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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 Wetheridge Family History Society Web-site:

<http://www.WetheridgeFHS.com>

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Editorial

This is only my second issue, as editor, and already I have to apologise for not including a promised article, about the new *Index to Back Issues*! I promise it *will* be in the next issue.

The cause, of my humiliation, was an extraordinary nine-week vacation, on return from which, I fought my way through the usual post-holiday blues, and began the scramble to get this issue ready in time to meet the last pre-Christmas posting date for Australia and New Zealand. The new *Index* article was a casualty of that scramble.



By Paul Witheridge

Now, I'm not into decaffeinated coffee, which is why—awash with the fully 'caffeinated' variety, as I was—I was grateful to read, on the BBC News web-site, about a US study, which suggested that decaffeinated coffee was actually bad for your heart! (Point your web browser at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4444908.stm>, for more details.) Still, I am sure that too much coffee does all sorts of other, nasty, things to me. So, now that the magazine is finally ready, I am cutting back, and Beryl has me on a regimen of nettle tea.

Two extra copies of this issue are being sent out—a big welcome to new members **Joy Allbrooke** and **Catherine Pepper**. We hope to publish details of their Witheridge ancestry in the spring edition. We also hope that they will be able to join us, at the 2006 Witheridge reunion in Somerset.

So much seems to have happened, since the last edition of *The Witheridge Times* hit the streets. In the world-at-large, we have seen the terrorist bombings in London and other places around the world, hurricane Katrina in the USA, and the terrible earthquake in Kashmir. So much suffering, for so many people.

Yet, for most of us, these world events have little impact on our daily activities. We rise, eat, drink, socialise, work, play, and go to bed, all governed by the up and downs of our own lives.

So it is, for the *Witheridge Family History Society*, which is currently enjoying some significant 'up's. Read *Witheridge FHS News* on page 4, for more details. The experiment in publishing online versions of the magazine is also under way, digital copies of the last three magazine issues are available on the web-site, and thirty-eight downloads have already occurred. Read *Signing-in to the Witheridge FHS Web-site Members Only Area*, on page 31, for more details.

This issue is also slightly unusual, in that it has a 'pull-out' Christmas card, in the middle, between pages 16 and 17. The Society's intent was to include a 'proper' Christmas card, in the same envelope as the magazine. However, because of the mad scramble, to which I referred above, it was too late to do so *and* meet the mailing deadline. So please, detach the 'pull-out' Christmas card, with care, and display it with your other greetings cards.

Finally, a big *thank you* to all our contributors, and **very Merry Christmas** to you all.

Back numbers are available for all previous issues of *The Witheridge Times*:

- In 1987, two issues were published
- In 1988 and 1989, three issues were published both years
- In 1990, only one issue was published
- From 1991 to 1999, four issues were published each year
- From 2000 on, three issues were published each year

We have also uploaded a more detailed list to the *Members Only* area of the Witheridge FHS web-site. Back numbers are priced as follows:

- Issues published in the last twelve month: £2.50 per issue, plus p&p
- Issues published in the preceding twelve months: £1.50 per issue, plus p&p
- Issues published in the twelve months before that: £1.00 per issue, plus p&p
- All older issues: £0.50 per issue, plus p&p

If you would like to purchase any of these back numbers, please contact the editor by e-mail at editor@WitheridgeFHS.com, telephone 01626-484026, or write to the address shown inside the front cover. We can then advise you of the postage and packaging (p&p) costs.

For UK residents, the preferred method of payment is a UK cheque, made out the *The Witheridge Family History Society*. For overseas members, we will try to arrange payment via *PayPal* (using the Internet).

On the side: Devonian

Most people in the world, if they happen to know the word *Devonian* at all, associate it with geology. The *Devonian* period lasted approximately from 416 to 359 million years ago; during this period, fish became abundant, the first amphibians evolved, and the first forests appeared. The County of Devon gave its name to this period because rocks, from the Devonian age, are common in Devon—for example, they underlie most of Exmoor.

Of course, *we* know that *Devonian* also means *about Devon*, or a person *from Devon*.

In Roman times, the south-west of England was inhabited by the *Dumnonii*, a Celtic tribe spread across Devon, Cornwall, and the western parts of Dorset and Somerset. Their chief town was *Exeter*, which the Romans called *Isca Dumnoniorum*, but the ancient British knew it as *Caer Uisk* or *Keresk*. The Dumnonii were very independent, having little to do with the Romans. While this may say a lot about the Devonian spirit, it also means that we know little about them.

By the late 9th century, the name seems to have changed to *Defena*, and Devon itself was called *Defenascir*, or district of the Defena. Sounds a bit like *Devonshire*, doesn't it—our modern word *shire* derives from the Old English *scir*. In medieval latin, it was written as '*Devonia*', from which comes our current name for Devon.

Witheridge FHS News

The Society's committee has been busy recently. Things are happening; plans are afoot for the next two years.

Highlights of the Committee Meeting

The meeting was held on Saturday, 12 November. Its main objective was to make plans for the 2006 reunion, and, more importantly, for the Society's twentieth anniversary reunion, which will take place in 2007. However, other matters were discussed as well.

The main decisions made by the meeting were:

1. Beryl Witheridge (that's me) was appointed to organise the 2006 reunion, to take place in Porlock, Somerset. See *2006 Witheridge Reunion and AGM*, on page 5 facing, for details.
2. Richard Witheridge was appointed to organise the 2007 twentieth anniversary reunion, which will take place in Devon. See *Devon 2007: Witheridge FHS Twentieth Anniversary*, on page 7, for more details.
3. The number of pages in *The Witheridge Times* will be increased, starting with the spring 2006 issue, in an effort to give better value to members. However, this will depend on the availability of more material for articles.
4. The custom, of sending a *Witheridge FHS* Christmas card to members, is to be revived. Because of time constraints, this year's 'card' will be a centre-spread pull-out in the magazine, but next year there will be time to send out a more conventional card.
5. 2006 will see a major overhaul of the www.WitheridgeFHS.com web-site.
6. New efforts will be made to attract new members. These efforts will include: a mail shot to lapsed members; notices about the 2006 and 2007 reunions in *Family Tree* and *Family History* magazines, and in newspapers local to the reunion venues; and renewed efforts to contact Witheridges via the www.genesreunited.co.uk web-site.
7. Following a discussion about the feasibility of regional meetings within the UK, the meeting felt that this should be discussed by the membership at large, rather than just by the committee, and it was decided to raise the question of regional meetings, both within the UK and overseas, at the AGM in 2006.
8. A sliding scale of prices was agreed, for back issues of *The Witheridge Times*, with most recent issues available at £2.50 each, reducing to £0.50 for the oldest issues. See *Back Numbers Available for Purchase*, on page 3, for more details.

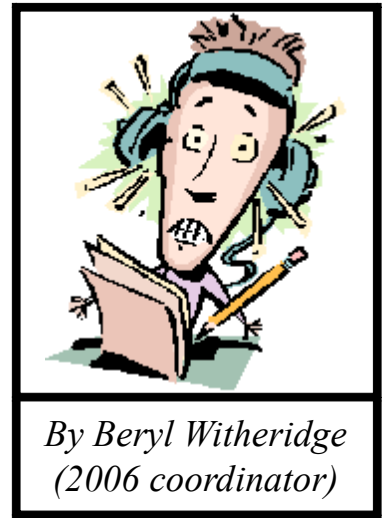
The full [minutes of the committee meeting](#) are available in the *Members Only* area of the www.WitheridgeFHS.com web-site. To access this, you will need your membership number and a sign-on password. See the article headed *Signing-in to the Witheridge FHS Web-site Members Only Area*, on page 31, for more information about signing in.



*By the Secretary
(Beryl Witheridge)*

2006 Witheridge Reunion and AGM **Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 May 2006**

Next year's reunion will take place in the little town of Porlock, in west Somerset. Porlock lies at the eastern edge of the **Exmoor National Park**, at the foot of the famous Porlock hill, which climbs dramatically up onto Exmoor, with spectacular views of the Bristol Channel and the distant Welsh coast. Porlock hill is one of the steepest in Britain, and for the earlier two-thirds of the last century, presented quite a challenge to motorists. It's still quite a shock to the first-time visitor.



On Saturday, the reunion and AGM will be held in the **Porlock Village Hall**, which has ample parking. If you have internet access, you can visit web-sites www.porlock.org/information_point/halls_and_recreation_grounds/porlock_village_hall.shtml and www.hornermill.co.uk/pvh/ for more information about the hall. I will also publish more detailed directions, and a map, in the spring issue of *The Witheridge Times*. These will also be available on the www.WitheridgeFHS.com web-site.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, at the hall, from 10 a.m.

For those bringing children, we have reserved an additional room for childrens' activities. We will need to know the ages of any children coming, in order to plan suitable activities. Please e-mail Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com, telephone 01628-484026, or see inside the back cover, for a mailing address, under 'secretary'). There is also a nearby childrens' playground.

The AGM will start at 10:30 a.m., and end by 12:30 p.m. (that's lunch time, not midnight!), at which time we will repair to **The Ship Inn** opposite, for a pub lunch. Prices range from £2.95 to £5.95 and the dishes include sandwiches, ploughmans, other light meals and board specials. Children are welcome, with half-portion meals and childrens' specials.

After lunch, it's back to the hall for a surprise activity.

In the evening, we plan to get together for a reunion dinner, which is becoming a traditional event at our gatherings. We have not yet picked the restaurant—a little more direct research with a knife and fork is needed here!

On Sunday morning, we are arranging a **Treasure Hunt**. For this, you will need a car, a driver and at least one passenger. Participants will be given instructions on the route to follow, plus a set of clues for things to look out for on the way. It's best to have several people in the car, to help with the looking! The *Treasure Hunt* will finish up at a pub that provides a traditional 'Sunday roast', as well as lighter meals. Note that the *Treasure Hunt* is not a race—you should have plenty of time to get to the end-point in time for lunch. There will be a winner: the party that gets the most right answers, but sometimes it's even more fun to come last! If we still feel energetic after lunch, we can visit the beach.

There is plenty of accommodation in Porlock and its surroundings. If you have internet access, visit www.porlock.co.uk for a list of accommodation. For those without internet access,

you can telephone the *Porlock Visitor Centre* on 01643-863150. Alternatively, here is a short list of local hotels and B&Bs:

Name	Telephone	Price per person per night
Castle Hotel	01643-862504	from £25
Lorna Doone Hotel	01643-862404	from £22.50
Overstream Hotel	01643-862421	from £25
Rose Bank Guest House	01643-862728	from: £25
The Ship Inn	01643-862507	from £30
West Porlock Country House Hotel	01643-862880	from: £29

The *Rose Bank Guest House* has family rooms which sleep four plus a cot (telephone for prices). The *Ship Inn* also offers family rooms (again, telephone for prices), and has some self-catering cottages at £100 per night.

Agenda for the 2006 AGM

In my role as secretary, rather than as 2006 coordinator, I will publish a provisional agenda in the spring issue of *The Witheridge Times*. The editor tells me that this should appear about a month before the date of the AGM.

However, the agenda may well change during this month, so I will also upload the agenda to the *Members Only* area of the www.WitheridgeFHS.com web-site, together with backing notes about the items on the agenda. I will then update this online version with any changes.

If you want to add an item to the agenda, or append some comment to an existing item, please e-mail me at Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com, telephone me on 01628-484026, or write to the postal address shown on the inside back cover.

In addition to publishing the most up-to-date version of the agenda, we are going to use the *Members Only* area to enable members, who cannot attend the AGM in person, to vote on proposals and the election of officers. More details on this will be published in the next issue of *The Witheridge Times*. Note that to access the *Members Only* area, you will need your membership number and a sign-on password. See the article headed *Signing-in to the Witheridge FHS Web-site Members Only Area*, on page 31, for more information about signing in.

If you do not have internet access, to vote on an agenda item, write to me at the address shown on the inside back cover, quoting the item(s) in question, and your voting choice(s).

On the side: Famous quotes

‘Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever’

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

‘In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is.’

Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut

‘Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.’

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Devon 2007: Witheridge FHS Twentieth Anniversary Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 19 to 21 May 2007

To many of you, 2007 may sound a long way off, but, in terms of organising the reunion for our Twentieth Anniversary year, it is just around the corner. The committee is very enthusiastic, I have been appointed coordinator, and the planning is under way.

I will be publishing more definite information in the upcoming spring 2006 issue of *The Witheridge Times*, with follow-ups in the three subsequent issues that will appear before the actual date of the anniversary reunion in 2007. The www.WitheridgeFHS.com web-site will also be updated with information, as our plans mature.

However, I can provide some preliminary information already.

The 2007 reunion will be spread across three days, and will be held in South Devon, near many of the villages that were home to Witheridge families, in the past. These include: Ermington, Kingskerswell, Totnes and Wembury.

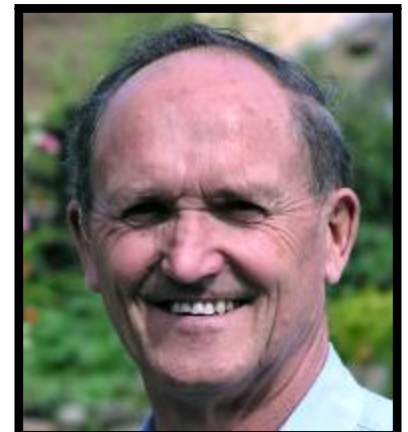
We have already identified a likely hotel: the **Coombe Cross** (see www.coombecross.co.uk), at Bovey Tracey. It has twenty-two en-suite bedrooms, all non-smoking, including some family rooms. It also has an indoor, heated pool, a sauna and a gym, plus function rooms that can accommodate our meetings, and, of course, a restaurant. The rates are reasonable, especially if you take the bed, breakfast and evening meal rate for three-or-more days. If we can take over the whole hotel, we hope to negotiate even better rates. Beryl and Paul Witheridge are going to check out the hotel in early December. So, visit www.WitheridgeFHS.com over Christmas, for their feedback and some pictures.

Bovey Tracey (apparently pronounced 'Buvvy Tracey') is at the southern edge of the **Dartmoor National Park**. Dartmoor is a great place for walking, or sight-seeing by car, especially in spring-time when the bluebells carpet some of the woods and fields. Visit **Hound Tor**, made famous by Conan Doyle in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Drop in for lunch at some of the inns and pubs on the moor, or visit *Buckfast Abbey*.

We hope to arrange guest speakers for Saturday, following the AGM. On Sunday, we plan to have a coach tour of Witheridge-related places in Devon. This may be either north or south Devon, depending on how you, the members, fill out the booking forms and questionnaires we will be sending out. Monday may well be reserved for visits to Witheridge-related places, that the coach tour did not take in.

We are also planning some special *Witheridge Family History Society* publications and memorabilia, to help make the event interesting and special.

We will be sending out booking forms and questionnaires with the spring issue of the magazine. Please return them as soon as you can, to help us with our planning. Our aim is to make *Devon 2007* the Witheridge event of the century, if not the millennium!



*By Richard Witheridge
(2007 coordinator)*

The Nigerian Scam—a Follow-up

Some of you may recall that the last issue of the magazine carried an article about a scam e-mail sent to Kathy Witheridge by someone calling himself 'Barrister Nelson Mark' (see *The Nigerian Scam* on page 8 of *The Witheridge Times* Volume 19 Number 2). About the same time as that issue was mailed out, I came across a *Reuters* report, showing just how extensive these swindles are. I have summarised it below.



By Paul Witheridge

A Nigerian court has sentenced a woman to two and half years in jail, after she pleaded guilty to fraud charges in the country's biggest e-mail scam case. Amaka Anajemba, one of three suspects in a \$242 million fraud involving a Brazilian bank, was ordered to return \$48.5 million to the bank, hand over \$5 million to the government and pay a fine of 2 million naira (\$15,000).

Scams have become so successful in Nigeria that anti-sleaze campaigners say swindling is one of the country's main foreign exchange earners after oil, natural gas and cocoa. Typically fraudsters send out junk e-mails around the world promising recipients a share in a fortune in return for an advance fee. Those who pay never receive the promised windfall.

Anajemba's sentencing by a Lagos High Court is the first major conviction since the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was established in 2003, to crack down on Nigeria's thriving networks of email fraudsters. The judgment is said to be 'a landmark achievement by EFCC in the fight against advance fee fraud, corruption and other related crimes.'

Anajemba, whose late husband masterminded the swindling of the Sao Paolo-based Banco Noroeste SA between 1995 and 1998, was charged along with Emmanuel Nwude and Nzeribe Okoli. The prosecution said the three accused obtained the \$242 million by promising a member of the bank staff a commission for funding a non-existent contract to build an airport in Nigeria's capital Abuja. All three accused pleaded not guilty, but Anajemba later changed her mind to enter a guilty plea in order to receive a shorter sentence. Her prison term was backdated to start in January 2004, when she was first taken in custody. The trial of the two others, who maintained their not guilty pleas, was adjourned to September.

Ranked the world's second most corrupt country after Bangladesh by sleaze watchdog Transparency International, Nigeria has given new powers to the EFCC which is currently prosecuting about 200 fraud and corruption cases. The anti-fraud agency has arrested over 200 junk mail scam suspects since 2003. It says it has also confiscated property worth \$200 million and secured 10 other convictions.

It's good to see some of these Internet tricksters getting their comeuppance. Now, if only something really unpleasant would happen to those people who keep sending me e-mails offering cheap medication, mortgages, university degrees, or some sort of bodily augmentation.



Ermington, Australia, and Major Lockyer—a Follow-up

An article, I wrote for an earlier issue of the magazine, addressed the question: why is a suburb of **Sydney, Australia**, named after the small Devonshire village of *Ermington*, where I was born? (See *Ermington, Australia?* on page 24 of Volume 19 Number 1, the spring 2005 issue of *The Witheridge Times*.)

It turned out that Major Lockyer, one of the early Australian pioneers, built a house on the **Parramatta River**, and named it *Ermington*. The area later became a suburb of Sydney.

The article ended by posing a second question: why did Major Lockyer choose the name *Ermington* for his house? With help from my friend, and fellow-member, Tom Jewell, we now have a possible answer.

Using information extracted from the Internet, Tom unearthed a marriage settlement document, which records that Major Lockyer was given land in Ermington, Devon. The document contains the following text—I have tried to show it as it appears in the original document:

30 April 1803

59/7/4/21

43 George III

ERMINGTON, MODBURY.

Marriage settlements (draft).

- (1) Harry Rivers of Hartford, gent.
- (2) Thomas Lockyer of Plymouth, merchant.
- (3) Thomas Lockyer the younger of Plymouth, sailmaker.
- (4) Jane Rivers of Hartford, spinster, daughter of (1).
- (5) Samuel Wroth of Modbury, maltster, and Edmund Lockyer of Plymouth, Gent., trustees.

Tenement called Knighton Combe in Modbury, containing 22 acres (names of fields in tenement given), the Peter Inn at Modbury, a messuage adjoining the inn, a messuage in Church Street, Modbury, a messuage and garden in Ermington, an old dwellinghouse (part of Birch's tenement) in Ermington.

Consideration: 10s., and intended marriage.

Recites that the premises are released by (1) to (5) in part fulfilment of an undertaking by (1) to settle £4000, or lands, etc., to the same value, upon (4). (2) has similarly undertaken to provide (3) with stock, warehouses, money, etc., to the value of £4000

Although this is not a very positive connection, I think we can let this story rest, unless any further information comes to light. Just for interest, on the following page, I have included a resumé of Major Lockyer's career

Note: a 'messuage' is a legal term meaning 'dwelling place with outbuildings and land attached', and '10s' stands for 'ten shillings' in old, pre-decimal, British currency.

Major Edmund Lockyer

The Lockyers have a long and distinguished association with Plymouth, which stretches back over many generations. In the 19th century, members of the Lockyer family were Lord mayors of Plymouth on nine occasions, and one of the main streets in the old Plymouth is named Lockyer Street.

Edmund was the third son of Thomas and Anne Lockyer and, was born on 21 January 1784, almost certainly in Plymouth, where he was baptised on 17 August 1784, at St Andrew's Church.



Major Edmund
Lockyer

In 1803, Thomas Lockyer bought an estate at Wembury, where he subsequently built Wembury House, which still stands today. In the same year, Edmund Lockyer entered the Army as an Ensign. In early 1805, he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in August, he acquired his Captaincy.

Edmund obviously maintained his links with Wembury, while still in the Army, as the Parish Registers record the following baptism, on 1 October 1808:

At Wembury House, William Edmund, son of Edmund Lockyer, Captain in His Majesty's Nineteenth Regiment of Foot, and Dorothea Agatha, his wife.

Edmund reached the rank of Major, in 1819, at the age of thirty-five, and six years later, in April 1826, sailed with a detachment of the 57th Regiment, from Portsmouth for Sydney.

In September 1825, Major Lockyer was sent, by Governor Brisbane, to explore the Brisbane River, which he successfully navigated for nineteen kilometres.

At this time, only New South Wales, which then comprised of the eastern two-thirds of the Australian continent, had been occupied by the British. Fearing that the French might establish a settlement on the western coast, Major Lockyer was dispatched from Sydney, with orders to occupy a site at King George Sound, on the south-west coast of Australia.

With a detachment of the 39th Regiment, and a party of twenty-three convicts, Major Lockyer sailed from Sydney on 9 November 1826 aboard the brig *Amity*, arriving at his destination on Christmas Day 1826.

Major Lockyer and his party landed at the head of Princess Royal Harbour, and quickly established a settlement, named *Fredericks Town* after the second son of King George III, Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany. This settlement subsequently became part of the Swan River Colony in 1831, and its name was changed to Albany.

On 21 January the British flag was hoisted, a twenty-one gun Royal Salute was fired, and Major Edmund Lockyer formally claimed the western third of the vast Australian Continent for the Crown.

Good relations had been established with the local natives, and a number of them attended the celebrations which followed the official ceremony. The occasion was also marked with the issue of an extra ration of flour, raisins and suet, for the troops and convicts.

Major Lockyer remained in charge until 3 April 1827, when he returned to Sydney on *HMS Success*, with *Captain James Stirling* who, in 1829 returned to Western Australia, where he established the Swan River Colony, and became its first governor.

In September 1827, Lockyer sold his commission and retired from the Army, deciding to settle near Sydney. He was appointed Police Magistrate at Parrametta, and in 1828, he built a house near *Ryde*, which he called *Ermington*, now the name of a Sydney suburb.

Governor Darling made Lockyer Principal Surveyor of roads and bridges, in June 1828, but the Colonial Office abolished this appointment, and in January 1830 he relinquished this post.

In 1835, Major Lockyer was granted 2,500 acres of land in New South Wales, which he named *Lockyersleigh*. This eventually became part of a huge estate totalling almost 12,000 acres.

Lockyer was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms to the Legislative Council in 1852, and Usher of the Black Rod in 1856.

He died on the 10 June 1860, aged seventy-six, and was buried in the Camperdown cemetery at Sydney. He was survived by his second wife, Eliza, whom he had married in 1854, his first wife having died in 1853.

In March 1936, a memorial to Major Edmund Lockyer was erected at Residency Point in Albany, at the spot where he landed on Christmas Day 1826, to establish the first British settlement in Western Australia.

A poem for Christmas Eve

Were we to pause, amid the throng,
Would we hear the Angels' song?
Were we to stand, and look and listen,
Would we see the treetops glisten?
Could we see the beckoning star
Guiding wise men from afar?
If we are still, but once a year,
Distant voices, soft but clear
Will tell the Christmas story
And bring reflections of the Glory.
On Christmas Eve we *can* believe
Because of promise given,
The Child was born, so hope again
For Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men.

Joyce Browne

Finding your Family—the Pleasure and the Pain

The pain, of which I speak, is actual physical pain and weariness, not the disappointment felt at the discovery that Great Aunt Priscilla was not as prissy as she seemed, or that Uncle Fred, presumed lost in a shipwreck on his way to Australia, had in fact pootled off to Peckham with the woman next door.

Those of you, who began your searches before the days of ‘on-line’ discovery, will know that the first port of call for family research was the *General Record Office*, or GRO, in *St Catherine’s House*, Aldwych, London. There were housed the *registers* of all births, deaths and marriages, from 1837 onward. Unless one could afford to pay a researcher, visits to London were inevitable.

The registers, each roughly the size of a wall-paper pattern book, were housed on steel shelving, in year, quarter and alphabetical order. They were, and are, too big to hold open in one hand. In front of each line of shelving, a sloping desk, without chair or stool, was provided, on which to place and read a register. This was no easy task, as St Catherine’s was crammed with hundreds of people, all trying to look at the registers, and all jostling for a place at the desks. At times, I have knelt on the floor with a book, hoping that I wouldn’t be trodden on in the *melée*.

There were other hazards, too: warning notices told of handbag thieves; it was fatal to put a handbag or brief case under a desk—it would not be there for long!

Sometimes, I would turn to restore a book to the shelf, then turn back, only to find my place at the desk had been snatched by someone else. It was easier for two people to search, and I was grateful when my husband Graham accompanied me, but weary legs and aching arms were still the inevitable consequences of a day at St Cath’s!

One day, when Graham had taken the risk of hanging his coat on a peg near where we were searching, when it was time to leave he found the coat was missing. We had thought it safe, as we could see the pegs from where we were standing, and a large West Indian security guard was sitting by it. ‘B----- H---’ said the guard when told—he took it as a personal affront. He took Graham upstairs to an office, where he reported the theft to a clerk, who took particulars. She looked Graham up and down, measuring him for size, and then took a rain coat off a peg nearby, handed it to Graham, and said ‘Have this one. It’s been here for months and no-one has claimed it.’ Graham protested that he couldn’t take someone else’s coat, but as it was cold and raining outside, he finally agreed, leaving his name and address, and saying he would return the coat immediately, if asked.

As we walked to the railway station, he said ‘You know this is a better coat than mine, and it fits me better.’ The joke is that Graham’s coat has never been found, and he has never been asked to return the other one—he is wearing it to this day!

Although we are only thirty miles from London, the journey was not without its discomforts.



By Joyce Browne

This was the time when the IRA (Irish Republican Army) was conducting its bombing campaign against mainland Britain. Trains were delayed; several times we were evacuated from the Underground, and came up in a strange neighbourhood. We always managed to make our way on foot to St Catherine's, but one day, near Aldwych, we came upon the horrible sight of a double-decker bus, wrecked by a bomb. There were several fatalities, including the man who had been carrying the bomb. It was thought that the bomb had gone off accidentally, as IRA men were not given to suicide, but this was no comfort to grieving relatives and friends. We did not enjoy our searches that day.

Pleasure came, when I found that my grandfather had been born in Plymouth—a total surprise to me. There was nothing else for it, but to spend a holiday in Devon, in order to visit the **West Devon Record Office** in Plymouth. What a bonus: a holiday in Devon, and a record office to visit as well!

The West Devon Record Office, in Plymouth, is a warehouse, on an industrial site, near a breakers' yard and a gas works, but what it lacks in situation, it makes up for in content. I was able to find my Ermington connections, and discovered documents, leases and other materials, which enabled me to trace my family to **Strode Manor Farm** in **Ermington**, the home of Witheridges for many years.

Several Devon holidays followed, and I had the pleasure of visiting my ancestral home, standing in the kitchen of a farmhouse where my eight-times great grandmother, **Johane Edgcombe**, lived in 1607, and seeing the oven where she baked her bread.

Handling the documents in the record office gave great pleasure too. Imagine the joy of seeing 17th and 18th century account books, kept by Witheridge ancestors, who were Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, and seeing their actual signatures on the pages. One had written 'I made a mistake of half a penny on the last accounts.'

One supreme excitement came, when I was able to see an account book kept by the **Strode Family**, who were the landlords of the Ermington Witheridges. This massive tome, all parchment pages, had to rest on a special pillow, so as not to break the spine of the book. I was allowed to turn the pages and found the record of my nine-times great grandfather paying his rent for Strode Manor Farm. The year was **1580**—'Lion Witheridge' the record said. I could not decipher the amount, but I was thrilled to realise that the man, who wrote those words, was probably looking at my ancestor handing over his money. What a pleasure that was for me!

On the side: Thoughts for the day

- If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a height, what would happen?
- When you wake up in the morning and nothing hurts you can be sure you're dead.
- When all else fails, read the manual.

Family News

News from the United Kingdom

Sad news from South Devon

Joyce Browne has heard from her friend *Sheila Jewell*, that she and her husband *Tom* have been having a very worrying time recently. First, they suffered a bereavement in the family. Then their youngest son required an operation, which was, happily, successful. Next, their daughter was admitted to hospital with pneumonia, but has now, thankfully, recovered. Finally, and most seriously, their eldest son, *Ian*, has been diagnosed with myeloma. He is now on a regime of drugs and chemotherapy, and all the family are helping as much as they can.

Joyce adds that Sheila and Tom are honorary members of the Society, and have been of great help to us in the past. She is sure that we all join in sending our best wishes to Ian, and to Tom and Sheila, in their efforts to come to terms with the situation. Joyce adds that Sheila hopes to get back to some research soon, and has not forgotten the Witheridge puzzle she is trying to resolve.

Cousins' Lunch in Tenterden

Kim Cook provides news of a gathering of four generations of Wembury Witheridge descendants, which took place in August at the home of Kim and Roy in Tenterden, Kent. At intervals over the years Roy and Kim have hosted a number of Cousins' Lunches, which have been instrumental in renewing and strengthening family ties. On this occasion, Kim was keen to introduce her cousin, *Sue Witheridge* from New Zealand (daughter of Eve), to many cousins she'd not previously met.

Although the day wasn't hot, it was warm enough to sit out in the garden, where everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch, and later a Devonshire cream tea—what else! Copies of the family tree were available to show how everyone fitted in to the family.

All were descended from *William Henry Witheridge* (1870–1939), including six of his surviving grandchildren: *Joyce Marnham*, *Mary Foster*, *Brenda Dixon*, *Kim Cook*, *Rod Witheridge* and *Sue Witheridge*. Sadly *Eric Pover* wasn't well enough to come, and Sue's brothers, Brian and Tony, were thousands of miles away, in the antipodes.

The full tally was: Joyce Marnham, with daughter Janet, Mary and Michael Foster, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Rod and Sue Witheridge, Sue Witheridge (New Zealand), Caroline Fuller (grand-daughter of Eva Witheridge) with husband Nigel, daughter Lucy and granddaughter Joely, and of course Roy and Kim Cook, their elder son Jason, with Zoe, Ethan and Lauren, and younger son Adam with Lisa. As the photo, on the facing page (page 15) shows, everyone had a good time.

However, when asked later who his favourite cousin was, six-year-old Ethan had no hesitation in replying 'Bella'—who happens to be Caroline's springer spaniel! He also asked why Bella wasn't on the family tree. Now there's inclusivity for you!

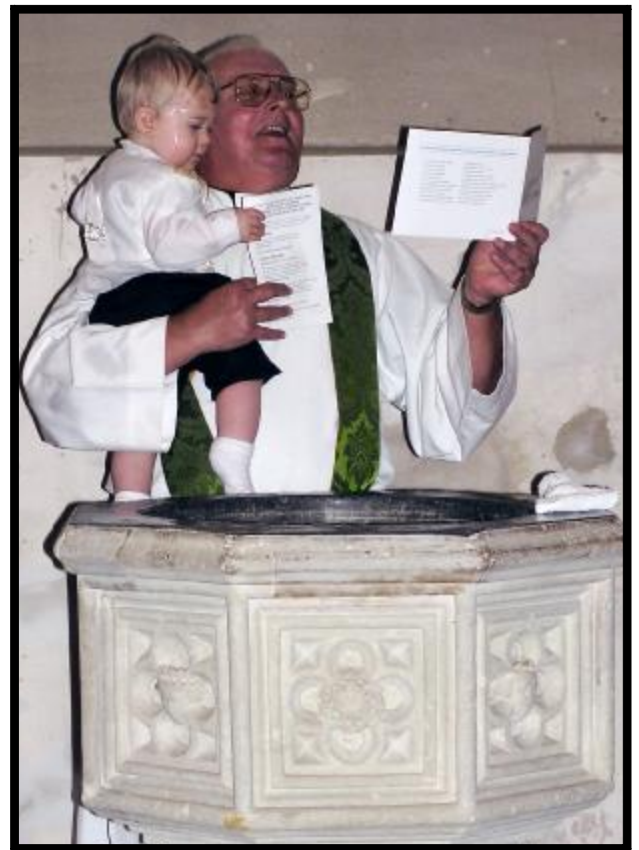


*Four generations of Witheridges gathered for a Cousins' Lunch.. **Back row, left to right:** Janet Buck (daughter of Joyce Marnham), Michael Foster (husband of Mary), Roy Cook, Ron Dixon, Sue Witheridge (wife of Rod), Rod Witheridge, Nigel Fuller (husband of Caroline) and Sue Witheridge (daughter of David and Eve, New Zealand). **Front row, left to right:** Zoe Cook with daughter Lauren, Lucy Fuller (daughter of Caroline) with daughter Joely Catt, Joyce Marnham, Ethan Cook (son of Jason and Zoe), Caroline Fuller (granddaughter of Eva Witheridge), Mary Foster and Brenda Dixon.*

A Christening in the Home Counties

Beryl and Paul Witheridge, from Marlow, contribute some happy news: the Christening of their sixth grandchild, *Thomas Dylan Witheridge*, the third child of their younger son, *Andrew*, and his wife, *Tara*. This took place on Sunday, 7 August 2005, at St Mary the Virgin, the parish church of Langley Marish, in Langley, Berkshire. The name *Langley Marish* derives from Christine de Marisco, who held the manor of Langley from the Crown between 1282 and 1311, and parts of the church date from the 12th Century

Andrew and Tara believed that they were choosing a relatively unusual combination of Witheridge Christian names, in Thomas Dylan. However, Beryl discovered, with some internet searches, that *Thomas Dylan* has been quite a popular choice for young Witheridge scions in the past couple of decades.



Don't ask to see the holiday snaps

Another news item from *Beryl and Paul*, who fulfilled a promise to some long-time friends by shepherding them on a long trip around the USA. Three years ago, their friends, who used to live in Portugal, showed Beryl and Paul around some of the parts of Portugal, that tourists rarely get to see. This year, Beryl and Paul, who used to live in the USA, returned the favour.

The result was an eight-week, 10,000 mile, tour around the States, visiting both the West and East Coasts, and taking in eighteen National Parks and numerous other sights, not the least being the fall colours in New England.

They also came back with 3,500 photographs!

One overriding impression was how helpful and friendly everyone was—except perhaps the odd denizen who was not quite so welcoming, as you can see from the photo to the right.

Kim Cook had suggested that they look for *Witheridges* and *Wetheridges* in the phone books, wherever they stayed. They found only one, a *P Witheridge*, in the phone book for the town of *Wenatchee, Washington*. Does anyone have more information about this Witheridge?





*A Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



Kathy Witheridge



Barbara Finemore



Graham Browne



Jason Cook



Alison Smith



Beryl Witheridge



Paul Witheridge



Joyce Browne



Kim Cook



Ron Dixon

*A Very Happy Christmas
to you and yours
from the committee of the
Wetheridge Family History Society*



Maureen Wetheridge



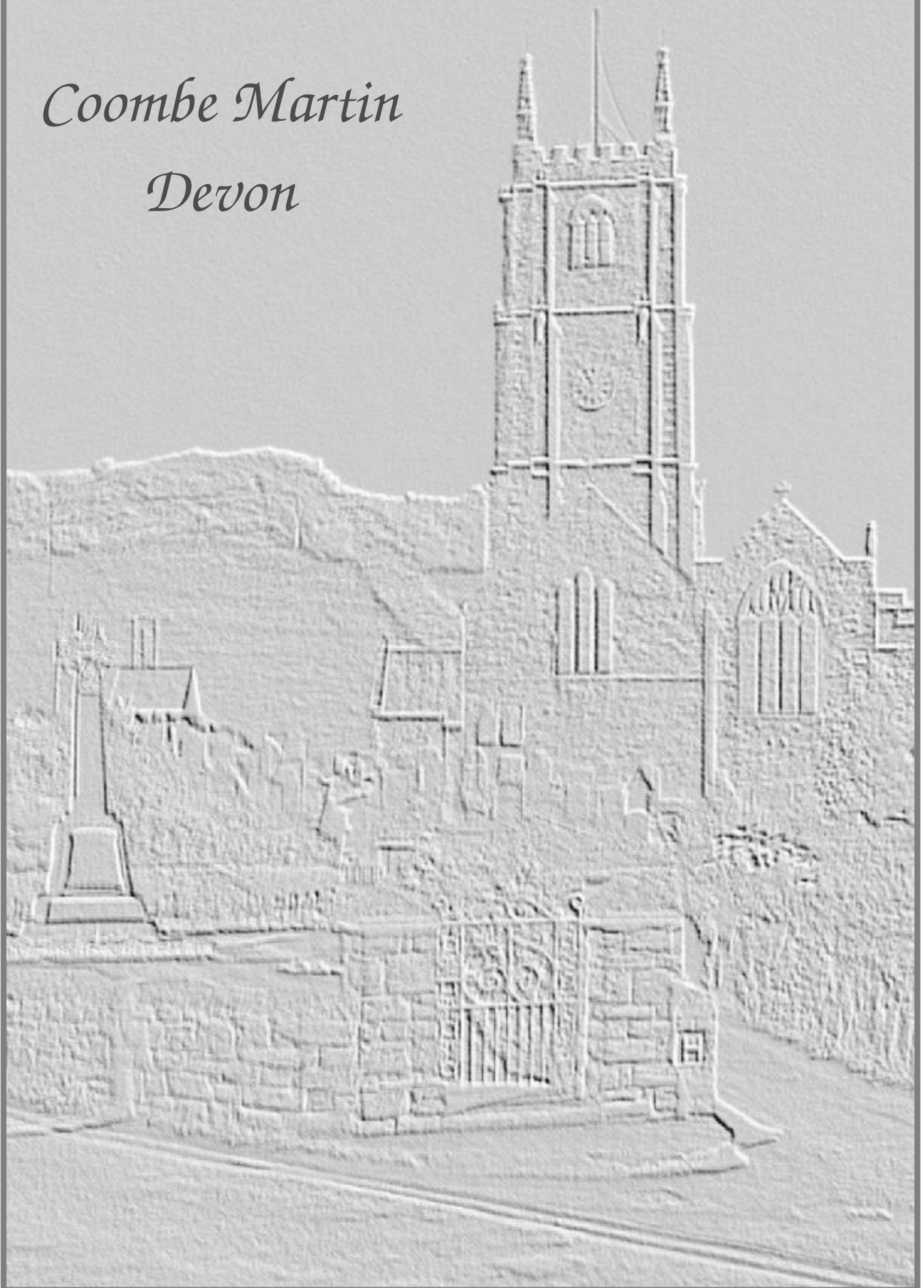
Mark Wetheridge



Richard Wetheridge

Coombe Martin

Devon



More news from South Devon

Barbara Finemore writes from Plymouth, with news of *Terry*:

Terry has been living at home since the beginning of August, and although Terry's memory loss has been very difficult to get used to, Barbara is adjusting and coping very well. She has learned to be patient, which she says is a completely new skill for her.

Twice weekly, Terry has day care, away from home. This includes attending an art class and a computer group, going tenpin bowling, and participating in cognitive groups (to aid his memory).

In addition, Barbara and Terry go to whist drives, beetle and bingo sessions, run by the church. They go dancing several times a month and socialise with friends. Barbara has joined Terry's choir group, the *Sir Joshua Reynolds Choir*, which practices on Friday evenings—she helps him sort his music and, of course, does the driving. Terry is still a strong member of the church choir, as well. On Wednesday evenings, Barbara goes to a Greek language course, while a lady comes to keep Terry company. The same lady also comes in all day, every Friday.

Barbara and Terry have made a couple of visits to their daughter, Fiona, in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, travelling via National Express coach, and have taken short-break holidays in Torquay and North Cornwall. In December, they are planning a visit to the Isle of Wight, with friends from dancing. Another trip is planned for February, to Tenerife, with friends of over twenty-five years.

Barbara says she could not manage, without her friends, and she thanks all those who sent messages of support, and those who pray for Terry and her.

News from the United States

News from Minnesota

The **Rev David Witheridge** has now moved to 3535 Bryant Avenue South, Apartment 518, Minneapolis MN 55408. Despite the wrench of leaving the lovely home the family had enjoyed for over fifty years, David is relieved not to have to worry about maintenance and gardening. The benefits of this move were seen within a few weeks, for David suffered a couple of further minor heart attacks, and other health problems, but the systems in place in the new apartment meant that help was on hand, and medical assistance was summoned promptly. David is feeling much better now, and getting stronger, but not using his computer or checking e-mails. Any members wishing to contact David should e-mail him c/o his son Jim (for Jim's e-mail address, see the previous issue, volume 19 number 2 of *The Witheridge Times*).

Jim Witheridge and **David Torborg** send their love and best wishes to everyone they met on their visit to the UK, in May. Some months ago, Jim was knocked off his bicycle by a hit-and-run driver, and in September had to have surgery to repair tendon damage and other injuries. Although Jim is following a strict physiotherapy routine, he's still in pain and unable to work, but hopes to be back on form by Christmas.

A Formidable Headmaster

Frank Fletcher 1870–1954: A Formidable Headmaster is a recently-issued book from Michael Russell Publishing Limited.

Frank Fletcher, born in Atherton, Lancashire, in 1870, was the eldest son of Ralph Fletcher, a colliery proprietor, and his wife Fanny. Ralph and Fanny were a devout and philanthropic couple, and brought their children up to be staunch Christians.

In 1881, Frank was a resident pupil at a school in Lytham St Anne's. At the time of the 1891 census, he was still listed as a scholar, but what the census does not divulge is that he was a brilliant scholar at Balliol College, Oxford.

By 1901, he was teaching at Rugby School, one of England's top public schools, and lodging nearby, with a fellow teacher, at Crescent House. He married soon after, and in 1903 was appointed Master of Marlborough College, another elite public school. Eight years later, he took over as Headmaster of Charterhouse, which he presided over for the next twenty-four years, until his retirement in 1935. His excellent teaching, and strong preaching of the Christian ethic, contributed greatly to his success in bringing the school back from a dismal period to great achievements, and he was awarded a knighthood.

So, what has Frank Fletcher's life to do with the Witheridge Family History Society? Well, Frank's present day successor, and author of this well-received biography, is the Rev John Stephen Witheridge. Moreover, the title of the book could equally well be applied to John himself, who is a man of extraordinary talent and wisdom.

John was born in 1953, to Frances Edward Witheridge and Joan Elizabeth Excell. He was educated at St Albans School and the University of Kent, graduating with an English degree in 1976. A Divinity degree at Cambridge followed in 1978.

In 1975, while still at university, he married Sarah Phillips, and they have four children: Charlotte (born 1979), Harriet (born 1981), George (born 1983) and Harry (born 1986). In 1984, John was appointed Chaplain to Robert Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury, and the family lived at Lambeth Palace, the official residence of the Primate of the Church of England.

It was at this time that I first met John. Having seen mention of him in a newspaper article, I contacted Lambeth Palace, and was amazed to receive a call back from him within twenty minutes—he was interested in his family history, and I soon realised that I knew something of his family, having already met his uncle George Witheridge, and cousin (Colonel) Anthony Witheridge. Anthony later became a member of the Witheridge FHS, as did another cousin, Christopher Witheridge. They are all descended from George Causey Witheridge (1836–1901).

Coincidentally, some weeks later, John learned he was due to come West Wickham, where we then lived, to assist the Archbishop at a Confirmation service in a local church. After the service, the Archbishop declined a lunch invitation from the vicar, in favour of driving the official car on to Canterbury. John was left with the prospect of making his own way back to Lambeth, on an empty stomach!



By Kim Cook

Our offer of lunch, followed by a lift to a convenient station, was welcomed, and we enjoyed a lovely time with John. Following his immediate doorstep hug, he declared himself amazed by my resemblance to his late sister **Gillian**, not only in looks, but in character and mannerisms. Over lunch, and during the afternoon, our conversation was wide-ranging and enjoyable. After exploring other personal and family similarities, such as the fact that we're both left-handed, and both have diabetes in the family, we felt sure that there had to be a family connection somewhere! We found John to be a lovely man, warm and friendly, yet at the same time wise, discerning and astute. At a time when our family was facing considerable difficulties, he became a personal pastor and prayer partner, and his support was invaluable.

During his time at Lambeth, he assisted in many public ceremonies. If you watch recordings of some of these famous events, you will see John walking in front of the Archbishop, carrying a cross.

After his time at Lambeth, John was appointed *Conduct* (Senior Chaplain) at **Eton**. Here, he had a strong pastoral, as well as spiritual, responsibility, and earned enormous affection and respect for the way he carried out his duties. His fine singing voice was also recognised, and he was first soloist on a 1996 recording of Choral Evensong, from Eton College Chapel.

That same year, John was appointed Headmaster at **Charterhouse**. Founded in London in 1611, the school moved to its present site at Godalming in Surrey, in 1872. It now has some 725 pupils (mostly boarding), of whom 100 are girls.

John's appointment met with considerable opposition—a number of leading figures in the field of education, had already been turned down for the post. Many were aghast that the Headmaster, of such a prestigious school, should be a man without a specific teaching qualification and with little direct teaching experience.

Quietly but firmly, John won over the opposition. His administrative talents are formidable, his pastoral skills, superb, and his people-management abilities, excellent. His mission statement for the school is simple, yet comprehensive:

Our priorities at Charterhouse are primarily academic, but that does not mean only achieving qualifications by passing examinations. We aim to stimulate independent enquiry and intellectual curiosity, to enrich spiritual awareness, to match physical fitness with love of the arts, and to promote individuality together with a sense of duty to friends and society.

Overcoming the initial opposition was just the first example of John's ability to meet and resolve difficult problems. Others, often painful, followed: during an activity day, organised by the Royal Navy, a pupil drowned; a teacher who falsified pupils' GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) work was instantly dismissed; another teacher, undergoing gender restructure, was retained at the school as Miss rather than Sir, 'there being no medical or pastoral reasons' why he should not continue to teach; pupils were suspended for bullying or for using cannabis (those suspended for the latter faced random drug tests throughout their remaining time at the school).

Following some surprises in the 2002 A-Level league-tables, many exam results were strongly challenged, and it was suggested that there had been a high proportion of marking errors.

Closer scrutiny showed that marking mistakes had been minimal, forcing a few people, including John, to conclude that some schools had provoked dispute, in the hope of covering up, or excusing, disappointing results. An article, in the *New Statesman*, commented: ‘It has been left to Charterhouse’s head, the Rev John Witheridge, to speak the truth as a man of God should.’

Despite events, which grabbed the headlines for the wrong reasons, John has led Charterhouse ‘to a new peak of excellence and enhanced the Christian tradition of the school’, to quote John Pollock, in a recent issue of the *Church of England Newspaper*.

In addition to the enormous task of running Charterhouse, John also serves as Vice President of **Eyeless**, a charity founded in 1993 to help families of youngsters born with **anophthalmia** (no eyes), **microphthalmia** (eyes so small as to be barely visible) or coloboma (where one or both eyes fail to develop properly). As these conditions are often associated with other medical problems, the families face added stress, in dealing with multiple government and medical agencies, and Eyeless provides much-needed support.

Add together the compassion of his work with Eyeless, his prodigious skills in running Charterhouse, his musical talents, his strong faith and integrity, and now his evident research and writing skills, and you do indeed have another *Formidable Headmaster*.

If, as we hope, John continues to emulate his esteemed predecessor, his tenure of office should last until at least 2020, and could even lead to a knighthood—something I suspect will be a first in the annals of Witheridge family history!

*[Note for overseas readers: A **public school**, in current British usage, is a prestigious school, for children between the ages of 11 or 13 and 18, which charges fees and is not financed by the state. It is traditionally a single-sex boarding school, although many now accept day pupils and are coeducational. The majority date back to the 18th or 19th centuries, and several are over 400 years old. By contrast, a government-maintained school, where instruction is provided free of charge, is called a state school.*

This usage of the term “public school” is in direct opposition to what any foreign English speaker would expect. In countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Scotland (in traditional usage), the United States and Canada, a ‘public school’ is the equivalent of an English ‘state school’, while an independent, fee-charging school is called a ‘private school’. This is also the generic name for all fee-paying schools for children in the United Kingdom, although rarely used for those which categorise themselves as public schools. Preparatory schools (historically also known as ‘private schools’, as they were usually privately owned by the headmaster) take children from the age of eight (or younger) and prepare them for their entrance exams to public schools.

The term ‘public’ (first adopted by Eton College) refers to the fact that the school is open to the paying public, as opposed to a religious school, which was open only to members of a certain church. It also distinguished it from a private education at home (usually only practical for the very wealthy who could afford tutors). - Ed.]



By Alison and...



Alan Smith

The modern spelling of *Welcombe* has only a single 'l', but in the 1861 census entry, it is written with two 'l's.

Margaret Witheridge of Upcott

We were researching the family of Thomas Witheridge, Alison's three-times-great grandfather, and his wife Ann (formerly Moore). We found them, in the 1861 census, living at the hamlet of Upcott, in the Parish of Welcombe, Devon. The census lists:

- Thomas Witheridge, head of the household, aged forty-five, born in Bradworthy, occupation: a Farmer of thirty-six acres
- Ann, his wife, also aged forty-five and born in Bradworthy
- James, aged seventeen, born in Bradworthy, occupation: farmer's son
- Sarah J, aged twelve, born in Wellcombe, occupation: farmer's daughter
- Elizabeth, aged ten, born in Wellcombe, occupation: scholar
- Margaret, aged eight, born in Wellcombe, occupation: scholar
- Thomas, aged five, born in Wellcombe occupation: scholar
- Emma, aged three, born in Wellcombe occupation: scholar
- John, aged one, born in Wellcombe.

Our attention was immediately caught by the name *Margaret*. Who was Margaret? We had no previous knowledge of a Margaret in this family.

We consulted Kim Cook and Joyce Browne, and discovered that the records of *The Witheridge Family History Society* do list the birth of a *Margaret*, in Bideford District, in the June quarter of 1853, plus a marriage in Exeter, in the December quarter of 1874, but give no further information.

Obtaining the birth certificate proved Margaret was indeed the daughter of Thomas and Ann. The birth was registered in the Sub-District of Hartland, Registration District of Bideford. Ann, as informant, made her mark, Margaret being born 8 May 1853, in Welcombe. Thomas's occupation was recorded as a Farmer.

The 1871 census shows Margaret living at 6 Market Square, Bideford, the home of Abraham Clements, a Merchant. She is listed as Margaret Wetherage, a twenty year old, unmarried, general servant, from Welcombe (note the spelling has changed).

Margaret married **Robert Baker**, on 15 December 1874, at St Mary Steps, in the City of Exeter. We obtained the marriage certificate, which confirmed that Margaret was indeed the daughter of Thomas Witheridge, farmer. At the time of their marriage, both Margaret and Robert were living in Commercial Road. Robert's father, also called Robert, was a carpenter. The witnesses were Henry Pitts Taylor and Maria Jane Jackson.

By the 1881 census, Robert and Margaret were living in the civil parish of Sidwell, at 90 East St John Street. Robert is listed as aged thirty, a carpenter, born in Kenton, Devon. Margaret, his wife is recorded as aged twenty-seven, and born in Upcott, Welcombe, Devon. By now, they had a daughter, Elizabeth E, aged six, a scholar, born in Exeter.

We could not find the family in the 1891 census. Had they all died? It seemed unlikely. Had they changed the spelling of their surname? Where could they be?

We then consulted the 1901 census to look for clues. We found them, living in **Paignton**, at 4 Hillside Terrace with their family:

- Robert, aged fifty, listed as a carpenter and joiner—his birth place now given as Dawlish
- Margaret, now forty-seven, listed as born in Welcombe
- **Arthur**, aged fifteen, born in **Brisbane**, Queensland
occupation: draper's porter
- **Frank**, aged twelve, also born in Brisbane
occupation: errand boy
- **Ethel**, aged nine, born in Paignton

Elizabeth is no longer with them.

This information has solved the problem of where they were in 1891, but has now opened up a whole new set of questions to be answered: why, and how, they went to Australia, and when, and how, they returned to England.

Photos from St Nectan's

by Paul Witheridge

As editor, I saw the above article way back in July, when Alison and Alan sent it to me. It was of special interest to me, because I knew that, on August Bank Holiday, I was going to *Great Torrington*, in Devon, to see the *Burning of The Victory* (more about that event in the next issue of *The Witheridge Times*).

Great Torrington is only a few miles from *Upcott*, so I thought I would satisfy my curiosity, and go see for myself. I found Upcott at the end of a very narrow lane, with grass growing down the middle. It is a tiny hamlet, with just a handful of houses. I spoke to several people, but was unable to positively identify any dwelling that had been a home to Witheridges, 150 years ago.

I continued on to **Welcombe**, and the parish church of **St Nectan's**, and came across several *Witheridge* graves—a moment of pure excitement!

Upcott and Welcombe have been covered quite extensively, in an article by John Witheridge, in volume 9 number 3, the Autumn 1995 issue of *The Witheridge Times*. However, I thought it would be nice to publish some new photos of the church and the gravestones. St Nectan's began as one of the chapels attached to Hartland Abbey, founded in the 11th century, and the font dates from those early days. The inscription from the bottom left photo reads:

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF ANN,
THE BELOVED WIFE OF THOMAS
WITHERIDGE OF UPCOTT, IN THIS PARISH,
WHO DIED 27TH MARCH, 1889. AGED 73
YEARS.

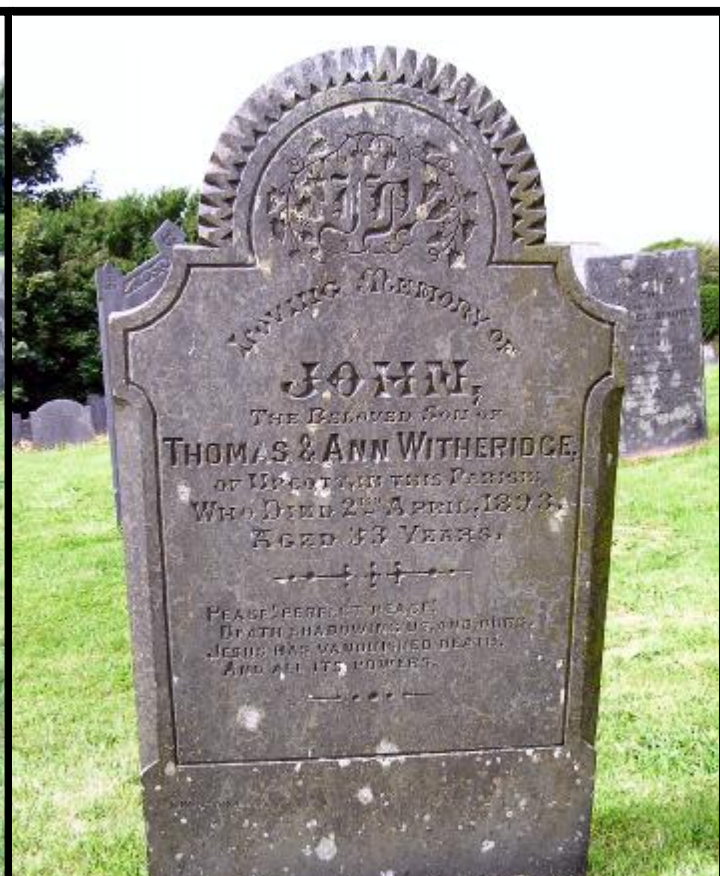
ALSO IN MEMORY OF THOMAS THE BELOVED
SON OF THOMAS & ANN WITHERIDGE WHO
DIED 31ST JANUARY, 1887. AGED 31
YEARS.

ALL THEIR EARTHLY JOURNEY PAST, EVERY
TEAR AND PAIN GONE BY. HERE TOETHER MET
AT LAST, AT THE PORTAL OF THE SKY.

and that, from the bottom right:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN, THE BELOVED
SON OF THOMAS & ANN WITHERIDGE, OF
UPCOTT, IN THIS PARISH: WHO DIED 2ND
APRIL, 1893. AGED 33 YEARS.

PEACE! PERFECT PEACE! DEATH SHADOWING
US, AND OURS. JESUS HAS VANQUISHED
DEATH. AND ALL ITS POWERS.



George Witheridge, 1808–84

George Witheridge was born in Milton Damerel, Devon, England, and was baptised on 18 December 1808. His mother was Martha Saunders and his father, John Witheridge. John never did marry Martha.

George married Mary Saunders, on 25 March 1839, at Bradworthy Parish Church, Devon, England. Mary was born in Bradworthy, and baptised on 12 February 1815. George and Mary were first cousins, Mary being the daughter of Peter Saunders and Jane (Witheridge) Saunders.

George first came to Canada in May 1835, after leaving Plymouth on Saturday, 4 April 1835, aboard the barque Cosmopolite, which was packed to the gills with 150 passengers. George was identified, on the passenger list, as a farmer aged twenty-two years. The *Cosmopolite* arrived in New York City, on Wednesday, 13 May 1835.

George, together with many other passengers from Bradworthy, travelled from New York City to Ontario, a long tedious journey. It is not known how long George stayed in the Darlington Township area of Ontario, but he obviously returned to Bradworthy prior to March 1839, when he married Mary Saunders in Bradworthy. It is assumed he visited Canada to ascertain whether they could lead a better life there, and it is known that George had an uncle in Darlington Township, Thomas Witheridge. Thomas was baptised in Bradworthy on 22 March 1795, and married Susan Harris at Combeinteignhead, Devon, on 23 December 1826. Thomas and Susan had one child, Elizabeth Jane Witheridge, born 10 December 1828, at Exeter.

It is not known when Thomas, Susan and Elizabeth emigrated to Canada, but Thomas died on 4 December 1843, at Darlington Township, and Susan died on 2 April 1859, also at Darlington Township. Their grave is alongside that of Thomas's nephew, George.

George and Mary emigrated to Canada on, or about, the year 1841, as George first turned up in the 1842 census for Darlington Township. In 1853, they purchased a farm of approximately ninety-six acres, being Lot 21, Concession 1, Darlington Township, County of Durham.



by Kathy Witheridge



The Witheridge farm at Darlington Township, Durham County, Ontario. The date of these picture is unknown, but is thought to be 1905, when the farm was sold to the Foley family.

Name	Marr	Age	Occup	Origin	Born	Religion
George Witheridge	M	75	Farmer	English	England	Church of England
Mary Witheridge	M	65		English	England	Church of England
William Witheridge		22	Farmer	English	Ontario	Episcopal Methodist
Sarah Witheridge		27		English	Ontario	Episcopal Methodist

Data from the 1881 Ontario census for Darlington, Durham West, Ontario, Canada

They had six children, namely:

John Witheridge, born in Cleverdon, Devon, England, 22 December 1839

Mary Jane Witheridge, born in Darlington, Canada, 31 January 1842

Elizabeth Witheridge, born in Darlington, Canada, January 1845

George Witheridge, born in Darlington, Canada, 16 April 1846

Sarah Janet Witheridge, born in Darlington, Canada, 11 January 1853

William Thomas Witheridge, born in Darlington, Canada, 13 May 1859

Elizabeth Witheridge, died on 21 February 1865, at the age of twenty years and one month. She was buried in Ebenezer Cemetery, South Section, Darlington Township.

It would appear that the family attended the Ebenezer Bible Christian Chapel, which was founded in 1866. The Ebenezer Chapel was perhaps the most fervent of the Methodist sects. The Bible Christian Church was formed in Southwest England in 1815, and established in Upper Canada during the 1830s. Served by itinerant preachers, its small, but loyal, membership



The inscription reads:

*In memory of George
Witheridge died April 18,
1884, aged 77 years.*

*Farewell and shall we meet
in heaven above.
And there in union meet.
Sing of a saviour's love.*



George Witheridge's grave in the Ebenezer Cemetery



Mary Witheridge (formerly Saunders). The date written on the picture is 1902, just prior to her death.

increased gradually, largely among British emigrants from Devon and Cornwall, who had settled in the rural areas of Northumberland, Ontario.

George's will was dated 25 May 1871, and he died on 18 April 1884, at the age of seventy. He is buried in the South Section of the Ebenezer Cemetery (see bottom of previous page).

After the death of George, his wife, Mary, went to live in Toronto, with her daughter, Mary Jane Oke (formerly Witheridge). She died exactly eighteen years after her husband, on 18 April 1902. Her obituary is reproduced below.

The picture, on the facing page, was taken at the **Witheridge reunion, in June 2001**, when sixty-three family members stood at the grave of George Witheridge, in the Ebenezer Cemetery, Darlington Township, Ontario.

[Note: To discover more about the religion of these Witheridges, refer to Bible Christian Chapels of the Canadian Conference, A Corner for the Preacher, and The Damascus Road, all written by Sherrell Branton Letooze, and priced at £10 or Can\$25 each. For further information, e-mail sher.letooze@3web.net.]

The late Mrs Witheridge

One after another the few remaining pioneers of Darlington are changing time for eternity. In Toronto, April 18th, 1902, Mary Saunders, relict of the late Mr. Geo. Witheridge, passed to the reward of the past in her 90th year. Deceased was a native of the Parish of Bradworthy, Devonshire, England, daughter of the late Peter Saunders. She came to Canada about 63 years ago, landing at Darlington when the present Bowmanville was largely a forest. Mr. Witheridge settled on the farm west of this town where he died 18 years ago and where Mrs. Witheridge lived up to 12 years ago when she went to reside with her daughter Mary Jane (Mrs. Thos. Oke). A rather remarkable coincidence is that deceased and her husband died on the same date in April and same day of the week - Friday. Mr. Geo. Saunders, Flint City, Mich., is a surviving brother. There was a family of ten children, five of whom survive, three in Toronto, and two in Darlington, also 21 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Mrs. Witheridge was an active woman and enjoyed excellent health up to a month ago. She was a Methodist in religion. The interment took place at Ebenezer where her remains were laid on Monday week beside her husband in the family burial plot.

Canadian Statesman Newspaper - April 30, 1902



On the side: the perks of being sixty

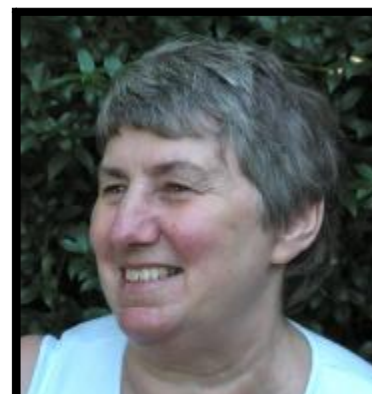
- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- No one expects you to run into a burning building.
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat dinner at 4:00 p.m.
- You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- You have a party and the neighbours don't even realise it.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- You no longer bother trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks in the room.
- You sing along with the music in lifts.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your national health contributions are finally beginning to pay off.
- Your joints are more accurate than the Met Office.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- You can't remember where you read this!

Wetheridge Family Recipes

We continue our series, with two *Wetheridge* recipes, especially for Christmas time. We have also added a very special *non-Wetheridge* Christmas cake recipe.

Norwegian Cream

It must have been in 1955 or '56, that my mother bought her first fridge, an Electrolux. It was cream, with rounded corners and blue trim, and had a removable tray on the top. It also came with a recipe book—that first summer, I drank nothing but iced coffee! As I'm allergic to any kind of dried fruit, Christmas dessert for me was usually fruit salad, or banana and custard. When I saw the recipe for *Norwegian Cream*, I knew it was to be my Christmas, and special occasion, 'must-have' dessert.



By Kim Cook

Over the years, I've adapted it, mainly to increase the quantities, because it's so popular. It's delicious and slides down easily, making it the perfect dessert for a balanced Christmas dinner. Once our children were older and we could go to the Christmas Eve midnight service, I'd put the Norwegian Cream in the oven before we set out for church, and then remove it when we came home. If you watch your cholesterol, it's just as nice made using fat-free milk and reduced-fat cream (made partly with vegetable oil). So save your Christmas pudding and mince pies for Boxing Day, and try Norwegian Cream instead!

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Jar of thick apricot conserve (not jam) | 4) 5 eggs |
| 2) 1½ pts (850ml) milk (approx) | 5) bar of Bourneville (dark) chocolate |
| 3) 1 tablespoon sugar | 6) 7 fl oz (200 ml) whipping cream |

Note: Note that the amount for ingredient (2) is given in *Imperial Pints*, which are larger than *US pints* (20 fl oz instead of 16 fl oz).

Method:

Beat eggs lightly, and add milk to make liquid up to 2½ pts (1400ml). Add sugar and stir. Fill the base of a deep soufflé dish with a thick layer of apricot conserve, and pour egg custard mix over. Stand in a bain-marie, and bake in a slow oven at gas Mk 2, 300°F or 150°C, for about two hours, or until set. If for any reason it's not quite set, and you want to go to bed, turn the heat off, but leave the dish in the oven. If it is set, remove, cover and leave overnight in a cool place. When cool, remove skin if desired, and cover the custard with a layer of grated chocolate. Whip cream, pile on top of chocolate, adding a final layer of grated chocolate. Refrigerate before serving.



Norwegian Cream

Go on, give in to your sweet tooth!

Christmas Mincemeat

I have been making my own mincemeat for forty years. I started with a recipe from a cookery book, but, over the years, I have modified and simplified it. I think, by now, it qualifies as a *Witheridge Family Recipe*. It has already been passed on, down the family!

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) 1 lb (450g) raisins | 8) 2 tablespoons shredded almond |
| 2) 1 lb (450g) sultanas | 9) 1 lb (450g) cooking apples |
| 3) 1 lb (450g) currants | 10) zest and juice of 1 lemon |
| 4) 1 lb (450g) vegetable suet | 11) 2 fl oz (60 ml) dark rum |
| 5) 12 oz (340g) demerara sugar | 12) 2 fl oz (60 ml) brandy |
| 6) 1 teaspoon mixed spice | 13) 1 fl oz (30 ml) whisky or sherry |
| 7) 8 oz (225g) mixed peel | |

For those who dislike mixed peel, leave it out. The same goes for the shredded almonds. You can substitute vegetable shortening for the suet.

Method:

Mix all dry ingredients, (1) to (8), together well. Peel, core and finely chop the apples, and add to mixture. Then add the lemon juice, rum, brandy, and whisky (or sherry), and mix well. Pack into clean dry 1 lb screw-top jars. Seal with greaseproof paper, under the lid. The alcoholic ingredients not only give the mincemeat a lovely flavour, but also preserve it. Store in a cool place. It freezes well. The mincemeat should be made at least four weeks before using. The longer you keep it, the better it tastes—I've kept mine for up to two years. When you actually come to use it, add 1 tablespoon of sherry per 1 lb of mincemeat, and mix in.



How to make a very special non-Witheridge Christmas cake

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) 1 cup of water | 6) lemon juice |
| 2) 1 tsp baking soda | 7) 4 large eggs |
| 3) 1 cup of sugar | 8) nuts |
| 4) 1 tsp salt | 9) 2 cups of dried fruit |
| 5) 1 cup of brown sugar | 10) 1 bottle Vodka |

Method:

First, sample the vodka to check quality. Then, take a large bowl and check the vodka again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point, it's best to make sure the vodka is still OK. Try another cup, just in case. Turn off the mixerer thingy. Break 2 eggs, add to the bowl, and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Pick the fruit off floor. Mix on the turner. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beat-ers just pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the vodka to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who giveshz a tossh. Check the vodka. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink, Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven. Place the smixture into a sorcerpan—thats like a phlyingpan with higher sidess—turn the sorcerpan 360 degrees, and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window.

Finish the vodka and kick the dog. **Cherry Mistmas!**

Witheridge Memorabilia—Christmas 1944

by Paul Witheridge

In 1944, my father, Ray Witheridge, was a pilot in the RAF.

After training in South Africa, he was posted to the Middle East, where he flew **Wellington Bombers**.

He later flew **Lancaster bombers**, over Germany.

On the right is a reproduction of the Christmas menu, from **RAF Qastina**, in Palestine.





By the Editor

Did you know you can increase the text size, for any web page, just by choosing **Text Size** from the Internet Explorer **View** menu, and then clicking on **Larger** or **Largest**?

Signing-in to the Witheridge FHS Web-site Members Only Area

You may recall that, in the editorial for the last issue, I mentioned that we were going to experiment with publishing a digital version of *The Witheridge Times*, on the web-site. This is now in place. About a week, or so, after this magazine goes to print, I shall upload a full colour, digital version, with an index, to the web-site.

However, the magazine contains personal information (such as names, addresses and e-mail addresses), plus family history data, collected by members, often with considerable effort. So we have created a special section of the web-site, that can be accessed only by signing-in, using your membership number and a password. We call this the *Members Only* area. You can get to the sign-in page, by clicking on the 'Members Only' link, at the left hand side of the [redacted] home page.

Obtaining a password

First, many of you already have passwords. We e-mailed passwords to all those members whose e-mail addresses we knew. Otherwise, all you have to do is send an e-mail, to editor@WitheridgeFHS.com, specifying your name, address, and membership number. After checking these details against the membership list, we will e-mail you back a password. We do ask you to acknowledge receipt of this, and for security, we will revoke the access if no acknowledgment is received within two weeks.

Contents of the Members Only area

At the moment, the area only contains digital versions of recent magazine issues, in a format known as PDF, or **P**ortable **D**ocument **F**ormat. It's a very common format for digital documents, and was created by a company called *Adobe*. To view PDF documents, you need a piece of software called the *Adobe Reader*. Since PDFs are so common, you probably have the software already installed on your PC.

If you haven't, it's free, and it's available from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/. What you want is the *free Adobe Reader*. There is more information about this in the *Members Only* area *online help*.

What's next for the Members Only area?

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue (see *Witheridge FHS News* on page 4), the full minutes of the recent committee meeting will shortly be uploaded, to be joined, in spring 2006, by the agenda for the 2006 AGM, and an online voting process for those members who cannot make it to the AGM. The 'last updated' date, on the sign-in page, shows when the last change occurred to the contents of the *Members Only* area.

Members e-mail Addresses

By Kathy Witheridge

In the last issue of *The Witheridge Times* (see page 32 of volume 19 number 2, summer 2005), I published a list of members' e-mail addresses. I now have some updates to this list:

Corrections:

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Zoe and Jason Cook (UK)	jprcook@tiscali.co.uk
Catherine Pepper (UK)	catandpep@btopenworld.com

We currently have e-mail addresses for only about half the membership. If you are one of the other half, or even *think* you could be one of the other half, *please* help us out by sending an e-mail to Webmaster@WitheridgeFHS.com, letting us know your correct e-mail address. If you want it to remain private—that is, not published in *The Witheridge Times*—just say so.

Post scriptum: the next issue and subscriptions

Volume 20 Number 1, the spring issue of *The Witheridge Times*, will be the first for several years to have more than thirty-two pages. It is due out in April 2006, about a month before the 2006 Witheridge reunion and AGM, and will contain more details about both this event, and the 20th anniversary reunion in 2007. The spring issue will also publish the delayed article about the new *Index*; more *Witheridge* family recipes; an article from Kim Cook about a method of documenting ancestry, termed *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree*, together with an article called *The Desktop Detective*; which makes use of this method; and many other articles besides. Please remember to send in *Family News* items and *recipes*.

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

Don't forget that subscriptions are due in January

Continued from inside front cover

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Subscriptions

Remember your annual membership renewal subscriptions are due in January. The subscriptions rates are:

Full membership	£7.00	(one person)
Family membership	£10.00	(all at one address sharing one magazine)
Economy membership	£5.00	(student/senior citizen/unemployed)
Overseas membership	£12.00	(please: subscription must be in UK Pounds Sterling)

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.