

ISSN 136-8883



The magazine of  
**The Wetheridge  
Family History Society**

Volume 20 Number 1

Spring 2006

# Officers of the Society

## Honorary Life President

**Mrs Kim Cook**  
'Cherry Trees', Ingleden Park Road  
Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6NS  
e-mail: [President@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:President@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## Honorary Life Vice-President

**The Rev David E Witheridge**  
3535 Bryant Avenue South, Apartment 518  
Minneapolis, MN 55408, USA

## Honorary Life Vice-President

**Mrs Joyce Browne**  
5 Greenhill Avenue  
Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7DN

## Chairman

**Mr Ron Dixon**  
21 Poplar Avenue  
Orpington, Kent, BR6 8LA  
e-mail: [Chairman@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Chairman@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## Vice-Chairman

**Mr Paul Witheridge**  
1 Ragmans Close  
Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3QW

## Membership Secretary

**Mr Richard Witheridge**  
16 Haven Close  
Dunster, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6RW  
e-mail: [Membership@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Membership@WitheridgeFHS.com)

*Please send new membership applications and renewals with subscriptions to the Membership Secretary*

## Treasurer

**Mr Richard Witheridge**  
*Address as for Membership Secretary*

## Assistant Treasurer

**Mrs Maureen Witheridge**  
*Address as for Treasurer*

## Research Coordinator

**Mrs Kim Cook**  
*Address as for Honorary Life President*

## Editor and Publisher

**Mr Paul Witheridge**  
*Address as Vice-Chairman*  
e-mail: [Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Editor@WitheridgeFHS.com)

*Please submit all items for publication in The Witheridge Times to the Editor and Publisher*

## Assistant Editor

**Mrs Kim Cook**  
*Address as for Honorary Life President*

## Webmaster

**Mrs Kathy Witheridge**  
343 Bright Street  
Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 4G5, Canada  
e-mail: [Webmaster@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Webmaster@WitheridgeFHS.com)

*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.

# Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Editorial . . . . .	2
Oops! . . . . .	3
Porlock 2006: The Witheridge Reunion and AGM . . . . .	4
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting . . . . .	4
How to get to Porlock Village Hall . . . . .	7
Witheridges in Somerset . . . . .	10
Devon 2007: WFHS Twentieth Anniversary Reunion . . . . .	12
Pass on your Pedigree . . . . .	14
Introduction . . . . .	14
Part 1 - The Enhanced Narrative Pedigree . . . . .	14
Desktop Detective: The Mysterious Witheridges of Green Dragon Lane. . . . .	21
Bridgwater Witheridge ENPs . . . . .	25
Family News . . . . .	29
News from Australia . . . . .	29
News from Canada . . . . .	32
News from New Zealand . . . . .	33
News from the United Kingdom . . . . .	34
News from the USA . . . . .	35
Witheridge Family Recipes . . . . .	36
Cherry Shortbreads . . . . .	36
The Witheridge Times Index . . . . .	37
Devon Crackpots Set Fire to Lord Nelson's Flagship while Witheridges Watch . . . . .	38
Members e-mail Addresses . . . . .	40
Post scriptum . . . . .	40

**Visit the Witheridge Family History Society website:**

<http://www.WitheridgeFHS.com>

*Remember that you can download a full-colour version of this magazine from the Members Only area of the website.*

© 2006 *The Witheridge Times* is the official publication of the *Witheridge Family History Society*. Articles appearing in this magazine must not be reproduced in any form without written permission of the Society's Committee.

# Editorial

This issue of *The Witheridge Times* is a very busy one and has several more pages than previously. The committee decided, last autumn, that we should experiment with a bigger magazine. As editor, I sweated about whether we were going to have enough material! But, as you can see, we made it.

I am sure that you will all have noticed, as you opened the envelope, that this issue is accompanied by a booking form and questionnaire for the 2007 Twentieth Anniversary Reunion. Please give these your attention, as Richard (who is organising the Devon 2007 Reunion) desperately needs your input. If you are computer-literate, you can answer the questionnaire via the Internet. For more details, see Richard's article on page 12.

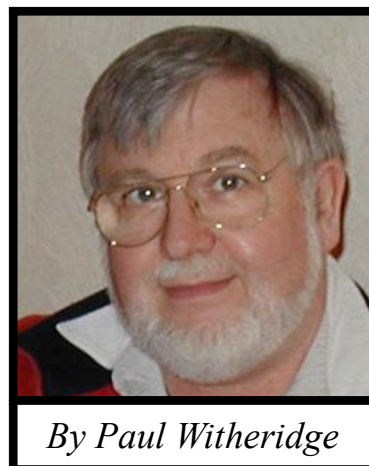
This issue contains the agenda for the upcoming AGM (see page 4). Normally, only those who actually attend the AGM, get to vote. Those who live too far away to travel, or who are otherwise unable to attend, are disenfranchised, unless they decide to exercise a postal vote. This year, we have added the option to vote via the Internet. It does require you to sign-in to the *Members Only* area of the Society's website, but is very easy to use (see the bottom of page 6 for more details). It's *your* Society. Make *your* wishes known!

Also in this issue, I have expiated the transgression committed in the last issue, where I failed to include the promised article on *The Witheridge Times Index*. This is now covered on page 37. I have a trial copy of the index, and I found it very useful in creating, or checking, cross-references to previous articles. I hope it can be made generally available soon.

We also have two major articles from Kim Cook, in which she introduces a new format for documenting family history. She calls this *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree*, or ENP. This has its own rules of style and format, so where it is embedded in the articles, it is these rules that are used, not the standard style of the magazine.

If you ever read the inside covers of the magazine, you will have seen that, on the inside back-cover, we list the Society's overseas representatives. For many years, it has been the name of Dorothy Witheridge that appeared as our representative in Australia. Now, Dorothy has decided to stand down and is passing her baton on to Judith and Allan Witheridge. It's really the job of the Chairman and the AGM to convey the Society's appreciation and thanks for all the work that Dorothy has put in over the years. But, I am sure they won't mind if I slip in some preparatory thanks here—so, Dorothy, a really big thank you for all you have done!

And lastly, while I have been cobbling this issue together, spring has finally arrived in England. We thought perhaps it was waiting for summer! Beryl and I went for a walk in one of our favourite places: Cliveden, a National Trust property on the River Thames. In the past, it was the home of the Astors; now, in the spring, it's the home of daffodils.



By Paul Witheridge



Some of you may have spotted the amazing revelation that appeared in the article about Major Lockyer in the last issue (see *Major Edmund Lockyer* on page 10 of the winter 2005 issue). It related how Major Lockyer sailed from Portsmouth in 1826, but had already arrived in Australia by September, 1825, when he was sent on an expedition to explore the Brisbane River.

No, he did not encounter Dr Who and the Tardis; nor did he have access to H G Wells's time machine. Regrettably, it was just a simple mistake in the text, and Major Lockyer actually set out for Australia in 1825.

The laws of physics are still safe, at least from Major Lockyer.

## On the side: Devonshire Clotted Cream

Probably, the majority of our members have encountered Devonshire clotted cream, at some time. It is really difficult to visit Devon without doing so—it's one of Devon's most famous products and a quick search on the Internet shows that it can now be purchased in many different countries.

Traditionally, clotted cream was made from unpasteurised milk, 'straight from the cow'. The milk was left to stand for several hours, allowing the cream to rise to the top. The cream was then skimmed off and placed in shallow pans, which were floated in trays over very hot water, in a process known as 'scalding'. The cream became much thicker, almost the consistency of butter, and developed a golden crust.

Some say that clotted cream will set properly only in the south west of England, and it is true that production is centered on Devon and Cornwall, and to a lesser extent, the adjoining counties of Somerset and Dorset.

It's a shame to spoil that myth, but clotted cream is also produced in Turkey (where it's known as *kaymak*), in Lebanon (where it's called *qeshda*), in north-east India and Nepal (where it's labelled *rabri*) and in South Asia (where it is referred to as *malai*). All seem to use the same process of slow heating to cause the cream to clot.

However, perhaps we can replace the myth, that proper clotted cream can only be made in Devon or Cornwall, with a more plausible legend: the Phoenicians are said to have brought the art of making clotted cream to England's south west peninsula, when they came trading for tin, as long ago as 500 BC, so linking the clotted cream of Lebanon with our own English variety.

Nowadays, cream teas always seem to consist of scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam, but try it, instead, with a newly-baked *Devonshire split* (a traditional bread roll) and strawberry jam—far better than a scone. Or maybe, take a trip to Turkey, where, in the right hotel, you can breakfast on home-made bread, honey, fruit and, of course, clotted cream.

# Porlock 2006: The Witheridge Reunion and AGM

The last issue of the magazine, published details of the upcoming reunion, which will take place over the weekend of 20–21 May 2006. See page 5 of Volume 19 Number 3, the winter 2005 issue of *The Witheridge Times*. That article covered the activities planned for the Saturday and Sunday, plus a list of local hotels.

This issue publishes the agenda for the Annual General Meeting and details of how to get to Porlock Village Hall.

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

The AGM will start at 10:30 a.m. Our aim is for the AGM to last no more than one hour, but, regrettably, it sometimes continues past this ideal length. By 12:30, at the very latest, we shall move across the road to *The Ship Inn*, where a room has been reserved for lunch.

As in previous years, there will be a reunion dinner on Saturday evening; the venue will be announced during the Saturday morning meeting. Lastly, don't forget the treasure hunt on Sunday morning—again, full details on Saturday morning.

## ***Agenda for the Annual General Meeting***

1. Opening and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (2005 AGM at Marlow Bottom)
4. Matters arising from these minutes
5. Officers reports (from Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator, Editor and Webmaster)
6. Election of officers and committee members

The following are to be elected: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator, Editor, Assistant Editor, Webmaster and two general committee members. The following nominations have been received to-date:

<i>Chairman</i>	Ron Dixon
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	Paul Witheridge
<i>Secretary</i>	Beryl Witheridge
<i>Treasurer</i>	Beryl Witheridge
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Paul Witheridge
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Paul Witheridge
<i>Research Coordinator</i>	Kim Cook
<i>Editor</i>	Paul Witheridge
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	Kim Cook
<i>Webmaster</i>	Kathy Witheridge



In addition, there are two ‘without-portfolio’ committee members to elect. So far we have received two nominations: Pamela Glynn and Graham Browne.

Note that, once elected, the committee may co-opt other members, with special skills or experience, to serve as additional, *non-voting*, members of the committee.

Please forward any additional nominations to the Society’s secretary, either by e-mail (to [Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com)) or by writing to the address shown on the back inside cover of this magazine.

7. Overseas representatives

The overseas representatives for North America (Kathy Witheridge) and New Zealand (Velma Metcalfe) have agreed to continue. However, the representative for Australia, Dorothy Witheridge, is standing down. Judith and Allan Witheridge have agreed to take over as the Society’s representatives in Australia.

8. Progress report on Devon 20th Anniversary 2007 (from Richard Witheridge, coordinator)

9. Minor changes to the Society’s constitution (proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK) and seconded by Beryl Witheridge)

The Society’s constitution has been updated several times over the years and some errors of context have crept in. In addition, modern communications via the Internet facilitate new ways of doing things. The following minor changes to the constitution are proposed:

(i) The heading of Section 5, *Full Membership*, to be changed to read *Subscriptions*.

(ii) The following sentence to be appended to the first paragraph of subsection 7.1:

*At the discretion of the Executive Committee, absentee voting may also be performed by e-mail to an address operated by the Secretary, or by a secure transaction via the Society’s website.*

(iii) The final sentence of subsection 7.2 to read:

*A secret ballot shall be held if there is more than one nomination for any post.*

10. Overhaul of the Society’s Constitution (proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK) and seconded by Beryl Witheridge)

The Society’s constitution is no longer in line with many of the Society’s current practices. In particular, the section of the constitution covering the Society’s committee is somewhat confusing and does not relate well to practice in recent years. It is proposed that a working party be set up, by the committee, to review the constitution and prepare a motion to be put to the 2007 AGM, for changes to the constitution.

11. Payment of subscriptions electronically (proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK))

The Treasurer shall investigate the practicality of subscriptions being paid electronically, via the Internet (using facilities such as *PayPal*), in order to facilitate the remittance of subscriptions from overseas, and report back to the committee. If such a

process is deemed practicable, and the committee approves, it shall be implemented and be available for the payment of subscriptions in January 2007.

12. Archiving (proposed by Kim Cook)

A possible format for sharing and archiving basic research details has been devised by Kim Cook. The Enhanced Narrative Pedigree (ENP) is prepared in Word format, and includes all basic details, plus any other information we hold. If members can add what they know to the ENP file, to provide a definitive version, these ENPs can be put on disc and held by three key members (Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator and one other).

13. Data Protection (proposed by Kim Cook)

Current UK Data Protection and other international law theoretically precludes us from passing the information on in any format, including *The Witheridge Times*. We therefore need to ensure that members agree to allow us to publish or otherwise pass on, their information. The following wording, to be included on membership forms and in every issue of the magazine, is suggested:

*Applicants for membership of the Witheridge Family History Society automatically agree to the information they provide being published in The Witheridge Times, and passed on to other members of the Society, in whatever format. While the Society reserves the right to pass a limited amount of information to non-members, no information on living members will be passed on to non-members without that member's consent.*

14. Research budget (proposed by Kim Cook)

There is already provision for £50 per annum to be spent on obtaining documents and/or digital images for the Society. It is proposed that this budget may also be spent on buying subscriptions, credits or units from Internet data sites, to enable the downloading/copying of data helpful to Witheridge FHS research.

15. Any other business

I will upload a copy of this agenda to the *Members Only* area of the Society's website, and will keep this online version up-to-date with any changes (such as further nominations for officers and committee members), as they are received. I will also append any comments received from members, which should help to give a voice in the proceedings to those members who are unable to attend the AGM.

Additionally, members who are unable to attend the AGM, may register an absentee vote via the *Members Only* area. To do so, first sign on to the *Members Only* area, then click on the button for absentee voting and follow the instructions at the top of the page displayed. Note that absentee voting is anonymous—the votes will be tallied by a computerised process which will not show the identity of the voter.

If you do not have internet access, but wish to register an absentee vote, please write to the Secretary (at the address shown inside the back cover of this magazine), enclosing your voting preferences in an inner, sealed, envelope, marked *AGM Votes*. Please list your votes as 'for',



‘against’ or ‘abstain’ for the items above, numbered: 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. With regard to item 6, as there are no multiple nominations for any one post, voting is not applicable.

**Note:** to access to the *Members Only* area of the Society’s website, you must sign in with your membership number and password. Passwords were issued last year to those members whose e-mail addresses were known. If you have not received a password, or have forgotten it, you can request that the password be e-mailed to you by:

1. Pointing your web-browser at the Society’s website at [www.WitheridgeFHS.com](http://www.WitheridgeFHS.com)
2. Clicking on the ‘Members Only’ link to open the sign-in page for that area
3. Clicking on the *WFHS Password Administrator* link to send an e-mail request.

Please be sure to include your *name*, *membership number* and *address* in the e-mail text, for identification purposes.

## ***How to get to Porlock Village Hall***

The village of Porlock is at the north-western tip of Somerset. To the north lies the sea (the Bristol Channel) and to the west lies Exmoor and the County of Devon. Porlock is not a big town, and our venue, the Porlock Village Hall, is situated at the western end of the village, practically at the foot of Porlock Hill. The main A39 runs through the centre of the village, before ascending Porlock Hill onto Exmoor, as shown in the map on page 9, overleaf.

If you are arriving from the *east*, follow the A39 through the village until you come to the *Toll Road* junction. You can see this in the top left photo on page 8, showing the junction with the A39 just starting its climb up onto Exmoor, and the Toll Road branching off to the right—you can just spot the tops of cars parked at the Village Hall. On the left, is *The Ship Inn* (see the RAC sign in the photo) and the Village Hall is on the right, past the 30 mph speed limit sign.

The close-up photo of the road signs (top right photo on page 8) shows you exactly what to look for. Turn right into the *Toll Road*, and then right again, after about 50 yards, into the *Village Hall car park*.

If you are arriving from the *west*, via the A39 down Porlock Hill, be prepared to turn sharp left, into the *Toll Road*, at the bottom of the hill. This turn is immediately before *The Ship Inn*, which, from this direction, is situated on the right hand side of the A39 (see bottom left photo on page 8).

There is an excellent car park adjoining the Village Hall (see the bottom right photo overleaf), but you will need to bring along twenty pence, to pay for the car park (twenty pence pays for all day parking).

Our reunion meeting is being held in the *Small Hall* which faces the car park. Walk from the car park to the front of the Village Hall (which faces onto the road), and enter through the first set of doors. See <http://www.hornermill.co.uk/pvh/halls.htm> for a plan of the Village Hall, showing the Small Hall. This plan does not show the car park, but if it did, it would be situated at the right of the diagram.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Porlock!



*Junction at western end of Porlock. The Ship Inn on the left. Village Hall on right (beyond 30 sign).*



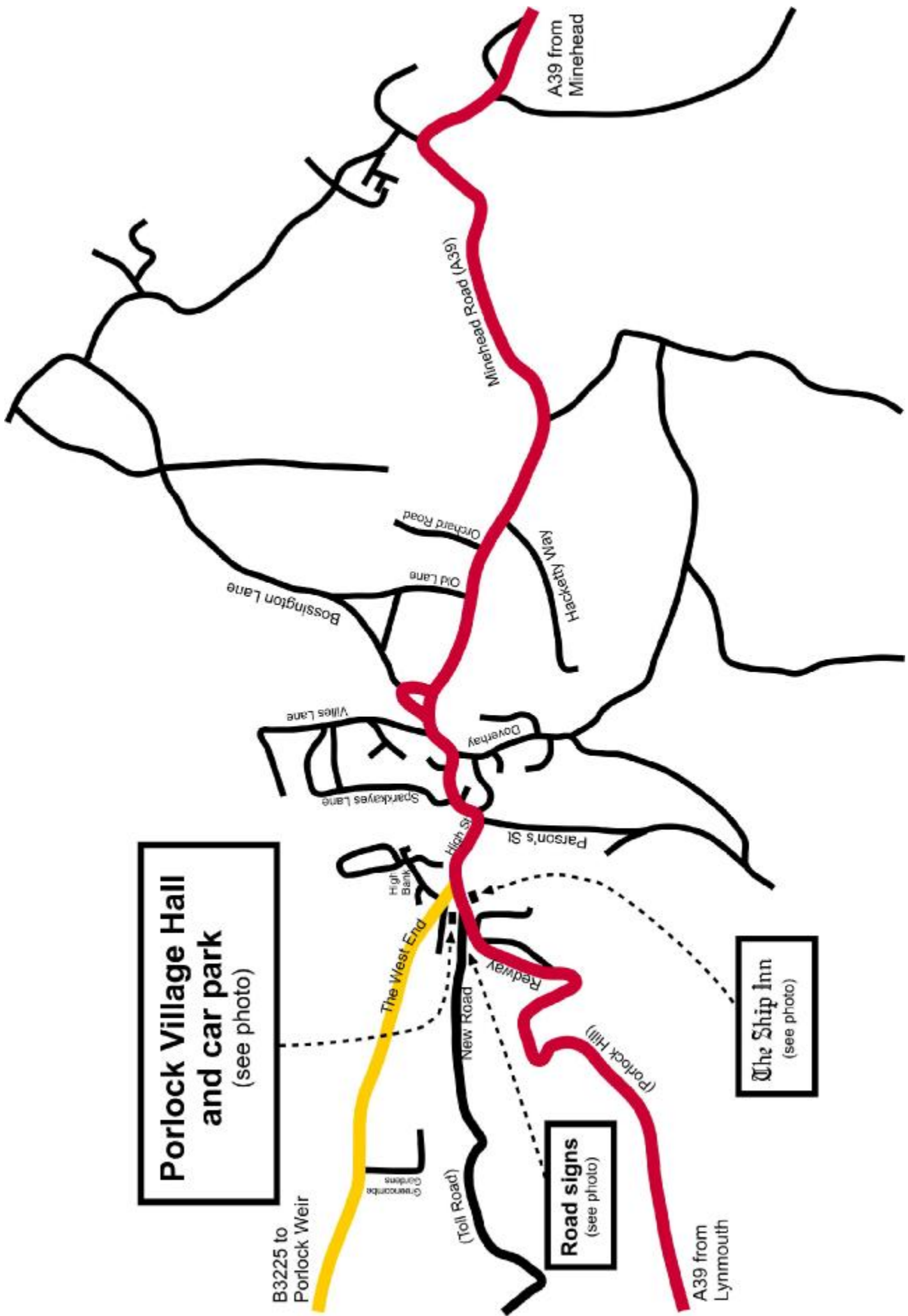
*Close up of road signs. You need to turn right into the Toll Road.*



*If you arrive from the west, down Porlock Hill, turn sharp left just before The Ship Inn.*



*50 yards after turning into the Toll Road, turn right into this car park. Village Hall is straight ahead.*

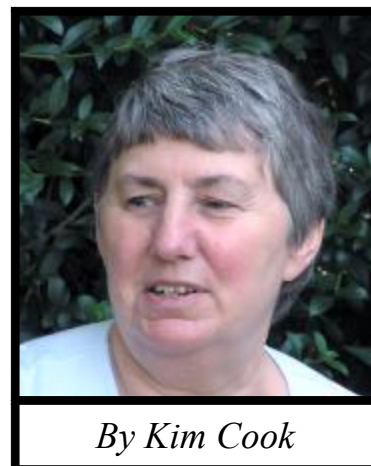


*Map of Porlock Village, showing location of Porlock Village Hall and The Ship Inn*

# Witheridges in Somerset

One problem when looking at *Witheridge* links with *Somerset* is the definition of the county. Its boundaries have changed many times over the years, but for the purposes of this article I'll include all the places that have ever been part of Somerset, including Bath and Bristol.

Perhaps the earliest link with Somerset we have found so far is the will of Joane Witheridge, widow of Exton, which was proved in Taunton Archdeaconry Court in 1579. An article on it was included in Volume 16 Number 1, the spring 2002 issue, of *The Witheridge Times*. Sadly, we don't know the name of Joane's husband, or whether they had any issue, but we believe they gave their name to Witheridge Farm in Exton.



By Kim Cook

Somerset has seen some wide variations of the Witheridge name, and at this stage it is unclear whether the early Somerset families were *Witheridges* whose name was badly recorded, or whether the reverse happened and they were really *Whiteridges* or *Whitridges* who accidentally became Witheridges!

On 1 September 1606, Agnes Whiteridge married Thomas Mattock, in Bridgwater, and on 20 December 1629, in Bridgwater, David Whitridge, son of John and Elizabeth Whitridge, was baptised. One transcriber notes that, on 16 July 1705, at Bishop's Hull, Jane Witteridge married Giles Parker, but I have been unable to substantiate this or locate Bishop's Hull. And, of course, there are the many *Witheridge*, *Witridge* and *Woodridge* families referred to in the *Enhanced Narrative Pedigrees* on page 25, starting with James, born c 1793 in Bridgwater. Later, some of their Witheridge descendants went to Swansea, and we believe that some are still in that part of Wales.

Following the introduction of civil registration on 1 July 1837, there were initially very few Witheridge events recorded in Somerset. The first birth registration in Somerset was that of Philemon Thomas Wetheridge, in Williton in 1845. He was the son of Thomas Witheridge, a coastguard, and his wife Jane Thomas of Ilfracombe. This event was what is termed a stray, meaning that it took place away from the family's usual settlement. In this case, Thomas was posted to various stations around the UK, but eventually many of his descendants settled in Cornwall and some went to Australia.

The next Somerset birth registrations were those of Harriet, Rebecca and William, probably triplets, who were registered in Bridgwater in December quarter 1855, and who all died within a few days. Theirs were the first Witheridge deaths to be registered in Somerset. Although their parentage is unknown, it is likely that they belonged to one of the families connected with *Green Dragon Lane* (see page 21).

The earliest marriage registered in Somerset is that of Anna Witridge, in Bridgwater, in March quarter 1838. Anna may well have been the sister of William Witridge, born c 1803, the head of Family 2 on page 26. Anna's marriage was followed by those of Maria Witterage, in Bridgwater, in September quarter 1847, and Harriet Witterage, in December quarter 1848.

In addition to the indigenous families and strays, by the mid-19th century a number of Devonshire Witheridges had moved to the county.

From the *Combe Martin* branch, Edwin Witheridge, born in 1835, the son of Edward and Mary (née Gear), married on 13 July 1863, at Holy Trinity, Bristol. His wife was Albertina Cumming, born c 1845, Tiverton. They are believed to have had eight children: Mary Elizabeth (1864–5), Joseph Edwin (Edwin, 1866, Bristol), William James (1869–70), John William (1871–2), George (1872, Wells), Henry A (1874, Wells) Alfred Thomas (1877, Bristol) and Reuben William (1880, Bristol). Mysteriously, in the 1871 census, when they were at 14 North Street, Swindon, Edwin's wife is said to be Mary Jane, born c 1845, Tiverton! Edwin, a haulier, died of inflammation of the lungs and pulmonary collapse, on 11 March 1881, said to be aged 42, at Bailey's Folley, Bristol. Interestingly, although I have not yet found any record of Albertina prior to her marriage, the 1861 census shows John Cummings (35), Sarah K Green (née Cummings, 24), and William Cummings (17), all born in Tiverton, and all living in Kenilworth Terrace, Bristol. William Edwin, son of Alfred and Polly (née Maggs), and grandson of Edwin and Albertina, born 16 February 1906, died in Bristol in June 1993.

Some of the *Newton Abbot* branch also moved to Somerset. Between 1894 (when daughter Rosie was born in Kingskerswell), and 1895 (when son John Edward married Ellen Rose Brewer in Axbridge), James Witheridge and Hannah (née Jerman) moved to Weston-super-Mare. In 1901, James and Hannah were in the Christ Church area. Although John and Ellen lived briefly in Swindon, they soon returned to Weston-super-Mare. In later years, members of this family lived in Osborne Road and Worlesbury Park Road. However, Ernest (born 1895), moved to Taunton, and in 1916 married Agnes C Baggs. This branch of the family was still in the Taunton area when Agnes died in 1967, aged 73, and Ernest died in 1976.

Descendants from the *Ermington* branch found their way to Somerset, via Cornwall! Frederick Arthur Witheridge, born in Ermington in 1866, became a baker and in 1887 married Ruth Matthews. After the marriage they moved around in Devon and Cornwall, but by about 1897 they were in Bridgwater. In 1901 they had moved to Rock Cottage, Wembdon, with children Ada Maud (12), Harry Arthur Frederick (10), Elsie Adel (8) and Winifred Ruth (3). Elsie married a Stanley J Gray (1912), Harry married Mabel Annie Porter (1912), Ada married Edgar Davis (1913), and Winifred married James B Collis (1916). Between them they had nearly twenty children and there may well be many of their grandchildren still in Somerset. Harry died, aged 67, in March quarter 1958 (Bridgwater 7c 139), but Mabel lived to the ripe old age of 94, dying in November 1998 (Sedgemoor 23.1226)!

Another Somerset connection comes via John Laurence Witheridge, born 3 September 1919 (December quarter 1919, Bristol 6a 7). In March quarter 1942, he married Freda J Herbert (Bristol 6a 360) and their son, born in 1945, married and had three sons, all born in the Bristol area. In June quarter 1971, John married his second wife, Thelma, born 1925. Thelma died in Weston-super-Mare, in August 1981, and John died in North Somerset, in September 1997. It is possible that John's descendants are still in the Bristol area.

We want to trace descendants of these Somerset families, in the hope that some may be able to join our reunion. If any of these are related to our members, please let me know!

# Devon 2007: WFHS Twentieth Anniversary Reunion

In the last issue of *The Witheridge Times*, I was able to tell you the date of our 20th Anniversary Reunion (19–20 May, 2007) and to give you some provisional information about the venue (see page 7, volume 19 number 3, the winter edition of *The Witheridge Times*).

I can now confirm that our Anniversary Reunion will be held at the *Coombe Cross Hotel*, Bovey Tracey, in South Devon. The hotel has all the facilities we require and these are available at no extra cost to the Society, provided we book a minimum number of rooms.

The hotel was checked out, last December, by Beryl and Paul Witheridge, who took Paul's eighty-five year-old father for a pre-Christmas break. They were favourably impressed, but did over-eat! You can see a summary of their feedback on the Society's website ([www.witheridgefhs.com/Witheridge-New-2007.html](http://www.witheridgefhs.com/Witheridge-New-2007.html)), or you can download the full report by signing-on to the *Members-Only* area.

Although prices would normally rise (don't they always!) from one year to the next, the hotel is offering us rooms in 2007 at the 2006 prices, as shown by the following table:

No of nights	<i>Standard Rooms</i>		<i>Moor-view rooms</i>	
	Bed & breakfast	Dinner, bed & breakfast	Bed & breakfast	Dinner, bed & breakfast
1 or 2	£35.00	£51.00	£40.00	£56.00
3 or more	£32.00	£47.00	£37.00	£52.00
7 or more	£30.00	£43.00	£35.00	£48.00

These prices are per-person, per-night, double-occupancy of a twin or double-bed room. For single occupancy, add £15.00 per night—there are also a small number of single rooms available (price on request from the hotel). *Moor-view* rooms have, unsurprisingly, a view of Dartmoor, but most also have 'zip and link' twin beds which can be combined to create a king-sized bed. The hotel also has some family suites, which can accommodate children. Cots (cribs to North Americans) are available. More information about these, and other facilities, can be found on the hotel's website (see [www.coombecross.co.uk](http://www.coombecross.co.uk)).

The hotel is, for the time being, holding all their rooms for us. So, please book as early as you can. After March 2007, they will no longer keep back any rooms for us, and expect to fill up quickly—they are popular with other societies: walking groups, murder mystery weekends, etc. So, please book as early as you can.

To help with booking of hotel rooms, we have included a *booking form* with this issue of the magazine. Of course, you don't have to use it and we expect many people just to phone the hotel (see the booking form for the phone number). However, whatever means you use to



book, **please** let me know the numbers and names of the people in your party. The booking form has a small ‘tear-off’ section at the bottom for this purpose. You can post this to me at: Richard Witheridge, 16 Haven Close, Dunster, Minehead, Somerset TA24 6RW, England. Alternatively, just e-mail the information to ([to richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk)), or telephone 01643-821377.

You will also find a *questionnaire* in the envelope with this magazine. **Please** fill this in and return it to me, at the above address. I *really* need this information as soon as possible, to help plan activities for our anniversary reunion.

If you have internet access, we have produced an online version of the questionnaire, which is very easy to use. This is available in the *Members Only* area of the Society’s website (see [www.witheridge.org/wfhs1/wfhspriv.htm](http://www.witheridge.org/wfhs1/wfhspriv.htm)). Why not take a look at the feedback about the Coombe Cross Hotel, at the same time!

**Note:** you will need your membership number and password to sign in to the *Members Only* area. If you don’t know your password, see the note, about how to get it, on page 7.

You are probably wondering why I am asking you to return *two* different forms to me, both of which ask for details of your party! The answer is that I need the *questionnaire* back as *soon as possible* and, while I am also asking you to book the hotel as soon as you can, I don’t expect everyone to be able to this as quickly.

Let’s make this 20th Anniversary Reunion one to remember!



*The Coombe Cross Hotel, Bovey Tracey, South Devon*

# Pass on your Pedigree

*Kim Cook looks at the ways we can ensure that our family history is passed on, through the generations.*

*This is **Part 1** in a series of articles, which will be continued in subsequent issues of The Witheridge Times. Even if you never find yourself using the full documentation techniques, that Kim is presenting here, the article contains a wealth of useful tips about how to be rigorous in writing up your family history.*



By Kim Cook

## **Introduction**

Whether or not we're keen genealogists, we all have information about our own lives and those of our immediate families—parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren. It's part of the fabric of our lives, held in our hearts, minds and memories. But unless, at some stage, we store that information somewhere, other than in our heads, it will all eventually be lost forever.

I was particularly sad, when a member of my own family commented that she knew nothing about her family. Her mother and grandmother, both lovely people but totally unsentimental, had never dwelt on the past, or discussed it. Both were now dead, and, although she had not previously been interested in family history, she now found herself wanting answers. The people who could best provide those answers were long gone, and she felt their loss more keenly because she knew so little of their lives. Thankfully, I had some answers for her, and later was able to document her family history in a format that she could appreciate, and add to for her own descendants.

There are many ways in which we can commit our personal knowledge and research discoveries to paper. They range from simple pedigree charts and family trees, through descendant charts and one-family records, to photo-memoirs and full-blown narrative books.

In this series, I'll be looking at some of the ways we can pass on what we know about our families, whether from personal knowledge or research. I'm starting with a variation on the pedigree chart, which I call the *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree* (ENP). You won't have heard of it before, for the simple reason that I devised it myself, a few years ago!

## **Part 1 – The Enhanced Narrative Pedigree**

Most family history computer programs provide a variety of formats for setting out family history. One is the *narrative pedigree*, sometimes called the *descendant chart*. This is a long chart that starts with the earliest ancestor and then, descending line by line on the paper, lists the children. However, between each child and the next, the program lists all their descendants, indenting each generation a little further. A vertical line links the siblings of the same generation. By the time you have ten or twelve generations, each line of text is very short, the left-hand side of the page looks like a bar-code, the right-hand side is top heavy with text, and the original (first generation) siblings can be many pages apart.



For those who are not experienced family historians, this can be a pain to follow. This is a small extract, from one such chart:

*Moses Witheridge, b c 1600, d 1678, Wembury, Devon, m 1628 Wembury, Margaret Strapp, b c 1605, d 1676. They had*

- 1 Robert Witheridge, b 1629, Wembury Devon, d 1654 Wembury, m 1650 Wembury, Agnis Galsworthy, b 1628, Wembury, Devon, d 1665 Wembury. They had*
  - 1 John Witheridge, b 1652 Wembury, Devon, m 1689 Wembury, Elizabeth Rous, b 1661 Wembury, d 1729 Wembury. They had*
    - 1 Ann Witheridge, b 1689, Wembury, Devon, m 1737 Wembury, Nathaniel Willing. Died without issue*
    - 2 Mary Witheridge, b 1691, Wembury, Devon, m 1712 Wembury, Josias Jennings*

The chart would then continue, with all the descendants of Mary and Josias, before coming back to the third child of John Witheridge, and displaying details of all his descendants over a further eight generations, each generation being successively indented further. When the descendants of all five of John and Elizabeth's children have been listed, the chart then goes back to John's younger siblings, each in turn with their descendants. By the time the chart has listed all the descendants of all the other children of Moses and Margaret, you get to their youngest son, another Moses, about ten pages further on!

At the other end of the scale, computers offer a book format. However, as it simply puts together all the items of information you entered, it has a succession of short, stilted and often repetitive sentences, with no narrative style. The following extract is typical of such a book:

*Joseph Witheridge was baptised on 3 August 1788 in Wembury Devon. He was apprenticed as a poor child of the parish to Nathaniel Willing in 1796 in Wembury, Devon. He appeared on the census in 1851 in Plymouth. He was erroneously shown as being born in Holsworthy. He appeared in the census in 1861 in 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth, Devon. He appeared on the census in 1871 in 12 Looe Street, Plymouth, Devon. He died on 7 January 1872 in 12 Looe Street, Plymouth, Devon.*

And so it goes on, with details of his marriage, his wife and children following in later, equally stilted, paragraphs. As you can see, the presentation doesn't flow, and the chronology is erratic. By enhancing both the information and the presentation, the document becomes more interesting. This is how Joseph is written up in my ENP format:

***Joseph Witheridge**, baptised 3 August 1788, Wembury, was apprenticed as a poor child of the parish to Nathaniel Willing of Wembury on 5 October 1796. He would have had to serve his apprenticeship until he was 21. Some time after that, he moved to Plymouth and worked as a labourer. On 10 June 1815, in Stoke Damerel, he married **Jane Bonney**, who had been born c 1783. Although they married in the parish church, most of their children were baptised in the Wesleyan church in Morrice Street, Devonport. Jane died, with her daughter Harriet Rickard in attendance, on 11 October 1849 at 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth, of cholera (3 days, 10 hours) and dysentery (30 hours), at the age of 66. This was in the last days of the terrible cholera epidemic which hit Plymouth in 1849. By 1851 Joseph was working as a coal porter and living at 1 Woolster Street, with his son Thomas and family. In 1861 Joseph, formerly porter, was back at 10 Lower Batter Street with his grandson Samuel John, aged 10. By 1871 he was living with his widowed daughter-in-law Mary Ann, and her children, at 12 Looe Street,*

*Plymouth. Still working as a general labourer, he died there on 7 January 1872, of old age and bronchitis, and his age was given as 88. Joseph and Jane Witheridge had five known children.*

The ENP combines elements of both computer-generated formats, but with obvious differences. The basic details are all there, but presented in chronological order. The text flows more naturally and the ENP can include additional information, including details, that offer extra insight into the lives being documented, or even unproven material, that can provide clues for further research. But perhaps the biggest advantage is that it is straightforward text, which can be forwarded to anyone, and does not require the recipient to own a computer program with *gedcom* (genealogical data communication) capability.

Presentation is made much simpler by starting a new section for each generation of the direct line. Just list the children of the first generation with the children and grandchildren of all except the direct ancestor. For the direct ancestor, include all the information up to and including marriage. Once the details of that generation are complete, start a new section for the couple who are the direct ancestors. You should of course provide a page reference linking the first entry and the second. All this can be made doubly effective by highlighting the opening entry of each name in bold, with the names of direct ancestors in colour. If you track the descendants of two or more siblings, you can use different colours for each branch of the family.

To show how this works, this is how the ENP for Joseph and Jane Witheridge continues (where I have used colour in my original, I have underlined here):

*Joseph and Jane Witheridge had five known children:*

- 1 **Elizabeth Witheridge**, baptised 31 March 1816, Stoke Damerel. In 1861, still single, she was living at 17 Valletort Place, Stoke Damerel, where she worked as a servant. The only other occupant of the house was another servant, so it is likely that the owners of the house were away on census night. By 1871 she was working as a nurse and servant, and living at 12 Looe Street, with her elderly father and widowed sister-in-law, Mary Ann. No record has been found of her after that date.
- 2 **Mary Ann Witheridge**, baptised 6 April 1818, Morrice Street Wesleyan Chapel, Devonport. Nothing further is known of her.
- 3 **Thomas Witheridge**, baptised 12 March 1820, Devonport parish church by J Hawker, married on 27 August 1848, in St Andrew, Plymouth Mary Ann Garry (see page 17).
- 4 **Jane Witheridge**, baptised 1 December 1823, was buried on 7 October 1827 in Charles the Martyr churchyard, Plymouth.
- 5 **Harriet Witheridge**, baptised 6 February 1826, Morrice Street Wesleyan, Devonport, married on 10 April 1846 in Charles the Martyr, Plymouth (9.492), **William Rickard**, a bricklayer born in 1816 in St Ewe, Cornwall. In 1861 they lived at 3½ Tavistock Street in Charles parish, but by 1871 had emigrated to Australia and settled in Victoria. Harriet died 30 September 1941, Fitzroy, Victoria. They had five children
  - 1 Elizabeth Ann Rickard, born 18 December 1848, Plymouth, in the family home there in 1861.

- 2 *Philippa Rickard, born 21 December 1852, Plymouth, in the family home there in 1861.*
- 3 *Emily Jane Rickard, born 21 April 1855, Plymouth, believed to have been deaf from birth. She was in the family home in Plymouth in 1861.*
- 4 *William A Rickard, born 1860, Plymouth, in the family home there in 1861.*
- 5 *Kate Louisa Rickard, born 21 December 1861, Plymouth, married 29 May 1886, Carlton, Victoria, Australia, Henry John Smith. Kate died 30 September 1941, Fitzroy, Victoria. Their issue went to Tasmania and were still there in Lilyville in the 1980s.*

At this point a new section starts, headed '**Thomas Witheridge and Mary Ann Garry**'. The narrative shows where they lived, the jobs they did, and when and where they died, with references. This section ends with the fact that Thomas and Mary Ann had five children, and lists them all. As in the section above, the children who do not carry the Witheridge name are not shown in bold.

**Thomas Witheridge**, baptised 12 March 1820, Devonport, married on 27 August 1848, in St Andrew, Plymouth (9.456) **Mary Ann Garry**, born in Exeter on 13 February 1820. He was then living in Batter Street, she was living in the High Street. Their first son, Thomas Henry, was born before their marriage, and had to be registered as a Garry, but was later known as Witheridge. In the 1851 census the family was living at 1 Woolster Street, Sutton on Plym, and Thomas was a bargeman. On 8 September 1857, at 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth (5b 152a), he died of phthisis, leaving Mary Ann struggling to bring up four children on her own. Rather than see the family go to the workhouse, she acquired a mangle, and took in other people's washing, and in 1861 she was a laundress, living at 9 Looe Street, Plymouth. In 1871 she was working as a laundress and living at 12 Looe Street, with her elderly father-in-law. In 1891 Mary Ann, now living at 3 St John's Road, Sutton-on-Plym, was employed as a parochial mission woman. Later she moved in with her widowed son-in-law, Henry Miller, and the two grandchildren, and continued to live with them at 10 Grenville Road, Plymouth, even after Henry remarried. In 1900, during her final illness, her son Edmund Witheridge travelled from his home at 133 New Kings Road, Fulham to be with her, and she died of influenza and apoplexia in her son-in-law's home on 13 June 1900, aged 80 (Plymouth 5b 178). Thomas and Mary Ann had five children:

- 1 **Thomas Henry Garry**, born December qr 1847, Plymouth (9.374), later known as Thomas Henry Witheridge. He was at home with his parents and grandparents in 1851, and was living with his mother and working as an errand boy in 1861, but no record has been found of him since then. He may have gone to sea.
- 2 **Edmund Witheridge**, born 21 April 1849, at 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth (9.419). In 1851 he was in the family home in Woolster Street, and in 1861 with his widowed mother at 9 Looe Street, working as an errand boy. He married on 18 October 1870, Stoke Damerel (5b 610), **Prudence White Barry** (see page nn [this would refer to another page in the ENP, but that page is not included here]).

- 3 **Samuel John Witheridge**, born January 1851, Plymouth (9.468). In 1851, age 3 months, he was at home with his parents and grandfather. In 1861 he was living with his grandfather Joseph at 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth. In 1865 he joined the Royal Navy as a boy sailor. [The full ENP gives details of his naval service, his marriage to Mary Ann Cruwys, his Naval Brigade action in the Zulu Wars and the first Boer War, his death in action at Majuba on 27 February 1881, and his mention in despatches in the London Gazette on 3 May 1881.]
- 4 **Joseph William Witheridge**, born December qr 1853, Plymouth (5b 213), died 2 April 1854, age 6 months, at 10 Lower Batter Street, Plymouth (5b 149) of pneumonia (2 weeks).
- 5 **Elizabeth Jane Witheridge**, born June 1855, Plymouth (5b 224), in 1861 a scholar in the family home at 9 Looe Street, Plymouth. In 1871 she was living with her mother at 12 Looe Street, Plymouth, and working as an assistant laundress. On 16 December 1877 (Plymouth 5b 452) she married **Henry Miller**, born c 1856, Plymouth Charles, a milkman, and they built up a thriving dairy business. In 1881 they were living at 7 Looe Street, where Henry was a milkman and market gardener. Elizabeth Jane died December qr 1890 (Plymouth 5b 179), and later her mother, Mary Ann Garry, moved in to look after the two children. In 1893 Henry married his second wife, Harriet Fanny Floyd, and they had a further seven children. Henry died in Plymouth in 1928. Henry and Elizabeth Jane had two children:
- 1 Ethel Whyte Miller, born 1879, Plymouth, married 19 April 1905 in Ebrington Street Methodist-Wesleyan church, William Henry Major.
  - 2 Sydney Moore Miller, born 1885, Plymouth.

Examples of ENP can be seen on pages 25 to 27 of this issue of *The Witheridge Times*, as part of the article about the *Witheridges of Bridgwater*. Here, in the printed version of the magazine, we haven't been able to use colour, which is a disadvantage, as this is a particularly complicated family, that used many surname variants over the years.

Reports generated by family history computer programs often have problems in clearly linking surname variants, but the ENP format makes it possible to annotate variant surnames, according to the first reference found, making the linkage obvious. So, for the Bridgwater ENP, I have listed the variant surnames according to the first reference found. Those first found in the 1861 census as *Witheridge* are listed as such, but those whose birth registrations have been found under another name have been listed under the name shown in the GRO indices, noting later variants along the way. Thus, the William born c 1803 and entered as *Witridge* on the 1851 census, appears as *Witteridge* in 1871 and as *Wooderidge* in the GRO deaths index for 1879.

As with other family history formats, there are rules for writing an ENP. Information listed has to be in chronological order. Where known, source references should be included, making it simple to check information and order copy documents. However, census references can be omitted—these are superfluous now that surname indices are available online. This of course makes it essential to note any surname variants or indexing errors discovered in your research.

The ENP does *indent* the generations in the way that the computer version does, so you need to be sure that people of the same generation are indented to the same degree. However, by *breaking* the direct line into its separate generations, the information for each generation starts flush with the left hand margin, so there's no wasted space, and none of the peculiar, lopsided, look you get on computer-generated charts, as entries end up further and further indented.

The example for Joseph Witheridge shows how this break is achieved. Such a break also occurs at the top of page 26, in the *Bridgwater ENP for Family 1*, where William Witheridge, born 1826, is shown with basic details of both his marriages and reference to the numbers of children he had. In my files, the full details of William and his numerous descendants take up many pages. However, there are so many of them, they would have monopolised this issue of *The Witheridge Times*, so they will have to wait for a later issue.

If you wish to include information that you're not sure about, show it in *italics*. For example, if you're not sure whether a child, who died young and was never entered in a census, actually belongs to your family, put the entry in italics. Alternatively, you can say of an individual that he or she was 'believed to have' done something or lived somewhere. This possibility is then on record, enabling the information to be checked at a later date.

Careful presentation of detail is essential. For instance, how a birth is noted depends on how much information you have, and where it originates. Thus, an entry for which date and place have been confirmed will include, where known, the *registration reference* in brackets. If the birth-place and registration district have the same name, there's no need to repeat it. But if the name of the birth-place doesn't coincide with the name of the registration district, then the district must be included in the reference. Likewise, if a birth date is included, the registration year and quarter need not be specified unless the registration falls in a different period. Where no detailed information is held on birth-place, put only the registration district within the brackets, as the birth-place may later prove to be a smaller village within the registration district. These rules may seem complicated, but once you grasp them, they're simple and logical. Clear examples can be seen in the Bridgwater ENPs on pages 25 to 27.

When producing an ENP either for my own family or a client, I like to include an introductory page, giving details of the places where the family lived and generally setting the scene. Often this provides an opportunity to note earlier family references, for which the links are unproven, and to explain ancient terms that non-historians might not be familiar with. Here is an example is from the introduction to the ENP for the Witheridges of Wembury.

*The Witheridge family came originally from Wembury and Plymstock, adjacent parishes in south Devon, and in the late 19th-century migrated via Plymouth to London.*

*Wembury, which included the manor of Langdon, was a parish of about 3,500 acres, but had only a small population. The church at Wembury, dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon St Werburgh, now stands precariously on cliffs overlooking the sea, as the land that once stood between the church and the coast has eroded over the centuries. The church at Plymstock, dedicated to St Mary and All Saints, is much larger than the one at Wembury, because the Manor of Plymstock, which once belonged to Tavistock Abbey, was granted to the Duke of Bedford at the dissolution. Although the parish is similar in size to Wembury, the population has always been much greater.*

*The first known mention of the Witheridge family in Wembury occurs in the Devon Subsidy Roll for 1524/5, when a John Wytherygge of Wembury was taxed on goods he owned. The 1544 Subsidy Roll also lists a John Wetheryge of Wembury. The Devon Muster Roll of 1569 lists men who could be called upon to fight in case of invasion, and names their weapons. William Wytheredge of Wembury was a pikeman, and William Wetheryge of Plymstock was a harquebusier, as he owned this very early form of rifle. However, as the earliest parish registers, from 1538 to 1609, have not survived, it has so far been impossible to trace the relationship between these men, or their connection with those listed in the parish registers, which start in 1610.*

Entries for later years can be extensive. For instance, my full entry for Samuel John Witheridge (abbreviated in this article), giving brief details of his Royal Navy record and his death at the battle of Majuba, runs to almost two A4 pages. More recent entries can include the kind of personal information you'd never find in an official record. Small, but important, family incidents that reveal character, as well as names of bridesmaids, ushers etc at weddings, details of education and training, sports clubs supported, talents in music, arts or crafts, hobbies such as gardening or fishing, illnesses, redundancies, and a host of other details all bring the people we know to life, and ensure that they come across to future generations, not as bland statistics, but as *real* people.

### **On the side: No one believes seniors**

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married, as childhood sweethearts, and had moved back to their old neighbourhood after they retired.

Holding hands they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Andy had carved 'I love you, Sally'.

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armoured car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up, but not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money—\$50,000.

Andy said 'We've got to give it back'.

Sally said 'Finders keepers'. She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two FBI men were canvassing the neighbourhood looking for the money, and knocked on the door.

'Pardon me, but did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armoured car yesterday?'

Sally said 'No'.

Andy said 'She's lying. She hid it up in the attic'.

Sally said 'Don't believe him, he's getting senile'.

The agents turn to Andy and began to question him. One said 'Tell us the story from the beginning.'

Andy said 'Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday...'

The lead Agent turned to the other and said 'We're out of here!'



By Kim Cook

## Desktop Detective: The Mysterious Witheridges of Green Dragon Lane

As we shall be meeting in Somerset this year, I thought this would be an appropriate time to share the results of some desktop detection I've been doing on the *Witheridge* families who lived there, and particularly the prolific *Witheridges* of *Bridgwater*.

Over the years, these families have spelled their name in a variety of different ways, but it is not known which was originally correct. Variants in the census returns include *Witridge* (1851), *Witheridge* (1861), *Withridge* or *Witteridge* (1871), and even *Woodridge* (1881) and *Wooderidge* (1891)!

With all these options, and the fact that almost every family had a William, and most had a James and a Thomas, piecing the puzzle together has been a nightmare. But, by going into what I now call 'Poirot' mode, exercising the little grey cells (there's little else I can exercise these days!) and painstakingly collating and studying every piece of evidence, I've managed to complete, if not the whole puzzle, at least a satisfying number of large chunks.

So what was the family name? As far back as the early 17th century, there is evidence of the family in Bridgwater. On 1 September 1606, an Agnes Whiteridge married Thomas Mattock in Bridgwater. On 20 December 1629, David Whitridge, the son of John and Elizabeth, was baptised in Bridgwater, but these seem to be isolated records. Later, when I had found the name *Woodridge* had been used, I did a further check under this name, and found that, in the 1820s and 1830s, a number of *Woodridges* were baptised in the Independent Zion Chapel in Tuam Street, Bridgwater, and a *Witridge* in a Presbyterian Chapel in Dampier Street.

The mystery, of where these families came from originally, is lent an exotic note by the fact that they lived, for many years, in *Green Dragon Lane*—a name that could belong to a local Chinatown or a Gothic mystery novel! Yet all the residents in this short lane had very English names, with very ordinary occupations, and in 1861, of under a dozen households, no less than three were Witheridges, in one guise or another. By 1881 Green Dragon Lane had become part of Fryern Street, with just half-a-dozen properties in the street having the additional name of Green Dragon Lane.

I wondered if these were near a pub called the Green Dragon, but this doesn't seem to be the case. The property listed next to one of the Witheridge homes was a pub, but in 1861 it was called the Rose and Crown. It's the last property listed in St Mary Street, which suggests that it stood on a corner, at the junction of St Mary Street and Green Dragon Lane. Perhaps the pub had a name change at some point. The other end of Green Dragon Lane led into Silver Street.

Of the *Bridgwater Witheridges* who feature in accessible records, the earliest is one for whom the census can provide no Christian name, but who was born about 1793. His family appears in Green Dragon Lane in the 1861 census, listed as *Witheridge*, but the head of the household

is Sarah Witheridge, a 65-year-old widow, working as a charwoman. Also in the household are her unmarried daughter Mary Ann, aged 36, also a charwoman, and two grandchildren, William, a 10-year-old errand boy, and John, a 5-year-old scholar. Sarah had been born in Minehead, but the others had all been born in Bridgwater.

The earliest *Bridgwater Witheridge* for whom the census does give a name was William, born there c 1803. In 1851, entered as *Witridge*, he was living at Hamp, Bridgwater Trinity. William, a 47-year-old labourer, his 43-year-old wife Sarah, and children William (17), Elizabeth (14) and Thomas (11), were all born in Bridgwater. The two boys were working as labourers. In 1871 William *Witteridge*, head, married, 67, born Bridgwater, wife Sarah, 60, born Bridgwater, and unmarried son William, 38, were living at Old Taunton Road, Bridgwater St Mary's.

Also in Bridgwater in 1851 was William, who had been born there c 1808. In 1851 he was a widower, working as a porter in a grocer's shop. Living with him were his sons, Henry, aged 18, and Thomas, aged 14, both born in Bridgwater and both working as errand boys. Visiting them was John Hone, a 24-year-old tailor born in Wiveliscombe. Their address at the time was simply Mount, in the St Mary's district.

Yet another William, this time listed as *Witheridge*, a 34-year-old journeyman bootmaker, was living in Green Dragon Lane in 1861. He had been born in Bridgwater, but his 33-year-old wife, Harriet S, was born in Plymouth. We now know that her maiden name was Jordan. Living with them were seven children, aged from 13 down to 2, all born in Bridgwater. Interestingly, at the same address, but part of a different household, were James Witheridge, aged 20, and his wife Elizabeth. James, born in Bridgwater, was a journeyman blacksmith, while his wife, born in Middlesex, was a bootbinder.

A fourth William, listed as *Withridge*, married in the September quarter of 1870, Annie Bennett. In 1871, still listed as *Withridge*, William, a 20-year-old labourer, and Annie, aged 21, were living at Roberts Buildings, Eastover, Bridgwater St Johns. Both had been born in Bridgwater.

And a fifth William, aged 57 and listed as *Wooderidge*, was living at Eastover in 1891, and working as a brickfield labourer. His wife Sarah, was 45, and they had four children, Henry (9), Thomas (7), Elizabeth (4) and William (7 months)

So how do all these Williams, born 1803, 1808, 1826, 1833 and 1850, fit in? The census indicates that the William listed as *Wooderidge* in 1891, is in fact the 17-year old living with his parents William and Sarah Witridge in 1851.

And the William *Withridge* who was 20 in 1871 is surely the one who, in 1861, was listed as the 10-year-old grandson of Sarah. However, there is nothing in the census to indicate how many children Sarah had, and which of them was the parent of William.

And here we come upon another mystery. Some time ago, Joyce Browne ordered the marriage certificate of the William, who married Annie Bennett in 1870, and it produced some odd information. On 4 September 1870, in Trinity Parish Church, Bridgwater, after banns, William Withridge, bachelor, a 19-year-old ropemaker, son of James Coram, currier, married Annie Bennett, a 19-year-old spinster, daughter of William Bennett, brickmaker, both of Fryern



Street (part of which was Green Dragon Lane). The witnesses were William Capling and Elizabeth Cassling.

Both bride and groom were under 21, so someone should have given consent. The witnesses don't appear to be part of either family, and the fact that William's father isn't a *Witheridge* (of whatever spelling) is remarkable.

This suggests that William was the son of Sarah's daughter Mary Ann, by a man named James Coram. Was Sarah's younger grandson, John, born c 1855, also the product of this union? Until now, searches for this James have been unsuccessful, with no Corams involved in the leather industry. However, I've now tracked down the mystery father!

In 1861 in Mill Street, North Petherton (about five miles south of Bridgwater) lived James Coram, born c 1831 in North Petherton, who describes himself as a haulier. Could the person who wrote the marriage certificate have misheard and written *currier* instead of *carrier*? Interestingly, when William was born in 1850, James Coram would have been free to marry Mary Ann Witheridge. But in June quarter 1854 (Bristol 6a 57), James had married another Mary Ann, whose surname was probably Rigden. This one was born in Dover, Kent, c 1831, and by 1861 they had four children, Emily (5), John (4), Susannah (1) and Elizabeth (3 months). All were born in North Petherton.

Looking for this James in 1851, I found the answer! James Coram, aged 19 and unmarried, born North Petherton, was working as a footman in the household of Edward Austen Stradling, a 59-year-old magistrate and member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in general practice. And where did this esteemed gentleman live? Fryern Street, Bridgwater!

Having failed to find Sarah and Mary Ann in 1851 under any known variant of the name *Witheridge*, I scrolled through the census pages in the hope of finding them. The entries for this part of Fryern Street indicated that this was a select area, for there were magistrates, ship owners and other wealthy people. Beyond this were houses of skilled craftsmen, but in none of them was anyone who could possibly be a *Witheridge*, under any spelling, even as a servant.

I then went back to the beginning of Fryern Street, and by one of those weird coincidences, the first household I came across was the home of 57-year-old James de la Hooke, incumbent of Trinity Church, who had been born in Wembury, Devon! I've never come across the name de la Hooke in Wembury, and it certainly isn't a local name, but perhaps his father was incumbent of St Werburgh's, Wembury, when James was born in 1793. It's something I'll have to check out later.

After this little diversion, I continued to scroll through the pages, mostly homes of working men, and finally, in household 42, I found them! Given that the Stradling household was numbered 46, James Coram must have lived just a very few yards from Mary Ann Witheridge.

The reason I hadn't found them on a name search was that, yet again, the name was different. This time they were entered as *Wootridge*! And I thought I'd seen all possible variants of the name!

This entry is particularly valuable, for it tells us a little more about the mystery man who had been Sarah's husband. Sarah is listed as 'pauper, formerly watch and clock maker's wife'.

Also in the household is daughter Mary Ann, aged 26 and unmarried, grandson William, aged four months, daughter Rebecca, a 15-year-old shoe builder, son James, a 10-year-old scholar, and lodger William Jarman, a 37-year-old foundry labourer.

At this point I went back to the list of Zion Chapel baptisms and made a breakthrough. All the baptisms related to children of James and Sarah, and a number of them (including Mary Ann, William and Rebekah) matched the names and dates I already had. Now I had not only confirmation of the name of the founder of the family, but could also tie in William, who had married Harriet Jordan.

With these results, GRO entries and census returns, all slotted in, the confusion of Bridgwater families has now been reduced to three basic families, plus some strays. Most of these strays probably fit into these three, but with all the spelling variations of the surname, plus the repeated use of the same Christian names, fitting them all in will take much more time. The information I have so far collated is shown in the ENPs (enhanced narrative pedigrees) on the following pages. However, the one for the descendants of William (born 1826) is so long, that the second part of this ENP will have to wait until a later issue.

What I do know is that descendants of James Witheridge/Woodridge (born 1793, died 1847) were still in Green Dragon Lane in 1901. His eldest son William (born 1826) married first Harriet Salome Jordan, by whom he had seven children. Following Harriet's death in 1867, James married, in March quarter 1873, Mary Ann Southard, who already had two children, and together they had a further five children. After William's death, Mary Ann married William Trapnell, and these two, with one *Southard* child, three *Woodridge* children and a *Woodridge* grandchild, were living in one household in Green Dragon Lane, with another *Woodridge* son, his wife and child in the adjacent household. So, from the first known Witheridge occupation of Fryern Lane in 1851, through to 1901 (by which time it had become Friarn Lane), four generations of these *Witheridge*, *Withridge*, *Witridge* and *Woodridge* families had lived in Green Dragon Lane over a period of at least fifty years.

And what of James Coram? Whatever his input into the life of his son (and he may have been supporting him financially, possibly under the terms of a bastardy bond), he obviously wasn't ready to leave his home in North Petherton and commit to Mary Ann or William. His wife Mary Ann died, aged 46, in June quarter 1878. In December quarter 1879 (St Geo Hanover Sq, 1a 736), he married Janet Stark, born c 1838 in Christchurch, Hants. By 1881 they were living at the Swan Inn, Fore Street, North Petherton, where James was the innkeeper. Also in the household were his daughter Elizabeth, now 20, and working as a dressmaker, and sons James (18) a basket-maker, Frederick (14) a carrier's driver, and George, an 11-year-old scholar. In 1891 he was still a publican in Fore Street, but all the children had left home, and the only other member of the household was George Douse, an 18-year-old nephew, working as an agricultural labourer. By 1901 they were living at Cliff Road, North Petherton, where James, at 71, was still working as a general dealer. James died in the September quarter of 1910 (Bridgwater 5c 180) at the age of 78.

Surprisingly, *Green Dragon Lane* still exists today, and is still not exotic. Among other occupants of the road are a nursery school and a Montessori primary school.

## ***Bridgwater Witheridge ENPs***

### **Family 1**

**James Witheridge/Woodridge**, born c 1793, married c 1820 **Sarah** (surname unknown), born c 1795, Minehead. He worked as a watch and clock maker, but died June qr 1847 (Bridgwater 10.247). In 1851, listed as Wootridge, Sarah, a widow, was living in Fryern Street, with two daughters, a son and a grandson. In 1861, listed as Witheridge, she was living at Green Dragon Lane and working as a charwoman. The known children of James and Sarah were:

1 **Mary Ann Witheridge**, born 1824, Bridgwater, baptised as Woodridge on 21 November 1824 in Zion Chapel. In 1849 she had a liaison with **James Coram**, baptised 29 January 1832, North Petherton, by whom she had one son, and possibly two. In 1851 and 1861 she was unmarried, and living in the family home with her widowed mother. Mary Ann Witheridge and James Coram had:

1 **William Witheridge**, born 1850, Bridgwater, at home with his mother and grandmother in 1851, and at home in 1861, working as an errand boy. By 1870 he was a rope-maker, and on 4 September 1870, in Trinity Parish Church, Bridgwater, he married **Annie Bennett**, born c 1849, Bridgwater. In 1871 they were at Roberts Buildings, Eastover, Bridgwater St Johns. They moved to Gloucester c 1875, and in 1881 were living at 1 Counsel Street, Kingsholme St Mary, Gloucester, where William was still a rope-maker. In 1891 (as Woodridge) they were at 4 Providence Place, Newport, Mon, where William was a platelayer. William and Annie had:

- 1 **William George Withridge**, born December qr 1874, Bridgwater (5c 389), in 1881 a scholar at home in Gloucester, and in 1891 at home in Newport.
- 2 **Isaac Charles Witheridge**, born December qr 1876 Gloucester (6a 316), in 1881 a scholar at home in Gloucester. Not at home in 1891.
- 3 **Elizabeth S Witheridge**, born c 1879, at home in 1881 and 1891.

Mary Ann is believed to have had a second son, John, but it is not known who the father was.

2 **John Witheridge**, born c 1855, Bridgwater, in 1861 a scholar at home with his mother and grandmother. He married c 1876 **Prudence** (surname unknown), born c 1856, Gloucester. In 1881 (as Woodridge) they were at 111 George Street, Kingsholme St Mary, close to his brother William. John was working as a labourer in a wagon works. John and Prudence had:

- 1 **Rosa Woodridge**, born c 1878, Gloucester (6a 284), at home in 1881.
- 2 **William J Woodridge**, born 1881, Gloucester, at home in 1881.

In June qr 1867 (Bridgwater 5c 605), Mary Ann (Woodridge) married **Charles William Wilkins**. In 1881 she was at home with her mother, working as a charwoman, but her husband wasn't there.

- 2 **William Witheridge**, born 1826 Bridgwater, baptised as Woodridge on 5 November 1826, Zion Chapel. He married December qr 1847 (Bridgwater 10.563), again as Woodridge, **Harriet Salome Jordan**, born c 1827 in Plymouth. In 1861 they were at Green Dragon Lane, where William was a journeyman bootmaker. William and Harriet had seven children. Harriet died December qr 1867 (Bridgwater 5c 273), aged 41, and in March qr 1873 (Axbridge 5c 867), William married **Mary Ann Southard**, who had at least two children. William and Mary Ann had five children. [Details of this prolific family will be included in a later issue of *The Witheridge Times*.]
- 3 **Sarah Woodridge**, baptised 11 January 1829, Zion Chapel, Bridgwater.
- 4 **Elizabeth Woodridge**, baptised 27 March 1831, Zion Chapel, Bridgwater.
- 5 **Rebekah Woodridge**, baptised 14 April 1833, Zion Chapel, Bridgwater, died 11 May 1834.
- 6 **Rebecca Witheridge**, born 1835, Bridgwater, baptised as Rebekah Woodridge on 23 August 1835 in Zion Chapel. In 1851 she was a shoebuilder living at home with her widowed mother. On 5 June 1854, as Rebecca Wittridge, she married **Henry James Baker**.
- 7 **James Witheridge**, born c 1840, in 1850 a scholar at home with his widowed mother. He married c 1860 **Elizabeth** (surname unknown), born c 1840, London. In 1861 they were at Green Dragon Lane, where James was a journeyman blacksmith and Elizabeth a boot-binder. Elizabeth Withridge died December qr 1879, (Bridgwater 5c 260) aged 38. By 1881 James, a widower, was living with his mother and working as a brightsmith. James married c 1894, **Elizabeth Ann** (surname unknown), born c 1856, Bridgwater, and by 1901 they were at 17 Livingstone Place, Newport, Mon, where James was a whitesmith. Also in the household was James John M (or Mc) Manby, a 51-year old tinsmith, born Bridgwater, described as a nephew. James and Elizabeth had:
  - 1 **Violet May Witheridge**, born c 1895, Newport, at home in 1901.

## Family 2

**William Witridge**, born c 1803, Bridgwater, married c 1831 Sarah (surname unknown), born c 1807 Bridgwater. In 1851 they were living in Hamp, Bridgwater Trinity, with three children. In 1871, listed as Witteridge, they were living at Old Taunton Road, Bridgwater St Mary's with their son William. William died (as Woodridge) March qr 1879 (Bridgwater 5c 327) aged 76. The known children of William and Sarah were:

- 1 **William Witridge**, born c 1833, Bridgwater. In 1851 he was living at home and working as a labourer. In 1871 he was still single and living at home with his parents. In March qr 1879 (Bridgwater 5c 479), as Woodridge, he married **Mary Seaman**, born c 1845, Bridgwater. By 1891, listed as Wooderidge, they were at Eastover (Court), Bridgwater, with four children. William was working as a bricklayer's labourer. In 1901, in No 4 Court, Eastover, William was listed as Woodridge, and working as a labourer in a brick-yard. William and Mary had:
  - 1 **Henry Wooderidge**, born c 1881, Bridgwater, at home in 1891, but not there in 1901.

- 2 **Thomas Wooderidge**, born c 1883, Bridgwater, at home in 1891, and a general labourer living at home in 1901.
- 3 **Elizabeth Wooderidge**, born c 1884, Bridgwater, at home in 1891, and a general servant living at home in 1901.
- 4 **William Wooderidge**, born c 1890, at home in 1891 and 1901.
- 2 **Elizabeth Witridge**, born 20 July 1836, Bridgwater, baptised 29 Jun 1837, Christ Church Presbyterian, Dampier Street, Bridgwater. In 1851 she was living at home.
- 3 **Thomas (Tom) Witridge**, born c 1839, Bridgwater. In 1851 he was living at home and working as an errand boy. He married c 1863 **Ann** (surname unknown), born c 1841, Spaxton, Somerset. In 1871, listed as Tom and Mary Ann Woodridge, with Mary Ann aged 27, born Charlinch, they were at Sandy Bank Cottages, Wembdon, where Tom was a labourer. In 1881 they were at Oxford Street, Burnham, where Thomas was a brickyard labourer. Thomas and Ann had:
  - 1 **Henry Witridge**, born c 1864, Bridgwater, in 1871 (Woodridge) a scholar at home in Wembdon. In 1881 he was an agricultural labourer living at home in Burnham. In September qr 1887 (Wells 5c 792), he married **Elizabeth Nicholls**, born c 1867, Wedmore, and in 1901 they were at 84 Williams Street, Newport, Mon, where Henry was a fitter/helper.
  - 2 **William Witridge**, born c 1867, Bridgwater, in 1871 (Woodridge) a scholar at home in Wembdon. In 1881 he was an agricultural labourer living at home. Not at home in 1891. He married **Norah** (surname unknown), born c 1867, Meare, Somerset, and in 1901 they were at 18 Clarendon Road, Weston-super-Mare, where William was a general labourer.
  - 3 **Alma Witridge**, born December qr 1870, Bridgwater (5c 402), in 1871 at home in Wembdon and in 1881 a scholar at home in Burnham. In 1891 she was a servant in the household of Eliza Chadwick at 2 Beach Terrace, Burnham. Still as Witridge, she married, September qr 1892 (W Ham 4a 172), **Thomas John Hunt** (John), a ship's engineer.. In 1901 they were at 29 Ranelagh Road, West Ham. Alma and John had:
    - 1 Amy Hunt, born c 1892, Stratford, Essex, in the family home in 1901.
    - 2 Ernest Hunt, born c 1898, West Ham, Essex, in the family home in 1901.
    - 3 Percival Hunt, born c 1899, West Ham, Essex, in the family home in 1901.
  - 4 **Eva Witridge**, born June qr 1873, Bridgwater (5c 431), died December qr 1873 (Bridgwater 5c 258), aged 0.
  - 5 **Tom Witridge**, born March qr 1875, Bridgwater (5c 414), in 1881 a scholar at home. In March qr 1898 (Newport Mon, 11a 255) he married **Mary Eliza Dowling**. In 1901, as Witridge, they were boarding at 109 Alma Street, Newport, where Tom was an iron dresser's foreman. Tom and Mary had:
    - 1 **Charles Wittridge**, born c 1898, Newport, in the family home in 1901.

- 6 **Eva Witridge**, born December qr 1876, Bridgwater (5c 371), in 1881 a scholar at home in Burnham, and in 1891 a scholar at home in Wells. She married, December qr 1905 (Wells 5c 974), either George Clarke or Tom Palmer Nuttey.
- 7 **Ernest George Witridge**, born September qr 1880 (Axbridge 5c 537), died September qr 1880 (Axbridge 5c 365), aged 0.
- 8 **Bessie Ann Witridge**, born December qr 1881, Burnham (Axbridge 5c 540), a scholar at home in Wells in 1891. By 1901, she was a servant in the household of William Pedlingham, a fishmonger, at 30 Broadway, Roath, Cardiff. She married, September qr 1902 (Cardiff 11a 595) either Frederick Bridges or Francis Bertram Winter.

In December qr 1889 (Wells 5c 950), Tom married **Mary Jane Godfrey**, born c 1851, Ditchat, Somerset. In 1891 they were at 41 Southover, Wells, Somerset. Thomas was working as a gas stoker, and Mary was a rag sorter. Mary Jane died September qr 1897 (Wells 5c 286), aged 45. In 1901 Tom, said to be 63, was at 39 Southover, Wells, working as a mason's labourer. Also in the house was Eva Witridge, 24, born Bridgwater, said to be his wife, but believed to be his daughter, and 1-year-old Alma Witridge, said to be his daughter, but believed to be his grand-daughter.

### Family 3

**William Witheridge**, born c 1808, Bridgwater, married c (wife unknown). By 1851 William, a widower, was living in a district called Mount, in St Mary's, Bridgwater, working as a porter in a grocery shop. Also in the household were two sons, and a visitor, John Hone, a 24-year-old tailor born in Wiveliscombe. William and his wife had:

- 1 **Henry Witheridge**, born c 1832, Bridgwater, in 1851 an errand boy living at home.
- 2 **Thomas Witheridge**, born c 1836, Bridgwater, in 1851 an errand boy living at home.

This family has not yet been found in any subsequent census.

### On the side: Two men in a boat—a true story

Two elderly men were enjoying an afternoon, in the golden years of their life, fishing from a small dinghy. One was suddenly taken by a severe fit of coughing and, leaning over the side in case this should progress to something worse, was absolutely horrified when his dentures were ejected from his mouth and disappeared into the water. He fished around, desperately, searching for them.

The other man was very quick witted and, seeing an opportunity to play a prank on his friend, eased his own dentures out of his mouth, attached them to end of the fishing line, and then turned and said 'look what I just caught!'

The first man grabbed the dentures and slipped them into his mouth. Then he grimaced, took them out again and exclaimed: 'I don't know whose these are, but they're not mine!'

Then he threw them overboard.

Family news can sometimes seem caught in some strange time-warp, especially in the spring issue. Much of it arrives before Christmas, too late to appear in the winter issue. So it waits, patiently, for the spring issue. But, when it's published, there it is, conveying Christmas greetings and good wishes to us all. It's a bit like having Christmas Pudding in the summer!

Nevertheless, the news is really appreciated. Members want to know what is happening to other members. Please keep sending it.

## **News from Australia**

### **News from the Figtree Witheridges**

*Judith and Allan Witheridge, from Figtree, New South Wales, sent their newsletter to Richard Witheridge, part of which is reproduced here:*

Hello to all on our list. We trust this finds you well and surviving the 'it's nearly Christmas' days, that are speeding by. Strange, I don't think this is how it's meant to be, because all the stress, that can so easily overcome us, has nothing to do with the message we're supposed to hear: *peace, goodwill and love*. May it be *ours* and *yours*.

We've had a mixed year, like most people. Before our health put a stop to it, we did things and went places, as was our custom, but found we had to slow down before the year had gone far.

We made it again to the Tamworth Country Music Festival, and would have loved to go again in January, 2006. But...

We enjoyed seeing the Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney, had ten days on the Gold Coast in May, a week in Katoomba, culminating in the Daffodil Stroll through some lovely gardens, coordinated by some dear friends and raising money for the Blue Mountains Uniting Churches.

Since then we haven't made too many advance preparations, because health-wise things are too uncertain. Allan had another 'turn' last month with twenty-four hours in hospital and has since had lots of tests (again) but is yet to get results. He wasn't too mobile for a few months, but is now seeing a chiropractor and that seems to be working well. He received a good report about his throat at last.

Our annual Witheridge Family was washed out—and that in the middle of a drought! We also enjoyed a visit from Linda and Tony Gould, our English friends from Ashted in Surrey. Tony was ecstatic about the Ashes! *[See what I mean about a time-warp. That was 2005 when English cricket could hold its head high. For our North American readers, who may not know, the 'Ashes' is the name of the trophy for the international cricket 'world series'. - Ed.]*

I continue with lots of Church activities, lots of visits to the doctor, and regular lunches with *old* (!) friends. Things are much the same with our families. *[I have omitted the detailed news of Judith and Allans' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - Ed.]*

What awful things we've seen this year, both natural disasters and man-made violence, and we wonder how much more terror is in store. These things can be 'faith shakers', but then the



*Bateman's Bay, with a Witheridge connection*

promises of God are recalled and we go on with hope. May this Season be a blessed one for you, and 2006 bring happiness.

### **A calendar from New South Wales**

Some more news from Judith and Allan, this time it accompanied a most gorgeous calendar for 2006, with pictures from New South Wales. Two small extracts from the calendar are reproduced at the top of this page and the facing page.

The interesting calendar page is that for September 2006, Bateman's Bay, which has a Witheridge connection. In the centre of the picture (see bottom of this page), you'll see people lined up to go on a boat trip up the river. The trips are run by Steve and Ros Innes and *Innes Boat Shed* (which you see just behind the line of people), and its fish-shop in front, are a Bateman's Bay icon.

Two of the Witheridge brothers, sons of Philemon and Mary, married two of the Innes sisters. William (Allan's father) married Rose, and Joseph married Ada.

Allan's sister, Alma, lives at Bateman's Bay. She married John Templeman, a local accountant. They have two sons, Rodney and Mark, and two grandchildren, Thalia Rose and Dyllan Phillip John, born 31 December 2005.

Our city is pictured in the calendar, too, on the page for May 2006 (see facing). As you can see, fishing is still a big part of coastal lives. Unfortunately, Greenwell Point, where Philemon first settled, isn't shown.





*Wollongong (Figtree is a western suburb of Wollongong)*

### **An 80th birthday and a change of representative for the Society in Australia**

A third item of news about Judith and Allan—although these items follow each other closely here, they were quite widely spaced out originally, but just had to queue up for this spring issue.

It was Allan's 80th birthday earlier this year, and Joyce Browne sent a card with the good wishes of the Society.

In addition, if you have already read the agenda for the upcoming AGM, you will know that Judith and Allan are taking over from Dorothy, as our representatives in Australia.

The society received the following note from Allan:

*Thank you for your 80th Birthday card.*

*I have very fond memories of the 10th anniversary when the Witheridge group went down to Combe Martin and visited the St Peter ad Vincula Church.*

*My family comes from the Combe Martin branch and I have often thought about the name Philemon—my grandfather, uncle and brother are called Philemon—there seems to be a scriptural connection. On the birth of my fourth son, I considered whether I should follow the Witheridge tradition. However, I decided on the more modern scriptural name 'Paul'. I was very interested to see in a previous edition, the two other Pauls, from Canada and England, and the photos.*

*I have visited England, on three occasions, and admired your beautiful, picturesque, countryside during summer and the many grand cathedrals. We enjoyed visiting the Wesley Worship Centre in East London.*

*I met my wife in the Methodist Church and we have been members for fifty-three years. Thank you for giving to us the privilege of representing the Witheridge Family History Society in Australia.*

*God bless you and the Society.*

*My wife sends her greetings and wishes you a happy Easter. Have a good meeting of the Society.*

## **Well-wishes to Amanda Witheridge**

Amanda Witheridge, from Mount Martha, Victoria, has been in and out of hospital since January, and on 4 April had keyhole surgery to repair some problems inherited from major surgery at the end of 2004 for Crohn's Disease. She is now out of hospital and recovering, but at the same time, has moved house! On top of this, she had a ticket for the netball finals match—the gold medal match—at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, but had forgo this because of health problems.

Amanda, we wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

## **News from Canada**

### **A snowmobile accident**

Brenda Dwyne, from Hamilton Ontario, has written to say that her husband, Bill, was in a very serious snowmobile accident in March 2005, suffering concussion and two broken arms. He is still undergoing physiotherapy, and recovery is taking longer than expected—'it's worse than having a job!' However, he is now (as of Christmas 2005) back doing most things, although a bit slower and definitely avoiding snowmobiling.

At Christmas, Brenda and Bill spent time at their cottage. The preceding month had been interesting, with a tornado touching down in Hamilton (but luckily their house received no damage) and a level 4.5 earthquake occurred about seventy miles away from their cottage. They didn't feel it at all, even though some neighbours did.

Their daughter, Erin, is back at Queen's University in Kingston, for her second year of Law School. Even though she enjoys her courses, she really doesn't like being away and visits home about twice a month.

On the other hand, their other daughter, Annie, is in her second year of Psychology, at the University of Ottawa and is thoroughly enjoying it. She loves Ottawa and is quite happy living away from home.

Their son, John, finished Material Engineering in April and is now working at Dofasco, the steel plant about fifteen minutes from their house, which works out very well as there is someone to look after the house, while Brenda and Bill are at their cottage.

Erin's boyfriend, Mike, is staying with them at the cottage. He is teaching at the high school in Wiaraton and seems to be enjoying it. Being a new teacher though, he does a lot of work each night preparing lessons, marking, etc.

Bill decided to try curling in Lion's Head last autumn and had a good time. Brenda joined a community choir, which was working up to give two performances just before Christmas.

### **Well-wishes to John James**

Pat James contacted Richard Witheridge with the unhappy news that her husband, John, became very seriously ill, several months ago, with auto-immune hepatitis. He was placed on very strong medication since then, and after several months the hepatitis was cleared up.

Unfortunately, he then acquired a very deep-seated infection and has been in hospital, recovering from that. He was finally discharged as cured on Thursday, 20 April, but is still extremely weak and it will take time to fully recuperate.

John, all our very best hopes for a complete recovery as soon as possible.

## **News from New Zealand**

### **Greetings from Wellington**

*Velma and Rodney Metcalfe, from Tawa, Wellington, sent their newsletter to Richard Witheridge and it is reproduced here. Velma is the Society's representative in New Zealand.*

Summer is really here and we're looking forward to our next holiday in February. We're going up to Northland to visit Vel's mother at her coastal home for about six to eight days, and to visit friends and an aunt of Rod's en route. Then we'll drive Vel's mother south to Auckland for the wedding of her grand-daughter Caroline and Daniel Robinson (Caroline is the second daughter of Witheridge Society family members June and Andrew Gaylard). We hope to be away for two or three weeks and are really looking forward to it.

We intend to sleep a lot when we're at Cooper's Beach—very heavily too.

We'll drive rather than fly this time, otherwise we'll have to rent a vehicle when we get to Auckland and Northland. Also we recently upgraded our 1996 Toyota Corolla for a later model, 2001, with lower kilometres. Bathroom refurbishment is the next big task.

Though it's only her fifth year at Pascoes, Vel has received a gold watch—but not for of a lifetime of servitude! It was her prize in a national promotion in which a customer won a \$6,000 TV. Vel sold the winning entry and received a \$500 watch from Tissot, the Swiss makers. It's a lovely watch—very elegant.

Rodney still starts work at 5 a.m. His work has expanded and he's now supervising Radio NZ's Web News (See [www.radionz.co.nz](http://www.radionz.co.nz) for the website). After several months of preparation, the site went 'live' in early October and is attracting many viewers. In March 2006, it served 658,000 pages for the month, a new record. 'On demand' also reached new heights (123,000 items were accessed) and live streams were accessed about 50,000 times. Podcasting is also popular, increasing at a rate of about 15% per week. This was also the month that the website started streaming Parliament live.

Because there's no let-up anywhere these days, Vel is considering reducing her hours at Pascoes from five days a week to four, perhaps by mid-year.

Lots of exciting travelling has been going on, but not by us! Our next door neighbour went to Turkey and crawled all over *Gallipoli*. Rod's sister, who lives in N. Sydney, went to Bali again this year, for the fourth time. The café, where she works, was recently listed as one of Sydney's top one hundred eateries. Her daughter's just been to Japan on a school trip too. One of Rod's brothers went to Buenos Aires for a Spanish language course (he's a teacher). His other brother went to Shanghai a few times on business. His sister-in-law went to Thailand and a nephew was making plans to go to Dublin in 2006. Tawa seems a little village by comparison.

Our garden is going well: Christianne, our gardener, comes nearly every week and it's very soothing to see the results of her work. Rodney has offered to produce a quarterly newsletter for a diabetes support group. He was diagnosed in 2002 and feels he should contribute in a field in which he has lots of experience. Apart from that, our health is OK.

Have seen fewer movies this year, the most memorable being: *Cinderella Man*, *Hotel Rwanda*, *The Sea Inside (Spain)* and *Ae Fond Kiss (UK)*. *Finding Neverland*, *Pride and Prejudice (UK)*, *The Beautiful Country (US/Vietnam)* and *The Constant Gardener* were also memorable—ordinary year otherwise. Looking forward to *Narnia*.

We're also looking forward to a good break between Christmas and New Year. Wishing you all the best for Christmas and 2006.

## **News from the UK**

### **Good news from South Devon**

*If you recall, the last issue of The Witheridge Times carried a family news item with the heading Sad news from South Devon. So, it is with great pleasure, that we publish this item. Richard Witheridge forwarded this good news from the Tom and Sheila Jewell, which he received just before Christmas:*

Ian is now completing his third week at home and still showing improvement. On Tuesday, he walked around the river edge and part of town with a couple of long-standing mates—all quite entertaining as they talked over old times. Wednesday was more of a test, as he visited the Valley of Rocks, at Lynton, with Michael. He did admit to finding it a bit puffy on the steep ascents, but who wouldn't!

He has the resolve and is extending his diet as the effects of the chemotherapy wear off. Next week he is having tests to check on the progress of the stem cell transplant.

*This was followed, in February, by a further update:*

We had purposely deferred this super update, as we were all waiting the prospect of encouraging news, following a hospital check up yesterday (after a five week interval).

The specialists were in buoyant mood and immediately confirmed that Ian was now in remission. He is putting on weight and they noted that his quick recovery from the medication is quite remarkable. Thalidomide is to be prescribed, but any other medication, apart from a

nebuliser to assist his lungs a little, is not planned to include any antibiotics. We take that to mean he can now fight his own corner against infection, on a daily basis, as the rest of us do. Our weekly walks on Exmoor will now have to be limited to the odd sunny weekend, as Ian returned to work today—restricted hours initially to see how he copes. No biking to work is envisaged though!

We are so delighted that the medics and Ian himself have combined so effectively to stave off the problem.

No further updates will be forthcoming. Thank you all for your love and kind thoughts.

### **A Diamond Wedding Anniversary**

Joyce and Graham Browne celebrated their sixtieth anniversary, on 1 September 2005. Joyce is one of the Society's two honorary life Vice-Presidents, and Graham is a past Chairman.

This news *should* have made it into the winter issue of *The Witheridge Times*; very regrettably it didn't. So, very belated congratulations to Joyce and Graham. It is a wonderful and rare achievement.

### **A Ruby Wedding Anniversary**

Congratulations to Ron and Brenda Dixon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 1 April. Their daughter Sarah organised a superb reception and dinner for them at a country club in Kent—full report and photos in next issue! Ron is our current Chairman.

## ***News from the USA***

### **Greetings from our Honorary Vice-President**

*In November, last year, Richard Witheridge received a message from Rev David Witheridge.*

Because I have moved, and in order to give you my new address, I decided to send my Holiday Greetings early this year. It has been a difficult year, but it has all worked out for the best.

In March and April, I had two cataract operations. Then, toward the end of May, I had a mild heart attack. I didn't have to have an operation; they just treated me with medications.

Because of my age (91), Jim and Tom and I all decided I should move out of my two-storey eight-room house into an assisted-living apartment. So we sold the house, and I moved into a three-room apartment on August 1st. The address is:

3535 Bryant Ave. S., Apt. 518, Minneapolis, MN 55408, USA

I like the apartment and am adjusting very well. Of course, a lot of boxes still haven't been unpacked, partially because I've been in the hospital twice and in a nursing home once for minor problems, since I got here. But I'm practically back to normal now, and I'm getting back to my major project, writing our family history.

Well so much for me. Now I'm looking forward to hearing from you. I hope you have had a good year, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful year ahead.

# Witheridge Family Recipes

In this issue, we have a recipe from Joyce Browne—very yummy. We tried it out and the results lasted fifteen minutes before they had all been eaten. If you are on a diet, you might want to consider making a very small amount.

## Cherry Shortbreads

### Ingredients:

- 1) 2 oz (55 g) margarine
- 2) 2 oz (55g) plain flour
- 3) 1 oz ((30g) glacé cherries, chopped
- 4) 2 level tablespoons castor sugar
- 5) pinch of salt

*Castor sugar* is not available in all countries, so if you can't get it, just use ordinary sugar.

### Method:

Rub margarine into flour, salt and sugar. Add cherries. Knead into dough, without adding any water. Roll out to about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (30 mm) thick and bake on a greased baking sheet, in cool oven at gas mark 4 (175 °C or 350 °F) until pale brown.



*By Joyce Browne*



*Cherry Shortbreads, lightly dusted with icing sugar*

# The Witheridge Times Index



*By Alison and...*



*Alan Smith*

Surname	Forename(s)	Dates	Notes	Vol	No	Page
WITHERIDGE	William Percy	1846	Christening	18	2	19
WITHERIDGE	William Percy	1861	Birth	18	2	20
WITHERIDGE	William Percy	1846	Birth	18	1	29
WITHERIDGE	William Thomas	1805	Baptism	18	1	14
WITHERIDGE	William W	Ab 1879	Birth	18	2	22
WITHERIDGE	William W	1879	Birth/death	17	2	29
WITHERIDGE	Willie		Son of J P Witheridge	16	3	20
WITHERIDGE	Willie W	1879	1880 Census	17	2	28
WITHERS	Alice	1578	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	Joan	1575	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	Joan	1578	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	John			16	1	9-11
WITHERS	John	1565	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	John	1624	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	Laurence			16	1	10
WITHERS	Mary			16	1	9-11
WITHERS	Mary	1576	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	Nathaniel	1638	Marriage	16	1	11
WITHERS	Thomas	1582	Baptism	16	1	10
WITHERS	William	1573	Baptism	16	1	10
WOLFE	Margaret		Marriage	18	2	28
WOOD			Family Tree Witheridge fm	15	3	16-17
WOOD	Ann	1851	Census	15	1	16
WOOD	Ann	1851	Census	15	1	16
WOOD	Ann	1861	Census	15	1	19
WOOD	Ann	1871	Census	15	1	20
WOOD	Charles	1851	Census	15	1	16
WOOD	Charles	1861	Census	15	1	19

For several years now, *The Witheridge Times Index*

has covered the early issues (volumes 1 to 12), but not the later ones. The *Index* covering these early years was prepared by Richard Witheridge and is available, in hard copy, from him.

Two years ago we were asked, at the AGM, to look at bringing the Index up to the present year. After several abortive attempts to devise an Index which would be a useful reference tool in this computer age, we decided to base the Index on *people* mentioned in articles with direct reference to the *page* and *issue* concerned. The format is different from the earlier one, but we hope that readers will find it easy to use. It does not yet cover all the missing years, but, by the end of this year, we hope to have completed the task up until 2005.

The result, of the strategy adopted, means that *Adolf Hitler* appears in the Index, and *Witheridge Farm* is listed, but not *Bideford*! These anomalies may seem strange, but it seemed more important to mention specific people, mentioned in the magazine, than places. Likewise, specific buildings only where pictures were featured in an article.

Some committee members have copies on disc and your comments and observations would be appreciated as soon as possible in order that changes, additions or amendments can be made.

After one or two glitches have been sorted, it is hoped that the Index will be available to all on either disc or hard copy at prices to be agreed.

# Devon Crackpots Set Fire to Lord Nelson's Flagship while Witheridges Watch

It was the 200th anniversary of Nelson's great victory, but no, the men of Devon did not exactly sail into Portsmouth harbour to commit this dreadful act. Nevertheless, how could I pass up the opportunity to compose such a lurid headline!

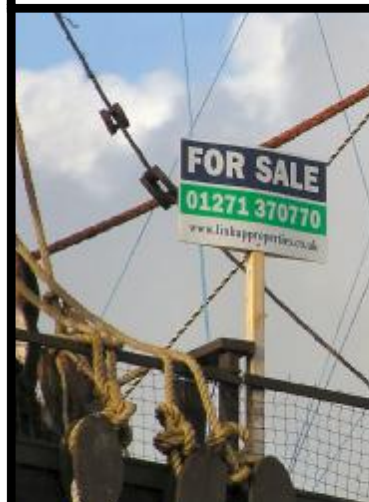
Some clue, to what might be going on, can be gleaned by examining the photo at the right. Lord Nelson would be turning over in his grave if the real HMS *Victory* ever sported a 'For Sale' notice like that.

This particular *Victory* was 'sailing' on the green fields of North Devon. It was, in fact, an accurate half-scale, copy of the real HMS *Victory*, which had been built by the *Great Torrington Cavaliers* just outside the town of Great Torrington.

Then, on the evening of Saturday, 27 August, 2005, they set fire to it, watched by a crowd of over 20,000, including (at least) two Witheridges, namely Beryl and myself.



By Paul Witheridge





It was a charity event—but what a magnificent charity event—and raised £72,000 (or about \$128,000 in US currency) for some seventy different charities (including the North Devon Hospice and the Chestnut Appeal for Prostate Cancer).

The photos at the right show the *Victory* ablaze and the field of smouldering ash, which, apart from the partly burnt masts, was all that remained the following morning.

Every few years, the *Cavaliers* organise a bonfire for charity. Previous bonfires have included the German battleship *Bismark*, London's *Pudding Lane* at the time of Great Fire of London, and the *Gunpowder Plot* to blow up Parliament.

The *Cavaliers* organisation was born in 1970, when Plymouth hosted a county-wide carnival inviting entries from all the towns in Devon. A group of young men, from *Great Torrington*, dressed up as Cavaliers and entered a float depicting the old parish church, which had been blown up by Roundheads in 1646, with 300 Cavalier prisoners inside, during the Civil War.

For more information, visit the Cavalier's website: at <http://www.torrington-cavaliers.co.uk> which has many more photos.



**P.S.** If you are curious about the flavour of the ice cream I was eating, download the full colour version of the magazine from the website.

### **On the side:** Us be plaised to zee 'ee

These words were blazened across a banner over the main street in Great Torrington.

Beryl and I went to Great Torrington with friends whose family originated from there, and were the guests of some of the family who still live there. We were made really welcome and had a great time.

However, we were surprised to find that the banner was not just a marketing device to attract tourists. Many people still spoke like that, especially those who had lived all their lives in Great Torrington.

And, strangley, after just a couple of days, we found ourselves on the point of saying things like “‘er’s just gone down the town” or “us’ll see you later”, and had to remind ourselves that it would sound really unnatural from us!

# Members e-mail Addresses

By Kathy Witheridge

## Corrections:

Julia Crocker (UK) ..... [julia.crocker@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.crocker@btinternet.com)  
Barbara Finemore (UK) ..... [barbara@finemore.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:barbara@finemore.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Additions:

Gwenda Mason (UK) ..... [gwenda@masonfam.co.uk](mailto:gwenda@masonfam.co.uk)

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](mailto: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 the 2006 Witheridge Reunion

Before I turn to the next issue, I would like to acknowledge the help of my granddaughter, Bethany, who volunteered to assist in stuffing the magazines into the envelopes. This is normally done automatically by our printers, Parchment of Oxford. This time, however, it was a DIY job, because we had the booking forms and questionnaires, as well. Of course, once I had ‘employed’ Bethany to do the job, I found that I had to take on her sister, Caitlin, too—almost a unionised stuffing shop!

The next issue is due out in the summer, in August. It will, of course, carry a report and photos of the 2006 Reunion and AGM, as well as bring you up-to-date on preparations for the 2007 Twentieth Anniversary meeting.

We also expect to have an article from Kim Cook, following on from the articles in this issue. Some other members have promised future articles—I hope they will not be too miffed, when I hound them for the copy!

In addition, I have an article, held over from this issue, about how to use a computer to search those magazine issues which are available in digital format, as PDF files.

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



*Bethany Witheridge, chief stuffer*



*Caitlin Witheridge, assistant stuffer*

*Continued from inside front cover*

# Officers of the Society

## Secretary

**Mrs Beryl Witheridge**  
1 Ragmans Close  
Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3QW  
e-mail: [Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## Auditor

**Mr Ron Dixon**  
21 Poplar Avenue  
Orpington, Kent, BR6 8LA

## Representative for Australia

**Mrs Judith and Mr Allan Witheridge**  
57 Outlook Drive  
Figtree, New South Wales, 2525, Australia  
e-mail: [Australia@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:Australia@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## Representative for North America

**Mrs Kathy Witheridge**  
343 Bright Street  
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, N7T 4G5  
e-mail: [NAmerica@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:NAmerica@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## Representative for New Zealand

**Mrs Velma Metcalfe**  
49 Chester Road  
Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand  
e-mail: [NZealand@WitheridgeFHS.com](mailto:NZealand@WitheridgeFHS.com)

## *Committee Members*

**Mrs Joyce Browne**  
5 Greenhill Avenue  
Luton, Beds, LU2 7DN

**Mr Graham Browne**  
*Address as for Mrs Joyce Browne*

**Mr Jason Cook**  
2 Rusthall Close  
Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 7YH

**Mrs Barbara Finemore**  
1 Corfe Avenue  
Hartley Vale, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 5SQ

**Mrs Alison Smith**  
81 Wear Bay Road  
Folkstone, Kent, CT19 6PR

**Mr Mark Witheridge**  
27 Shenley Fields Road  
SellyOak, Birmingham, West Midlands, B29 5AG

**Mrs Maureen Witheridge**  
16 Haven Close  
Dunster, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6RW

## **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	<b>(please: subscription must be in UK Pounds Sterling)</b>

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.

