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**The Wetherby**  
**Family History Society**

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*Continued on the inside of the back cover*

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**Visit the Wetheridge Family History Society Web Site:**

<http://www.WetheridgeFHS.com>

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# Editorial

Christmas has come and gone, and we now look forward to the New Year 2005. Not long ago, we were celebrating the Millennium. Where have the years between gone? To those who have had a bad 2004, we hope 2005 will be much better, not forgetting the rest of the members, who we hope will continue to prosper and enjoy good health—health being the most important, I believe.

This editorial cannot go by without mentioning the sad events in Sri Lanka and surrounding area. In the UK, the response for help has been incredible, with a lot of money and other materials being raised in record time. Other countries are also putting in a tremendous effort. All this will go to try to alleviate the suffering and pain of the survivors and relatives of lost families. This gives us a feeling that all is not lost in this world of ours, which usually comes to the fore when we get these tragedies. Lately we have had some freak weather in the north, which has caused severe flooding with a lot of damage, but again, pales to insignificance when thinking about the tsunami.

Here in Dunster, Christmas morning arrived with a slight fall of snow, which was delightful, giving us a real picture-postcard type surrounding. Gone again within two days though, so causing no problems. Apparently snow only touches Dunster about every eight or more years. Maureen's camera was busy clicking to get this on record. For the New Year, we had all the family here: eleven in all. *Ed*

## Family News

*From Joyce Browne*

Christmas and the New Year brought us Greetings from our families around the world. In his own good handwriting, the Rev David Witheridge in Minneapolis, USA, told us "I am doing alright for someone who has just turned 90!" Good news indeed.

After a happy summer with many visitors, Kathy and Paul Witheridge in Ontario were looking forward to Christmas. They sent their good wishes to everyone. Also from Ontario came news from Brenda and Bill Dwyne. They have been busy with DIY work on their cottage. All the children are well and doing well with their studies and careers. The family planned to take a cruise in the Caribbean the day after Christmas.

Further west in Canada, John and Pat James remembered us and gave us news of their family, who are very dear to them and of their extensive travels during the year. They gained spiritual uplift from a pilgrimage to Germany, France and Switzerland. They say that they are both well and that their interest in Genealogy brings them into contact with folk all over the world and broadens their horizons.

From the other side of the world in New Zealand, Velma and Rodney Metcalfe wrote of their extremely busy year, but they managed to do some travelling. They suffered from the worst storms for more than 35 years when hurricane force winds blew all night. It sounded like a

freight-train going through their garden, which suffered some damage including the loss of a big tree and many branches. They are looking forward to a family wedding this year and are pleased that Velma's voice trouble has improved.

Judith Witheridge in Figtree, Australia, wrote to say that the year began well with family events and visits, but in July, Allan had a slight stroke. He appeared to be doing well, but a surgical procedure resulted in a perforated oesophagus and he had to be airlifted to another hospital. After much difficulty and care involving tube feeding etc, Allan has made what Judith describes as a miraculous recovery and is now back to normal and they hope to be able to re-book their cancelled holiday trip. It is apparent that their faith has sustained them both. Their children and grandchildren are as busy as and lively as ever.

In this country, Barbara Finemore gave us news of her husband Terry. He is still living in a special care unit where care and stimulation are given to patients with problems similar to Terry's, but he is able to make trips out and has been to Church with Barbara. She has seen an improvement since Terry has been in this Rehabilitation centre for people with acquired brain injuries and hopes that the New Year will bring a further advance in his rehabilitation. In spite of all her worries she has sent messages of good will to us all. *Thanks for this Joyce - Ed.*

I have just learnt from Velma Metcalfe in New Zealand, that Jennie Smith's husband, David, passed peacefully away at the North Shore Hospice (Auckland) on the 9th September 2004, at the age of 59. Jennie, who had two separate operations for a brain tumour recovered with great help from David. Unfortunately David was found to have breast cancer and did not survive. Jennie's grandfather was Reginald Edgar Witheridge Chapman who was the son of Florence Witheridge. Her parents were George Witheridge and Dorcas Hammett of the South Milton and Thurlestone families. Sadly, Jennie also lost her Father on 10th August 2004 making it a double blow. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you Jennie and to your family at both these sad losses. Jennie and David joined the Society in 2000 and articles on Reginald Chapman appeared in the magazine between 2001 and 2002.

Further to the above, Velma tells me that it looks as though summer has been cancelled, as December was the coldest in 50 years and icebergs have been sighted in NZ waters for the first time since 1948. They have also been subjected to large quantities of rain (300mm) in the Tararua ranges causing severe flooding of property north of Wellington, including the Railway line being washed out. But as Velma also adds "this is trivial compared to the Tsunami ravaged areas". *Thanks Velma - Ed.*

I have just heard from Jean Tomlinson in America that her son Michael passed away on the 4th January 2005, aged 49. He leaves a wife, Jamia and two children: Anna and Phillip. Jean spent some time with Michael before his death. Those of you who attended the 1997 reunion at Tiverton may remember Jean and Family. We still have the photographs of the family taken by Maureen in 1997. *We extend our condolences to you Jean and family at your sad loss - Ed.*

# Magazine Articles

We are always on the lookout for fresh items to be included in the magazine. Do any of you have items of interest that you would like included in the magazine? This can be items such as family portraits along with photographs, or newspaper cuttings, reports of family events or about local area events, photos that could be interesting to other members. Come on members, turn out your boxes of memorabilia and see what you have got. If your family tree has not been shown then give us a reminder and we will see what we can do. Joyce, Kim and Kathy are experts at this and hold a lot of information between them. *Ed.*

## 1837online.com

I have just been informed by Julie Pease (1837online) that the 1861 census for some areas has been added to the 1837online web site, with more to come soon. May be interesting to look at!

## Space Filler: Newspaper Article

Supposedly genuine letters to tax authorities:

“Please send me a claim form as I have had a baby. I had one before, but it got dirty and I burnt it”.

“Please correct this assessment. I have not worked for 3 months as I have broken my leg. Hoping you will do the same”.

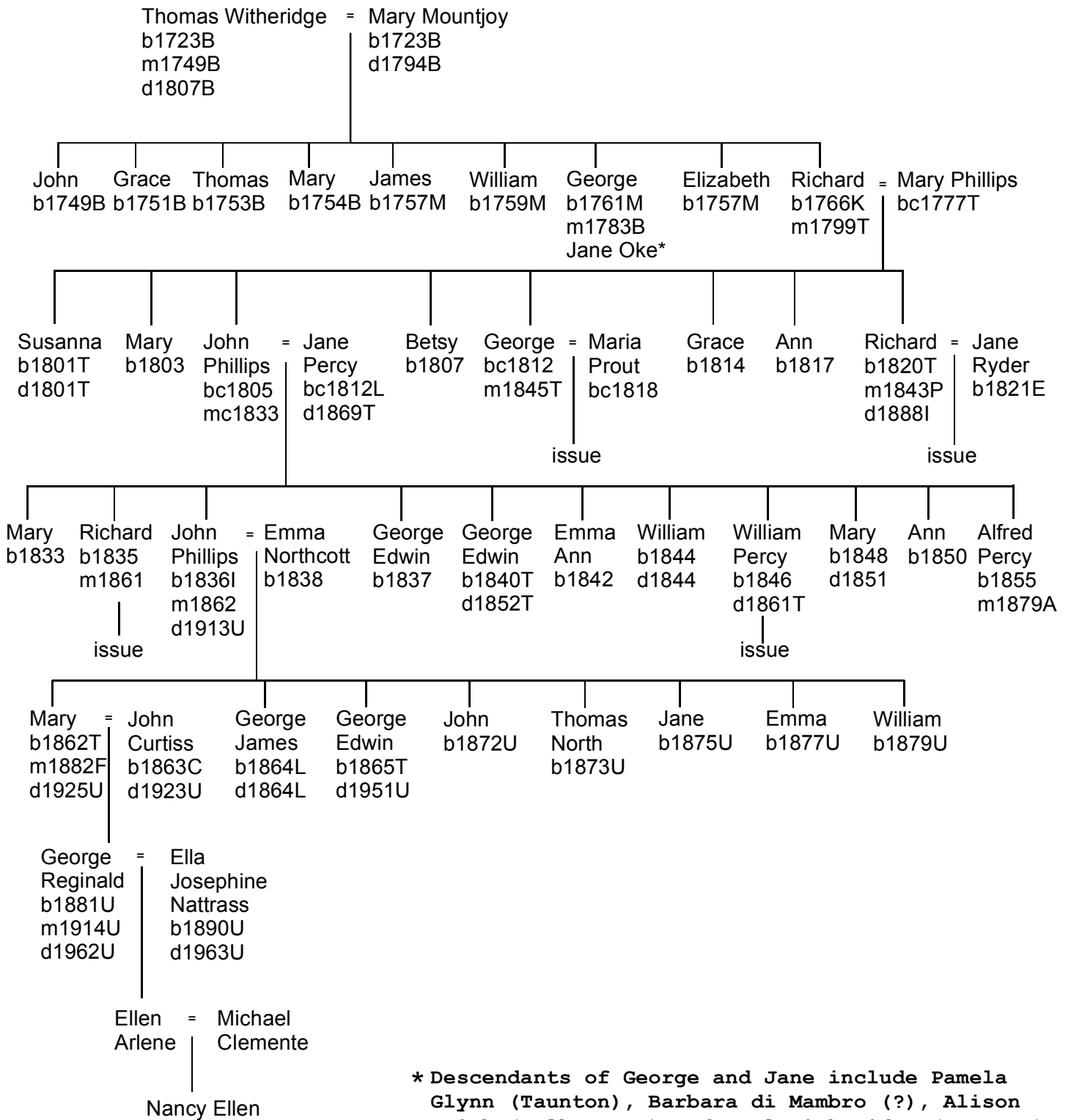
“Thank you for explaining my income tax liability. You have done it so clearly that I almost understand it”.

## New Member

No 199: Nancy Clemente, 3 Ellen Drive, Oil City, PA 16301, USA

1. Nancy Ellen Clemente;
2. Michael Clemente,
3. Ellen Arlene Curtis;
4. Carmine Clemente 1890-1980,
5. Maddalena Caricato (1901-1976);
6. George Reginald Curtis 1888-1962,
7. Ella Josephine Natrass 1890-1963;
8. Salvator Clemente,
9. Phyllis Carfagno;
10. Joseph Caricato,
11. Maria Digammo;
12. John V Curtis 1863-1923,
13. Mary **Witheridge** 1862-1925;
14. Thomas Cuthbert Natrass 1865-1928,
15. Mary Ellen Day 1859-1921;
16. -, 17. -;
18. -, 19. -;
20. -, 21. -;
22. -, 23. -;
24. Josiah Curtis 1821-????,
- 25 Ann Varker 1819-???? ;
26. John Phillips **Witheridge** 1857-????,
- 27 Emma Northcott 1838-???? ;
28. Thomas Natrass 1820-????,
29. Margaret Wilson 1821-????;
30. Alfred Day 1820-???? ,
31. Mary Siddons.

Welcome Nancy! Nancy is another of our growing band of members descended from the Bradworthy branch, via John Phillips Witheridge. Her descent is shown in the following chart.



**Key**

- |                 |                |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| A = Australia   | B = Bradworthy | C = Cornwall   |
| E = Ermington   | F = Falmouth   | I = Ivybridge  |
| K = Kilkhampton | L = Lamerton   | M = Morwenstow |
| P = Plymouth    | T = Tavistock  | U = USA        |

*Witheridge Ancestry of Nancy Clemente*

# Marriage Certificates Held By The Society As Of Spring 2003

Following the listings of birth certificate in the last magazine, we now show the marriage certificates held . As last time, Joyce Browne can supply information from these. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if asking by post.

## *Certificates for surname Witheridge or Wetheridge*

<i>Christian Names</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Via Member No.</i>
Abel	08.01.1838	East Stonehouse	006
Abel *	04.07.1908	Walsall	008
Albert	17.10.1908	Birmingham	008
Alfred Percy * † (see also Polly)	18.10.1879	Adelaide, S Australia	107
Alice	08.11.1846	Longfleet, Poole	006
Alice Emily	25.12.1913	Kentish Town	023
Ann Elizabeth	29.06.1857	Plymouth	006
Annie	12.08.1884	Cardiff	108
Annie	01.06.1903	Helston	108
Arthur	14.10.1851	Plymouth	006
Arthur	09.01.1866	Plympton St Mary	006
Arthur *	25.12.1913	Birmingham	005
Arthur	02.08.1947	Birmingham	005
Arthur Ernest *	06.06.1917	Chatham	006
Arthur George	13.04.1891	Christchurch	006
Arthur George *	05.03.1898	Christchurch	006
Arthur Harry *	01.09.1917	Mutford, Lowestoft	006
Arthur John *	03.06.1906	Aston Brook	006
Betsy	05.05.1847	Combe Martin	001
Caroline	01.05.1855	West Bromwich	006
Charles	01.04.1907	Swansea	006
Charles Roberts *	11.07.1931	Tynemouth	001
Charles William	23.05.1885	Swansea	006
Charlotte (Witteridge)	27.03.1838	Poole	006
Charlotte	03.12.1899	Helston	006
Christopher †	27.02.1895	Toronto, Canada	060
Clara	15.09.1893	Barnstaple	183
Clifford George †	08.10.1938	Toronto, Canada	060
Cyril (Cecil) Frank (2 Certificates)	12.10.1940	Saffron Walden	006
Dennis *	25.06.1956	Smethwick	005
Dorcas Mary	06.02.1898	Stoke Damerel (Plymouth)	181
Edmund	18.10.1870	Stoke Damerel (Plymouth)	001
Edward	25.09.1870	Newton Abbot	008
Edward	18.09.1882	Merthyr Tydfil	060
Edwin	13.07.1863	Clifton	006
Edwin James Albert	13.10.1877	Christchurch	006
Eliza	10.06.1857	London	001
Ellen	30.12.1853	Thurlestone	173



<b>Christian Names</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Via Member No.</b>
Emily	30.07.1868	Tavistock	008
Emily	24.05.1890	Chester-le-Street	065
Emma	25.05.1899	Loddiswell	006
Emma Jane *	28.06.1871	Poole	006
Frances	22.09.1891	Birmingham	006
Francis Robert *	28.04.1879	Christchurch	006
Frank *	22.07.1915	Dartford	006
Frank Lionel	11.10.1913	Christchurch	006
George	25.03.1839	Bradworthy	060
George	10.02.1860	Combe Martin	001
George	18.08.1861	Plymouth	022
George * †	21.07.1891	Invercargill, New Zealand	074
George *	01.09.1923	Birmingham	008
George Cassey(Causey)	15.10.1882	Bideford	006
George Henry	25.12.1876	Holborn	006
George Henry	08.05.1899	Walsall	008
George Thomas	30.10.1864	Plymouth	006
Harry Arthur	27.07.1912	Bridgwater	008
Helen	14.07.1926	Camberwell	006
Henry	11.01.1841	King's Norton	060
Henry	24.06.1855	Plymouth	006
Henry	09.06.1945	Totnes	021
Ida †	21.10.1895	Bowmanville, Canada	060
Jacob Thomas	29.01.1876	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	001
James *	14.08.1851	Newport	001
James	25.05.1856	Kingsbridge	006
James *	11.11.1871	Newport	008
James	11.12.1871	Paignton	006
James	15.06.1872	Bamstaple	001
James †	28.06.1877	Auckland, New Zealand	074
James *	19.05.1907	Birmingham	006
James Henry	15.09.1934	Smethwick	006
John (Wetheridge)	18.10.1868	Plymouth	006
John †	07.04.1801	Combe Martin	074
John †	25.11.1827	Combe Martin	074
John †	24.10.1831	Plymouth St Andrews	044
John	07.05.1859	Combe Martin	001
John	23.07.1864	Plymouth	065
John	09.10.1883	Falmouth	006
John †	09.04.1900	Toronto, Canada	060
John	10.02.1940	Truro	006
John Beer *	22.04.1840	Stoke Damerel (Plymouth)	006
John Beer *	14.05.1882	Plymouth	006
John Edward	02.02.1895	Axbridge	008
John Northmore *	20.11.1867	Kingsbridge	017
John Northmore *	24.03.1903	Devonport	017
John Northmore	03.01.1905	Devonport	006
John Roberts	07.07.1979	N Tyneside East	001
Leah Maude	02.04.1919	Christchurch	006
Mahala	25.12.1871	Plymouth	001

<b>Christian Names</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Via Member No.</b>
Marjorie Hilda	28.07.1934	Fulham	001
Martha Pearse	25.11.1894	Helston	108
Mary Ann	22.02.1848	East Stonehouse	006
Mary Ann	15.07.1857	Plymouth Holy Trinity	006
Mary Ann (Wetheridge)	25.12.1864	Marylebone	006
Mary Ann	29.04.1872	Birmingham	060
Mary Ann	01.11.1882	Helston	006
Mary Ann	12.06.1885	Holborn	006
Mary Craven	06.10.1919	Fulham	001
Mary Grace	11.07.1876	Cholsey Wallingford	006
Mary Maria	19.12.1874	Tynemouth	065
Nellie	19..04.1947	Llanelly	181
Olive Prudence	22.06.1915	Kingston	001
Peter Richard	18.02.1967	Brownhills	066
Philemon	09.11.1874	Helston	n/a
Philip	09.10.1857	Plympton St Mary	001
Philip Bowden	09.02.1840	East Stonehouse	006
Philip Henry *	02.09.1961	Stafford	008
Polly * † (See Alfred)			
Reginald Charles †	04.09.1912	Toronto, Canada	060
Richard *	26.03.1857	Bideford	060
Richard	15.09.1861	Tavistock	006
Richard	30.06.1863	Tavistock	006
Richard * †	29.04.1885	Bowmanville, Canada	060
Robert	05.03.1843	East Stonehouse	006
Robert *	19.05.1850	East Stonehouse	006
Robert	15.11.1859	Porthleven	108
Robert	03.02.1879	Birmingham	001
Robert	30.19.1918	Fulham	001
Robert	15.11.1919	Helston	006
Robert Ralph	17.07.1863	Plymouth	006
Samuel John	08.03.1878	Portsea Island	001
Sarah †	26.03.1891	Darlington, Canada	060
Sydney Philip *	29.12.1923	Plympton St Mary	008
Thomas	27.08.1848	Plymouth	001
Thomas	08.11.1855	Weymouth	006
Thomas	11.07.1858	Plymouth	008
Thomas	01.12.1859	Plymouth	008
Thomas Henry	12.05.1942	Northumberland S	065
William	30.01.1842	Kingsbridge	008
William	08.03.1848	Plymouth	008
William	09.01.1851	Plympton	006
William	23.12.1853	Totnes	008
William	20.02.1854	Tavistock	008
William	21.01.1858	Kingsbridge	008
William	09.09.1872	Dudley	001
William	27.10.1872	Birmingham	001
William	29.03.1879	Barnstaple	001
William	25.03.1883	Cardiff	001
William (Withridge)	04.09.1870	Bridgwater	008

<b>Christian Names</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Via Member No.</b>
William Bowden	04.05.1935	Ermington	021
William Charles †	21.06.1889	Bowmanville, Canada	060
William George	20.07.1933	Plymouth	008
William Henry	17.03.1891	Weston-super-Mare	006
William Henry	20.10.1894	Fulham	001
William Robert	??.03.1902	Poole	006
William Thomas * †	13.01.1886	Toronto, Canada	060
Yvonne Dawn *	23.11.1985	Smethwick	005

### **Certificates for other surnames**

<b>Christian and Surnames</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Via Member No.</b>
Arthur AUSTIN	03.03.1902	Hunslet	060
James Elias COLE	06.02.1898	Stoke Damerel (Plymouth)	181
Mable CURTIS †	17.12.1907	Bowmanville, Canada	060
Ronald HOWARTH	19.04.1947	Llanely	181
Robert Simpson McCABE	01.05.1929	Ayr	181
David MUNRO	09.06.1906	Glasgow	181
Elizabeth Wilson MUNRO	01.05.1929	Ayr	181
Wilhelmina SKILLING	09.06.1906	Glasgow	181
Daniel THOMAS	08.08.1841	Bristol	054
George THOMAS ‡	26.07.1939	Frome	054
William WOOD		Bradford	060

\* **Denotes other certificates held for the same person**

† **Denotes certificate not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London**

‡ **See reverse for birth certificate of Lily Baker**

### **Australian Certificates for surname Witheridge**

<b>Christian Names</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Via Member No.</b>
Annie	22.09.1874	Daly, S Australia	107
Annie	26.12.1888	Adelaide, S Australia	107
Edith	23.10.1897	Adelaide, S Australia	107
Marian	16.11.1887	Adelaide, S Australia	107

### **Marriages taken from the Ontario Index**

<b>Christian and Surnames</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Index Number.</b>
John Herbert WETHERID	22.11.1882	Elma	#009319-82
Richard WETHERIDGE	28.04.1885	Bowmanville	#00811190-85
William T WITHERIDGE	13.01.1886	Toronto	#013467-86
Elizabeth WITHERIDGE	25.07.1889	Bowmanville	#008796-89
William C WITHERIDGE	21.06.1889	Bowmanville	#008790-89
Richard WETHERIDGE	25.11.1891	Bowmanville	#008522-91
C W (Christopher) WITHERIDGE	27.02.1895	Toronto	#014166-95
Ida E M WITHERIDGE	21.10.1895	Bowmanville	#008869-95
John WTTHERAGE	09.04.1900	West Essa	#014892-00

<b>Christian and Surnames</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Index Number.</b>
Frederick L WITHERIDGE	27.06.1900	Toronto	#001820-00
Albert WITHERIDGE	23.04.1902	Toronto	#001909-02
Armond A WITHERIDGE	22.05.1902	Toronto	#001754-02
Edgar John WITHERAGE	27.05.1903	Bowmanville	#013782-03
Richard WITHERAGE	09.08.1905	Bowmanville	#014237-05
Howard Noble WITHERIDGE	10.10.1905	Toronto	#003313-05
Maud WITHERIDGE	30.08.1905	Darlington	#014446-05
William T WITHERIDGE	11.07.1905	Toronto Junction	#021209-05
George H WITHERIDGE	26.11.1908	Toronto	#004155-08
Jessie WITHERIDGE	09.12.1908	Toronto	#215532-08

## Witheridge Roll Of Honour

We would like to include a *Roll of Honour* on the Witheridge FHS website.

This would list the names of all Witheridge/Wetheridge descendants (whether with the Witheridge name, or descended through the female line) who died while serving their country, whether that country was the UK, USA, Canada, or some other place. This includes not only those who died in battle, but members of the forces who died of disease or were lost at sea, as well as civilians killed by enemy action.

A start has already been made, but there must be many more names that deserve to be on the Roll of Honour.

Ideally, the information should include full name, rank and service number, unit (battalion and regiment, ship or squadron, or civilian attack), date of death, age at death, and battle or place of death, followed by nationality and location of any grave and/or memorial, with details of next of kin (parents, wife etc). But even if you don't have full information, please send us what you have, and we'll try to complete the details.

The following two entries are examples of information we already have:

*Witheridge, William Henry, Private 6403, 18th Bn Australian Infantry AIF, killed in action 20 September 1917, age 19. Nationality: Australian No known grave, but commemorated at Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, ref Panel 7 -17 - 23 - 25 - 27 - 29 - 31 Son of Annie Elizabeth Witheridge, of Stafford-Ville, Lincoln St, Campsie, New South Wales, and the late Henry Witheridge. Native of Balmain, New South Wales.*

*Manning, Phillip Witheridge, Trooper 7912029 Royal Armoured Corps, 11th Hussars (Desert Rats), died 7 August 1941, age 27. Nationality: British. Commemorated at Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, ref 15.C.4 Son of Philip John and Anne Ethel Manning; husband of Freda May Manning, of Launceston, Cornwall.*

In addition to those shown above, others already on the list include:

- Alfred Richard Witheridge (d 1917)
- Frederick Witheridge (d 1902)
- Frederick John Witheridge (d 1917)
- George Witheridge (d 1916)
- James Deacon Witheridge (d 1943)
- Joseph Fred Witheridge (d 1918)
- Norman Arthur Witheridge (d 1945)
- Samuel John Witheridge (d 1881)
- Thomas Witheridge (d 1917)
- William Henry Witheridge (d 1943)
- John Witheridge Edmonds, (d 1915).

We hope to be able to set up the Roll of Honour within the next few months. If you know of a Witheridge descendant who should be included on our Roll of Honour, or if you have additional information about any of those already listed, please contact Kim Cook, either via the Witheridge FHS website, by e-mailing her at [Witheridge1987@aol.com](mailto:Witheridge1987@aol.com), or by snail-mail to the address inside the front cover of Witheridge Times.

*Good idea Kim, lets see what we can come up with - Ed.*

# Reunion & Annual General Meeting

This event will be held on Saturday 21st MAY 2005 at the Village Hall, Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. The hall will be open at 10.00am and Tea/Coffee will be served.

The Annual General Meeting will open at 11:00am and proceedings conducted as speedily as possible, The meeting should close about 12:00am when a buffet meal will be available. Members will then have time to talk and get to know one another.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will join us for an evening meal - venue to be announced at the meeting. If enough members agree it is hoped to make visits to places of interest in the area on the Sunday.

**It would be appreciated if members attending could let me know as soon as possible, in order that the number of buffet meals required can be arranged, and also for booking evening meals and for visits on the Sunday.**

## Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at Tavistock in May 2004
4. Matters arising from these minutes
5. Officers' Reports
  - Chairman's Report
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Membership Secretary's report
  - Research Coordinator's Report
6. Election of Officers
  - Chairman
  - Vice-Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Assistant Treasurer
  - Auditor
  - Secretary
  - Membership Secretary
  - Research Co-ordinator
  - Editor
  - Assistant Editor
  - Publisher and Distributor
  - Overseas Representatives
    - Canada
    - USA
    - Australia
    - New Zealand

7. Chairman's thanks to Officers and Overseas Representatives
8. Any Other Business
9. Time and date of the next meeting
10. Date and venue for the AGM in 2006
11. Provisional date and venue for AGM in 2007

Nominations for office should be received by Monday 1 May 2005. In the circumstances of Terry Finemore's illness, we ask that these be sent, not to our Secretary, Barbara Finemore, but to our President, Kim Cook, at Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS, England, email [Witheridge1987@aol.com](mailto:Witheridge1987@aol.com). fax +44 (0) 1580 762144

Nominations already received include:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Chairman	Ron Dixon
Vice Chairman	
Treasurer	Richard Witheridge
Assistant Treasurer	Maureen Witheridge
Auditor	Ron Dixon
Secretary	
Membership Secretary	Richard Witheridge
Research Co-ordinator	Kim Cook
Editor	Richard Witheridge
Assistant Editor	Kim Cook
Editor & Publisher	Richard Witheridge
Overseas Representatives:	
Canada	
USA	
Australia	
New Zealand	

It would be helpful if members could also advise us in advance of any other business they would like to discuss, and also of any ideas they may have for future meetings. Again, these should be sent to Kim Cook (details above).

It has already been suggested that venues to be considered for 2006 and 2007 should include the Birmingham area, and the Blue Riband Holiday Village at Hemsby in Norfolk, owned and run by a branch of the Witheridge family. We have considered Blue Riband in the past, but it proved impossible to arrange when our reunion was over the May Day bank holiday weekend. Following the change of date, we hope it will now be possible to meet there.

At an earlier AGM it was agreed that the Witheridge FHS would accept e-mail votes from members unable to attend in person. To do so, please register by sending an e-mail to Richard Witheridge at [richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk) by 1 May 2005. Those who register will then be sent the final list of nominations, details of any other proposals and instructions for the

actual process of e-mail voting. Note that the minutes of the 2004 AGM were printed in the Summer 2005 issue of Witheridge Times, so email voters should use this as the basis for their acceptance vote, or notification of any query.

## Directions To Marlow Bottom Village Hall

There are two alternatives depending which motorway you approach on:

### ***Approaching on the M40***

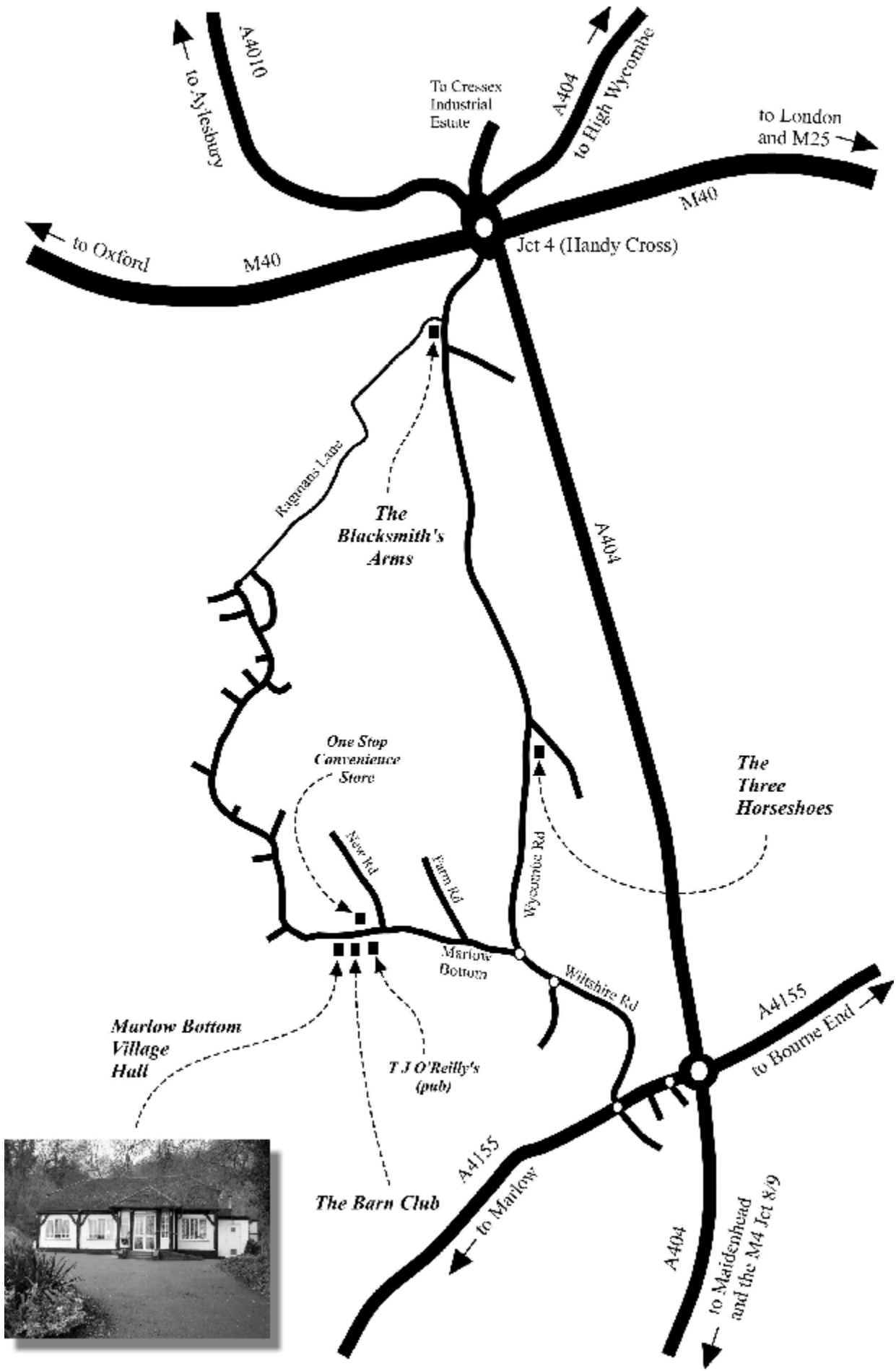
1. Leave the M40 at Junction 4 (Handy Cross). This is the A404 junction (the junction for High Wycombe and Maidenhead).
2. Take the A404 going south towards Maidenhead and the M4.  
If approaching from the east (i.e., from London or the M25), take the first exit off the junction roundabout.  
If approaching from the west (i.e., from Oxford), go three-quarters of the way round the junction roundabout and take the fifth exit.
3. Leave the A404 at the first junction onto the A4155. Go three-quarters of the way round the junction roundabout and take the third exit for Marlow.

Now skip to the section on page 16 headed: *Once you have turned off the A404 onto the A4155 for Marlow.*

### ***Approaching on the M4***

1. Leave the M4 at Junction 8/9. This is the A404(M) and A308(M) junction (for Maidenhead). You need the A404(M).  
If approaching from the west (i.e. from Reading), the A404(M) is the first exit.  
If approaching from the east (i.e. from London or the M25), the A404(M) is the second exit (the first exit takes you back onto the M4 heading west for Reading and Wales).
2. Follow the A404 for several miles, passing the following junctions:
  - (a) Maidenhead and White Waltham shortly after leaving the M4
  - (b) The A4 for Maidenhead and Reading
  - (c) The A4130 for Henley
3. The next junction is a roundabout. Continue straight across on the A404 (the other exits are left to Bisham or right on the A308 for Maidenhead).
4. Leave the A404 at the next junction (after crossing the Thames and entering Buckinghamshire) and take the first exit left onto the A4155 signposted to Marlow.





Map of Marlow Bottom showing the location of the Village Hall

## ***Once you have turned off the A404 onto the A4155 for Marlow***

1. You will immediately encounter a mini roundabout. Go straight across (i.e., do not turn left).
2. After about ¼ mile, turn right at the next roundabout (into Wiltshire Road).
3. Continue past a couple of roads on the left and one on the right leading to housing estates. You will come to another mini-roundabout. Go straight across (i.e., do not turn left).
4. After a short distance, turn left at the next road, “Marlow Bottom Road”. This is signposted to Marlow Bottom and also to the “Rose Industrial Estate”.
5. Continue along Marlow Bottom past two right hand turns. The first is Farm Road and the second New Road.
6. Just after New Road, on the left hand side you will see, in quick succession:
  - T. J. O’Reilly’s pub
  - The Barn Club
  - Marlow Bottom Village Hall

A sign by the car park states “for Barn Club and Village Hall only”

Also, just in case you are still unsure, you will have just passed the One Stop Convenience Store on the right and you should not yet have passed the “Rose Business Park” also on the right.

If you have problems, you can call Paul Witheridge on mobile phone number 07956-851580.

If you are using [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk) or [multimap.com](http://multimap.com), then look up Post Code SL7 3NA.

## **Witheridge Hill**

Each year we try to arrange to hold our reunion at a venue that has some kind of link either to a branch of the Witheridge family, or to the Witheridge name. This year, not only are we in Henley, near the home of Paul and Beryl Witheridge, but we are also close to Witheridge Hill, about four miles west of Henley.

Witheridge Hill, near Highmoor, is believed to have been named because it was part of an ancient sheep drove. This photo of local signposts was taken at Highmoor by our Vice-President David Witheridge, while he and his late wife Elizabeth were in England for their first visit in 1976.

We don’t know if there’s still a signpost to Witheridge Hill, but no doubt those who go to the reunion will enjoy looking for it, and if they find it, will be photographed there!



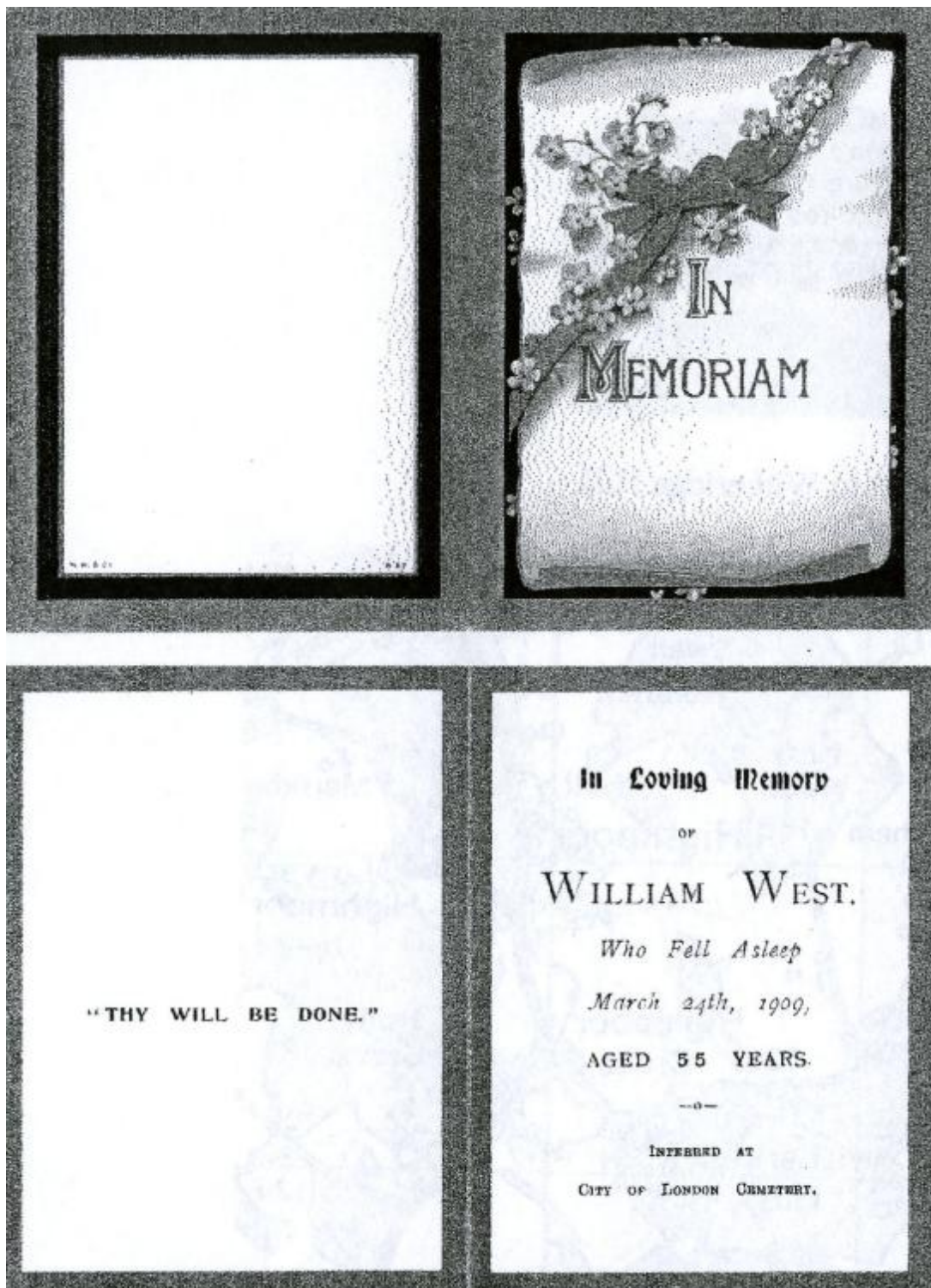
*Photograph taken by David Witheridge (Minn., USA) in 1976*



*How to get to Witheridge Hill*

# Just For Interest

The card shown below came from my Grandmother's house when she passed away. William West married Louise Hording Ford (Witheridge). The card appears to have been sent to my Grandfather and Grandmother informing them of his death. William and Louise West were the parents of Harry Witheridge who lived in Ermington during my time there (Harry was born to Louise before she married William).



# Nelson Connections

by Joyce Browne

I could not let the year 2005 pass without a mention of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson, hero of the battles of St. Vincent (1791), The Nile (1798) and Copenhagen (1801), who died aboard his flagship HMS Victory on the 21st October, 1805, after defeating the French and Spanish fleets at the battle of Trafalgar. This victory thwarted Napoleon's intentions and ensured Britain's dominance of the seas.

Newly married, I was intrigued to find that my new father-in-law signed himself 'Harry Nelson Browne' and had been brought up in the village of Burnham Market, North Norfolk, where his relations still lived. Burnham Market is one of a cluster of seven 'Burnhams' about two miles from Burnham Thorpe where Nelson was born and where his father was Rector.

Horatio was familiar with Burnham Market. His father (a widower since Horatio was nine years old) lived there whilst Horatio as a half-pay captain lived in the Rectory with his wife Frances Nisbet. One of Horatio's sisters, Catherine, married George Matcham and lived at Burnham Market and his daughter Horatia lived for a time with Catherine and was married in the Church of Burnham Westgate.

When I first walked to Burnham Thorpe in search of the Rectory, I was disappointed to be told that the handsome Georgian house now to be seen was not the original Rectory, which was pulled down in Nelson's lifetime. In the Church were a few personal relics of Nelson, dusty and unguarded, which have since been stolen.

I wondered how a boy from such a tiny place, miles from the sea, son of a poor country Parson, could rise to be Admiral of the Fleet, Duke of Bronte, Baron of the Nile and Thorpe.

As anyone who delves into family history will know, nothing is quite as it seems - Horatio Nelson's ancestry was far from humble!

Horatio was born to the Rev. Edmund Nelson and his wife Catherine Suckling on the 29th September, 1758 - their sixth child. He was premature and sickly. Edmund Nelson's family had once been landowners in Norfolk, although their prosperity did not descend to Edmund. Catherine was related, among other distinguished persons, to Sir Robert Walpole, England's first Prime Minister and Earl of Orford, and Charles, Viscount Townshend, a one time Secretary of State. It was the influence of Catherine's brother, Captain Maurice Suckling, which enabled Horatio to go to sea.

According to Dr. Anne-Mary Hills, J.P.,MB., (Hons) an expert on Nelson's history, and medical matters concerning him, Nelson's ancestry can be traced through more than one royal line, including Henry VIII, to William the Conqueror and through another line to Alfred the Great.

These blood lines include men and women of forceful character and high intelligence, and Dr. Hills believes that many of their genes came together in the character and personality of Horatio Nelson.

Physically, Nelson was a poor specimen. He was only just over five feet tall, and suffered all his life from poor health, apart from the injuries he sustained. He had lassitude, depression, digestive problems, malaria and constant sea-sickness. His personality seems to have been contradictory - he was quiet and sometimes shy, and yet gloried in the adulation of the crowds who greeted him wherever he went. He was humane and kind to his seamen, but unkind to his wife, but above all he was brave.

Where did Harry Nelson Browne come in this? The short answer is that he didn't! My father-in-law, who trained as a marine engineer, and having intimate knowledge of all Nelson's boyhood haunts, thought that the plain name of 'Harry Browne' would be enhanced by the addition of the middle name 'Nelson' - and I think he was right! Because of the Browne connection with Burnham I have had the pleasure of walking where Nelson walked, standing where Nelson stood, and seeing the countryside which he saw.

My husband Graham and I have been invited into the house where Catherine Nelson and her husband George Matcham lived, seen the rooms which Nelson saw, and the garden where his daughter Horatia used to meet her future husband, Philip Ward, and stood in the Church at Burnham Westgate where they were married.

When I first discovered my Ermington Witheridge family I was pleased to hear that there was a tradition that one of their number had been a carpenter on board the Victory. The Ermington family at that time were nearly all carpenters and builders, and given the proximity of the village to Plymouth I thought that there was a good chance that the tradition was true.

I have searched the crew lists of HMS Victory and sadly there is not an Ermington Witheridge among them, nor a Witheridge of any family.

One Witheridge of the Bideford family, later the Tomes and Newton Abbot family claimed to have been in the Navy for five years, ending in 1801/2, but as his testimony is not to be relied upon, and in his statement he did not give the name of a ship, it would require a lengthy search of Naval records at Kew to try to substantiate this.

In more recent years another Nelson connection has emerged. Philip Ward who married Horatia Nelson in 1822 became Vicar of the parish of Tenterden, Kent, where our president and her husband, Kim and Roy Cook now live.

Horatia Thompson Nelson was born at 23, Picadilly, London, on the 28th or 29th January, 1801. This address was the home of Sir William Hamilton, late Ambassador to the Court of the King of Naples, and his wife Lady Emma Hamilton, mistress of Horatio Nelson. That Lady Hamilton managed to conceal the birth by being confined to bed with a severe cold was a masterpiece of deception. After the birth Nelson and Emma kept up the fiction that the baby was a child of one of his seaman named Thompson, and about a week after the birth the child was fostered with a Mrs. Gibson of Great Titchfield Street, Marylebone.

What of Emma Hamilton's family line? She was born to an illiterate blacksmith and his wife, Henry Lyon and Mary Kidd, but before long she appears with a change of name - Emma Hart. There must have been something remarkable in her blood lines too -it was as Emma Hart that she pursued a career as a nurse maid, artist's model, and professional seductress. She was talented and very beautiful, in demand by famous artists such as Romney. She could act and

had a good singing voice. She became the mistress of the Hon. Charles Greville, a son of the Earl of Warwick (she already had one illegitimate child by Charles' uncle, Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh)

In 1786 Greville sent her and her mother (by now calling herself Mrs. Cadogan) to another uncle, widower Sir William Hamilton, Ambassador to the Court of Naples (Italy at that time being divided into small kingdoms). Greville wished to make an advantageous marriage and Emma was an embarrassment, but it is unlikely that he expected his uncle to marry her.

Sir William and Emma were married in London in 1791. Emma's child was being looked after by her greatgrandmother in Manchester at Sir William's expense, and Emma and her mother, went to live with Sir William in Naples where Emma played the role of Society hostess with great success. She became the bosom friend of the Queen of Naples.

When the Fleet put in to Naples after the Battle of the Nile, Nelson was fêted as a hero and Lady Hamilton led the festivities. She was dynamic, voluptuous, oozing sex appeal, and she helped Nelson recover from his injuries - he didn't stand a chance! They became lovers.

Sir William Hamilton appears not to have noticed, or he put up a good pretence that he hadn't. He said that he regarded Nelson as his dearest friend, and that it was a privilege to have him in his household. Thus it was that on return to England he and Emma lived with Nelson on the estate which Nelson purchased, Merton, near Wimbledon.

By this time Nelson had parted from his wife, Frances Nisbet. It is a strange anomaly of character that Nelson, who was beloved for his kindness to his ship's crews and his fellow captains, could be very unkind to his wife.

Emma and Horatio brought Horatia away from her foster home to live with them at Merton, acknowledged by Nelson's family to be his child, but keeping up the fiction that Emma Hamilton was chosen by Nelson to look after her.

Given the family history of these two famous people, what was Horatia Nelson like? Photographs show that she was nothing like her mother in looks, but in middle age very much like her father. A history of her life would seem to reveal that she had nothing of her mother's showy flamboyance, but she did have a fortitude which enabled her to deal with many misfortunes.

After the death of Sir William, and the death of Nelson, Emma could not believe that her popularity was waning, and tried to continue in her extravagant life style. She kept Horatia with her, but Merton had to be sold. Nelson's titles and a pension went to his brother, the Rev. William Nelson and Emma managed to antagonise him so that he would not give any help.

It may have been that Emma and her parties and her drinking were an embarrassment to William who had his position in the Church to consider.

By the time she was fourteen Horatia had had some bitter experiences. She had lost the father she adored. Her mother Emma (whom she never acknowledged as her mother) sank lower and lower into poverty and addiction to alcohol. They moved from lodging to lodging and finally to France, where Emma hoped to escape her creditors. Horatia spent the last few months of Emma's life looking after her bedridden mother and writing letters to relations and friends of

Nelson, begging for money. All of this could have been avoided as Sir William had left his wife an annuity, and she had control of money left by Nelson to look after Horatia and provide for her education.

Emma Hamilton died in Calais on the 15th January, 1815, the funeral expenses being borne by the British Consul there. At once Mr. Matcham, her uncle and now her guardian, went to France to bring Horatia home to his family. A happier time had now begun for her, and she lived and travelled with them until they decided to return to Burnham Market. In 1822 she married the Rev. Philip Ward, who had obtained the living of a local parish.

Living as a Curate's wife was not easy, and once again Horatia had to manage in straitened circumstances, but the marriage was happy. She had great tenacity in an enterprise she had taken upon herself - that of finding her birth mother. She convinced herself that Emma Hamilton was not her real mother, her mother being a lady so highly placed that Nelson dared not reveal her name. In this she never succeeded.

The family fortune appeared to change when, in 1830, Philip Ward was appointed Vicar of Tenterden in Kent. Unfortunately the Church was engaged in legal battles with local landowners into which Philip Ward was plunged with great detriment to his health and finances. Horatia again had to face life with the fortitude which she had shown when young. Philip Ward died in 1859, but Horatia continued to live at Tenterden for some time. She died at the home of one of her children in Pinner, Middlesex, in 1881.

In 2002 the Witheridge Society Annual Re-union was held in Tenterden at the home of Kim and Roy Cook, and one morning we spent some time in the Church of St. Mildred, and saw some Nelson/Ward remembrances, and braved the wet grass of the churchyard to find the graves of Lord Nelson's grandchildren who had died at Tenterden. It was a damp and dreary morning, but we did not feel dreary as we felt that we were searching out a little bit of history.



*Thought we might have a picture of Nelson to go with this article.  
Any likeness to Graham?*

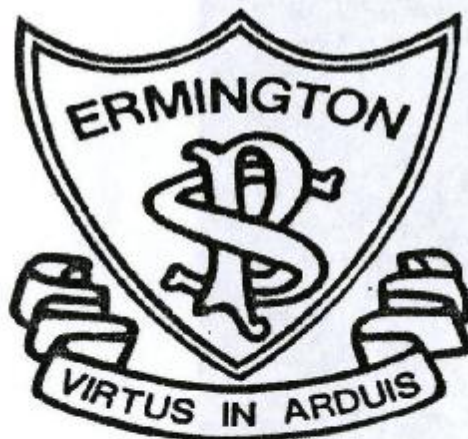


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# Ermington, Australia?

Whilst staying at a Bed and breakfast place in Carlisle, we were talking to some Australian tourists who said they were visiting England to find out about their ancestors. When I mentioned that I was interested in Family History and that my birth place was Ermington in Devon, to my surprise one lady said, "We have a suburb of Sydney which is called Ermington". I said I would be interested to know why it was so called, as Ermington is such a small village that it was difficult to imagine it being used so far away. Plymouth, Devonport, Birmingham or London, yes, but not Ermington. After exchanging e-mail addresses and my home address, she promised to look it up for me and send me details, which came later. Below is what I received.

## **ERMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1888-1988**



© ERMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL 1988

# Ermington, Australia - The Beginnings

In February, Captain Arthur Phillip, resumed an exploratory journey up the Parramatta river passing the present Ermington on the northern bank. After further exploration west of Paramatta, Phillip returned to Sydney and wrote "We know that there is good country near us and it shall be settled and cultivated in the spring".

In accordance with instructions he received in England in 1787, Phillip commenced a scheme for settling emancipated convicts. These first attempts to farm land around Sydney Cove were failures, due to the sandy soil, rocks, huge trees and poor seed.

Phillip was empowered under additional instructions, dated August 22, 1789, to make land grants "to the non-commissioned officers and men belonging to Our Marine Forces".

One of the earliest grants included land known as The Ponds, part of which is now the residential areas of Ermington and Ermington West. These farms were settled prior to November 6th 1791. The eight grants listed under the date January 3rd 1792 were to eight Marines at Field of Mars, on the north bank of the creek leading to Parramatta. The Field of Mars was the area that now forms parts of the suburbs of Ermington, Ryde, Eastwood and Marsfield.

The land on which Ermington Public School is built was originally granted to a Samuel Wheeler by Crown grant dated February 20th 1794, and later became part of the Blaxland family's Brush Farm until it was sold in 1882 to John Bennett and Lancelot Threlkeid. Part of the sub-division of Brush Farm Estate was purchased for the school in 1887.

Major Lockyer had arrived in New South Wales in 1825 and was sent to explore the Brisbane River. After buying the land on the Parramatta River he took charge of a party of convicts and soldiers dispatched to establish a settlement at King George Sound to forestall a settlement by the French. After founding a village - later called Albany - Lockyer formally annexed the territory - Western Australia - on January 22nd 1827.

On returning to Sydney he was appointed Magistrate at Parmatta and later became Sergeant-at-Arms in the legislative Council. On his land he built a fine stone house, which he called Ermington. Ermington is a parish in South Devon, England.

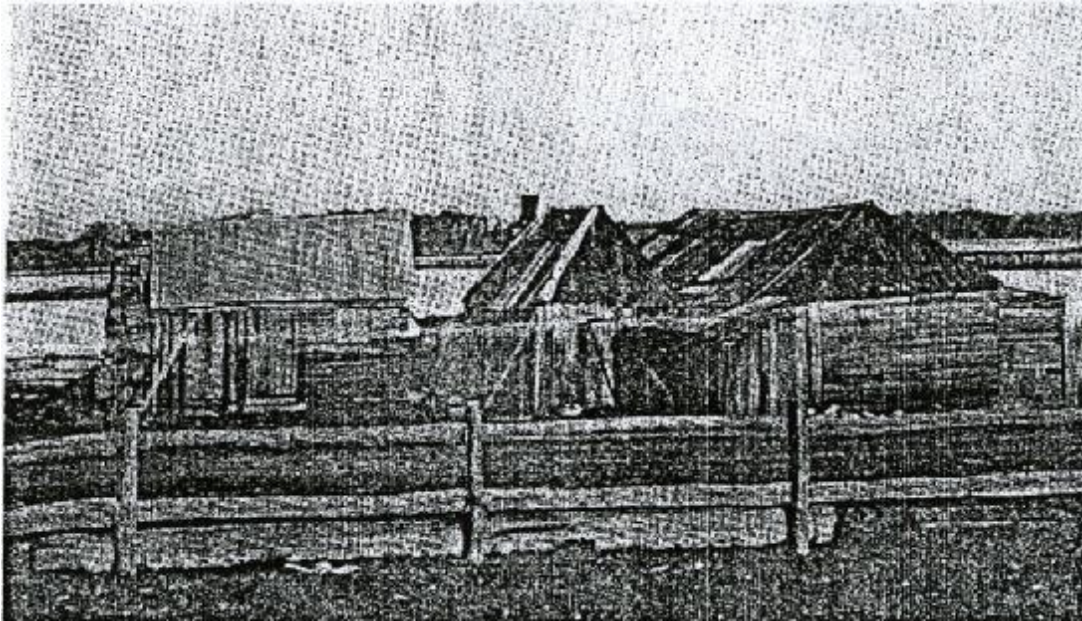
This house had several owners until John Linsley bought it in 1876 and furnished it in lavish style, typical of the fine houses of Sydney of that period. The property was now called "Ermington Park". It stood near Lancaster Avenue and was demolished around 1930 to make way for the houses near the river.

After Linsley bought the property it was leased during his frequent absences in England. Mrs Gerald Dampany, daughter of Edmund Bidulph Henning who lived there with his family, described Ermington Park as a beautiful old stone building, about ten minutes walk from the Pennant Hills Wharf (see picture on page 26). The house was set in lawns and beautiful gardens.

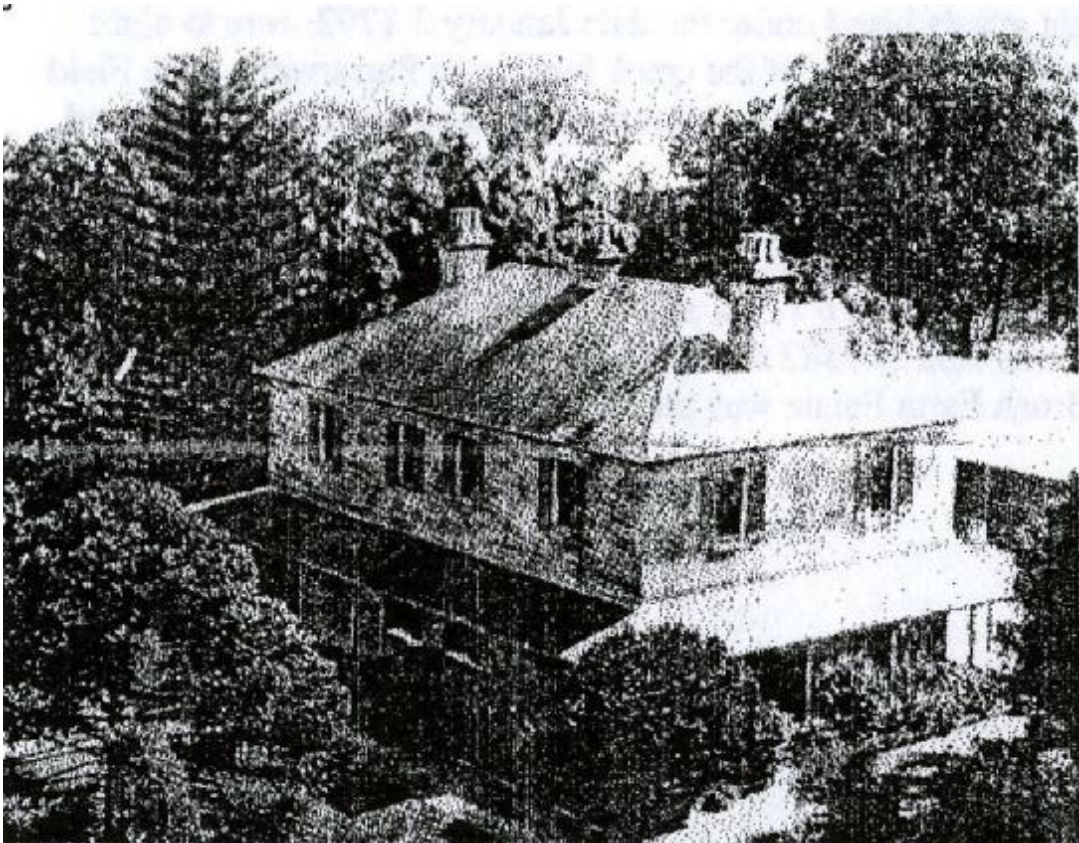
The building was of two storeys with a decorative cedar staircase. It had many rooms; six bedrooms, drawing, billiard and dining room, library, play room and nursery, maids rooms,

main and back halls as well as servants quarters. A covered rose-way led from the house to the ballroom where magnificent parties and balls were held

*So what was connection between Major Lockyer and Ermington? He must have had a reason for calling his house ERMINGTON!. Another puzzle to be solved - Ed.*



*Pennant Hills Wharf c. 1906*



*Ermington, New South Wales*

# Witheridge In The Home Counties

by Kim Cook

We have long known that people and places in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire have borne the Witheridge name, but have never been able to establish a link with any of the Witheridge families known to us. Indeed, I've long believed that no such link exists, but it's almost impossible to prove a negative!

I well remember, as a small child, going on a holiday coach-trip to the model village of Bekonscot. We weren't far from our destination when the coach, already elderly in the 1950s, and fully laden, began to labour up a steep winding incline. As the coach crawled at slower than walking pace, I had ample time to read the name of the road we were on - Witheridge Hill! My youthful shriek of amazement embarrassed my mother and amused the rest of the travellers as I leaped up and down asking if it was ours!

My memory of Witheridge Hill as a steep winding road has been confirmed by a report in the Henley Standard of 7 February 2003, when local residents complained about a number of accidents on Witheridge Hill. In one instance, a crowded minibus crashed 'on the notoriously sharp bend' which had become treacherous following a build-up of debris, gravel and water washed down from the surrounding woodland, and which had been held there because of blocked drains. Many cars had also had to be towed out of ditches by local residents, or rescued by motoring organisations.

This issue of Witheridge Times includes a photo, taken many years ago by David Witheridge of Minneapolis, of the signpost to Witheridge Hill.

A recent internet search shows a well-recommended restaurant, The Rising Sun, on Witheridge Hill, and another search showed there is a Witheridge Cottage along Penn Road at Knotty Green, near Beaconsfield. Visions of a picturesque bijou residence were shattered when the address proved to be that of a used-car dealer!

Further internet searches for Witheridge in the home counties led me to some interesting documents held by Oxford University. Among these there is reference to the 15th-century surname Witherode, which is found in a settlement near Poffley End, a hamlet on the outskirts of Witney. At the time, the whole area was densely wooded, with a few small settlements, and outlying farms often named with the suffix 'end', signifying the end of that area of habitation. In the 15th century there is mention of 'the road from Witherodis [Witheridge] cross'. It has been suggested that there was once a stone cross at the point where Witherode Lane crossed Hatfield Lane.

Documents, including Whiteoak Green, Delly End and New Yatt, all found in the quadrant north-east of Witney. Another internet note says that most of the village of Hailey lies along the Witney-Charlbury road, which my old road atlas has marked as the B4022.

More recent documents give Witheridge Farm as the home address of The Hailey Community Woodland Trust, a charity registered with the Charity Commission in 2003. Briefly, its purpose is to unite the local community in advancing education, providing recreation and

leisure facilities, and establishing and maintaining woodland and other wildlife habitats.

I hope to establish contact with the charity's correspondent, who lives at Witheridge Farm, and may perhaps be able to bring some additional information to the Witheridge reunion.

*Thanks Kim - Ed.*

## At The Reunion

It has been suggested that at the Reunion, we all bring along photographs showing us at a much earlier age and getting members to try to identify who they are.

## Where There's A Will...

*Kim Cook studies the will of Johane Witheredge of Exton, Somerset*

Some three years ago, in the series of articles about places bearing the Witheridge name, I wrote about Witheridge Farm at Exton. Although I could find no record of any Witheridge having lived at the farm, I did find a will, made on the 'Power and twentieth Day of Aprill in the yere of our Lorde god one thousand six hundred and Eighte' of Johane Witheredge, widow of Exton. The copy will I had three years ago was of very poor quality, but I now have a better copy, and have been able to make a more accurate transcription.

The will tells us that at the time it was written, Johane was 'Sicke in bodye but perfect of memorye (god be thanked)'. As was customary at the time, she commended her 'soul into the handes of Almightye god' and her body to the earth.

It was also customary in those days for the first bequest to be to the poor of the parish. At this time the usual amount would have been five, or perhaps even ten, shillings, but Johane left no less a sum than 30 shillings to the poor of Exton. Later in the will she leaves a further sum of 'tenne shillings' to the poor of Exton, and another 'tenne shillings' to the poor of Dunster.

Her second bequest was the sum of 40 shillings to 'Anne Avery my daughter in Lawe'. Until the mid-nineteenth century the phrase daughter-in-law meant what we would now call stepdaughter. Immediately this tells us that not only had Johane been married before, but that her first husband had also been married before he married Johane. At the end of the will she leaves Exton, I did find a marriage transcribed as that of Gunnet Frogwell to Walter German at Exford in 1660, indicating that the surname was known in that part of Somerset.

Also held in high esteem by Johane was her servant Ellen Baker, who received 'fortie shillings and fower yards of clothe to make a Blanket!'

It should be remembered that cloth was a very valuable commodity, a factor which contributed to the style of layered clothes with bodices, petticoats, aprons and kirtles of different kinds of fabric, so that clothes could be made of a mixture of fabrics, mixing the pretty and more expensive with the plain and economical. This also enabled outfits to be made over, part by part, adding a new kirtle or apron to cover wear and tear on the layers

underneath. This could be compared with today's methods of mix-and-match.

So Johane bequeathed various garments to friends and family. Margaret Honnywell received 'my best pettycoate and my best waistecoate', Anne Stallisone was left Johane's 'best gowne and halfe-kirtle' while 'Agnes, wife of Thomas Pearce of Exton', and 'Johane, wife of John Ashe' each received one pettycoate. Two particularly interesting bequests of clothes went to 'my Sister Elizabeth Bone' who particularly interesting bequests of clothes went to 'my Sister Elizabeth Bone' who received her 'taffata apron' and to 'Agnes the wife of William Davies' who was left 'my wedding gowne'. One is left wondering what it looked like. Other bequests included livestock. A servant boy, Henry Atwill received 'a sheepe', Margaret Baker (possibly related to Ellen) and Anne Griffyn received 'one heifer yeereeling' and each of her god-children who married was to receive 'one live sheepe apeece'.

There is no mention of how many god-children Johane had, but it sounds as though there were quite a few. She certainly owned enough sheep to be sure that each of them, and her servant boy Henry Atwill, would get one. Exton is in good sheep-rearing country, and when we visited Witheridge Farm in 1997, it was still a working sheep farm.

All the rest of those 'goodes and chattells which I have or of right ought to have, not given nor bequeathed' Johane leaves to 'William Avery my sonne whome I make my fall and whole executor to pay my debtes and legarcys and Discharge my Funerall in such form as shalle redowne to the glory of god'.

Finally, Johane decides to 'appoynte my wellbeloved [unrecognisable word] John Bone and Thomas Tribbel to be my overseers'. The undecipherable word is a puzzle. Given the use of the word 'wellbeloved' it may suggest some kind of kinship, or close working relationship.

Witnesses to the will include Sampson Collins (?) clerke, Peter Bryant, John Frogwell and Philippe Frogwell, 'with others', whose names are not mentioned.

Although the will makes no mention of Joane's Witheredge husband, it does tell us quite a bit about her and, indirectly about her husband. This unknown Mr Witheredge must have been a man of substance, for Joane has been left in very comfortable circumstances. Although there is no reference to the value of the bequest left to her son William Avery, it must surely have been the bulk of her estate, and worth at least as much as all the minor bequests put together.

Another pointer to a valuable estate is the fact that the will was sent to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) for probate. In the normal course of events, a will would be proved in the local Archdeaconry Court. If the testator had a property in more than one archdeaconry within the diocese, the will would then have come before the Diocesan Court. Only if the testator had property in more than one diocese would the will have to go to the PCC.

As diocesan boundaries have changed considerably over the years, I'm not sure where these boundaries stood in 1608. However, the indication is that Johane Witheredge held property across the diocesan boundary, perhaps in Devon. Could this have been inherited as part of her husband's estate, or was it part of her inheritance, either from her first husband, or from her own family?

In an attempt to answer this question, I've tried to explore Joane's background. This presents

many difficulties, not least because she was probably born in about 1555. Although parish registers started in 1538, not until 1597 was there any requirement to use good quality materials, so only a few parishes have records which date right back to 1538.

First, bearing in mind the names mentioned in her will, I tried to find a record of Johane's marriage on the IGI. One entry stands out as being very interesting. On 30 November 1577, John Avery married Johanne Treble in Combe Flory, Somerset. Combe Flory is about 15 miles east of Exton, on the old Taunton to Minehead road. Treble, Trebbel and Tribbel are all variants of the same surname, and given Johane's obviously strong affection for Thomas Tribbel, there could well be a degree of kinship. I found no other Avery marriages in Combe Flory, but there were over 20 Treble marriages between 1577 and 1816, confirming that this was probably the bride's parish, not the groom's.

Checking the Combe Flory registers to see if John Avery and Johanne had any children, I found only two Avery baptisms in the relevant period, and both are significant. On 27 June 1578, Hugh Avery, son of John, was baptised, and on 7 December 1583 William Avery, son of John Avery and Joane Trebble, was baptised. This William would have been about 25 when Joane Witheredge died - certainly old enough to inherit his mother's estate and manage his own finances.

Although I searched baptism transcripts for Devon and Somerset for the period 1540 to 1560 I could find no baptism entry for Joane, or for a Thomas or Elizabeth Treble or Tribble. Given the scarcity of records for the period, this isn't surprising. However, I did find an interesting batch of later baptisms in Combe Flory.

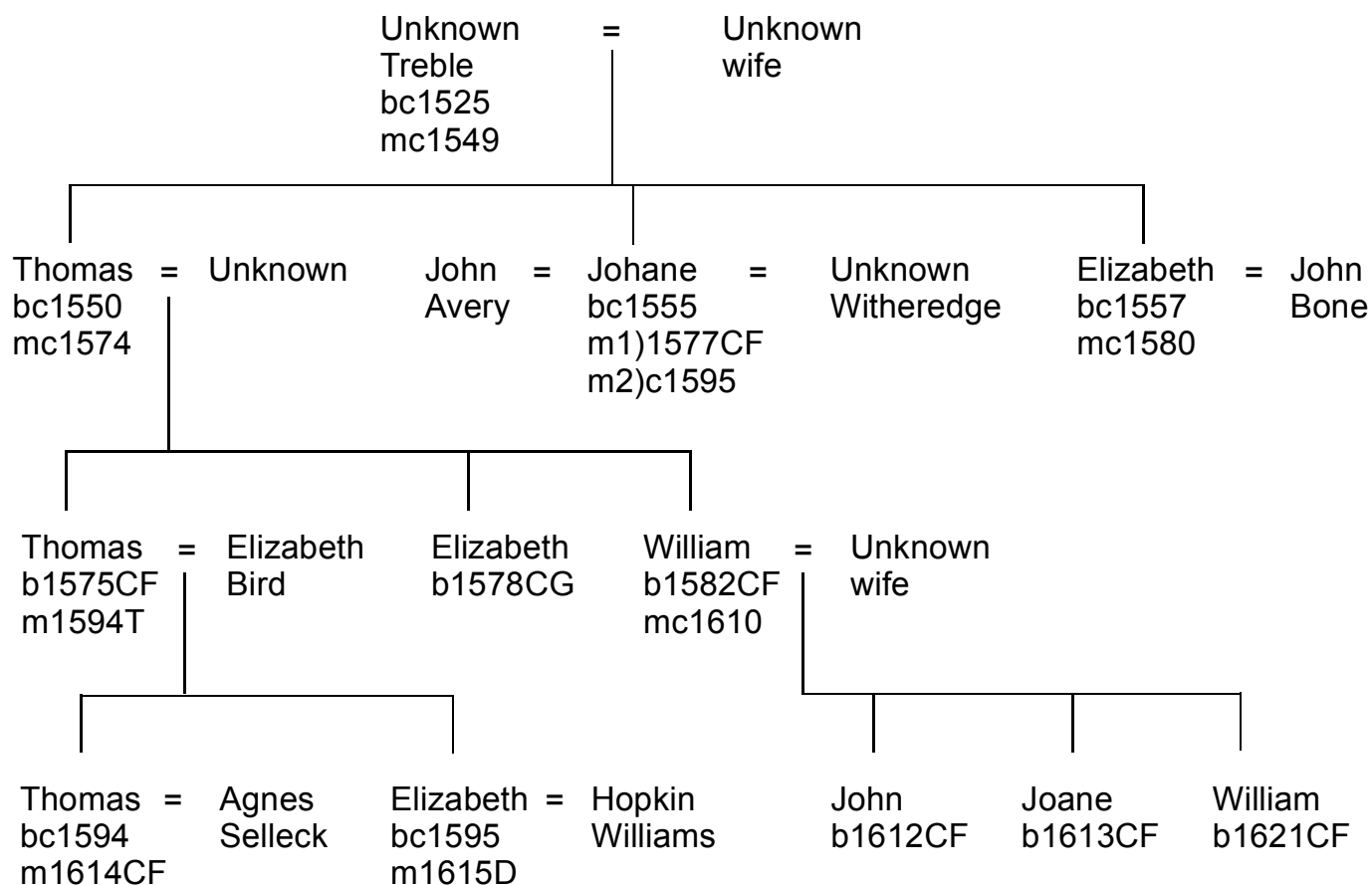
A Thomas Treble was baptised there on 4 March 1575, followed by Elizabeth Treble on 6 July 1578 and William Treble in 1582. No parents' names have been entered for any of the baptisms at this period, but as Thomas Treble is the only adult male who appears in the registers, it seems reasonable to suppose that these are his children. On 16 September 1594 a Thomas Treble married Elizabeth Bird in St Mary Magdalene, Taunton. In 1614 a Thomas Treble married Agnes Selleck in Combe Flory. This could be a second marriage for the same Thomas, or perhaps the marriage of a son of his. An Elizabeth Tribble married in Dunster in 1615. She may not be a member of this family, but the fact that Johane Witheredge leaves money to the poor of Dunster suggests a strong link with that parish.

So far I have found nothing to suggest that either the Trebles or the Averys were very wealthy at this time, and I have found no evidence of them in Devon. This suggests that even if part of Johane's wealth came from her own family or her first husband, at least some of it may have come from her Witheredge husband.

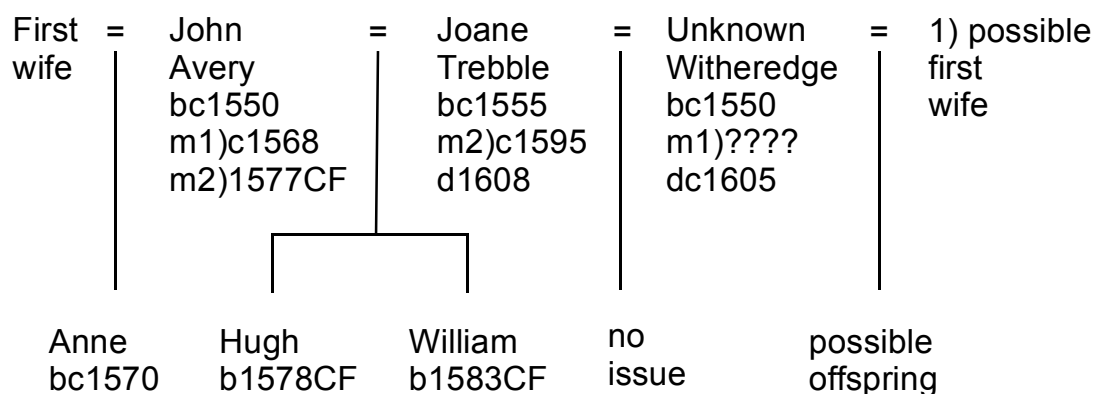
To help me get Johane's possible relationships sorted out, I drew the chart on page 31. These are purely conjecture, and until such time as we can discover marriage records for Thomas and Elizabeth Treble, and the marriage of Johane to the elusive Mr Witheridge, conjecture they remain. However, these suggested reconstructions of possible relationships do go some way towards explaining some of the names in Johane's will.



**Possible siblings, nephews and nieces**



**Possible descendants**



*Conjectural relationship for Johane Witheredge of Exton*



*Old view of Berryharbor in Devon*

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*Continued from inside front cover*

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