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**The Wetheridge
Family History Society**

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continued on inside back cover

The logo shown on the front cover represents the boundaries of the County of Devon. The small black circles represent the Town of Witheridge and the Manor of Witheridge. Both are listed in the Domesday Book.

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Visit the Witheridge Family History Society Web-site:

<http://www.WitheridgeFHS.com>

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Editorial

Some of you, maybe even all of you, will have noticed that the cover of this issue of *The Witheridge Times* has a different colour. This is because there has been a change of editor, and it seems there is a tradition, at the multi-storey International Headquarters of *The Witheridge Times*, that a change of editor must be heralded by a change of colour. So be it; who am I to defy tradition!



‘I’, in this case, am *Paul R Witheridge*, from Marlow in Buckinghamshire, England: a pretty little home-counties town sitting on the north bank of the river Thames, about halfway between London and Oxford. I belong to the Totnes and Newton Abbot family. You can find my family tree on page 32 of Volume 18 Number 1, the spring 2004 issue of *The Witheridge Times*.

I have just taken over from Richard Witheridge, of Dunster in Somerset, who struggled manfully with three separate posts for the Society, until he managed to pass the editorship to me. I have to report that Maureen, his wife, on hearing of this, suggested that he would now have time to completely redecorate their house. Richard almost begged for the editor’s job back. Thank you, Richard, for all your hard work, and good luck with the house.

I am not to be confused—although I expect I often shall be—with my good friend, *Paul R Witheridge*, from Ontario, Canada: I am Paul Raymond Witheridge; he is Paul Richard Witheridge, a member of the Bradworthy family. Paul (the other Paul), and his genealogist wife, Kathy (the Society’s North American Representative), were responsible for my joining the Society, when we met in Canada, as a direct result of my being mistaken for him. Confused? If you want the details, ask Alison Smith.

My wife, Beryl, and I really enjoyed the 2005 Society Reunion, even though attendees were greeted by an almost-tropical downpour as they arrived. It was held in our neck of the woods: Marlow; and we would like to say a big thanks to those who made the long trek to get here—especially those from North America, who definitely had the longest trek!

Enough of this personal stuff: back to being an editor. Like previous editors, I shall observe British punctuation styles and spelling. To our American readers and contributors: sorry guys, you’ll have to put up with ‘analyse’, ‘colour’, ‘litre’ and so on, instead of ‘analyze’, ‘color’ and ‘liter’, and dates will always be in day, month, year order.

Queen Victoria is said to have used *underlining*, up to six deep, in angry letters to her prime minister, Gladstone. However, in modern desktop publishing (DTP), underlining (sometimes called underscoring) is generally considered bad form, and has been superseded by the use of italic and bold fonts. Nevertheless, I am going to use *underlining* in two special cases:

1. For e-mail addresses and links to web pages (usually referred to as URLs)—for example: Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com or www.WitheridgeFHS.com. This is common practice in on-line publishing, which we are going to trial (see facing page).

2. For proper names with genealogical significance—for example, Walter Witheridge (born 1733). This will make such names easier to spot, when you are searching the magazine, and will differentiate them from other words or phrases emphasised in *italic* or **bold**.

With this issue, we are starting a new, and what I hope will become an ongoing, series: *Witheridge Family Recipes*. See page 26 for the opening recipe, which was actually served at the 2005 Reunion. Too many of these old recipes are disappearing; please send in recipes that have been handed down in your branch of the family.

We are also going to experiment with publishing a *digital* version of the magazine on the web-site. This is **not** a replacement for the printed copy; it will complement it, and provide two specific benefits: we can publish photos and other graphics in colour (where the originals are in colour), and the digital version can be searched, via computer, for specific words or phrases. For more information, see the next issue, Volume 19 Number 3, of *The Witheridge Times*.

Warning: technophobia alert: this paragraph is for technophiles, who may be interested in how the magazine is edited and published. Other readers should skip this paragraph, to avoid a severe attack of *technophobia*. I use a desktop PC running the *Windows XP Pro* operating system. For a DTP package, I use *Ovation Pro for Windows* (not Microsoft Word); for graphics, *XaraX1* (in formatting family trees, for example), and *Paint Shop Pro* (in cropping or touching-up bitmap images, such as photos from digital cameras). As an OCR program, I use *ABBY FineReader* to turn scanned documents back into text that can be edited. The output is created in digital form using *pdfFactory*. I e-mail the resulting PDF (Portable Document Format) file directly to the printers, *Parchment*, in Oxford (see www.printuk.com), who print and distribute the hardcopy, and also to the webmaster, Webmaster@WitheridgeFHS.com, for online publishing on the web-site. Isn't technology wonderful! **End of technophobia alert.**

Please remember: we need your news, your family memories, your photos, your genealogical discoveries (big or small), your genealogical questions, and yes, your recipes. I can be contacted via e-mail at Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com, or look on the inside front cover for an ordinary mailing address. See *Submitting Articles for Publication: Hints and Tips*, on page 30, for more information.

Finally, a big *thanks* to all those who contributed articles to this issue.

On the side: can you answer the question?



Whose flag is this?

It consists of a white cross, with black edging, on a green background.



Answer: The County of Devon

Report from the 2005 Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held, as usual, on the morning of the first day of the Annual *Witheridge Family History Society* Reunion: Saturday, 21 May 2005. The venue, for this year, was the Village Hall in Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The meeting opened at 11.00 a.m., and the Chairman, Ron Dixon, welcomed members and friends present.

Present: Joyce and Graham Browne, Adam Cook, Kim and Roy Cook, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Pamela Glynn, Catherine Shingler, Alan and Alison Smith, David Torborg, Jim Witheridge, Beryl and Paul Witheridge (Marlow), Kathy and Paul Witheridge (Ontario), and Maureen and Richard Witheridge.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nancy Clemente, Jason and Zoe Cook, Barbara and Terry Finemore, David and June Witheridge, Dorothy Witheridge, Judith and Allan Witheridge, and Rod and Sue Witheridge. Vice-President David Witheridge sent greetings and a message of good will. He said that he wished he could have been with us one more time, but that his son Jim would represent his branch of the family.

2. Minutes of the AGM held at Tavistock on 22 May 2004

It was proposed that the report of the Minutes, as published in *The Witheridge Times* of summer 2004, be accepted. Proposed by Graham Browne; seconded by Kim Cook; passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2004 AGM

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Officer's reports

Treasurer's report: copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated at the meeting. It is reproduced on page 10.

Membership Secretary's report: Richard Witheridge gave a verbal report on the state of the membership. He said that as new members joined others had lapsed, so that the membership numbers remained basically the same.

Research Co-ordinator's report: Kim Cook read her Research Co-ordinator's report, and re-iterated that members, engaging in research, should contact her, or one of the other researchers, so that areas of research do not overlap, and information, already on file, can be utilised. See page 6, for a copy of Kim's report.

Graham Browne proposed that these reports be accepted; this was seconded by Alan Smith, and passed unanimously.

5. Election of officers

Chairman, Ron Dixon: Kim Cook proposed Ron Dixon, and asked if he would be willing to continue for another year, provided that a Vice-Chairman was elected; Kathy Witheridge seconded this. Ron agreed, and was duly elected.

Vice-Chairman, Paul Witheridge (Marlow): proposed by Kathy Witheridge; seconded by Paul Witheridge (Ontario); passed unanimously.

Treasurer, Richard Witheridge: proposed by Graham Browne; seconded by Brenda Dixon; passed unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer, Maureen Witheridge: proposed by Kim Cook; seconded by Pamela Glynn; passed unanimously.

Auditor, Ron Dixon: proposed by Beryl Witheridge; seconded by Pamela Glynn; passed unanimously.

Secretary, Beryl Witheridge: proposed by Ron Dixon; seconded by Jim Witheridge; passed unanimously.

Membership Secretary, Richard Witheridge: proposed by Ron Dixon; seconded by Paul Witheridge (Ontario); passed unanimously.

Editor and Publisher, Paul Witheridge (Marlow): proposed by Ron Dixon; seconded by Kim Cook; passed unanimously.

Overseas representatives: Dorothy Witheridge (Australia), Kathy Witheridge (North America), and Velma Metcalfe (New Zealand). These three representatives had agreed to continue. Richard Witheridge proposed that we should send a vote of thanks for their work, on behalf of the Society; seconded by Joyce Browne; passed unanimously.

6. Any other business

Kim Cook proposed that a new post of *Webmaster* be created, to manage the Society's website; Pamela Glynn seconded. Richard Witheridge proposed that Kathy Witheridge be asked to take this position—Kathy already managed the web-site. Kathy agreed to this, and was elected unanimously.

Alan and Alison Smith are preparing a cross-reference index to the magazine. This is a time-consuming process, but will cover all back issues, and will be updated as new ones appear. It was also recognised that many members do not have all back issues, and may like to purchase copies. Kim Cook proposed that back issues should be available at cost price; Jim Witheridge seconded; passed unanimously. See the next issue, Volume 19 Number 3 of *The Witheridge Times*, for more information.

There was discussion on whether the magazine should be produced digitally, or in hard copy, or both. The new editor, Paul Witheridge (Marlow) agreed to explore possibilities.

Paul Witheridge (Ontario) read a long e-mail, which Kathy had received from a 'solicitor', who could help Kathy claim assets and possessions of a 'Witheridge', killed in the Twin Towers disaster in New York. Paul and Kathy had a good laugh about this—other Witheridges **beware!** See *The Nigerian Scam*, on page 8, for more information.

There was a discussion on the possible origins of the names ‘Witheridge Wood’, ‘Witheridge House’ and ‘Witheridge Cottage’, which are at locations near Beaconsfield, not far from Marlow. Kathy Witheridge, Beryl Witheridge, and the two Paul Witheridges, had visited the area, and taken some photos, which were on display. See *Witheridge place names near Beaconsfield*, on page 11, for more details.

7. Date and time of the next meeting

The date of Saturday, 20 May 2006 was agreed. Ideas for the venue of the next meeting were discussed, and it was agreed that the Committee should decide on the venue, and report as soon as possible.

8. The Chairman, Ron Dixon, closed the meeting at 12.45 p.m., with thanks to all those attending.

The Research Co-ordinator's report

Firstly, I must apologise for having been unable to achieve as much this year, as in the previous year. As many of you will know, I spent much of the year in poor health, and was unable to be as effective on behalf of the Society, as I would have liked.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers, flowers, cards, gifts, messages and support, which both Roy, and I, appreciated enormously. Although the surgery was successful, side effects have continued to limit my activity, but I have been able to do some work for the Society.



As more wills appear on the *National Archives On-line Index*, I've been able to order a number of Witheridge wills on the Society's behalf, using the allocated research budget.

Some of these are for mariners, including Moses Wetheridge of Wembury, mariner (1692), Edward Witheridge of Limehouse, mariner (1694), Richard Witheridge of HMS *Canterbury* (1709), Moses Wetheridge of HMS *Sandwich* (1744), and William Witheridge or Wetheridge of HMS *Ambuscade* (1757).

Another group of wills relates to the *Kent Witheridges*, including Mary Witheridge of Chatham, widow (1757), William Witheridge of Chatham, ironmonger (1782), John Witheridge of Chatham, ironmonger (1788), John Witheridge of Chatham, soldier of His Majesty's 84th Regiment of Foot (1823, possibly nuncupative), William Witheridge of Chatham, surgeon (1826), and Henry Witheridge of Chatham, gentleman (1828).

Finally, the earliest will of all was for Johanne Wetheridge of Exton, Somerset (1508).

Transcription of these wills is a lengthy process. I have completed some transcriptions, and have already written up two in *The Witheridge Times*. Others are in progress, and articles will follow in due course. I continue to watch out for new additions to the on-line catalogue. These wills are often extremely useful, not only in identifying family members, but also in determining the lifestyle of the testators. I should add that, for copyright reasons, we are not able to publish a full transcription, but can provide full details, on request, for descendants.

As many of these wills indicate, in earlier times the family name was usually spelled *Wetheridge*, and I am now investigating how the present *Wetheridge families* might tie in with the Witheridges, and to which branch of the family they belong. Although I have not yet come to the point of making a link, I have made considerable progress, and hope to have the preliminary results ready for the next issue of *The Witheridge Times*.

Last year, I mooted the idea of having a *Roll of Honour* on the Witheridge FHS web-site. During the year, I have managed to do some work on this, including discovering the parentage of John Witheridge Manning. He was not, as first thought, descended from the *Bradworthy* line, but from the *Berrynarbor* line. His grandparents were John Witheridge and Esther Jennings, and he is therefore descended from Thomas Witheridge and Mary Howe of Berrynarbor. I have a copy of my initial material for the *Roll of Honour*, to give to Kathy Witheridge, the Webmaster, today, and hope to update it in the near future.

After last year's reunion, I visited *Parswell Farm*, Tavistock, the home of George and Maria Witheridge, and their daughters Mary Emma and Arminal, who lived there for about forty years. I was fortunate enough to meet the present owner of part of the farm. She allowed me to photograph part of the house, now used as a holiday let, with much of its original interior. The farm had been built in the late 1840s, by the Duke of Bedford, and as George Witheridge was farming there in 1851, the house may well have been built for him. Although it has not been possible this year, I plan to conduct some research through the Woburn estate office, and perhaps establish if other Witheridges were also Bedford tenants. Any interesting results will of course feature in *The Witheridge Times*, with photos.

I have also checked a number of other sources for information: I searched marriage allegations for London, and for the Canterbury faculty office, but found no Witheridges. However, a search of *Pallot's Marriage Index* did produce a number of useful entries.

As in past years, I've been checking postings with both *Ancestry* and *GenesReunited*. Although I have made a number of new contacts, for the first time in some years, I've been unable to introduce someone new at this reunion. However, among contacts who weren't free this weekend, but would like to join us in the future, are first: a descendant of Abel Witheridge; second: a member of the *Bridgwater* branch, whose family history has been kept secret; and third: one of the Wetheridge family. I've also re-established contact with a former member, Christopher Witheridge, who was hoping to be able to join us today.

Despite her own health problems, Joyce Browne has continued to beaver away at some of the Witheridge puzzles, and the Society owes her a great debt of gratitude for her thorough and meticulous work.

At the beginning of the year, Joyce did some research into Richard Witheridge, who married Isabella Atherton. This was satisfactorily concluded, and we now know Isabella's parentage, what happened to the couple, and to their children, one of whom crossed the Atlantic.

At the request of a new member, Joyce validated research on the George Causey Witheridge family, and made notes for the member. Again, at the request of another member, Joyce re-researched the Totnes and Newton Abbot family, and provided information to the member.

Joyce also reopened research into one of the Birmingham families, seeking information on Richard Witheridge, William Witheridge and Henrietta Lapworth. Census films for Warwickshire 1881 and 1891 were studied, and an article written for the magazine. This confirmed information on Richard and William, but the origins of Henrietta Lapworth remain a mystery.

With the help of Sheila Jewell, the search for origins of the William Witheridge, who married Mary Ann Bounty of Plymouth, is ongoing, but in spite of considerable effort, remains, as yet, without success. We have, however, learned more about Mary Ann.

Joyce has also researched some data CDs for London, including the parish registers for St Nicholas and St Botolph's, but no Witheridge information came to light.

As well as being grateful for Joyce's tireless efforts, I particularly appreciate that she always bears in mind the role of co-ordinator, and keeps me informed of what she is planning to do, and her findings. This way we avoid wasteful duplication. This is what the role of Research Co-ordinator is all about. I would urge any of you, with any queries about your family history, to **check first with me** (or whomever you elect as Co-ordinator), as the Co-ordinator may be able to direct you to someone, who already has the information you want. Likewise, if you hold information we may not have, **please pass it on** to the Research Co-ordinator, so that we can keep our records up to date. At this stage, may I reassure you that any information of a sensitive nature is never passed on, without the consent of the person who provided it, and without due consideration for the feelings of others involved.

Each year we learn more about our Witheridge ancestors, but there is still much more to discover. I hope that the coming year will again yield fascinating facts about our forebears.

The Nigerian Scam

By the Paul Witheridges

The 'Nigerian Scam' is the name given to a confidence trick, perpetrated via e-mail, by criminal gangs originating in Nigeria. They are sometimes called '419ers', after the relevant section of the Criminal Code of Nigeria. The e-mail tempts you with the prospect of huge sums of money; if you are hooked, sooner or later an *advanced fee* request makes its appearance. For more information, there are many, many web-sites: for example, www.quatloos.com. However, make no mistake, these people are **dangerous**. They have **kidnapped** and **murdered**.

The transcript of the e-mail to Kathy Witheridge is reproduced on the facing page—note the typical spelling and grammatical errors.



Paul (Marlow)



Paul (Ontario)

Dear Kathleen M. Witheridge,

I am quite convinced of the fact that this will come to you as a surprise. However, I am writing based on the private information I gathered about you in internet during my extensive search.

I am Barrister Nelson Mark, a solicitor at law, personal attorney to Mr Morgan Witheridge, a national of your country, who worked with Shell Development Company in Republic of Togo. Here in after shall be referred to as my client. On the 11th of Sep. 2001, my client, his wife and their only daughter unfortunately lost their lives in World Trade Center bombing and since then I have made several enquiries to your embassy here to locate any of my client's extended relatives, this has also proved unsuccessful.

After these several unsuccessful attempts, I decided to track his last name to locate any of his relatives hence I have contacted you to assist in repatriating the fund valued at US\$10.5 million left behind by my client before it gets confiscated or declared untraceable by the Unitrust Security Company in Lome/Togo where this huge amount was deposited in a trunk box under the coverage of family valuables. The said security company has issued me a notice to provide the next of kin or have this box confiscated within the next twenty-one official working days as they don't know the content of the box.

Since I have been unsuccessfully in locating the relatives for over 2 years now, I seek your consent to present you as the next of kin to the deceased, so that the proceedings of this box can be transferred to you. Therefore, on receipt of your positive response, we shall then discuss the sharing ratio and modalities for transfers as I have every necessary information and legal documents needed to back you up for claim.

All I require from you is your honest cooperation to enable us see this transaction through. I guarantee that this will be executed under legitimate arrangements that will protect you from any breach of the law.

Please get in touch with me through this email box [only:\(barristernels_mak0i@yahoo.com\)](mailto:only:(barristernels_mak0i@yahoo.com)) for more details.

Thanks and God bless

Barrister Nelson Mark. (ESQ)

Remember, **never** reply to an e-mail like this. Ignore it, or report it to the authorities.

On the side: labels for laughter!

On Sears hairdryer: Do not use while sleeping.

On a bag of Fritos: You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (Shoplifter special?)

On some Swann frozen dinners: Serving suggestion: Defrost.

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert: Do not turn upside down. (Printed on bottom of the box.)

On Marks and Spencer Bread Pudding: Product will be hot after heating.

On packaging for a Rowenta iron: Do not iron clothes on body. (But it would save time.)

On Nytol sleep aid: Warning: may cause drowsiness.

On a Korean kitchen knife: Warning: keep out of children.

On a string of Chinese-made Christmas lights: For indoor or outdoor use only.

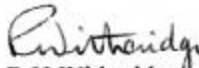
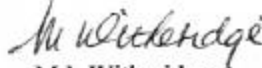
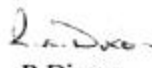
On a Japanese food processor: Not to be used for the other use.

On Sainsbury's peanuts: Warning: contains nuts.

On an American Airlines packet of nuts: Instructions: open packet, eat nuts.

The Treasurer's report

The figure below shows the Treasurer's report, as presented at the AGM:

<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2005.</u>		
<u>INCOME.</u>		
Brought forward from March 2004 statement No 203	<u>£1220.47</u>	
Membership Subscriptions including payments for Previous years.	£ 615.00	
Donation to Society	£ 0.00	
TOTAL	<u>£ 1835.47</u>	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 18 No 1	£ 81.62	
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 18 No 2	£85.48	
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 18 No 3	£87.68	
Payment to Tavistock Town Council, including Tea/coffee and buffet lunch. (AGM May 2004)	£135.92	
Membership Secretary account (Donation)	£ 00.00	
Secretary's account (No submission)	£ 00.00	
Subscription to Guild of One-Name Studies. (2005)	£ 12.00	
Subscription to Federation of Family History (2005.)	£ 30.00	
TOTAL	<u>£432.70</u>	
	<u>FINAL BALANCE</u> <u>£1402.77</u>	
As per statement No 214 dated March 2005		
We the undersigned believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30th April 2005.		
 R H Witheridge Treasurer. Dated 1/4/05	 M L Witheridge. Assistant Treasurer. Dated 1/4/05	 R Dixon Auditor. Dated 3/4/05
NOTE. I have paid the subscription to the GoONS and FFHS and although held in my name, it is fully understood that I represent the Witheridge Family History Society.		
The balance carried forward and shown on the statement will be as stated on the March statement from the bank. This gives me time to prepare the accounts and pass to the Auditor and make it simpler for checking by the Auditor. Any later payments/deductions will be included with next year's figures.		
Richard Witheridge. APR 2005 Treasurer.		

Witheridge place names near Beaconsfield

By Paul Witheridge (the English one)

If any crows had been able to fly through the torrential downpour, that graced the beginning of our Reunion and AGM, it would have been only six soggy miles, or ten squelchy kilometres, as the crow flies, to *Witheridge Wood*, north-west of Beaconsfield.

Two days earlier, when it was marginally drier, Kathy and Paul Witheridge (the other Paul from Canada), and Beryl and I, had set forth to find it. We found not only *Witheridge Wood*, but *Witheridge Lane*, *Witheridge House*, *Witheridge Cottage*, *Witheridge Bungalow*, *East Witheridge* and *West Witheridge*. You can see selections from our trophy photographs, below.

However, there seems to be no known connection with any member of a Witheridge family. Kim Cook recalled a Ralph de Wiperidge, of fourteenth century Oxford, probably connected with the university. The Witheridge place names in this area may well have been associated with him. However, the old spelling of his name indicates it derives from a word for *willow* (look up 'withy' in the dictionary), whereas our *Witheridge* family name derives from a word for *ram* (look up 'wether' in the dictionary).

Note: if the 'þ' (thorn) in 'Wiperidge', is new for you, see page 14 for more information.



Witheridge Lane was, in fact, quite a major road and ran along the southern boundary of *Witheridge Wood*.

The remainder comprised an enclave of very up-market residences. Beryl recalls an estate agent's web-site, last year, advertising *Witheridge House* at over £1.5 million, about US \$2.7 million. We decided not to make an offer.



Report from the Witheridge Annual Reunion

The 2005 Annual Reunion was held over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of May. Saturday afternoon saw the Reunion gather pace in the Village Hall at Marlow Bottom. Saturday evening brought the Reunion Dinner at the *Hare and Hounds* in Marlow, built around 1640 as a coaching inn, and now an excellent pub-restaurant. Sunday took us out to *Witheridge Hill*, and an unexpectedly interesting lunch, at the *Rising Sun*.

After the AGM

The AGM was followed by an excellent cold buffet lunch, in Marlow Bottom Village Hall, kindly organised and supplied by Beryl and Paul Witheridge, to whom we owe a big 'thank you' for the obvious hours of work put in on our behalf. It was very much appreciated and enjoyed.

After the lunch was cleared, we were all invited to test our powers of perception, by identifying photographs of ourselves in our youth, which we had been asked to bring.

This was followed by a multiple choice quiz, called 'The way we were', which, among other things, tested us on the meanings of words no longer in common use, and which, together with the photograph quiz, made for an amusing afternoon. Both of these quizzes were organised by Kim Cook, to whom we would like to say 'many thanks' for the time-consuming effort she undoubtedly made to render the afternoon as absorbing as it was.

Grateful thanks are also due again to Beryl and Paul for the production of detailed, local maps, which ensured all were at the right place at the right time, and for furnishing us, not only with the location of a superb local hostelry, where we dined Saturday evening, but also with all the local places of relevance to the Society, such as Witheridge Hill, which were visited on Sunday.

A quick word of thanks

By Beryl Witheridge

When I was presented with that wonderful basket of flowers, at the reunion in Marlow, I was so surprised that words completely failed me. So, just in case I didn't say it properly on the day, I would like to say 'a very big thank you' now.

Although there was some hard work in setting up the venue, and catering the buffet lunch (not to mention panic, when Marlow Bottom Village Hall discovered they had double-booked the hall for the Saturday morning), I enjoyed doing it. In hindsight, I should have told people to bring doggy-bags! I do want to stress that I was not responsible for organising the weather!

Thanks are also due to the two Paul Witheridges, who got really soaked settings things up, and fetching and carrying!



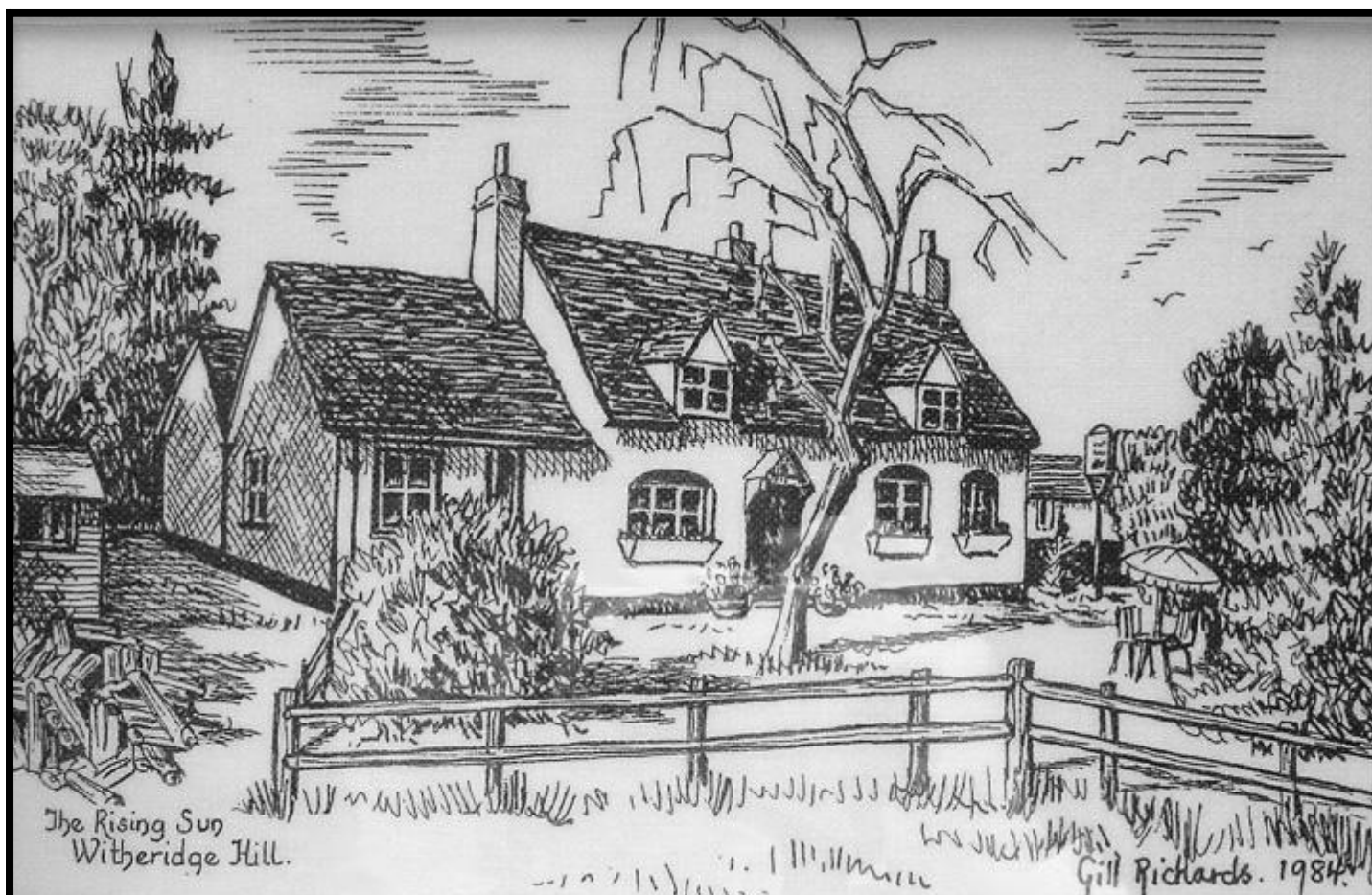
By Brenda Dixon

At the sign of the Rising Sun

It was Kim Cook, who suggested The Rising Sun, at Witheridge Hill near Henley, as the place to go for lunch on the Reunion Sunday. She harboured childhood memories of Witheridge Hill, which she recalled seeing from a coach window, on a trip to Bekonscot Model Village, many years earlier (see *Witheridge in the Home Counties* on page 27 of the spring 2005 issue, Volume 19 Number 1, of *The Witheridge Times*).

At first, it did not look very promising—phone calls to the Rising Sun went unanswered. Eventually, Paul and I took a ride out to Witheridge Hill, a few weeks before the date of the Reunion. We discovered that the pub had reopened, with a new landlord, only two weeks earlier, after being closed for a considerable time. We tried the food; it was very good, and the new landlord was very helpful. The Rising Sun was back on the menu for Sunday.

The pub did not open until twelve o'clock midday, on Sunday, but everyone turned up between eleven thirty and eleven forty-five, and generally milled around. Many photos were taken—you can see three overleaf.



This drawing of the Rising Sun hangs inside the pub.

It looks much the same today, except that the trees have grown considerably.



There are dirty signposts...

After the photographic m el e, we all trooped in, ordered drinks, sat down at the big table the pub had set aside for us, and proceeded with lunch.

We were nearly through eating, when an English gentlewoman (no other description really does her justice), came over and introduced herself as Angela Spencer-Harper, the local historian. She was fascinated to find a clutch of Witheridges, eating lunch on Witheridge Hill, only a few steps from where she lived.

Angela and Kim Cook discussed the derivation of the name ‘Witheridge’, and its Anglo-Saxon roots. Angela said that the name ‘Witheridge Hill’ derived from ‘withig’, the old Anglo-Saxon name for the willow tree. Kim replied that our family name of ‘Witheridge’ derived from the Old English word ‘wether’, meaning a castrated ram.

Kim went on to explain that the confusion between the two was the result of two different Anglo-Saxon letters: ‘ ’ (eth), and ‘þ’ (thorn). Both are replaced by ‘th’ in modern spelling. In English today, ‘th’ has two different sounds: ‘voiceless’, as in ‘think’, or ‘voiced’ as in ‘there’. Some people call these ‘thin’ and ‘thick’, respectively. We do not really know if ‘ ’ and ‘þ’ represented different pronunciations. It is probable they were used interchangeably, just like the modern ‘th’. Alternatively, as in modern Icelandic, ‘ ’ may have been voiced (thick), and ‘þ’, voiceless (thin).

Anyway, ‘wether’ was originally spelt ‘we er’, and ‘withig’, ‘wiþig’; our modern ‘witheridge’ can be derived from either.



...and clean signposts to Witheridge Hill

Incidentally, I have discovered that when you see, for example, shop names like ‘Ye Olde Tea Shoppe’, the ‘Y’ in ‘Ye’ is just another way of writing the letter thorn; so, instead of pronouncing it ‘ye’, it should be said as ‘the’!

Members in the group photograph (on the facing page), from left to right:

Roy Cook, Jim Witheridge, Kim Cook, David Torborg, Kathy Witheridge, Richard Witheridge, Pamela Glynn, Derek Glynn, Maureen Witheridge, Paul Witheridge (England), Beryl Witheridge and Paul Witheridge (Canada).



Group Photo at Witheridge Hill - Reunion (second day), Sunday 22 May 2005

It was an interesting lunch, and rounded off the reunion. At about 3 p.m., we all said our good-byes and departed. Jim Witheridge and David Torborg were travelling to Portsmouth, the Royal Navy's base on the south coast. Jim is a Nelson aficionado, and this year is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar; so Jim and David were off to see HMS *Victory*, Lord Nelson's flagship.

During lunch, Kathy Witheridge bought a signed copy of Angel Spencer-Harper's local history, *Dipping into the Wells*, which included details of Witheridge Hill. Unfortunately, in a bus mix-up on the way to Halifax in Yorkshire, she lost the book.

So, a week later, Paul and I took another ride out to The Rising Sun, this time, to collect a second signed copy, kindly dropped off by Angela Spencer-Harper. She also included an extract from the local village news-sheet: the *Highmoor News*, which is reproduced here:

WITHERIDGE: THE NAME'S ORIGIN

Whilst dining at The Rising Sun recently, I met about a dozen charming members of the international Witheridge family, who had come to Witheridge Hill for a reunion.

None of them had any ancestors who had lived on the Hill, in fact most of them came from Devon and America but they told me that, apart from the accepted interpretation of the name [ridge on which willows grow], the Devonian version is Wetheridge [ridge on which wethers (castrated rams) may be found]. You may take your choice!

Kathy now has her book, and we had another excellent lunch.

Family News

News from Australia

Joyce and Graham Browne received a most colourful post card, showing the attractions of Australia's Gold Coast, from *Judith and Allan Witheridge* of Figtree, New South Wales. Judith and Allan took time, while holidaying in Queensland, to send good wishes for our re-union, at Marlow, and their regrets that they could not be with us. They say that rain is much needed in Australia!



Richard Witheridge, our outgoing editor, had a letter from *Dorothy Witheridge*, the Society's Australian Representative. She gave her apologies for being unable to attend the Reunion and AGM, although she was happy to continue as the representative for Australia. She wrote that she, and her son Grant, had spent a three-week holiday, travelling around Tasmania. She also

lamented the effects of 'progress' around Sydney: large areas of countryside taken for development, high-rise buildings erected, old buildings, with character, demolished to make room for villas or flats. She added 'Resources are being stretched to the limit to take care of the large numbers of people moving into the Sydney area'.

Richard comments: 'Sounds just like England'.

News from the United Kingdom

Paul Witheridge visited his father, *Raymond Witheridge*, in hospital, in Bournemouth, on the Monday immediately following the Reunion. Ray, who was eighty-five in February, was recovering from a hip-replacement operation three days earlier. Despite some considerable pain, he was in good spirits, and his main concern was the mysterious disappearance of his underpants, while he was down in the theatre!

News from the USA

Rev David Witheridge, our first Honorary Vice-President, has recovered surprisingly well from a sudden heart-attack on the same weekend as our Witheridge Reunion in May.

With both sons away at the time, David was on his own, and totally unable to call for help. It was more than twenty-four hours before someone spotted David through the kitchen window. The emergency services were called, and David was rushed to a local hospital. This hospital has an excellent reputation for cardiac care, and had recently opened a new cardiac unit, so David was in the best possible place. At first it was feared that the long delay in getting help might have caused secondary problems but, to everyone's relief, this proved not to be the case.

By the time his son, Jim, had been contacted in Portsmouth, David's condition was under control, and Jim was assured there was no reason to break off his short vacation in the UK. By 28 May, when Jim and David Torborg returned to Minneapolis, Jim's father was well enough to be transferred to the Jones Harrison nursing (convalescent) home, and by 7 June he was able to go home. Home physiotherapy was arranged, together with an emergency alarm system.

Despite his remarkable recovery, David is very frail, and will have to move to a retirement apartment near Jim. This is inevitably a great wrench for David, who has lived in his present home for over fifty years. Jim is taking time away from work to take his father to medical appointments and help with the mountain of arrangements to be made, before the move can take place.

As soon as he possibly can, David, who will be ninety-one in August, is planning to resume work on his memoirs, which he has been writing for some time.

Meanwhile, I know all our members will join in sending David our love, with warmest wishes for a speedy return to strength, and a smooth and successful move.



Ray Witheridge

Death Certificates Held by the Society as of Spring 2005

After listing marriage certificates in the previous issue of *The Witheridge Times* (Volume 19 Number 1), and birth certificates in the issue before that (Volume 18 Number 3), we now finish off with death certificates. Please note that dates are in 'dd.mm.yyyy' format.

As before, I can supply information from these certificates. You can e-mail me at Brownej392@aol.com, or write to me at the address shown inside the back cover (enclosing a stamped, self-addressed, envelope).



Certificates for surname Witheridge or Wetheridge

Christian Names	Date	Location	Via Member No.
Ada †	21.07.1946	Toronto, Canada	060
Ada Florence	17.02.1945	Birmingham	005
Alice	15.01.1842	Kingsbridge	001
Alice Eliza	10.01.1884	Christchurch	006
Andrew (Wetheridge)	31.12.1840	Kingsbridge	001
Ann	31.03.1877	Poole	006
Ann †	20.12.1884	Darlington, Canada	060
Arthur	29.12.1847	Plympton St Mary	006
Arthur	06.09.1855	Plymouth	006
Arthur *	13.03.1950	Birmingham	005
Arthur Harry *	02.05.1970	Luton	006
Arthur Thomas	10.01.1860	Plymouth	006
Betsy	28.01.1838	Birmingham	001
Charles Roberts *	01.11.1974	Ashington	001
Charlotte Caroline	07.09.1936	Isleworth	001
Christopher †	04.03.1935	Toronto, Canada	060
Dennis *	31.12.1979	Birmingham	005
Edward	11.01.1860	Barnstaple	001
Edwin	11.01.1881	Barton Regis	001
Eileen *	19.02.1967	Birmingham	005
Elizabeth	30.11.1837	Aston	001
Elizabeth	22.04.1859	Plymouth	006
Elizabeth †	25.09.1912	Cleveland, Ohio, USA	060
Ellen †	20.11.1878	Daly, South Australia	107
Emma	25.12.1859	Plympton St Mary	006
Emma	14.05.1908	Christchurch	006
Essma Daisy	09.06.1895	Newton Abbot	006
Fanny Elizabeth	14.07.1879	Bideford	001
George †	18.04.1884	Darlington, Canada	060
George	09.01.1893	Merthyr Tydfil	001
George	17.09.1901	Pancras	001
George	04.06.1913	Devonport	001

Christian Names	Date	Location	Via Member No.
George	01.07.1916	France (killed in action)	006
George †	11.02.1916	Toronto, Canada	060
George *	08.02.1929	Camberwell	001
George	29.06.1954	Exeter	006
George Coursey (Causey)	21.08.1931	Pancras	001
George Henry	22.01.1858	Stoke Damerel (Plymouth)	006
George Verner †	02.02.1941	Toronto, Canada	060
Henry	10.02.1858	Plympton St Mary	006
Henry Light	11.02.1895	Poole	006
James * †	23.10.1911	Auckland, New Zealand	074
James	22.01.1915	Newport, Monmouthshire	006
Jane	11.10.1849	Plymouth	001
Jessie Mabel	29.01.1981	Bournemouth	006
Joan	11.09.1944	Barnstaple	001
John	25.05.1859	Bideford	001
John †	17.11.1915	Toronto, Canada	060
John †	???.09.1916	Dunedin, New Zealand	074
John	07.04.1945	Stoke Newington	006
Joseph	07.01.1872	Plymouth	001
Joseph William	02.04.1854	Plymouth	001
Leslie Arthur	08.05.1984	Birmingham	005
Martha	24.11.1895	Plymouth	006
Mary	04.01.1864	Plymouth	006
Mary	02.09.1868	Plympton St Mary	006
Mary	15.08.1874	Barnstaple	001
Mary †	18.04.1902	Toronto, Canada	060
Mary Ann	16.01.1840	Bristol	001
Mary Ann	13.06.1900	Plymouth	001
Mary Ann	10.10.1910	St. Pancras	006
Mary Ann	25.11.1923	Hackney	006
Mary Elizabeth †	27.02.1985	Toronto, Canada	060
Matilda †	17.04.1913	Toronto, Canada	060
Norman Albert	19.04.1976	Birmingham	005
Philemon *	27.07.1844	Walsingham	006
Philemon Thomas †	20.08.1937	New South Wales, Australia	084
Philip	11.05.1954	North Bucks	006
Philip Henry	14.01.1930	Plymouth	021
Rhoda Adelaide	11.12.1950	Plympton St Mary	021
Richard	18.11.1961	Worth Valley	006
Robert	13.07.1851	Plymouth	006
Robert *	04.11.1897	Christchurch	006
Samuel John	27.02.1881	Majuba Hill, South Africa	001
Sarah Grace * †	23.04.1905	Invercargill, New Zealand	074
Sarah Jane *	09.07.1936	Luton	006
Sarah Victoria †	16.02.1900	Toronto, Canada	060
Sydney Philip *	08.01.1971	Cheltenham	008
Susan †	22.08.1934	Toronto, Canada	060
Susie A †	10.02.1909	Toronto, Canada	060
Thomas	21.11.1844	Kingsbridge	008
Thomas	08.09.1857	Plymouth	001

Christian Names	Date	Location	Via Member No.
William (Wetheridge)	12.07.1838	Tavistock	001
William	28.12.1860	Barnstaple	065
William	13.12.1870	Bideford	006
William Bowden	07.11.1861	Plymouth	006
William Harry *	08.02.1989	Birmingham	005
William John	27.12.1887	Pancras	006
William John	16.03.1938	Camelford	001
William T †	10.05.1909	Palmerston, Canada	060
Winifred Emily F	28.07.1982	South Staffordshire	008

Certificates for other surnames

Christian and Surnames	Date	Location	Via Member No.
Mary AUSTIN	19.05.1910	Market Drayton	060
Arthur John BEECH †	27.05.1957	Toronto, Canada	060
Elizabeth J FOSTER	19.03.1909	Bowmanville, Canada	060
John FOSTER †	??.08.1902	Bowmanville, Canada	060
Albertina OFFER *	30.06.1903	Bristol	102
Maria SANDOVER ‡	13.11.1901	East Stonehouse	060
Alice Emily SMITH *	30.10.1925	St Pancras	023
Ellen F SMITH	06.05.1972	Hampstead	023
Henry G SMITH	23.05.1976	Hampstead	023

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

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

‡ **This was not Maria Tall Sandover Witheridge, who did not die until much later.**

Deaths taken from the Ontario Index

Christian Name	Date	Location	Index Number.
Ann	20.12.1884	Darlington Township	#011883-84
George	18.04.1884	Darlington Township	#011850-84
Herman L	10.09.1884	East Whitby Township	#012781-84
Leslie Eugene	05.08.1887	Pickering Township	#012308-87
Viola Rose A	31.12.1892	Toronto	#020711-92
William	30.01.1892	Toronto Junction	#020430-92
William F	03.11.1894	Bowmanville	#011939-94
Elizabeth I (Wetheridge)	21.03.1899	Toronto Junction	#029713-99
Sarah V (Wetheridge)	16.02.1900	Toronto	#001409-00
Nettie M	02.09.1900	Darlington Township	#018740-00
Mary	18.04.1902	Toronto	#002031-00
Linda (Witherage)	24.08.1904	Bowmanville	#019333-04
Susan A (Wetheridge)	19.02.1909	Toronto	#001685-09
William S	01.05.1909	Palmerston	#031285-09
Richard	06.12.1910	Darlington	#022223-10
(Female) (Witherage)	15.10.1912	Bowmanville	#022775-12
Matilda	17.04.1913	Toronto	#003186-13
Eldon David C	03.01.1915	Toronto	#001085-15
John	17.11.1915	Toronto	#006372-15



By Joyce Browne

Marriages Galore

Recently, I was searching a list of some one hundred and forty Witheridge names on *Boyd's Marriage Index*. I came across several names previously unknown to me. Some marriage dates were very early, even earlier than that of Nicholas Witheridge and Mary Somer: 1553, in Berrynarbor—the earliest known to-date.

I have listed them below.

The *Witheridges* were predominantly brides. Of the few entries for Witheridge grooms, one is very interesting, but also suspect: in 1588, a Will Witheridge married Joan Green at Trimley St Martin in Suffolk. Kim Cook, our Research Co-ordinator (and President), thinks that—as we know of no Witheridges in Suffolk at this time—the name is more likely to be *Whittridge* or *Whitrick*, and has been mis-transcribed. On the other hand, Trimley is a village lying between the two ports of Ipswich and Felixstowe. Was William a mariner, who had put in to these ports? Has anyone lost a William?

In the following lists, I have kept to the spelling and abbreviations as given on the transcript. Comments of my own are appended as numbered footnotes.

Location	Year	Surname	Christian Name	Spouse
Alwington	1587	Witheridge	Wilmot	Dan. TOMLIN
	1591	Witheridge	Tomsin	Jas. YEO
	1738	Witheridge	Reb.	Edward PACKARD
	1767	Witheridge	Mary	Rob. ROWEL
Barnstaple	1600	Witheridge	Dy.	Wm. PASMORE
	1608	Witheridge	Rob.	Kath. GROVE
	1613	Wytheridge	Mary	Morris WATERS
	1682	Witheridge	Eliz.	Thos. WINPANY
Berrynarbor	1545	Witheridge	Cath	Wm. BLACKMORE
	1546	Witheridge	Cisly	Thos. HEDDON
	1548	Witheridge	Elz.	Jn. SKINNER
	1615	Witheridge	An.	Mich. MUXWORTHY
	1628	Witheridge	Tho.	Xtian CUTLIF
	1638	Witheridge	Mary	Eusebius GARLAND
	1640	Witheridge	Mgy.	Thos. BRERY
	1648	Witheridge	Alce	Giles CARDER
	1649	Witheridge	Cath.	Nath. NILL
	1705	Witheridge	Joan	Geo. SMITH
1727	Witheridge	Wilmot	Thos. HARRIS	
1766	Witheridge	Mary	Jn. NORMAN	
1791	Witheridge	Margh	Jn. IRWIN	
Braunton	1564	Witheridge	Elz.	Jas. COK
	1581	Witheridge	Urith	Jn. HEDDON
	1598	Witheridge	Johan	Jas. WALTER

Location	Year	Surname	Christian Name	Spouse
Bristol	1721	Witheridge	Nic	An DAVIS
	1768	Witheridge	Mary	Isaac LEECH
Buckland Brewer	1608	Witheridge	????	Thos. SAUNDER
	1621	Witheridge	Susan	Ric WHOE
	1647	Witheridge	Johane	Sipryan TOOKER
Canterbury Diocese, Kent	1675	Witheridge	Ric	Margaret PARKER
	1694	Witheridge	Mary	Ric COOK
	1694	Witheridge	Mgt.	Thos. OCKMORE
Challacombe	1732	Witheridge	Wilmot	Rob WILLIS
Claverley, Shropshire	1781	Witheridge ¹	Anne	Wm. HILL
	1782	Witheridge	Eliz.	Jn. NEWY
Countisbury	1741	Witheridge	Reb	Jn. MULES
Dunchideock	1615	Witheridge	Agn.	Mich ROWE
Farringdon	1735	Witheridge ²	Jn	Mary BAKER
Hartland	1660	Witheridge	Jn.	Marie TRICK
	1727	Witheridge	Grace	Thomas BOND
	1729	Witheridge	Sarah	Thomas REYNDLE
Ide, Devon	1704	Witheridge	Maria	??? HUNT
Langtree	1733	Witheridge	Han	Thos. VIGEURS
Launceston	1751	Witheridge	Jn	Elno DINGLE
Littleham	1551	Witheridge	Wm.	Ebut NEAL
	1584	Witheridge	An	Davie ROW
	1584	Witheridge	Tibet	Joan THORN
	1627	Witheridge	Kath	Jn. GREGORIE
	1767	Witheridge	Hannah	Edw LEWIS
	1767	Witheridge	Susan	Wm. TAYLOR
London Diocese	1707	Witheridge ³	Cath	Tho. DENISON
	1724/25	Witheridge ⁴	Mary	John MORRIS
Merton, Devon	1688	Witheridge	Mary	Reg WEEKS
Newton St. Petrock	1580	Witheridge	Joan	Thos. THORN
Plymouth	1603	Wytheridge	Anth	Faith SMALE
	1634	Witheridge	Thos	Mary STOCKMAN
	1646	Witheridge	Agn	John ADAMS
Plymstock	1594	Witheridge	Wm	Joan STEVENS
	1621	Witheridge	Chris	Fran TAVERNER
	1652	Witheridge	Mary	Rob PYNE
Portsmouth	1666	Witheridge	Mary	Rob BRIDGER
Poughill, Cornwall	1703	Witheridge	Eliz	Edw BROWN
	1744	Witheridge	Priscilla	Benj ELIOT

Location	Year	Surname	Christian Name	Spouse
Rewe, Devon	1696	Witheridge	An	Jn RICHARDS
Roborough	1775	Witheridge	Thomazine	Wm CROCKER
Shebbeare	1690	Witheridge	Jo	Mary SOUTHYEO
Staverton	1654	Witheridge	Gr	Geo WITE
St. Melion, Cornwall	1687	Witheridge	Hanna	Jn COMBS
Stoke Damerel	1728	Witheridge	Jn	Joan BROAD
Stoke Rivers	1558	Witheridge	Jn	Johan SHEE
	1585	Witheridge	Elz	Wm TOOKER
Totnes	1658	Witheridge ⁵	Barb	Jn LUKRAFT
Upottery	1590	Witheridge	Jane	Pet TILL
Wembury	1752	Witheridge	Elz.	Jn WEEKS
Wendron, Cornwall	1637	Witheridge	Honor	Thos ZULA

- Footnotes: ¹ Father: Thomas(?), Mother: Mary Mountjoy(?)
² Father: John(?), Mother: Jennet Lewis(?)
³ At St James' Palace Chapel, Westminster
⁴ At St Benet's, Paul's Wharf
⁵ Born 1630 Modbury; daughter of John and Margery(?)

I hope that these names may add a few twigs to the family trees. If anyone can provide any additional information, I shall be very pleased to hear it.

Note: Boyd's Marriage Index is an index to English marriages taken from copies of parish marriage registers, Bishop's Transcripts and marriage licences, for the period 1538 to 1840 (when statutory registration began). It was principally the work of Percival Boyd, MA, FSA, FSG (1866–1955) and his staff.

On the side: in praise of English weather

Dirty Days

*Dirty days hath September,
April, June and November.*

*February's days are quite a fright,
It only rains from morn' till night.*

*All the rest have thirty-one
Without a blessed gleam of sun,
and if any of them had two and thirty,
they'd be just as wet and dirty.*

Anon

Lost and Found

This is the first of a ‘newish’ series, to be published under the heading *Lost and Found*. It will comprise items, submitted by members, either looking for information, or answering earlier requests for information. I use the epithet ‘newish’, because the series is a direct descendant of earlier articles that appeared under such headings as *Finders ... Seekers*, or *Found*. In an act of compulsive neatness, I am bringing them together under a common heading.

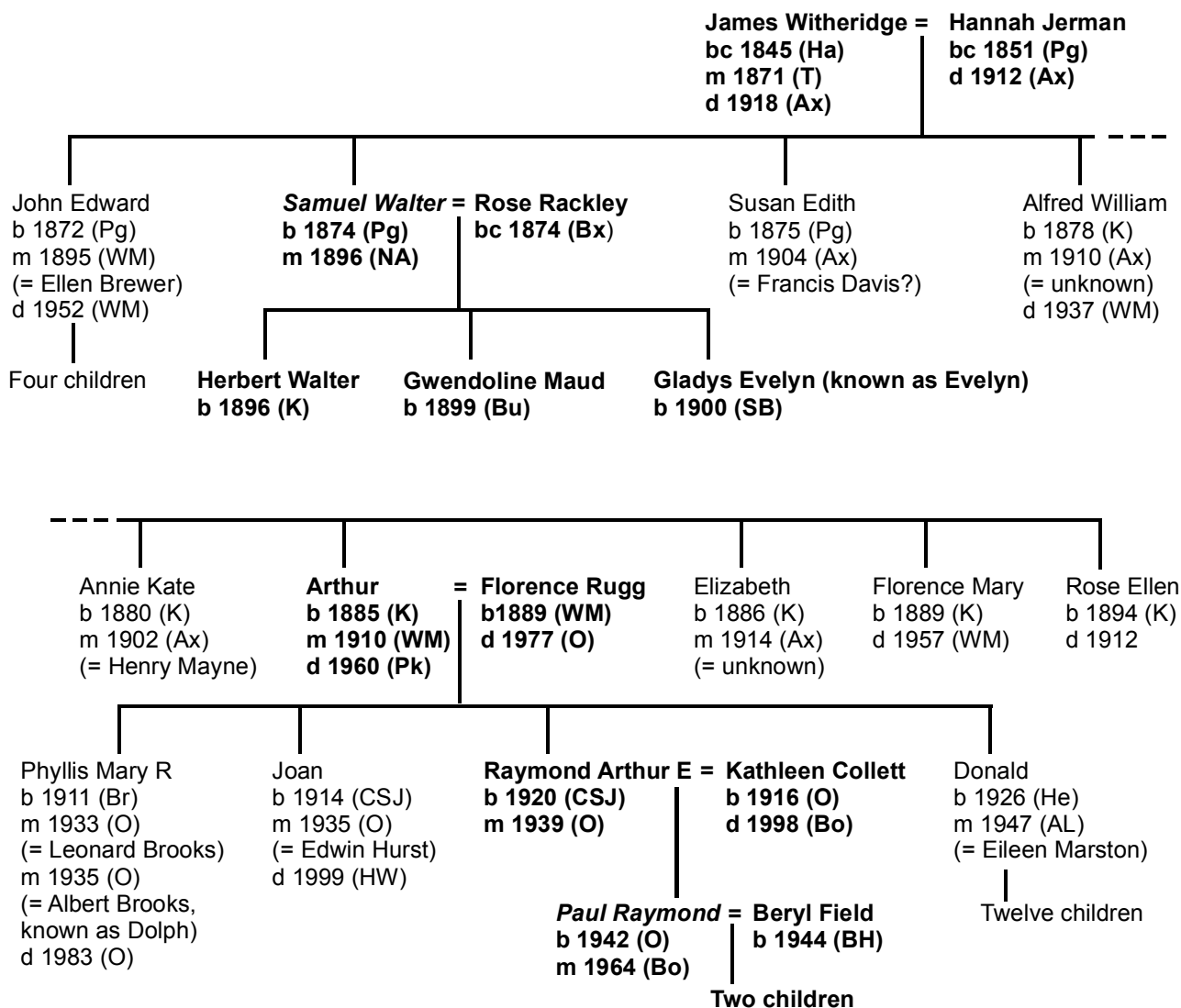
I am going to kick off with a question of my own, which has intrigued me for the past forty years.

Whatever happened to Uncle Walt?

By Paul Witheridge (Marlow, England)

My grandfather, Arthur Witheridge, was one of nine children. In all, there were four brothers and five sisters. Seven are known to have married; so, logically, there ought to be more than a few descendants around. However, apart from my grandfather, the only sibling I ever heard mentioned was his brother: Samuel Walter Witheridge, otherwise known as *Uncle Walt*.

Here’s the relevant section of the family tree (with thanks to Joyce Browne, Kim Cook and Kathy Witheridge):



Please note, to fit the tree onto the page, I have split it vertically into two pieces. The dashes show where the two parts join up. I have also shown Uncle Walt's line, and mine, in bold.

The key to the place names is:

AL = Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs	CSJ = Cowley St John, Oxford	T = Totnes, Devon
Ax = Axbridge, Somerset	Ha = Halwell, Devon	O = Oxford
BH = Bexley Heath, Kent	He = Headington, Oxford	Pg = Paignton, Devon
Bo = Bournemouth, Dorset	HW = High Wycombe, Bucks	Pk = Parkstone, Dorset
Br = Bristol, Somerset	K = Kingskerswell, Devon	SB = South Brent, Devon
Bu = Buckfastleigh, Devon	NA = Newton Abbott, Devon	WM = Weston-super-Mare, Somerset
Bx = Brixham, Devon		

The 1901 British census lists Uncle Walt as living, with his family, in South Brent, Devon. After that he seems to have disappeared from the records. Our, oral, family history says that he emigrated to Australia, and later made a return visit to England, staying with my grandparents and other relatives, for about six months. He attended the wedding of his niece, my aunt Joan, who married Edwin James Hurst, in 1935. Afterwards, he returned to Australia.

Six years ago, my father identified the man, in the photos shown below, as Uncle Walt. Now his memory is not as good, and he is no longer sure.

If anyone has any more information about *Samuel Walter Witheridge*, or his descendants, please e-mail to Editor@WitheridgeFHS, or write to the editor's address, shown on the inside cover of the magazine.



Is this man Samuel Walter Witheridge—Uncle Walt?

Witheridge Family Recipes

This is the start of a new series of articles: publishing recipes that have been handed down through the family. However, *you*, the members, are key here. *Please*, send in recipes, or this will be a short-lived series. E-mail them to Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com, or 'snail-mail' them to the address shown inside the front cover.

Maybe this first recipe should be renamed *Pineapple Coincidence Cake*. Read on to find why.

Pineapple Fruit Cake

I acquired this recipe from my mother-in-law, Kathleen (Kathy) May Witheridge. She was born Kathleen Collett, and became a *Witheridge* by marrying Raymond (Ray) Arthur Edwin Witheridge, from the *Newton Abbot and Totnes* family, in 1939, on the day World War II was declared.

[note: you can see Ray's photo on page 17].

The first strange thing is that her cousin, John (Jack) Garlick, married Amy Spriggs, a descendant of the *Bradworthy Witheridges*.

Kathy got the recipe, in 1976, from her sister, Violet. The second strange thing is that Violet always claimed that the recipe came from *a Witheridge in Australia*, but who, when, and how is unknown. Certainly, I cannot find any similar recipes from British or American sources, only on Australian web-sites.

The last, and rather trivial *Witheridge* connection, is that a *Pineapple Fruit Cake* was served as part of the buffet lunch at the 2005 Annual Reunion.

Here is the recipe:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1) ¾ lb (340g) self-raising flour | 5) 400g tin crushed pineapple plus the juice |
| 2) 3 large eggs, beaten | 6) 1 lb (450g) mixed dried fruit |
| 3) ½ lb (225g) margarine or butter | 7) 1 teaspoon mixed spice |
| 4) ½ lb (225g) Demerara sugar | 8) 1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda |

In a large saucepan, mix ingredients (3) to (8) together, and bring to the boil. Simmer for 3 mins. Then turn off heat, and let the mixture cool.

Pre-heat oven to 350°F, 180°C or gas mark 4.

When the mixture is cold, stir in the sifted flour and beaten eggs. Mix well. Pour the mixture into a greased, lined cake tin, and bake for 1 hour 30 mins. Then reduce temperature to 250°F, 125°C or gas mark ½, and bake for another 30 mins.

When the cake is done, cool in the cake-tin before turning out.



mmm... wonderful with cheddar cheese

George Witheridge, DSO, OBE, 1908–78



*By Kathy Witheridge
with much appreciated
assistance from
Kim Cook*

Many stories have been written about Beauchamp Henry Witheridge (1844–1951), but I would like to write about Beauchamp's eldest son, George Witheridge.

Although born in Stoke Damerel, Plymouth, Beauchamp Henry Witheridge went to Scotland, where he worked with Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. It was in Scotland that Beauchamp met Elizabeth Munro, daughter of David Munro. David, a railway surfaceman, had died some time earlier, and Elizabeth had gone to work as a domestic servant. In 1907, after banns had been called, Elizabeth and Beauchamp were married, according to the rites of the

Church of Scotland, in the parish church manse in Stevenston, Ayr. At the time of the marriage, both Elizabeth and Beauchamp (who was entered on the register as Beecham) were living at 35 Canal Street, Saltcoats. Beauchamp's occupation was listed as 'dynamite worker'.

George Witheridge, born on 23 January 1908 at Saltcoats, was the eldest of their seven children. His early years were spent in Scotland, where his sisters were born: Dorcas on 24 July 1909, Mabel Lily on 19 June 1911, and Agnes on 15 October 1914. Soon after that, when George was about eight years old, the family moved to Llanelli in South Wales, where his sister Elizabeth was born on 3 December 1916. Two more children followed, Henry (born 19 December 1919) and Nellie (born 11 July 1921), so George grew up as the leader of his younger brother and sisters.

After leaving school at age sixteen, George entered the Army as a boy soldier, and eventually became a Lieutenant Colonel in the *Tank Corps*.



*Colonel George
Witheridge*

When the first tanks were produced in 1916, they were manned by members of the *Machine Gun Corps*, formed into six companies which were collectively known as the *Heavy Branch*. These companies were expanded to form battalions and were renamed the *Tank Corps* in 1917. In 1923, the corps was granted the prefix 'Royal' by King George V, its Colonel-in-Chief since 1918. On 4 April 1939, the *Royal Tank Corps* became the *Royal Tank Regiment* (RTR), and was incorporated into the newly-formed *Royal Armoured Corps*.

On 1 October 1938, in Poole, Dorset, George married Mary Edith Woodward, who was born on 10 February 1907. For most of the war years, George's military service kept them apart, except for the occasional home leave. Mary lived in the northern outskirts of London, and their first child, a daughter, was born in the Hendon area in 1944. Sadly she lived only a short time.

Most of George's war service was in the western desert, where his contribution to the war effort was considerable, not only in military action, but also in technical expertise. No allied tank had the capacity to take on the enemy's Tiger tank, and losses were therefore heavy. George suggested converting the Sherman tank into a 17-pounder, but Ministry of Defence experts said it couldn't be done. George, with the assistance of Major Brighty, proved that it could, and from their work, Vickers produced the *Sherman Firefly*, which took on and overcame the Tiger, thus helping turn the tide of war.

Together again after the war, George and Mary settled in the Uxbridge area, on the western outskirts of London, and it was there, in 1946, that their son Vernon George was born.

George continued with his army service until 1954. During the last few years of his service, he was posted to South Wales. The family lived in Kilgetty, in the beautiful countryside north of Tenby, and they stayed there after George's retirement. It was here, on 7 February 1978, just a couple of weeks after his 70th birthday, that George died.

Although the obituary of George Witheridge has some errors and omissions, it nevertheless makes very interesting reading on his life. It is reproduced on the facing page.

Some time after George's death, his widow Mary went into residential care, choosing a nursing home in Doncaster, near her Woodward relations. It was there, in 1982, that she died.

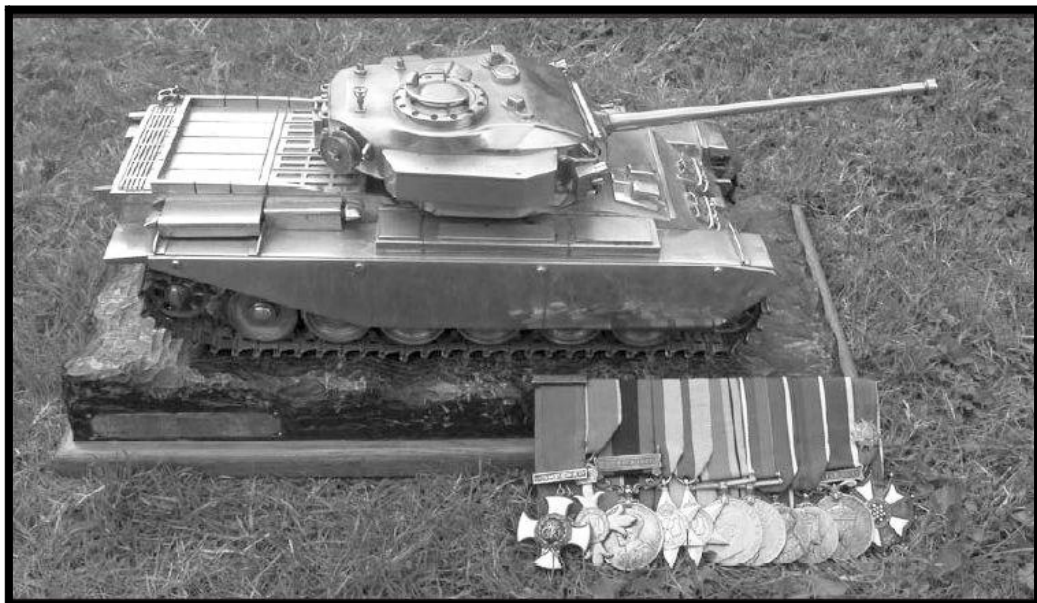
For many years, Vernon continued to live in Leicestershire, but about four years ago he also moved to Doncaster, where he has a number of business interests. Vernon recalls his father as a man of adventurous spirit, who knew what he wanted to do, and did it. Although George had a ready fund of humorous stories about his time in the Army, he never spoke of the serious times, of how he was injured, or the circumstances that led to the award of his DSO.

Unfortunately, the Royal Tank Regiment will not release information on George's personal career, other than to next of kin. Contact details for this have been passed to Vernon, and we hope to have more information in due course.

Many of the papers George wrote on tank gunnery are now held in the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, which has on display many of the tanks George wrote about. The museum

is open to the public, but if you would like access to any of George's work, please make an appointment first, by contacting Mr David Fletcher on 01929 405096, ext 229.

Quite recently, I found on the Internet, a picture of George's medals and a model of the Firefly tank owned by him. It is reproduced here (see right).



Obituary of Lieutenant Colonel George Witheridge

A man who has been described as one of the best tank fighters of the Second World War, Lieutenant Colonel George Witheridge DSO OBE, died suddenly at the West Wales General Hospital Glangwill on Tuesday. He was 70.

Colonel Witheridge, who lived at Cooksyeat, Killgetty, had not enjoyed good health for some years. He was rushed to Glangwill on Monday and died the following night. Colonel Witheridge spent his childhood in Llanelli before joining the Army as a boy. Before the war he saw extensive service at home and overseas notably in India. But it was during the Second World War that he achieved fame as a Tank Commander in the Western Desert where he was severely wounded.

After the war he spent six years on the staff of the famous Hohne tank range in Western Germany and first came to Pembrokeshire as Officer commanding the Castlemartin tank range, a position he held for three years

He retired from the Royal Tank Regiment and the Army in 1954 and had lived in Kilgetty with his wife Mary. He wrote extensively on tank warfare and had a high reputation on both sides of the Atlantic. The Americans in particular frequently consulted him on technical matters.

He farmed at Cooksyeat and over some years had a running battle with the planning authorities over an application for a caravan park. But despite a skilfully conducted campaign he was unsuccessful.

He entered fully into the community of his adoption. He was a Freemason and an ardent churchman.

He was churchwarden at Killgetty Church where he had been an enthusiastic member of the Men's Society.

He was Chairman of the Saundersfoot branch of the Royal British Legion and he took a very active part in the Scout movement in South Pembrokeshire where his enthusiasm and organising ability were greatly appreciated.

A popular figure of great charm, Col. Witheridge will be greatly missed by many people as a loyal friend.

In addition to his wife, Mary, Col. Witheridge is survived by a son, Mr Vernon Witheridge, of Market Harborough.

The funeral took place at 11.30 a.m. on Monday at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth. There is a request for no flowers but donations may be sent to St. Mary's Church, Killgetty.

Submitting Articles for Publication: Hints and Tips

You can send material for publication in one of two ways:

- by ordinary mail to the address shown on the inside of the front cover
- by e-mail to Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com

Sending material by ordinary mail

If you have no access to the Internet, this is a really good method!

Even if you have Internet access, it's still a good method if you are not a computer whizz-kid. I will always be happy to return the material, after I have digitised it. Don't forget to include your e-mail and/or phone number, in case there are questions.

Mailing text: printed matter, type-written for example, is best—it reduces ambiguity, and I can probably convert it to digital text with minimum effort, using a special computer program. However, if all you have is handwritten, send it!

Mailing photos: I can scan prints, 35mm colour slides, and some monochrome or colour negatives (35mm film strip, 120/220 format, and 4 inch by 5 inch format). Please make sure photos and/or negatives are well packed, to avoid damage.

Other pictures: Send it. However, if it's over A4 size (210 by 297 millimetres), please check with me first.

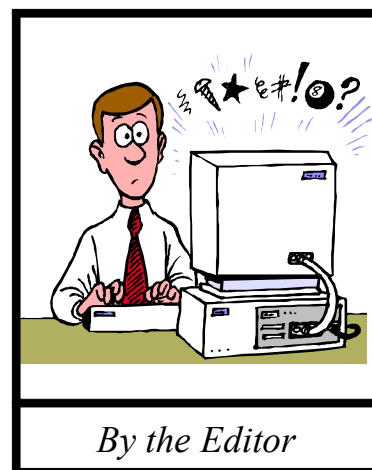
Family Trees: Send whatever you have. A hand-drawn figure is quite acceptable, provided that the names are clearly legible.

Sending material by e-mail

Preparing text: you *can* type the text directly into the e-mail, but, if you know how, it is better to send it as an attachment. You can create a document using Microsoft Word, Lotus WordPro, or just about any plain text editor (such as *Notepad* which is available on all Windows PCs) and then attach the document to your e-mail. Don't worry too much about the format; that's my job.

Scanning hardcopy text: if the text is only available in hardcopy—a printed page, for example—then, if you have a *scanner* on your PC, scan it at 300 dpi in 24-bit colour, save the image as a JPEG and send it as an attachment. If you don't have access to a scanner, try photographing it with a digital camera, and sending the photo as an attachment.

Sending photos or other images: if the image is already in digital format, just send it as an attachment. If not, you will need access to a scanner (failing that, see *Sending material by ordinary mail*, above). 300 dpi should be adequate for most photos. Scan in 24-bit colour, even for black and white photos—OK, if you're an expert, you may wish to use greyscale for black and white, but otherwise 24-bit colour probably gives me most flexibility. Try saving the image as a PNG (Portable Network Graphics) file—this avoids some problems that occur



with the more common JPEG format. See www.scantips.com for more than you probably wanted to know about scanning.

Sending large files: digital cameras and scanners can create large files, which can be a problem when e-mailing. If you have dial-up Internet access, large files take a long time to send, and even if you have broadband, some ISPs impose a limit on e-mail size. In cases like this, you may be able to burn the data to a CD and snail-mail it. If you do have broadband, take a look at www.sendthisfile.com.

The by-line

For articles of any size, I will add a ‘by-line’ at the head of the article, naming the author. So, if you have a particular preference about how your name should appear—a nickname, perhaps—don’t forget to say so. Where possible, I would like to use a photo (a head shot), to go with the name. You can see plenty of examples in this issue. So, please choose, and send, a photo. If it is more than just a head shot, I can easily crop it.

Note: I won’t add a by-line where the material appears in an article that includes contributions from several people—the *Family News*, for .

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Remember: please send articles.

Your editor needs **you**.

Members e-mail Addresses

By Kathy Witheridge

We are trying to update our list of members' *e-mail addresses*. If you have an e-mail address, please send a note to Webmaster@WitheridgeFHS.com, giving your address. We would like publish these e-mail addresses in *The Witheridge Times*, so please say if you **do not** want yours published.

The following members have already given permission for their e-mail addresses to be published:

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Post scriptum: the next issue and the 2006 Witheridge Reunion

Volume 19 Number 3, the winter issue of *The Witheridge Times* is due out just before Christmas. For personal reasons, I am unavailable throughout September and October, so it will be a real rush to put it all together before Christmas.

The next *Witheridge Reunion* will take place in Somerset, an area with a surprising number of Witheridge connections. See the next issue for more details about that, plus how to get the *digital version* of the magazine, an article on the new *index*, and much more.

Until then, may good fortune attend you. *The Editor*

Continued from inside front cover

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Cheques should be made payable to *The Witheridge Family History Society*, and should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address shown inside the front cover of the magazine.