witheridge families in West Alvington at a much earlier date than was previously known, and also shows the Hannaford name in West Alvington.

We know that the South Milton and Thurleston families have a West Alvington connection and also that at least three Witheridges married Hannafords.

William Witheridge, born 1815, South Milton, married Mary HANNAFORD in 1842

Eleanor (Ellen) Witheridge, born 1832, South Milton, married Richard Elliot HANNAFORD in 1853

James Witheridge, born 1835, South Milton? married Mary Ann HANNAFORD (widow) in 1856

From West Alvington Baptisms:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| 13.02.1585/6 | John HANOFORD | West Alvington | Thomas HANOFORD |
| 09.08.1784 | Jemima HANNAFORD | West Alvington | - John HANNAFORD Ursula his wife |
| 26.12.1841 | John HANNAFORD | West Alvington | John HANNAFORD Mary, Labourer of Woolston, West Alvington |
| 20.11.1563 | Agnes WITHERIDGE | West Alvington | John WITHERIDGE |
| 14.05.1567 | Jane? WITHERIDGE | West Alvington | John WITHERIDGE "ye two children of WITHERIDGE" |
| 14.05.1567 | Joane WITHERIDGE | West Alvington | John WITHERIDGE "ye two children of WITHERIDGE" |

- 29.06.1569 Richard WITHERIDGE West Alvington John
WITHERIDGE, Grace his wife
- 19.11.1728 ♦Mary WITHERIDGE West Alvington Andrew
WITHERIDGE, Joan his wife
- 09.08.1731 ♦Mary WITHERIDGE West Alvington, Andrew
WITHERIDGE, Joan his wife

♦We have these two children noted as the children of Andrew Witheridge born c. 1705, who was buried in West Alvington in 1734. We have thought that Andrew was the son of a John Witheridge who was buried in South Milton in 1748.

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In the magazine of Autumn/Winter 2001 there was a report of a FRANK WITHERIDGE arriving in America on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1920. Our member, Joyce Stephens, thinks that this may have been her father - Cecil Frank Witheridge, of the Ermington family. Cecil often called himself 'Frank' (and on one document appears as 'Cyril'). Cecil's age at that time would have been 27 and not 29 as stated.

We know that Cecil Frank did settle in Canada for a time with his first wife and son. If this entry was for Cecil Frank, we know that he was already married having married Theresa Hartley in 1915, but the American records do not show the marital status of persons arriving. It could be that Cecil Frank was making a preliminary visit to see if he would like to settle in America or Canada.

If anyone has any knowledge of his whereabouts after that time, the information would be appreciated.

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Two items of information have come from Kathy Witheridge, Ontario

Marriage certificate G.R.0 reference:-

1882 Sept. quarter Edward Witheridge, Merthyr Tydfil 11a 689

"Gadlys ? Gladys Baptist Chapel Aberdare, in the district of Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales - Sept. 18 1882, Edward Witheridge, age 23 years, bachelor, Colliery Haulier of 2 Ynyscynon Terrace, Cwmbach, son of John Witheridge, Colliery Roadman, to Elizabeth Jones, age 27 years of Scales

Row, Cwymbach, daughter of John Jones, deceased, Iron Bailer.
Witnesses: John Evans & Margaret Morries"

Edward was of the Combe Martin family who emigrated to Wales and subsequently to America.

Another marriage find:-

"St. Thomas's Church, Liverpool on December 27 1820 - Henry Cavender, joiner, of Liverpool and Mary Witheridge, spinster of the parish were married in the presence of Ann and John O'Brien" (Bishops' Transcripts)

Any ideas as to the identity of Mary Witheridge?

A BRIDGWATER MYSTERY

by Joyce Browne

In the year 1914 a young man called **Charles Witheridge** arrived in the United States of America. He was 26 years old, which would indicate a birth date of 1888. The GRO indexes show no Charles Witheridge born in 1888, but they do show the birth of a **Charles William J. Witheredge** in Swansea in 1886.

I decided to find out who Charles William J. Witheredge was, even if he turned out not to be the traveller of America, and his birth certificate told me that he was born at 11, Crumlin Street, Port Tennant, Swansea, Wales on the 12th September, 1886. The 'J' stood for James. His father was Charles William Witheredge, a labourer in a wagon works, and his mother was Lucy Eliza Witheredge, formerly Dawes.

The next step was to obtain the marriage certificate of Charles William Witheredge and Lucy Elizabeth Dawes, so that I could take the family line a generation back. This certificate gave the name as 'Witheridge' and not 'edge' and Charles William was 28 when he married Lucy who was 21. They both lived in Swansea, and the witnesses were a Charles and Sarah Wallace. The name of Charles William's father was given as William Witheridge, a shoemaker.

The birth certificate of Charles William, born November, 1856, gave me the first surprise. His father was William, a shoe maker, but he was born in Bridgwater, Somerset, and not in Wales. His mother's name was Harriet Witheridge, formerly Jordan. Now the mystery began:-

I was unable to find a record of a marriage for William Witheridge and Harriet Jordan, nor could I find a record of death for either of them.

I could not find them on the 1881 Census, although of course, they could have died before that date.

We know that some descendants of the Ermington family went to Bridgwater. Charlotte Honey Fredrick Witheridge, widow of Arthur Witheridge, born 1837, Ermington, died 1897, Ermington, died in Bridgwater in 1905. Charlotte and Arthur's son, Frederick, died in Bridgwater in 1941, and Charlotte had grandchildren and greatchildren born there, but there seem to be no Williams or Harriets among them.

Could there be two separate Witheridge families connected with Bridgwater?

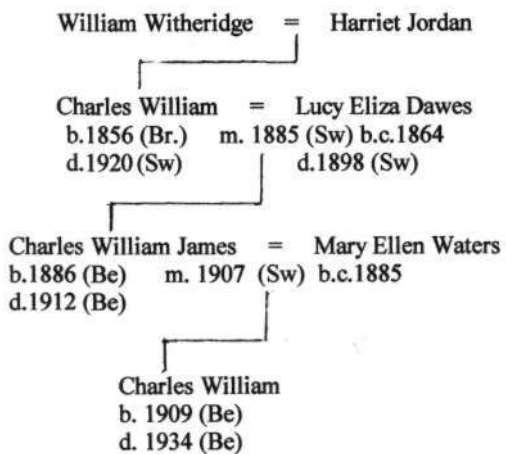
The Census of 1881 shows a William Witheridge, aged 30, living in Gloucester, and he was born in Bridgwater. Hoping to find the connection I obtained his marriage certificate. He was married to Annie Bennett in Bridgwater in 1870, he was a ropemaker, aged 19 and a bachelor. What was his father's name? It was **James Coram**, a currier.

Why William, and his children aged 6 years, 4 and 1, living with him, should be called 'Witheridge' I cannot for the moment discover, neither can I discover a connection with the Bedwelty/Swansea family, although that family undoubtedly have some connection with Bridgwater.

To come full circle to the query which sparked off the investigation: I do know that Charles William Witheridge of Wales did not visit the United States in 1914. He died in Bedwelty in 1912, aged 26.

Is there anyone in the Bridgwater family who can throw any light?

SWANSEA AND BEDWELTY FAMILY



(Br) = Bridgwater
 (Sw) = Swansea
 (Be) = Bedwelty

Constructed August 2001 by J.R. Browne from certificates and GRO indexes

PROFILE: ROLAND ADRIAN WITHERIDGE 1917 - 1982

by June Gaylard with thanks to Velma Metcalfe for assistance

(Roland was the son of James Witheridge and Lilian Punch, grandson of John Witheridge and Elizabeth Delbridge, CombeMartin and New Zealand family)

ROLLO - as he was affectionately known - was born in 1917 in Auckland, New Zealand. He was very keen on cricket and learned his early skills at Edendale School in Auckland.

Although short in stature he was a brilliant player, and he attracted a lot of attention. Between 1938 and 1940 he played for Brixton Cricket Club in Auckland and was awarded several trophies. (One a Merit Award and another for 'Most Improved Player')

On 6th January 1941 Rollo enlisted for service in the New Zealand Army. By November 1941 he was part of the 6th Field Ambulance Division who bore the brunt of the Afrika Korps' fury. During furious fighting around Sidi Rezegh and Belhamed a number of New Zealand units, including the 6th Field Regiment, were over run. Rollo was captured at Sidi Rezegh near Tobruk. (Almost all of the 118 New Zealanders captured in desert battles were protected personnel in field dressing stations).

Rollo was to spend eighteen months in Grupigiano (Udine), an Italian Prisoner of War Camp where his cricketing skills were to be put to good use.

Many of the prisoners were interested in cricket and to pass the time they quickly formed a cricket team and took part in numerous games for their hut and compound. They played against soldiers of all nations. Apparently the prison wickets were very crude and the ball was made out of closely woven twine. However this did not deter them at all!

When Rollo was repatriated to Auckland in October 1943, he played cricket for Dilworth Old Boys, and for a number of years continued to play with and against a number of soldiers who had returned from active service overseas.

Unfortunately, due to his ordeal as a Prisoner of War and service in North Africa, Rollo's health did not improve over the years.

Like most ex-servicemen he rarely spoke of his experiences during the war, but whatever the cost he never lost his sense of humour or passion for sport.

Rollo was a gentleman in all senses of the word, and an inspiration to us **all**.

ROLAND ADRIAN WITHERIDGE IN EGYPT

PRIVATE NO. 41536



MORE ABOUT BEAUCHAMP HENRY HAMMETT

by Gwenda Mason

During my research into the family of my grandfather Beauchamp Henry Witheridge I found that the family of his wife, Dorcas Hammett, had some great seafaring stories to tell.

We can thank Walter Leslie Hammett b. May 12 1895 in Brooklyn, New York for some of these. Walter Leslie was the son of Beauchamp Hammett and his second wife Anna Hilchey. Beauchamp's first wife, Mary Ann Morton, died during a voyage from Halifax Nova Scotia to Jamaica and was buried at sea. A stone in her memory was erected in Hammett Plot, Camp Hill Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia (this stone had disintegrated by the time Walter visited it a few years prior to 1962).

Walter's memoirs tell us that "Beauchamp Henry went to Dame school in Kingsbridge and paid a penny a week for tuition. At 13 he became apprentice to a baker in Plymouth, but shortly after he ran away to sea. After two years under the same master - and a very tough one he was - he and a chum deserted when the vessel docked in Halifax. Thereafter Halifax was his home.

"He obtained his Master Mariner's certificate at 27 years of age. On one voyage his ship was damaged in a storm. Dismasted and water logged for several days, he and his crew were picked up by a French vessel and taken to France. He made his way back to Halifax. He engaged in trade with Spain and Portugal, but particularly with the Indies and South America. In about 1898 he sold his share of the brigantine Arcacia to Captain Stephen Hart.

"Beauchamp bought a house on Morton Street, Boston, intending to keep a rooming house. A year later he apparently became captain of the barkantine Nicaronia, and it is believed sailed for Levi Hart and Son, Halifax. In July 1904, whilst attending evensong at St. John's Church, he became ill and died four hours later. He was buried from St. Stephen's Church, Halifax. Burial was with Masonic orders at the family plot at Camp Hill Halifax. He was a Master Mason in the Royal Sussex Lodge Halifax."

Beauchamp's brother John Lampton was also a seaman, and in the 'History of the County of Lunenburg' by deBrisay (page 514) there is an account of one of his voyages.

"On December 12, 1887, the WIM steamship Barracouta, Captain Hubbard arrived in New York, with Captain John L. Hammett and crew of the Henrietta. The Henrietta left Anguilla WI., for Lunenburg. On the 29th, gale from the N.W. Foresail, Storm Trysail, and balance reefed Mainsail were carried away in

succession, the latter with a report like a cannon. There was a clean sweep of sea "over the deck, taking everything moveable. The rudder gave way and a drag was flung over. The gale continued all day and five days thereafter - water rising in the hold. The bulkhead was chopped away, and twenty tons of salt were cast overboard. The lights of the Barracouta was seen on the night of December 6th. The schooner's deck was then flush with water, night as dark as pitch and heavy seas. Captain Hubbard signalled that he would stand by until morning.

"The clouds opened and a streak of moonlight showed the dismantled schooner. The crew were in despair. "Who'll board that vessel?" shouted Captain Hubbard. All his crew volunteered and four men under Chief Officer William were selected. In two hours all were transferred. Captain Hammett and his men were in horrible condition, from exposure and exhaustion. The schooner sank as the Barracouta left."

Beauchamp's youngest brother Charles followed Beauchamp to Halifax, went to sea and finally obtained his Master's Certificate. On his first command, however, tragically his ship and all hands were lost and no record or trace of them was ever found. Charles was only 21.

Walter Hammett's memoirs also refer to an interesting anecdote about Captain Kidd's treasure. He states that in the 'History of Lunenburg' (page 300) references are made to Mahone Bay and Oak Island.

The first settlers on Oak Island, 4 miles from Chester, were John McMullen and David McInnes. One of the early residents was Sam Bell, a coloured man who had come from South Carolina where he had been a slave to a master whose name he adopted.

Walter Hammett notes "Daniel McInnes. Related in some manner to our family, details of which are forgotten. He was supposed to have a well-drawn up plan relating to buried treasure. Have often heard Mother talk of Sam Bell and have seen his home on Oak Island. Mother's cousins, the Barkhouses, lived on Oak Island, also her cousins the McInnes. The McInnes immigrated from New England to Chester, and he was the first one to find evidences of Captain Kidd's treasure and the first person to start excavating with his neighbors"

If only all our ancestors had left us their memoirs! It would bring to life to all those faceless names we collect during our research.

MEMOIRS OF REGINALD E.W. CHAPMAN

(Reginald Edgar Witheridge Chapman was the son of Florence Witheridge , daughter of George Witheridge and Dorcas Hammett (South Milton and Thurlestone family). Florence married John Richard Chapman in 1892. Reginald was the grandfather of our Jennie Smith)

1898 - My Childhood - 1913

I was born on the second day of June in the year 1898 in the parish of St. Albyn, Devonport, England. The third of a family of five boys and two girls, my father being a journeyman painter and my mother a loving counsellor to us all. At a very early age our family moved to the small village of Kingsand, a twin village to Cawsand situated on Cawsand Bay on the Cornish side of the port of Plymouth.

It was here that I lived a very happy and adventurous childhood. My first memory is of an event which almost cost me my life. I remember looking at some oil in the sea below the landing steps in the bay which changed into pretty colours and fascinated me so much that I fell into the sea. I was rescued by a lad named Bill Forsyth who later received an award for rescuing me. Later I remember lying in bed surrounded by people including the Vicar and his wife who had been very concerned about my recovery.

Village life was a very closely knit one. In times of illness or adversity everyone would do all that they could to help one another. They were all closely attached to the church. No family would miss church on Sunday, and most of us boys became choir boys as we grew old enough to sing. There were two churches attached to the village. One in the village itself - St. Paul's, the other known as 'Maker Church' adjoining the estate of Mt. Edgecumbe on Maker Heights, the vicarage being about halfway between. The morning service was held at Maker, and the evening service at St. Paul's in the village.

We would wait for the vicar to arrive in his horse and gig and then follow him into the church. Religious holidays such as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Whit Sunday were all kept honestly, and it was nice to see all the young girls dressed in white on Whit Sunday.

There were military forts on Maker Heights with heavy guns to protect the port of

Plymouth and from these forts the soldiers would parade for church service at Maker Church on Sunday mornings. They were headed by a billy goat all dressed in regimental colours and it was a treat to see them all outside the church, at times being inspected by the Earl of Mt. Edgecumb. Harvest Festival was a highlight of the church calendar and everyone would bring produce to the church which would be also be decorated with beautiful flowers.

My boyhood was a very active and happy one. It was lived at first mostly on land, but as I grew older more of my time was spent on the water.

My time on land was divided between hunting for rabbits along the cliff sides with a friendly dog from the village, cutting up chaff for Mrs. Haddy's horses, making ice cream for the local sweet shop, raiding farmer Watkins' orchard, and beating for pheasants when the shooting season came. I searched for pheasant eggs and seagull eggs at Rame Head, climbed trees in the plantation for chestnuts, picked blackberries, looked for birds' nests, and engaged in many other activities.

A highlight of the village life was "Regatta Day". The fishermen faced each other in their fishing boats, both rowing and sailing, and there was a greasy pole rigged out from the side of one of the larger boats, and anyone reaching the end without falling off would get a prize.

Yachts and club rowing boats also would come from Plymouth for the occasion. My favourite yacht was the Diana Dhu, and many an hour I would watch her racing in club races on Wednesdays and Saturdays. She was one of the best of the smaller yachts. We also used to watch Tommy Lipton's "Shamrock" and others of the big yachts that used to race out of Plymouth.

On the evening of Regatta Day there would be festivities on the village green. There would be country folk dancing, and a maypole, and it was great to see all the young dancers going around the maypole to the accompaniment of the old time accordions.

There was also a greasy pole which I have much cause to remember as my Dad was always one of the competitors and fairly often the winner. The competitors had to climb to the top and burst a bag of flour, and their prize would be a whole lot of groceries. I used to get quite concerned if Dad slipped down the pole as he invariably did at first attempts, but I became very elated when he eventually got to the top and the flour came floating down. The crowd would shout out "go on Johnny, stick it" and there would be a lot of Oohs and Aahs as he tried to get to the top of the pole.

Cawsand Bay was always very busy. Big Cunard Liners such as the 'Olympic' with four big red funnels would anchor off the bay with passengers from America and

tenders would go out to take them into Plymouth. Sometimes if the weather was favourable we would pull out or sail out to them.

About noon each day the Plymouth fishing trawlers (all sailing ships) would be returning from the fishing grounds and according to the wind, be making their way to the Barbican in Plymouth Harbour.

Cawsand Bay also had a torpedo range and on some days the Navy torpedo boats would be out running their torpedoes. Sometimes the torpedoes would over run and come ashore, and we boys used to go down to the beach to watch the sailors collecting them with the whale boats and take them back to the ship.

Dad used to give me a bit of a hiding sometimes for getting my boots wet until I found a solution to the difficulty. Dad had an allotment garden where he used to grow a few potatoes and other vegetables. He like to have seaweed to manure the ground, so if I got my boots wet I would get hold of a sack, fill it up with seaweed, and so get excused.

As I grew older I became more attached to the sea and boats. In the village lived a retired seaman who was known as 'Captain Dornfield'. He had a couple of boats, one an ex naval skiff, and the other an ex naval whaler called "Kathalene" - named after his daughter. I think I started off tending to his boats as the tide went in and out. He used to go out into the bay fishing, or venture out to the whiting grounds halfway out to the Eddystone Lighthouse. It wasn't very long before I was asking him if I could accompany him when he went out. After I had my mother's permission he allowed me to do so. I used to get up in the morning very keen, go down to his house and throw some sand up to his window to wake him up.

He had a white beard and would put his head out of the window and tell me if the weather was suitable. If it was OK I would get the fishing boxes with the fishing lines in all ready and take them down to the beach, haul the boat ashore by the mooring line, and have everything ready by the time he arrived.

Sometimes if the weather was a bit fresh we would just sail around the bay, put about four spinner lines out and catch mackerel. If it was suitable we would go out to the whiting grounds. When the old fellow wanted to fill his pipe he would let me take the tiller and sail the boat, and as time went on I would be doing quite a lot of the sailing.

One day something happened which I have often had a laugh about since. We had been on to the whiting grounds and the wind had freshened so much that the old Captain thought it advisable for us to return home. The wind was blowing offshore

and we had to beat back against it. We were making good progress when the old boy's hat blew off. I had hold of the tiller at the time, and not thinking, I jibbed the boat around stern to wind and of course she capsized. When I picture it now, it always makes me laugh to see the Captain bobbing about there with his white beard above the water.

Needless to say, we both could swim pretty well, and were not afraid of drowning, so we hung by the boat, but didn't get his hat and lost all our fish.

We were spotted by a Pilot boat, P5 was her number, and after she had tacked about a bit to reach us, we combed aboard her up a Jacob's ladder they had put over the side. There were no steam or motor pilot boats at that time. It wasn't long before they had us seaworthy again, and we came home under just a foresail and mizzen. That was a well learnt lesson to me to always go about head to wind, in a naval whaler anyhow.

Often I would sail around the bay in the whaler or the skiff on my own, with just a spinner line out to catch a mackerel or two but never turned either boat over again.

I had the early part of my education at the Kingsand Church of England School, I think up to about Standard IV, After that I was sent to the Millbrook National School. The village of Millbrook being one and a half miles over a hill from Kingsand but still on the Cornish side of the river Tamar. When I was about 12 years of age our family went to live at Millbrook and I had to forego a lot of my pastimes. I finished my schooling in Std XVII there being no secondary schools at that time near rural districts.

It was at Millbrook that my sporting life turned towards football. I started playing for the school team and we did quite well, winning the school championships of the Plymouth districts, our biggest rivals being Cattedown School.

On leaving school I started working at a boat building yard at Cremyll near Mt. Edgecumb. My Dad used to paint all the big yachts and pinnaces that were built or came in there for overhaul. My brother Alf was an apprentice boat builder there also.

There was no vacancy as apprentice for me at the time so I was put to work on the big Saws. I must have worked there for over a year but apparently was not too satisfied with what I was doing or else I was out of work - jobs not being easy to get in England at the time. So I must have been talking it over with my good counsellor and mother. I remember her saying to me "Join the Navy, Lad, and be sure of three meals a day".

to be continued

NEW MEMBER

Member No. 189
Contact Address:

Mrs. Joan Solly,
Denarau,
Green Lane,
Tavistock,
Devon PL19 9AN

We welcome Joan to the Society. Although she has a Devonshire address, Joan is a member of the Kent, London, Birmingham family, and she has added to our knowledge of this family. We can trace her ancestry back to John Witheridge who married Sarah King in Gillingham, Kent, in 1768. It is probable that John was the son of William Witheridge and Mary Mills, who married in Hailing, Kent, in 1769, and we suspect that this family did have a Devonshire origin, but we have never been able to prove this.

The distinctive name of John and Sarah's son, 'Robert Inwood Witheridge' has enabled us to trace him from his birth in Strood, Kent, in 1722, to his marriage in Hackney, London, in 1796, and his death in Aston, Birmingham in 1855.

Robert Inwood Witheridge married Elizabeth Stokes, and their youngest son was Henry, born in Birmingham in 1812. Henry married Sarah Hodgetts in 1841 in King's Norton, and they were the great, great grandparents of our new member, Joan.

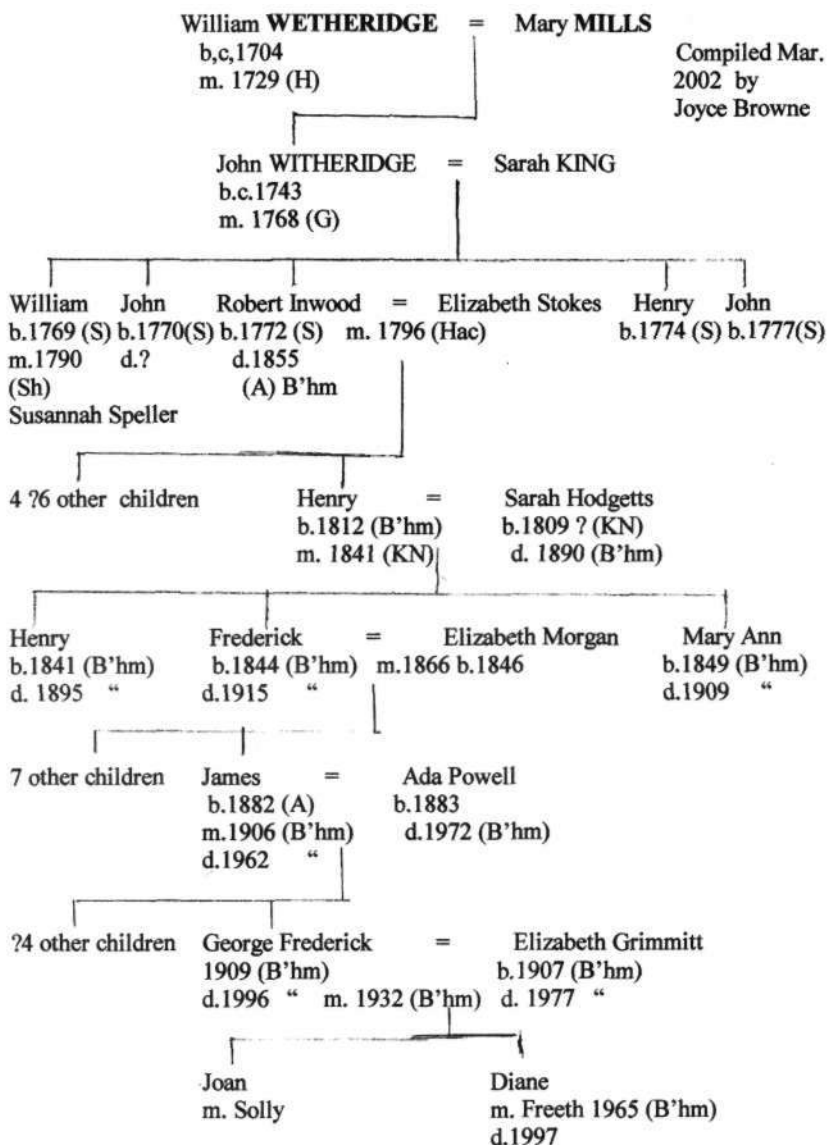
For lack of space, we can reproduce only a small section of the tree of this large and interesting family.

Joan may not know that the Society has a 'bank' of some birth, marriage and death certificates which have been donated by members, copies of which can be purchased from the Society for £1.00 per copy.

(Certificates are held by the Editor, Mrs. Joyce Browne, address inside front cover, telephone 01582 729573, e-mail BROWNEJ392@aol.com I will answer queries and forward copies of certificates Ed.)



SECTION OF THE KENT, LONDON, BIRMINGHAM FAMILY TREE



G = Gillingham, Kent Hac = Hackney, London Sh = Shoreditch
S = Strood, Kent A = Aston = KN = King's Norton B'hm = Birmingham

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 4G5 |
| Representative New Zealand | Mrs. Velma Metcalfe, 49 Chester Road, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand |

Committee Members:

| | |
|---|--|
| Mr. Jason Cook 2, Rusthall Close Addiscombe, Croydon Surrey CR0 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 WERE
DUE ON 1ST JANUARY!**

Subscriptions should be sent to the Membership Secretary:-

Mr. Richard Witheridge

Address on inside front cover

THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY WEB SITE:

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

