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The magazine of
The Wetheridge
Family History Society

Volume 20 Number 2

Summer 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

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

Vice-Chairman

Mr Paul Witheridge
1 Ragmans Close
Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3QW
e-mail: ViceChair@WitheridgeFHS.com

Secretary

Mrs Beryl Witheridge
1 Ragmans Close
Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3QW
e-mail: Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com

Membership Secretary

Mr Paul Witheridge
Address as for Vice-Chairman
e-mail: Membership@WitheridgeFHS.com

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

Treasurer

Mrs Beryl Witheridge
Address as for Secretary
e-mail: Treasurer@WitheridgeFHS.com

Assistant Treasurer

Mr Paul Witheridge
Address as for Vice-Chairman

Research Coordinator

Mrs Kim Cook
Address as for Honorary Life President

Editor and Publisher

Mr Paul Witheridge
Address as for Vice-Chairman
e-mail: 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

continued on inside back cover

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

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Visit the Witheridge Family History Society 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.

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Editorial

This issue should be one to gladden the misanthropic hearts of *Witheridge Times* editors—with more material available than could possibly be squeezed in!

However, it has to be said that much of the bulk is bureaucratic ‘bumf’, namely the minutes of the AGM, officers reports, and so on. So we have extended the number of pages to put some more varied material for those of you who are allergic to minutes!

This year’s reunion took place in Porlock, Somerset. It has become my practice to place, at the foot of the facing page, some snippet of information about our ancestral homeland, the County of Devon. However, on this occasion, I decided to make it about Somerset and, in particular, about Porlock. Of course, many Witheridges have lived, and live, in Somerset. In fact, my own family moved there at the beginning of the last century, before relocating to Oxford at the time of World War I.

We also have a number of pages devoted to new members (a big welcome to these) and, sadly, some pages taken up by obituaries.

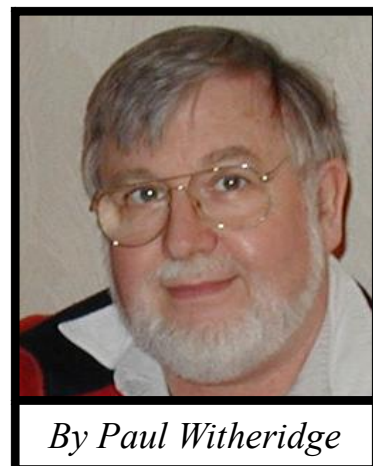
I think, that at the start of my second year as editor, it’s a good time to repeat one of the style rules I have adopted for the magazine, that is *names* which have *genealogical significance* are *underlined* to make them stand out. Underlining is normally deprecated in modern publishing, with italic or bold-face fonts preferred for emphasizing words or phrases. It’s this ‘rarity’ aspect of underlining that appealed to me—the only other use, within the magazine, is for highlighting references to the Internet (that is, for URLs and e-mail addresses). So, if you flip through the pages of the magazine, these genealogical names can be easily spotted.

However, I do not apply this rule when reproducing material in Kim Cook’s *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree* format, which has its own rules. I am sorry about the inconsistency, but yet another, overriding, rule of style is that material quoted from another source retains its own style!

So much has happened, in the world at large, since the last issue of *The Witheridge Times* was published. In particular, I am thinking about the widespread airport security alerts that followed the uncovering of a plot to blow up planes, en route from Britain to the USA. I wonder how many members this affected. I ferried my son and his family, including three small children, laden with iPods, CD players, books, games, and so on, to Gatwick Airport the day before everything happened. They were so lucky to get away before the chaos.

Like everyone else, I watched the 24-hour newscasts with a fascination and a underlying feeling that ‘this cannot be real’, and I thought about our own future air-travel—could I ever consign my precious laptop and cameras to the tender mercies of the baggage-handlers!

Then the local newspaper dropped through the letterbox. One of the three areas where police raids took place was *High Wycombe*, not so many miles from where we live. It was there that police continued searching *Kings Wood*, eventually unearthing terrorist materials.



By Paul Witheridge

The newspaper carried a front page headline, 'We are scared', and related the fears of the neighbours—'You find yourself looking twice at people you have known for years. Nobody is talking to anyone else because we are all scared.' To most of us, the scares were a nine-day wonder. The newspapers and the TV news dropped the story in favour of more recent news (did you catch the one about the blind driver who was stopped for speeding?)—but how long will it take that area of High Wycombe to return to normal?

Very important: a plea from Richard Witheridge, coordinator for the important twentieth anniversary reunion, next year. If you want to see any trips organised for this reunion, **please fill in and return the questionnaire** that was sent out with the last issue of *The Witheridge Times*. You can also complete this questionnaire online, via the *Members Only* area of the Society's website. **Note:** you will need your membership number and password to sign in to this area. If you don't know these, send an e-mail to Request@Witheridge.org, giving your name, address and membership number (if you know it).

Once again, a big *thank you* to our contributors, especially to those contributing for the first time. We could not produce the magazine without you. Please keep the articles coming.

Finally, in a lighter mood, an illustration of the editor's plight when trying to avoid ambiguity: from a sign on some railings in the centre of Oxford 'Please do not lean bicycles against these railings as they may be removed.'

On the side: The Beast of Porlock

No, this is not some monster stalking the streets of Porlock in the shadows of the night, ready to savage the odd tourist in the best traditions of Hollywood. It's a real beast; it just happened to have died three and a half thousand years ago!

After storms in 1996, the shingle ridge along the edge of Porlock Bay was moved back into the marsh exposing the blue-grey silts previously protected beneath it. In these silt layers were found the bones of an aurochs. The aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) is the ancestor of nearly all species of modern domestic cattle. The Porlock aurochs was one of the last to have survived in Britain, where they died out around 1500 BC. The last known aurochs in the world died in 1627, in Poland.

If you prefer a real Hollywood-style beast, your best choice around Porlock would be the *Beast of Exmoor*. In the last thirty years there have been many 'sightings' of a strange beast prowling on Exmoor. Most tell of a large, black cat with ferocious eyes that, when spotted, disappears into the undergrowth. It could be a panther or puma, but attempts to catch the 'beast' have failed and some believe the rumours are false. However, many sheep-killings have occurred on the moor, though no humans have ever been bothered, so the story of the beast goes on.

In 2004, in a debate in the House of Commons, the MP for Bridgwater gave an alternative definition of the 'real' beast of Exmoor, which he declared was the 'beast of bureaucracy'. He was referring to the Exmoor National Park Authority.

Report from the 2006 Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held, as usual, on the morning of the first day of the annual *Witheridge Family History Society* reunion: Saturday, 20 May 2006. The venue for this year was the Village Hall in Porlock, Somerset

The village lies at the foot of *Porlock Hill*, famous for being one of the steepest in England. The hill leads up onto Exmoor National Park, which straddles the Devon-Somerset border.

Porlock derives its name from the Saxon *portlocan*, meaning 'an enclosed harbour', although today's Porlock is about a mile inland from the actual coast. It was once the seat of the West Saxon kings and was invaded by Danish pirates in 918. In 1052, it was burnt by Harold, the son of Earl Godwin, who sailed here from Ireland with nine ships, and vestiges of whose camp still remain.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

This was the first AGM in which members, who were unable to attend the meeting in person, could register anonymous absentee votes (via the *Members Only* area of the Society's website) for those agenda items where a vote was required: items 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 .

In fact, three members did register absentee votes. In each case, these votes were in favour of the motion.

1. Opening and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Ron Dixon, at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Kim and Roy Cook, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Pamela Glynn, Lorna Home, Marcia Taylor, Beryl and Paul Witheridge (UK), June and David Witheridge, Kathy and Paul Witheridge (Canada), and Maureen and Richard Witheridge.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Joyce and Graham Browne, Zoe and Jason Cook, Barbara Finemore, Carol Goynes, Alison and Alan Smith, David Torborg and Jim Witheridge, Val Wells, Rev David Witheridge, and Jenny and Mark Witheridge.

3. Minutes of the AGM held at Marlow Bottom on 21 May 2005

It was proposed that the report of the Minutes, as published in *The Witheridge Times* of summer 2005, be accepted. Proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK); seconded by Richard Witheridge; passed unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2005 AGM

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Officer's reports

Reports were presented by the following: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator, Editor, and Webmaster. The text of these reports can be found following these minutes.

6. Election of officers and committee members

The following were elected, unopposed:

<i>Chairman</i>	Ron Dixon
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK)
<i>Secretary</i>	Beryl Witheridge
<i>Treasurer</i>	Beryl Witheridge
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK)
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK)
<i>Research Coordinator</i>	Kim Cook
<i>Editor</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK)
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	Kim Cook
<i>Webmaster</i>	Kathy Witheridge
<i>Committee member</i>	Graham Browne
<i>Committee member</i>	Pamela Glynn

See *Follow-on from the Annual General Meeting*, on page 13, for late-breaking news.

7. Overseas representatives

Judith and Allan Witheridge were confirmed as the Society's new representatives for Australia. The representatives for New Zealand, Velma Metcalfe, and North America, Kathy Witheridge, were happy to continue serving.

A vote of thanks to these representatives was proposed by the Chairman, Ron Dixon, seconded by the Secretary, Beryl Witheridge, and passed unanimously.

8. Progress report on our twentieth anniversary reunion in 2007

Richard Witheridge, the coordinator for the twentieth anniversary reunion, said that he had visited Devon during 9–13 May 2006 and had taken the opportunity to inspect the Combe Cross hotel, which he found to be excellent, as Paul and Beryl Witheridge had already described.

The manager took him all over the hotel and showed him the rooms. He also gave Richard contact details for a local coach operator. Richard spoke with operator and discussed the tours being proposed for the reunion. Richard will contact the coach operator again when more details are known.

Also, some questionnaires had been returned, giving some idea of where members would like to go.

9. Minor changes to the Society's constitution

These changes (details published on page 5 of the previous issue of *The Witheridge Times* Volume 20 Number 1) were proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK), seconded by Beryl Witheridge and passed unanimously.

Note: the updated version of the constitution is available for download from the *Members Only* area of the Society's website.

10. Overhauling the Society's constitution

The committee was tasked with reviewing the constitution and preparing a motion for amending it, to put to the 2007 AGM; proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK), seconded by Beryl Witheridge and passed unanimously.

11. Payment of subscriptions electronically

The treasurer was asked to investigate and report back to the committee; proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK); seconded by Brenda Dixon and passed unanimously.

12. Archiving

This was referred to the committee for further discussion; proposed by Paul Witheridge (Canada), seconded by Richard Witheridge and passed unanimously.

13. Data protection

This was referred to the committee for implementation; proposed by Kim Cook, seconded by Richard Witheridge and passed unanimously.

14. Research budget

This motion was withdrawn.

15. Any other business

The secretary told the meeting of a letter she had received from a former member, Peter Grafton, in response to a mail shot to erstwhile members inviting them to rejoin the Society. Peter explained that he could not join us in Porlock as the date coincided with the celebration of his ninetieth birthday. The meeting passed a unanimous motion of congratulations to Peter and good wishes for his celebration.

The secretary also passed on a message from Alison and Allan Smith. Due to health problems within their family, they were currently unable to spend any time on family history matters. Also, for the foreseeable future, they would be unable to continue work on their *Index* to back issues of *The Witheridge Times* (see page 37 of *The Witheridge Times* Volume 20 Number 1 for more details of this *Index*) and hoped that another member could take the work over. In addition, Alison also regretted that she could no longer serve on the Society's committee. The meeting recorded its sympathy with Alison and Allan, and also thanked them for all the hard work already poured into the Index.

Kim Cook proposed that *The Witheridge Times* be entered in the *Federation of Family History Societies* competition for the *Elizabeth Simpson Award*. This was seconded by Pamela Glynn and passed unanimously. See *Follow-on from the Annual General Meeting*, on page 13, for further information.

The chairman closed the meeting at 12:00 a.m., just in time to prepare for the arrival of a photographer from the *Western Morning News*, who assembled the members in the car park for a photo shoot (see *Fame at Last!* on page 22 for more about this).

Once the photos had been taken, members surged across the road to the *Ship Inn* for a well-deserved lunch.

Chairman's Report

I thank members for their attendance and hope they had a pleasant journey to Porlock. I would also like to give a special welcome to the overseas members.

Although I'm only a 'sleeping member' of the Society (being merely *married* to a Witheridge), from my standpoint, I feel that the Society is fit and well, and meeting its aims and objectives.

The Society is operating as a very professional body, making use of modern technology for both research and running the Society. As a result, the information offered to members, via *The Witheridge Times* and the Society's website, is exceptional.

I should like to offer special thanks to Beryl and Paul Witheridge for the time and effort they had given to the Society since they took up their posts, in particular the arrangements made for this AGM..

Secretary's Report

This is my first report as secretary and I must say I have had a few problems trying to determine exactly what the responsibilities of the Society's secretary are! Hopefully, I have now managed to sort it out.

I would like to thank Pamela Glynn, for her help in looking for a suitable venue for this reunion. Thanks are also due to Richard and Maureen Witheridge, for their help in running around checking out the hall, hotels, etc.

One big activity this year was a mail-shot to lapsed members, inviting them to rejoin the Society and attend our twentieth anniversary meeting next year. This was suggested by Jason Cook, who also did much of the early work. Thank you, Jason.

Twenty lapsed members were selected as candidates for the mail-shot. Of these, six turned out to be deceased.

I had only one response from the fourteen letters that I sent out. This was a letter from Peter Grafton, which I would like to quote:

Dear Beryl Witheridge

Thank you for your letter of the 8th inst. I'm afraid I won't be joining you at Porlock as the date co-incides with the celebration locally of my 90th birthday on the 19th. Assuming I'm still around, the same applies to Bovey Tracey in 2007. I wish you a happy visit on both occasions. In the meantime, I would appreciate a copy of the Witheridge Times.

with compliments

Yours Sincerely

Peter Grafton



By Ron Dixon



By Beryl Witheridge

One other letter was returned as 'address unknown'. It was worth the attempt, but I think we have to conclude that mail-shots to lapsed members are not going to be very effective.

I have also been collecting *Witheridge Family Recipes*, which we will publish in a booklet for the twentieth anniversary in 2007. So far, I have accumulated thirty-five, but I need more. So, please keep sending them in. We will also continue to publish selected recipes in the magazine.

Treasurer's Report

Our funds remain about the same, although a small increase is expected due to the rise in membership. The extra pages in the magazine have obviously increased printing and distribution costs, but is affordable. The final balance is slightly down on last year, but this often depends on when members pay their subscriptions, some of which will be shown on the next years balance sheet.

The statement of income and expenditure for the year end 30 April 2006 is reproduced on the facing page.



*By Richard
Witheridge*

Membership Secretary's Report

By Richard Witheridge

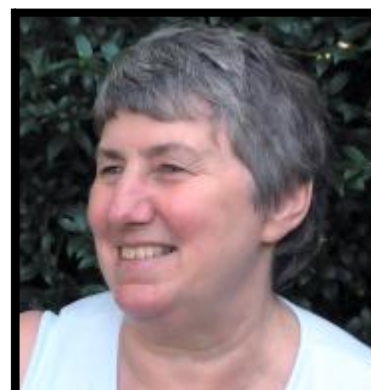
There is very little to report this year. The membership has increased by two new members and no members have left the Society. The new members are *Joy Allbrooke* and *Catherine Pepper*. [And four more members since this report!. See pages 23-30. Ed]

I have also had three enquiries: the first from *Larry Glen Witheridge*, in Denver, Colorado, who is retiring from being a Locomotive Engineer and wishes to travel; the second from *Debbie Witheridge*, requesting information about Witheridges; and the third from *Jennie Robins*. All of these have been sent information about the Society, including joining forms. However, there have been no replies to date.

Research Coordinator's Report

There are four major elements to the job of research coordinator:

- The first is to help and advise other researchers. If anyone is pursuing a particular line of research, please contact the Research Coordinator, who can tell you what has already been done on that line, ensuring that no one wastes time and money repeating research that has already been done.
- The second element inevitably involves actually doing research, making use of the latest resources as they become available, particularly on the Internet and on CD-ROM..
- The third ensures that the results of all the research are put together in a way that is coherent, and that any apparent contradictions or queries are resolved as far as possible.



By Kim Cook

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2006.

INCOME.

Brought forward from March 2005 statement No 214	<u>£1402.77</u>
Membership Subscriptions including payments for previous years.	£395.00
Donations to Society	£ 0.00
TOTAL	<u>£ 395.00</u>

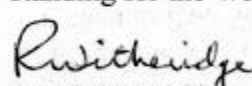
EXPENDITURE

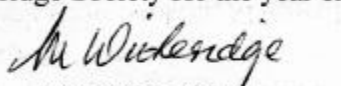
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 19 No 1	£ 88.62
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 19 No 2	£ 86.10
Payment to Parchment for printing and despatch of Magazine Vol 19 No 3	£ 96.04
Payment to Paul Witheridge to booking Marlow Bottom Hall.	£ 52.50
Payment to Beryl Witheridge for Tea/coffee and buffet lunch. (AGM May 2005)	£121.15
Payment to Kim Cook for buying 11 Wills @ £3 each less deduction for 2 membership subscriptions @ £10 each, plus £0.44 owing overpaid previously.	£ 13.44
Membership Secretary account (Donation)	£ 00.00
Secretary's account (No submission)	£ 00.00
Subscription to Guild of One-Name Studies. (2006)	£ 12.00
Subscription to Federation of Family History (2006.)	£ 30.00
TOTAL	<u>£499.85</u>

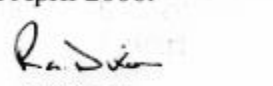
FINAL BALANCE **£1297.92**

As per statement No 225 dated 21st March 2006

We the undersigned believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30th April 2006.


R H Witheridge
Treasurer.
Dated 5-4-06


M L Witheridge.
Assistant Treasurer.
Dated 5.4.06.


R Dixon
Auditor.
Dated 8.4.06

NOTE. I have paid the subscription to the GoONS and FFHS and although held in my name, it is fully understood that I represent the Witheridge Family History Society.

The balance carried forward and shown on the statement will be as stated on the **March** statement from the bank. This gives me time to prepare the accounts and pass to the Auditor and make it simpler for checking by the Auditor. Any later payments/deductions will be included with next year's figures.

Richard Witheridge. 3rd APR 2006.


Treasurer.

- The fourth involves making sure that these coherent documents are stored safely and are readily available to key members so that enquiries can be handled efficiently.

I have to say that, in the past year, I've heard very little from people who are researching. Whether that's because very little research is being done, or whether it's just that people are ploughing their own furrows, I don't know. Joyce Browne, as always, is the one who keeps me informed of what she is researching, and passes on the results of her enquiries, and all of us owe her most hearty thanks for the sterling and thorough work she does. We are also extremely grateful for the valued assistance of Sheila Jewell, whose expertise and readiness to invade yet again our Devonshire documents, is greatly appreciated. At this point, it seems appropriate to record what Joyce has been doing this year, in some cases with the assistance of Sheila.

Early in the year Joyce looked into a Witheridge birth and a marriage in the Great Yarmouth area which did not seem to fit in with known family in that area. She found them to be 'strays'—the family of one of our present members, Gordon Witheridge, based in the Midlands. This was followed by a search of the 1871 census for Stratton, Cornwall, which enabled her to pass on to Kathy information about two Bradworthy families. Joyce has also tried to find information about the origin and incidence of the name Sylvester in the Kent family, which might link it to the American family or a South Devon family, but nothing could be found. (I have since found evidence linking this family to Bedfordshire). Finally Joyce has been trying to find whether there is a connection between William Baker Witheridge of Yealmpton and the extensive Baker family there, and Sheila Jewell has searched the parish records on Joyce's behalf, but so far nothing has been discovered. Joyce says she finds the dearth of positive results in these enquiries very frustrating—an experience I have often felt myself! But we must remember that no research is wasted. Even negatives are useful, because they force us to look in other directions, perhaps to do some lateral thinking, which may lead us to the right answers.

My own research has been fairly extensive. With access, either online or via CD-ROM, to all the available census returns for England and Wales, a wider range of parish documents, wills and directories, as well as some records for Australia and the US, it has been possible to follow through families for which we've not previously had easy access to records.

As a result, I've been able to tie together the Wetheridge families of London, although their origins prior to 1808 are still unclear. I've also been able to resolve some of the issues with the ancestors and descendants of the George Causey Witheridge family, to compile a fuller picture of the Kent-London-Birmingham branch, and resolve some of the issues in the south Devon branches.

Following up the queries on Silvester Witheridge, I noted that the *International Genealogical Index* (or IGI, published by the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* or LDS) has two distinct entries for a Silvester Witheridge, both born on the same day, both the son of Silvester and Mary, and both extracted chronologically, (i.e. an official transcript by LDS, not an individual entry), but one was born in Riseley, Bedfordshire, England, the other in Salem, Massachussets.

The Riseley records show that Silvester and Mary Wetheridge had two children, Prudence born 8 October 1686, and Silvester, born 17 March 1688. Both these are shown as birth dates, with no baptism date shown. The entries covered by this transcript are from 1644 to 1867. The records for Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, are identical, except that the name is Witheridge and the details of entries from which the transcript is taken say 1849! Another entry shows that Silvester Whitridge married in Lynn, Essex, Massachusetts, Mary Buckley.

If settlers in Salem had to give their date of birth on local documents, these may have come to light in 1849, and later been transcribed and filmed. If the Salem dates are correct, there seems to be no doubt that the Massachusetts family came originally from Bedfordshire. This Bedfordshire group certainly needs investigating further to see if they might have any connection with Devon. One possibility is that they came originally from lands owned by the Duke of Bedford, and were moved from one of his Devon estates to one in Bedfordshire. There is still much work to be done in the area of many Witheridges who were tenants of the Dukes of Bedford.

In trying to make it easy to combine information held by various members, and present it in a way that is easy to store, back-up and transmit, does not take up vast amounts of computer space, and does not depend on compatibility of computer systems or programs, I have devised the *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree* (ENP) format, which I believe meets these criteria, and which I have used professionally for over two years. My clients like it and find it easy to follow, and I trust our member will too.

I am already transferring my own information on Witheridge families to ENP format, and although this is still very much work in progress, I have brought with me today printouts of ENPs for seven branches: Thurlestone and South Milton; Bideford, Northam, Halwell, Newton Abbot etc (the Causey Witheridges); Newton Ferrers; Buckland; South Hams; Kent, London and Birmingham; and the Wetheridges of Highgate and Camberwell, London. I hope that anyone who has any information on these families will check them out and make written notes if there is anything to add, query or correct. These ENPs had been prepared in colour, which makes them much easier to read, but for some reason my computer is now failing to recognise my colour printer, so I apologise that these ENPs are in black and white.

If the Society agrees that ENP is an acceptable common format for blending and storing our data, these pedigrees can be put onto CD, with copies kept by at least three committee members, ensuring that, come what may, the information is preserved.

There is much more work in progress, which is not yet ready for checking, as constraints of time and health make it impossible for me to do as much as I would like. The Ermington and North Devon branches are not being neglected, but writing up these families is such a mammoth task that the material is not yet ready for checking. I've also done considerable work on the Australian Witheridges, but there are very specific copyright problems with some of the information. I'm in the process of combining information from a variety of sources, and coordinating it in such a way that legally it constitutes a new document and will therefore not infringe any copyright. I'm hoping that all these projects will be ready in time for our twentieth anniversary reunion next year.

Meanwhile, I am also working on a book/booklet titled: *A place in the family*, which will cover those places which bear the Witheridge name, and those in which we know Witheridges have lived for a considerable period of time. I would ask all members to consider what places have been important in their own families, and either to write a piece, with photos, or to send me enough detail to make into an article. These do not have to be ancient, historic homes. For instance, I'm writing up the story of 133 New Kings Road, Fulham, which my own Witheridge family lived in from the 1890s to the 1980s. Again, I'm hoping that this book will be ready for next year's reunion, so please, if you have information, send it to me as soon as possible.

As you can see, much is being done, but much more still needs to be done. I would urge all members to contact me before they start any research, and also to contact me when they discover anything new, or have any queries about the information we hold. Only this way can we compile our history as accurately and completely as possible.

Editor's Report

It's now the end of my first year as editor, with three issues under my belt. The last issue has added more pages, which is something we hope to continue.

I am behind with indexing the last two issues—as you probably know, the versions of the magazine, that can be downloaded from the *Members Only* area of the website, have an index as well as being in colour. We can add this index without worrying about extra costs, because we don't have to pay for any printing. After indexing the first of my three issues, I stopped to work out a set of rules for indexing and I haven't had the time since then to get back to it.

Our printer, *Parchment*, in Oxford, is doing an excellent job. I am very grateful to my predecessor, Richard, for 'bequeathing' them to me. They can accept the magazine copy from me by e-mail, which is very easy. However, they are also not that far away from Marlow, where I live—about a twenty minute journey down the M40 to Oxford—and I discovered that I used to go to school (at the age of six) just round the corner from them. What's more, the Oxfordshire Records Office is only five minute walk away. It's a small world.

I should also like to thank our Assistant Editor, Kim Cook—especially for her aggressive proof reading. I know Kim and I argue about where words can be hyphenated and ragged-right formatting, but you really have to have published stuff to appreciate how valuable, and how difficult, proof-reading is.

The main problem I face, in common with past editors, is getting in the material. We have too few contributors. I mentioned 'more pages' above, and I tell you, as editor, I feel pretty nervous about the commitment to a larger magazine. All we need is for one of our regular contributors to be indisposed and I'm up the well-known creek without a paddle. So, I have made a resolution, which I hope to keep, to badger all those who have even hinted at writing something, for the magazine, until they cough up!



I have mentioned increased magazine size twice already. I thought you might be interested in the costs involved. They have increased because of (a) extra printing, (b) weight is now into a higher band for UK second class mail, and of course, (c) the Royal Mail have just increased their prices again. So, it cost about 90p per copy to print the last forty page (plus cover) issue. It then costs 37p to mail out each UK member's copy, 95p per copy Europe, and £1.44 per copy to the rest of the world. It averaged out to about £1.75 per copy to produce and distribute.

To end, I must say a big *thanks* to all those who have contributed to the magazine. God bless you and keep it coming!

Webmaster and North American Representative's Report

It will be my pleasure to represent North America for the *Witheridge Family History Society* for a further year.

For some time I have been asking for ideas to revamp the web site, but have had very few ideas up until the present time. However, it is being worked upon and it is hoped that we will have a new site prior to May, 2007. Please feel free to send your ideas.

As the North American representative, I am trying to get North Americans to visit Devon for our twentieth anniversary. So far there could be half a dozen, but I am still working on this.



Follow-on from the Annual General Meeting

By the Secretary, Beryl Witheridge

In gap between the AGM and publication of this issue of *The Witheridge Times*, three follow-on events have occurred:

First, our Webmaster for many years, Kathy Witheridge, has decided to relinquish the post. However, she has persuaded her husband, Paul Witheridge (Canada), to take it over. It's nice to know that it is staying in the family! On the Society's behalf, I would like to like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Kathy, for all the hard work she has put in over the years. Likewise, welcome to Paul, as the new Webmaster—your name is already on the magazine inside cover!

Second, the committee has co-opted the following additional members: Richard Witheridge (as coordinator for the 2007 twentieth anniversary reunion), Maureen Witheridge (as his assistant), Paul Witheridge (Canada, as Webmaster) and Joyce Browne (whom we could not do without). Note that these co-opted members take part in committee meetings, but have no vote on committee decisions.

Third, the winter 2005 issue of *The Witheridge Times* (Volume 19 Number 3) was entered for the *Federation of Family History Society's Elizabeth Simpson* award. However, it was not placed, but was 'enjoyed for its different style and approach'. The Winner was the *Cheshire Ancestor* Volume 36 Issue 2, which is the Journal of the Family History Society of Cheshire.

Goodbye to All That

By Paul Witheridge (UK)

This year has ushered in yet more turnover in the roll of the Society's officers: Richard and Maureen Witheridge have stepped down as Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, ending many years of service as officers of the Society.

Richard served as Research Coordinator for twelve years (1991–2003), Treasurer for thirteen years (1993–2006), Membership Secretary for five years (2001–2006) and Editor for two years (2003–2005), and has been a member of the Society's committee from the very beginning in 1987. He also organised the tenth and fifteenth reunions, in 1997 and 2002.

Maureen has been our Assistant Treasurer for seven years (1999–2006), as well as a committee member from 1999.

To say thank you for all these years of service, members contributed to a 'leaving' gift for Maureen and Richard. At the reunion, on Saturday morning, they were presented with a *Lantern Tree* sapling, together with a plant pot, and vouchers that can be spent in any garden centre. They were overwhelmed and virtually speechless for a while.

The Lantern Tree, or *Crinodendron hookerianum*, a native of Chile, bears pendulous crimson flowers, which give rise to its common name. It grows to 15–25 feet (4.5–7.5 metres), so the plant pot may have its work cut out!

It's not really 'Goodbye to all that', as both Maureen and Richard are currently members of the Society's committee and Richard is coordinator for the twentieth anniversary reunion, next year. They will both be attending the next committee meeting, scheduled for 23 September.

Furthermore, as an editor who is always on the look out for material for the magazine, I am very impressed by Richard's CV as Research Coordinator. Now that he has all this spare time...

Maureen and Richard sent the following note of thanks to the Society:

We would both like to thank the members for their kindness in contributing to the wonderful presentation made to us at the Porlock Reunion. We will let you know what we purchase with the vouchers.

The Membership Secretary's post made it possible to have contact with some of the members who cannot attend the reunions, especially those overseas. We appreciate the letters and cards received at Christmas time letting us into their way of life. Although I am not very good at writing regularly, I hope we can still continue the annual correspondence.

The Treasurer's post was not too onerous with most work carried out in getting the finance statement together just before the reunions. I thank members for their responses to subscription reminders.

Thank you once again.

[**Note:** 'Goodbye to All That' is the title of a book by Robert Graves. **Ed**].



The presentation to Richard and Maureen.

From left to right: Richard Witheridge, Beryl Witheridge (Secretary) holding the Lantern Tree, Maureen Witheridge, Ron Dixon (Chairman) presenting the vouchers to Richard.

Maureen and Richard put the vouchers towards this garden swing



From the Reunion

As I write this, the 2006 reunion at Porlock seems a long time ago.

It was a somewhat different event, especially when we arrived in Porlock on Friday evening. The hotel we were staying at was called *The Lorna Doone*. It should have been called *Fawlty Towers*, although, in the end, they did us proud!

Paul and I travelled down to Porlock together with Kathy and Paul from Canada. I had made the booking for both them and us, months earlier. However, when we arrived, there was a room for Kathy and Paul, but none for Paul and myself. The hotel owner had taken my booking personally and even remembered our conversation. It turned out that her husband, seeing two rooms, both booked for Mr and Mrs Paul R Witheridge, thought there was a mistake and cancelled one of the rooms, unilaterally. They did find us a room in the end.

Next there was the waiter; yes he was Spanish, but we never found out if he was called *Manuel*. We did discover that English was not his strong suit and ordering drinks in the bar was a haphazard (and hilarious) exercise. Then there was the fact that the chef had been fired a few days before, there was a wedding for a few hundred guests on Saturday, the man with broken arm, and... well you get the picture!

In the evening we met up with other members, in the hotel lounge, and everyone had a good laugh about our experiences booking-in to *Fawlty Towers*.

On Saturday morning, after a good night's sleep and a very good breakfast, we set out for the Porlock Village Hall, just a short walk away. It was a lovely, sunny, day.

I would like to say thank you to everyone—and I think it was actually everyone—who helped set up for the meeting and helped in kitchen with the teas, coffees and biscuits (which, by the way, were all bought locally—there is a wonderful tea and coffee importers in Porlock called *Miles*, famous throughout the south west of England, and we could smell the wonderful aroma of roasting coffee). It was like home from home, with everyone congregating in the kitchen to talk.



By Beryl Witheridge

Fawlty Towers

Fawlty Towers is one of the best-known British TV comedies from the 1970s.

It starred John Cleese as irascible Torquay hotel owner, Basil Fawlty, and Prunella Scales as his domineering wife, Sybil. Then there was Polly (Connie Booth), the dependable maid and general assistant, and little Manuel (Andrew Sachs), the tyrannized waiter from Barcelona, who was the subject of frequent physical attacks by the demented Basil! The other regular guests were the slightly senile Major Gowen (retired), and the hard of hearing old dears, Miss Tibbs and Miss Gatsby.

Business seldom ran smoothly at Fawlty Towers. If you didn't pay for your stay with your life (in *The Kipper and The Corpse*), you could expect chaos or, at least, to be verbally assaulted by Basil (in just about every episode).

The AGM started promptly, pausing half way through for a presentation to Maureen and Richard in recognition of all their hard work, in all their various posts, over many years (see *Goodbye to All That* on page 14). Business was then wrapped up very quickly, as the local newspaper, *The Western Morning News*, was sending a reporter/photographer at midday (see page 22), and we then beat a hasty retreat to *The Ship Inn*, just across the road from the hall, where we relaxed over a very nice lunch.

After lunch, with some of us feeling very sleepy, we returned to the hall for a talk, given by Paul Witheridge (UK) about how to search through digital versions of *The Witheridge Times*, stored on your computer. It was very informative and also raised a few laughs. **Note:** digital versions of the latest magazines can be downloaded from the *Members Only* area of the website and, by next year, we will have digitised versions of all the back issues.

We topped that off with a ‘traditional Devonshire cream tea’, after which came the worst bit: the clearing away. However, with help from everyone, it was done in no time—thank you all.

On Saturday evening, we all met again at the Lorna Doone Hotel, where most of us were staying. The hotel laid on a superb reunion dinner, with a special menu. The hotel restaurant was officially closed that evening, as they were catering for a wedding in a local barn. However, as we were mostly hotel residents, they opened the restaurant especially for us and the owner’s daughter stood in as chef (see overleaf for photos).

Sunday morning heralded the Great Witheridge Family Treasure Hunt. It also brought high winds and driving rain—just the thing for an expedition onto Exmoor. Unfortunately only three cars turned up, but that didn’t stop us; the Witheridges never give up! I will let someone else tell you all about the Treasure Hunt, but I will say this: ‘they all had **fun**’.

The Ship Inn

The Ship Inn was built in 1290, making it one of the oldest inns in the country. It is believed that, even before this date, some sort of hostelry existed on the site. It seems that The Ship Inn has provided, hospitality to the weary traveller for over a thousand years!

Baccie for the parson and brandy for the clerk: In those days the sea came up to where the village now stands. The Ship Inn was situated, very close to the shoreline—an ideal spot for smuggling!. It is rumoured that at least one secret tunnel exists, linking the Inn to a nearby cottage, useful for getting rid of contraband when the excise men came knocking. In 1682 The Ship was a venue for a clandestine meeting between smugglers and a corrupt revenue officer. The story leaked out and the revenue officer stood trial.

A ghostly visitor occasionally makes an appearance. She is, however, a very benign old lady so she is probably more welcome than unwelcome. Known as ‘The Grey Lady’, she is believed to have worked as a maid at The Inn and only appears at very busy times—perhaps she just wants to lend a hand.

More human visitors have included poets, such as Robert Southey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Southey, who later became Poet Laureate, wrote a poem while enjoying a drink in the bar. Coleridge complained that his poetic inspiration was interrupted by a visit from ‘a person from Porlock’ (perhaps someone from The Ship Inn, asking him to settle his drinks bill).

In 1869, R D Blackmore published his famous novel, *Lorna Doone*. Although a work of fiction, it was partly based in fact. The Doones had been a band of local robbers who had terrorised the neighbourhood. Scenes in the book were set in The Ship, as they must have been in real life.





Photos from the Reunion Dinner

Top left from left to right: *Marcia Taylor (partial face only), David Witheridge, Maureen Witheridge (obscured by David), Richard Witheridge, Beryl Witheridge, Ron Dixon, June Witheridge, Paul Witheridge (UK, obscured by Lorna), Lorna Home and Kathy Witheridge*

Bottom left from left to right: *Beryl Witheridge (partial face only), June Witheridge, Lorna Home, Kathy Witheridge, Paul Witheridge (Canada, obscured by Kathy), Roy Cook, Brenda Dixon (obscured by Kim), Kim Cook (partial face only), Richard Witheridge (partial face only)*

Top Right left to right, from far end of table only: *Brenda Dixon (obscured by wine bottle), Kim Cook, Marcia Taylor and David Witheridge*

The Great Witheridge Family Treasure Hunt

[Beryl and I had planned the treasure hunt and obviously could not take part as competitors. So, I e-mailed Paul Witheridge (Canada), asking ‘I wonder if I can prevail on you to write a short piece about the treasure hunt, as one of the co-winners. I don’t think it would be right for either of us to write it—our perspective would be warped. ’Paul e-mailed back: ‘Not as warped as some of the clues! OK, I’ll give it a shot...’ Here is Paul’s account. Ed.]

On the Sunday (21 May) following the AGM, we were treated to a Treasure Hunt, concocted by Paul and Beryl. I can honestly say that I have never partaken of anything so intriguing and enjoyable before in my life! I know that Beryl and Paul spent at least two days preparing it and that it was afforded supreme security prior to Sunday morning.

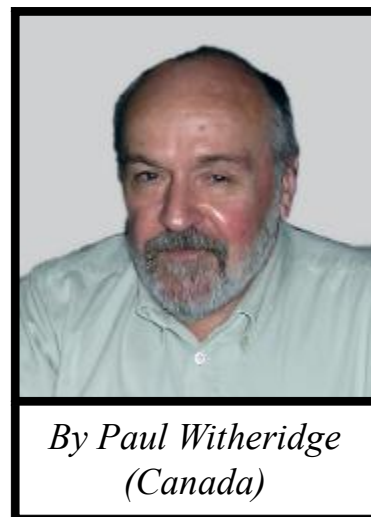
We were given our ‘instructions’ (clues only as to the route and questions/riddles to be solved along the way), at the Porlock Town Hall car park at 10 a.m., and advised that we should arrive at our destination within two-and-a-half hours or be penalised. (We took exactly two-and-a-half hours! And we didn’t dawdle!) We were also given an ‘emergency only’ sealed envelope with the destination identified should anyone become hopelessly lost. As far as I know, that envelope is still in Ron Dixon’s sun visor since we completely forgot about it!

Off we went, four of us in Ron’s car, looking for answers to such things as ‘How long are the woolly jumpers?’ (a road sign indicated unrestrained sheep for the next one and a half miles) and the names of all the pubs along the route (there was only one—our destination!) We knew only that the clues and questions were in order, so that if we found one we knew that any previous ones we might have missed were now lost. There was simply not enough time for backtracking!

I know that there were quite a number of clues that confounded us, but we were mindful of completing the course (twenty-two miles) within the allotted time lest we be penalized. Only once did we take a wrong turn, so fortunately we were spot on time, even if we missed a lot of the answers. Our team of four were quite surprised when the scores were tallied and we had won! I can only chalk that up to lack of competition—we had only three competing teams—and luck!

The lack of a larger field of competitors and the weather were the only disappointments on the day. Those who participated had a tremendous lot of fun, no one had to call the RAC and everyone arrived in time for a lovely lunch at... wait for it... the *Rest and Be Thankful Inn!*

[On the facing page, is a group photo, taken after Sunday lunch at the pub that was the end-point of the treasure hunt. Overleaf, on page 22, you will find pictures of the mugs given as prizes to the winners and losers. In the winning car were Brenda and Ron Dixon, and Kathy and Paul Witheridge - Ed.]





A windswept group photo after the treasure hunt

From left to right: Paul Witheridge (UK), Pamela Glynn, David Witheridge, June Witheridge, Richard Witheridge, Maureen Witheridge, Ron Dixon, Beryl Witheridge, Brenda Dixon, Kathy Witheridge, Paul Witheridge (Canada), Lorna Home, Kim Cook, Roy Cook and Derek Glynn



Treasure hunt prizes—for the first and last cars

Fame at Last!

By Paul Witheridge (UK)

The *Western Morning News*, of Tuesday 23 May 2006, carried a small article about our reunion, headed: *Witheridges gather to discuss family fortunes*—not the most accurate of headlines for a piece about our get-together. Unfortunately, the rest of the article did not exactly set new standards for accurate reporting, either. Still, it did get our family name into the news and may reach out to some Witheridges who have not previously heard of *The Witheridge Family History Society*. It also produced a pretty good photo (see below). The full text of the story is on the newspaper's website at www.westernmorningnews.co.uk. Enter 'witheridges gather' in the search box.



New Members

We have five new members and one former member (who has rejoined) to introduce in this issue, surely an indication that the Society is thriving!

We give a hearty greeting to all our new members and hope that they enjoy their membership.



Mrs Joy Witheridge Allbrooke

20 Burton Farm Road
Walsall
WS24 2HN

e-mail: joyallbrooke@tiscali.co.uk

Joy is descended from a branch of the family which we have named *Berrynarbor, Combe Martin, Salisbury and Bristol*.

A former member also came from this family line—Mrs Albertina Rossiter, now deceased. Joy and Albertina have a common ancestor through Edwin Witheridge and Albertina Cummings back to Edward Witheridge, baptised 1793, who married Mary Gear, and further back to Nicholas Witheridge, who married Mary Somer in 1553.

If she has not already done so, Joy might like to read articles concerning her family, which were published in *The Witheridge Times* Volume 6 Number 1 (spring 1992) and Volume 7 Number 2 (summer 1993).

Welcome and happy hunting, Joy.

Joy's genealogical chart (see *Section of the Salisbury and Bristol Family Tree* on page 26), travelling backwards, gives the surnames: Thomas, Slade, Witheridge, Lewis, Jennings, Feltham, Cummings, Crew, Butler, Flower(?), Hawkins, Perry, May(?) and Barrett(?).

Mrs Catherine Helen Pepper

28 Goodes Lane
Syston
Leicester
LE7 2JJ

e-mail: catandpep@btopenworld.com

Welcome to another descendant of the *Combe Martin* family.

Catherine's ancestor from Combe Martin moved to Tyneside. He was Thomas Witheridge, baptised 1836 in Combe Martin, and he married Ann Serena Roberts in Gunnislake, Cornwall, in 1858. By trade he was a mason and a miner, and we assume that it was his trade which caused him to move to Tyneside, where he died in 1922. His father was John Witheridge, also a mason, and his mother was Mary Hancock. John and Mary had nine children, and from

these are descended families now in New Zealand and the United States of America, some of whom are members of our Society. As with some other member families, Catherine's ancestry can be traced back to Nicholas Witheridge and Mary Somer, married 1553.

Catherine's genealogical chart (see *Section of the Berrynarbor, Combe Martin and Tyneside Family Tree* on page 27) gives us the surnames: Bates, Brooks, Edmunds, Witheridge, Pole, Bucknell, Walters, Davison, Weeks, Riley, Felton, Edwards, Towers, Roberts and Wake.

Mrs Lorna Home

New Hall Farm
Carr Lane
Wirrall
Merseyside
CH47 4BG

e-mail: L.Home@btinternet.com

We are pleased to have Lorna and her son Richard join us.

Lorna is a member of the *South Devon Ermington* family and is sister to David L M Witheridge who acted as our Chairman, and cousin to Richard Witheridge, our previous Editor, Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

She is more distantly related to other members of the Society. Lorna's family line goes back through Arthur Witheridge, who married Elizabeth Bowden in Ermington in 1787, to Arthur Witheridge, who married Johane Edgecombe in Ermington in 1607. The Ermington Witheridges stayed in their home village longer than most families and it is a great pity that no Witheridges live there at the present time.

Lorna is an artist and has her own website, the *Inner Eye*. Members can visit this website at <http://www.lornahome.co.uk/>.

We hope that Lorna and Richard will find their contact with us happy and informative.

On Lorna's genealogical chart (see *Section of the Ermington Family Tree* on page 28), we find the surnames: Witheridge, Brown, Mumford, Harding Ford, Northmore, Bowden, Tamlin, Bowden, Brooking and Edgecombe.

Miss Joette a'Gene Tomblin

N8905 Martinson
Newman Lake
WA 99025
USA

e-mail: joettetomblin@gmail.com

Welcome to Joette, another descendant of the *Combe Martin* family via Bradworthy.

Joette is related to Paul and Kathy Witheridge of Ontario, Canada. Kathy has done extensive research into the Bradworthy families who can trace their ancestry back to James Witheridge,

baptised in Fremington in 1604. Joette's great grandmother was Florence Mabel Witheridge, born 1876, who was the daughter of John Witheridge, born 1839 in Bradworthy, and Miriam Moore. John and his parents emigrated to Canada in or about 1841 and subsequently moved to North Dakota, USA.

Joette has sent us most interesting details of her family and their lives, including a newspaper report on her grandmother's (Marguerite Eileen Wood) wedding in 1941. I particularly liked the description of the clothes of the bride and female guests and I could imagine how good the home looked—decorated with bouquets of pink and white chrysanthemums. These details bring the past alive to us. Keep looking, Joette!

Surnames on Joette's family chart (see *Section of the Combe Martin, Bradworthy and Darlington Family Tree* on page 29) are: Tomblin, Rasmussen, Wood, Kimes, Witheridge, Burmingham, Otten, Heaton, Moore, Saunders, Oke, Walter, Grills and Trathen.

Mr Raymond Arthur Edwin Witheridge

Talbot View
66 Ensburry Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH10 4HG

Hello Raymond—we are so pleased that you have joined us.

Raymond is descended from what we have called the *Totnes, Newton Abbot and Woodleigh family*, although his earliest known ancestor came from Bideford. Raymond is the father of Paul Raymond Witheridge of Marlow Bottom, our present Editor and Membership Secretary so he should have all Witheridge news first hand!

We are still investigating antecedents of this family so any information will be appreciated.

Raymond's family chart (see *Section of the Totnes, Newton Abbot and Woodleigh Family Tree* on page 30) shows surnames of: Witheridge, Rugg, German, Brimmicombe and Emmett.

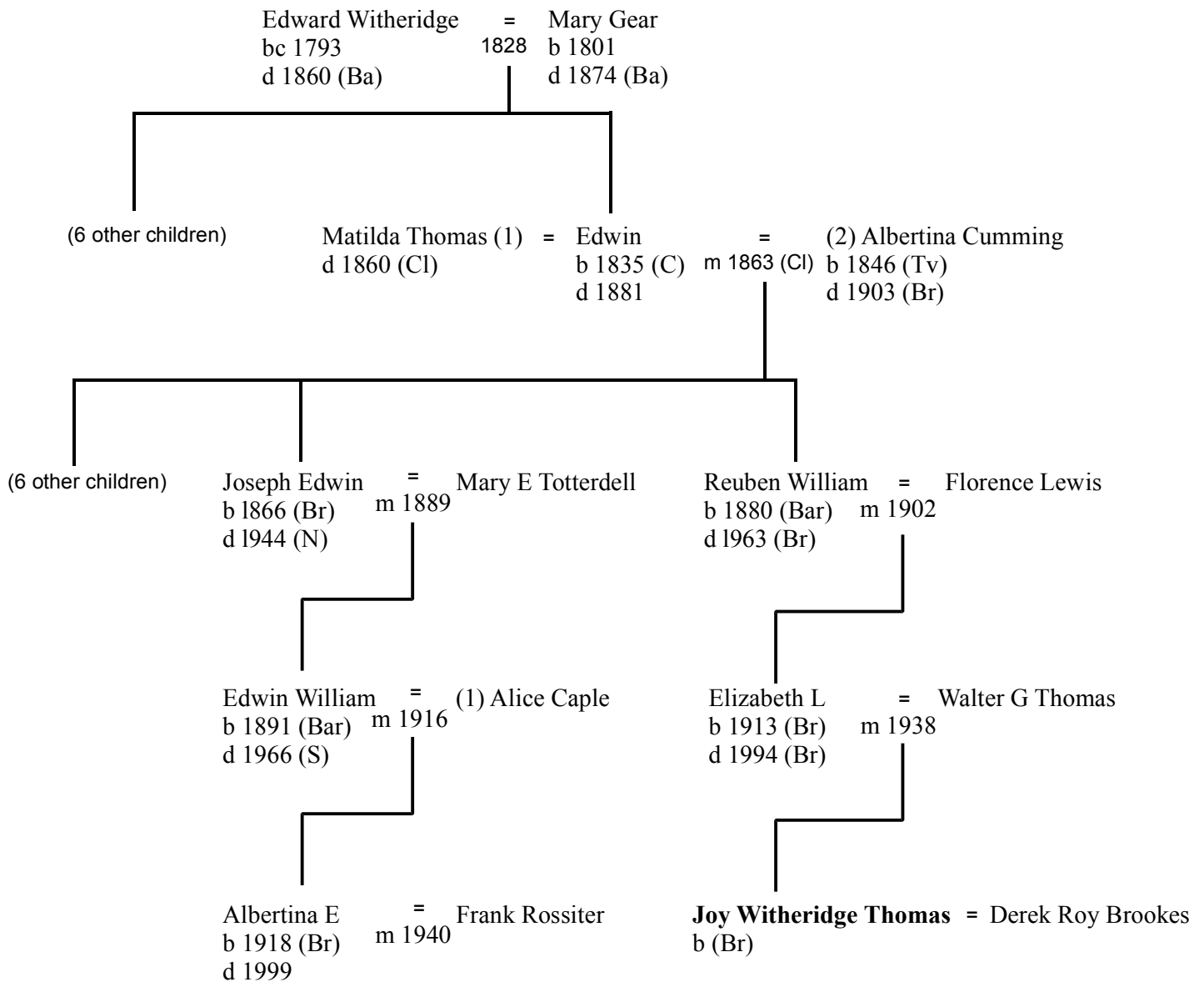
Mrs Marcia Taylor

6 De Vere Lane
Wivenhoe
Essex
CO7 9AU

e-mail: marcia@essex.ac.uk

We are so pleased that Marcia has re-joined the Society and has registered her daughter, Miss Lucy Taylor as a family member.

Marcia's ancestry can be traced back to James Witheridge, baptised in Fremington in 1604. Subsequently the family went to Bradworthy, and from there emigrated to Canada and the United States. Welcome Marcia and Lucy—we hope to see you at our future reunions.

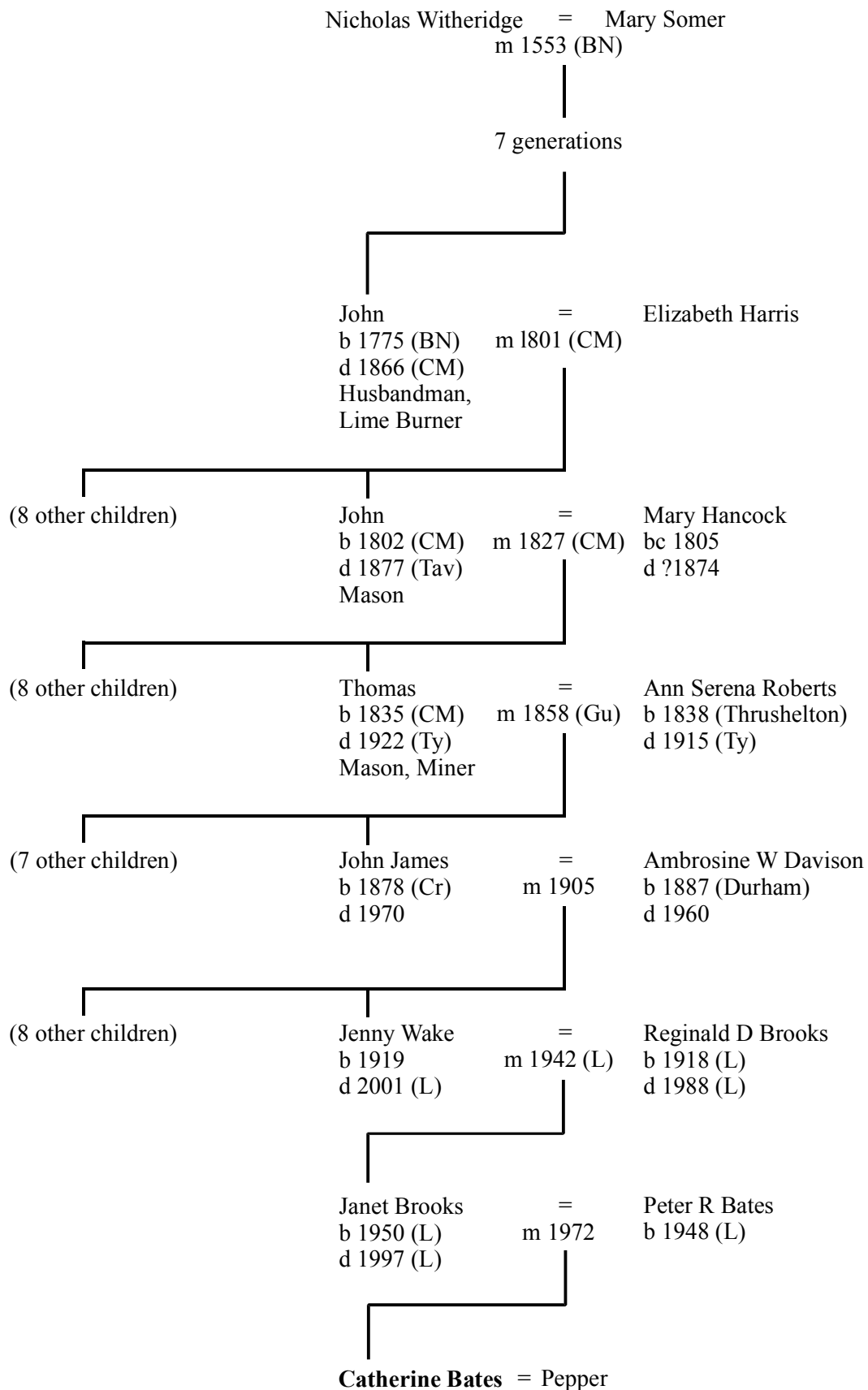


Albertina Cumming Witheridge remarried in 1892 in Barton Regis, this time to a Joseph Newman Offer. Albertina's maiden name was also listed as 'Cummings' in some documents.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| (Ba) = Barnstaple | (Cl) = Clifton |
| (C) = Combe Martin | (Br) = Bristol |
| (N) = Norton | (Bar) = Barton Regis |
| (S) = Salisbury | (Tv) = Tiverton |

Section of the Salisbury and Bristol Family Tree

Compiled by Joyce R Browne from information available July 2006



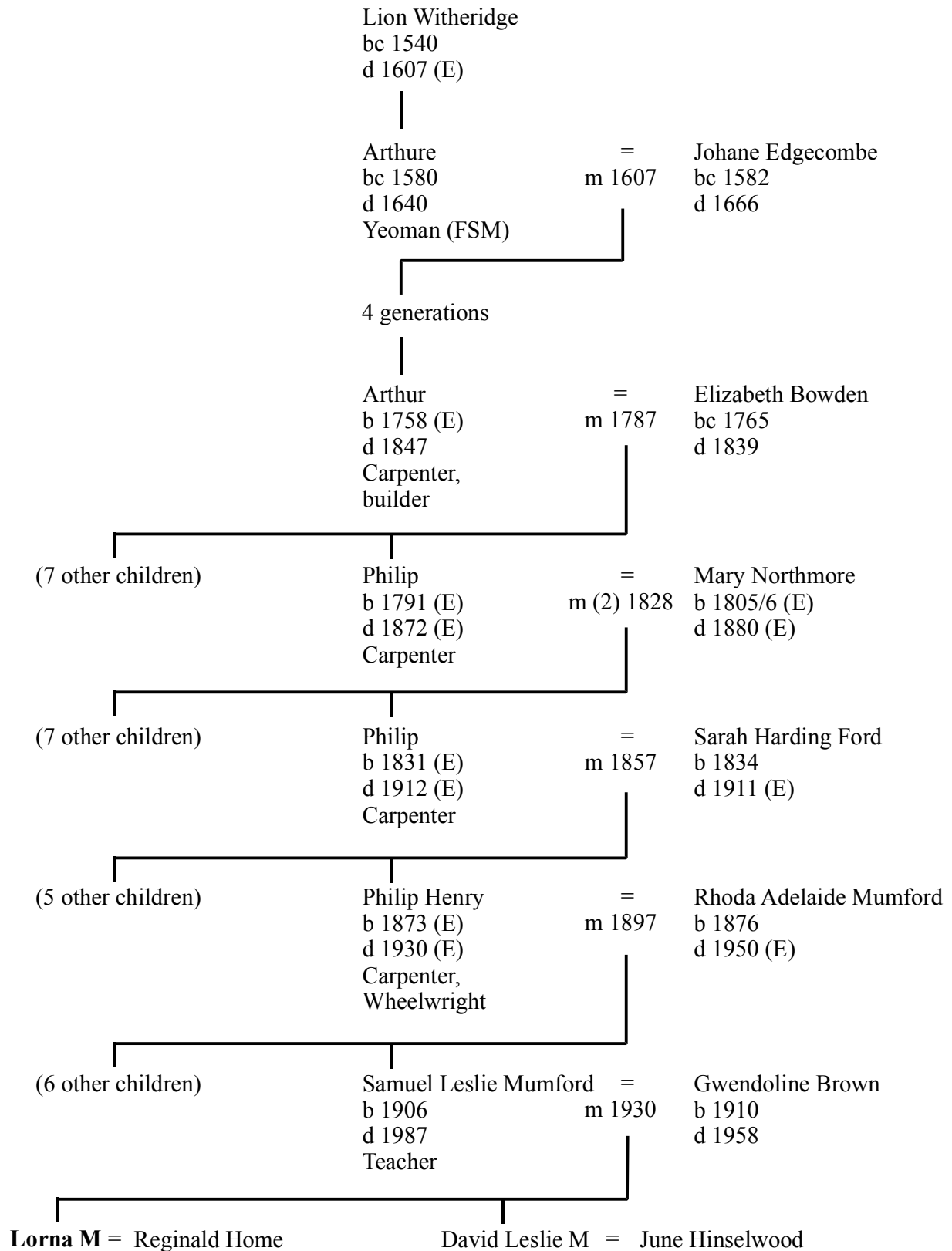
(BN) = Berrynarbor
(Gu) = Gunnislake

(CM) = Combe Martin
(L) = Leicester

(Cr) = Cramlington
(Ty) = Tyneside

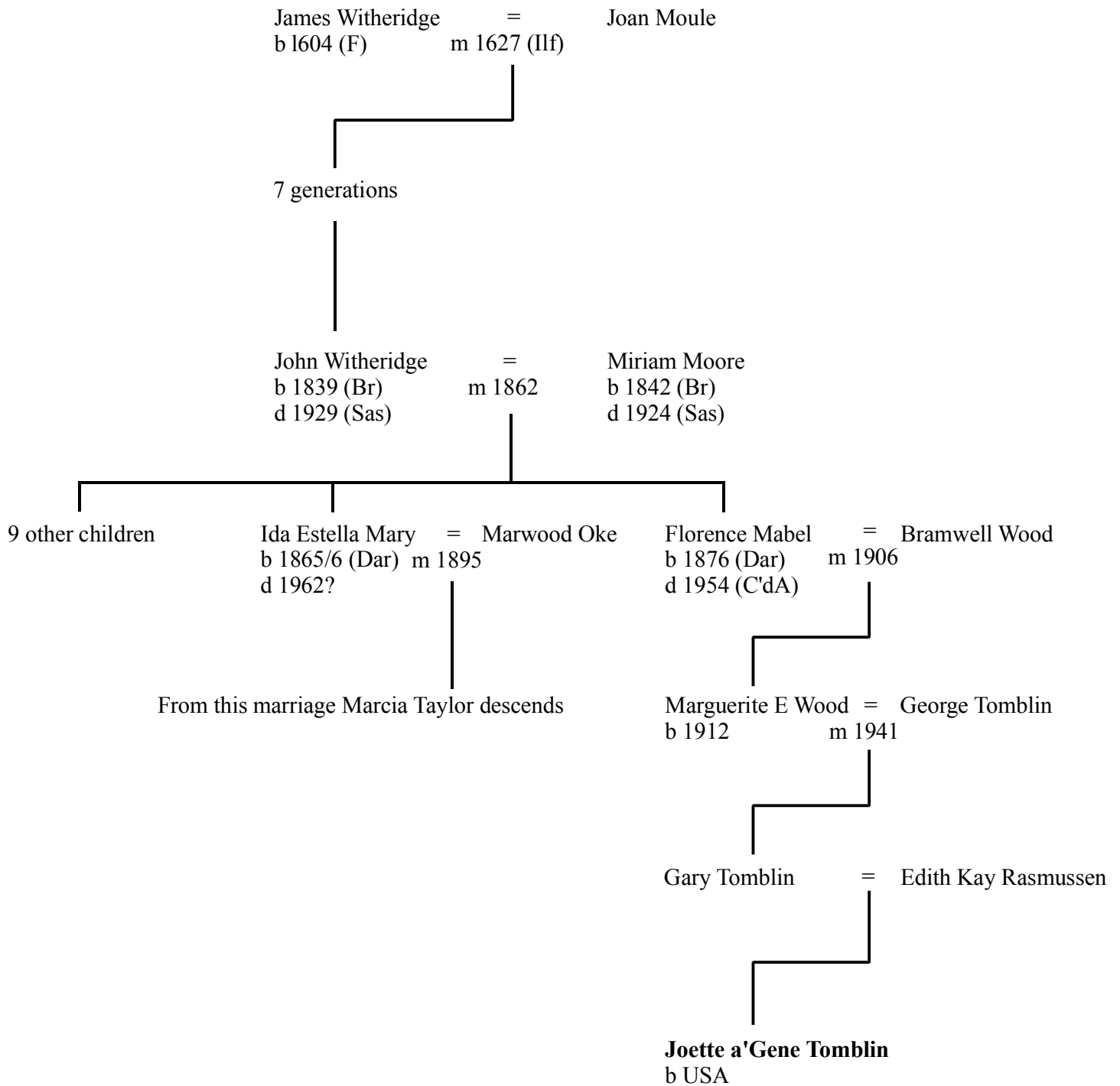
Section of the Berrynarbor, Combe Martin and Tyneside Family Tree

Compiled by Joyce R Browne from information available July 2006



(E) = Ermington (FSM) = Fenn and Strode Manor Farm

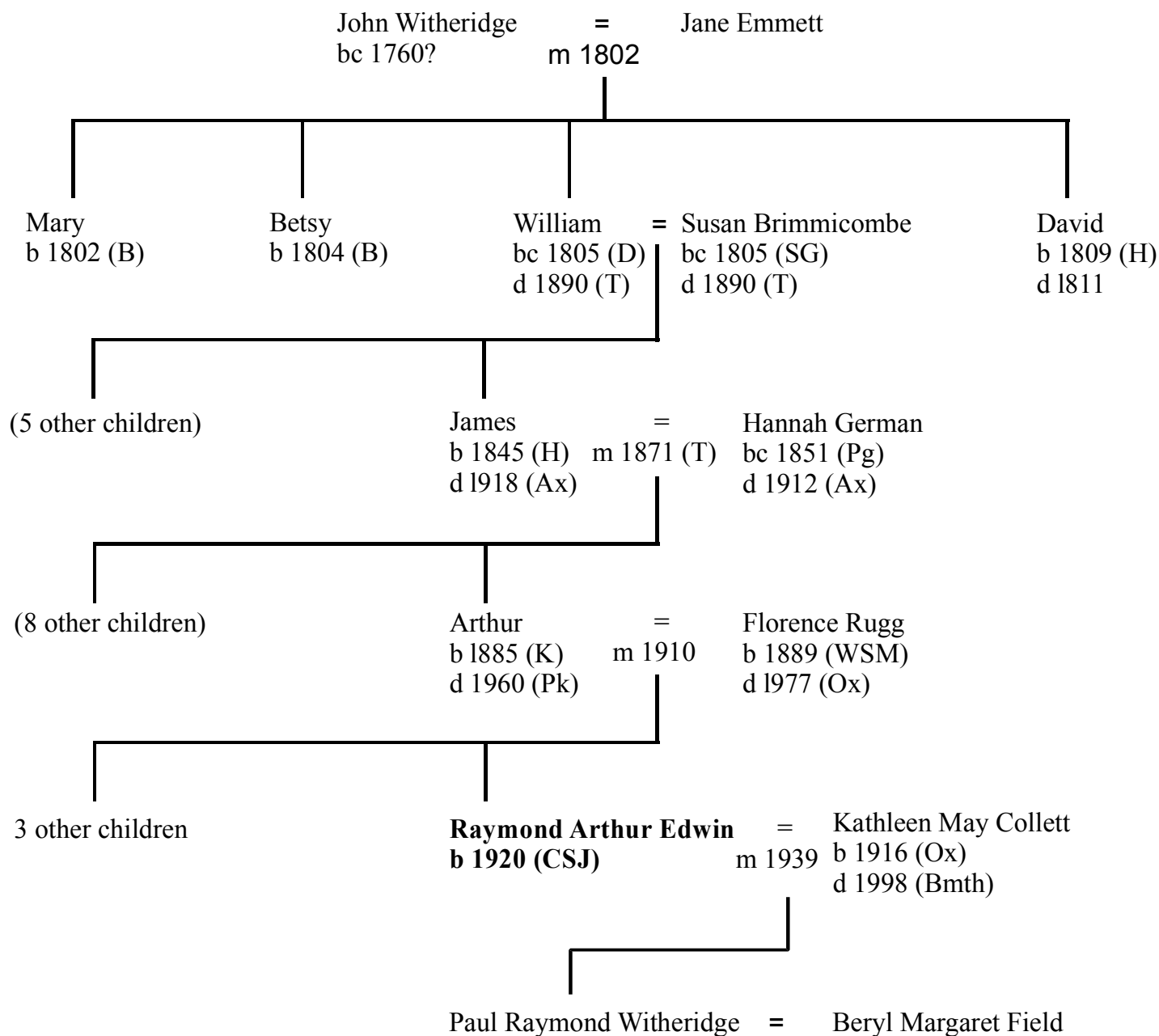
Section of the Ermington Family Tree
Compiled by Joyce R Browne from information available July 2006



(F) = Fremington (Sas) = Saskatchewan
(Ilfrac) = Ilfracombe (Dar) = Darlington, Ontario
(Br) = Bradworthy (C'dA) = Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Section of the Combe Martin, Bradworthy and Darlington Family Tree

Compiled by Joyce R Browne from information available July 2006



John Witheridge 'Married' Jane Emmett at Halwell, 28 Oct 1802
 David born 1808, registered as 'son of John Witheridge and Jane Emmett'
 David died 1811 - buried as 'David Emmett'

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| (A) = Axbridge | (Ox) = Oxford |
| (B) = Blackawton | (Pg) = Paignton |
| (Bmth) = Bournemouth | (Pk) = Parkstone |
| (CSJ) = Cowley St John | (SG) = Stoke Gabriel |
| (D) = Dittisham | (T) = Totnes |
| (H) = Halwell | (WSM) = Weston-Super-Mare |
| (K) = Kingskerswell | |

Section of the Totnes, Newton Abbot and Woodleigh Family Tree

Compiled by Joyce R Browne from information available July 2006

Eric Pover, 1929–2006

By Kim Cook

George Eric Stanley Pover, always known as Eric, was born on 12 March 1929. He was the second child of George Herbert Sydney Pover and Ethel Gladys (Effie) Witheridge, and a grandson of William Henry Witheridge of Plymouth and Fulham.

George and Effie's marriage was not harmonious, and childhood for Eric and his sister Joyce was an unhappy time. Life became even harder when, in 1946, shortly after Eric's seventeenth birthday, Effie died of a brain tumour. She was just forty-five. After his wife's death, George Pover severed all connections with the Witheridge family, and Eric and Joyce were denied any contact with the aunts, uncles and cousins, who would have provided them with support and consolation after the loss of their mother.

Within a few months George had remarried, and shortly afterwards Eric went away on National Service. When he returned, it was to discover that his home was occupied by strangers. His father and stepmother had moved away, without telling him.

After these setbacks, Eric was determined to succeed in his chosen career, banking. Most of his working life was spent in the London branch of Nedbank, the Netherlands Bank of South Africa. Eric was naturally meticulous, conscientious, and a stickler for accuracy, but was also personable and good with clients. He progressed steadily up the promotion ladder.

Sport played an important part in Eric's life. He was a keen player of squash, badminton and golf, and followed many other sports. He belonged to a number of sports clubs, where he was both proficient and well liked.

In 1963 Eric married, and the couple settled in a bungalow in Swanley. His wife's parents were members of a strict religious sect, but prior to the marriage his wife had shown no particular interest in following the path of her parents. However, she later became heavily embroiled, and wanted Eric to join as well. This would have meant renouncing all his sporting and social connections and confining his contacts to those in the sect, something he was not prepared to do, particularly for a belief system he didn't share. They separated and later divorced.

Throughout his brief marriage, and in the years that followed, Eric's career with Nedbank prospered, and he was for many years a successful bank manager. However, in 1985 the bank was the target of armed robbers. Eric was held for some time at gunpoint—a terrifying ordeal, which left him severely traumatised and led to a nervous breakdown. He never worked again.

The bank gave him early retirement, and once he was over the worst of his breakdown, he was able to enjoy to the full the sports he loved, although he was subject to recurrent bouts of depression, when he



*Eric Pover
1929–2006*

could be perverse and argumentative, and would cut himself off from family and friends for a while. Eventually the clouds would lift, and he would return to the enjoyment of his sports and social life.

I first met Eric shortly after the bank raid. Having learned of the way in which he and his sister Joyce had been cut off from the family, I had been trying for some time to find them. I made a number of phone calls to people with the Pover surname, and eventually found the right number. Eric was delighted to be back in touch with his mother's family, and very moved that someone had actually bothered to look for them. He put me in touch with Joyce, and shortly after that we met at the home of another cousin. This reunion led to a series of cousins' lunches, which still continue at intervals.

When we lived in West Wickham, Eric would often call in on his way to, or from, the Wimbledon sports club, of which he had been a member for many years. He began to take an interest in family history, and was one of the earliest members of the Witheridge Society, as it was then called.

Eric was also a keen gardener, but in gardening, as in everything else, he was meticulous and ordered. He liked his plants in straight rows and colour-coordinated, quite the opposite of the natural style we prefer, and we would have lengthy, heated but amicable discussions on the subject. Every year, the borders of his front garden were planted in straight lines of red salvia, white alyssum and blue lobelia!

In dress, too, he was nothing if not dapper. For him, casual clothing meant a blazer, slacks and a shirt without a tie. Trainers were strictly for the badminton or squash court, and not for wearing at any other time!

Some years ago Eric was treated for prostate cancer, and seemed to have made a full recovery. More recently, he had begun to experience eyesight problems, which often prevented him from driving, and sadly he wasn't well enough to come to our cousins' lunch in August 2005.

However, he did ask me if I could help him learn more about the Pover side of his ancestry, and only a few weeks before his death I had phoned him to update him on the progress I'd made. Although he wasn't up to making the journey to Somerset for the Witheridge weekend, we had made plans to meet up as soon as possible after the reunion, so that I could give him the full results of my research.

Sadly, we returned from Somerset to learn that Eric was already dead. He had died suddenly on 13 May of a massive heart attack, but his sister Joyce wasn't notified until some days later. Beside his chair was the Witheridge FHS renewal form, which he was planning to return.

Despite the many unhappy episodes in his life, Eric could be good company. His conversation was wide-ranging, and he enjoyed friendly verbal sparring, particularly with his niece, Jan. When he was on good form he was witty and good fun, and we both regretted the years when he and Joyce had been separated from the rest of the Witheridge family. At his funeral, his popularity was evident from the large number of his sporting friends who came to pay tribute to him.

Our condolences go to his sister, Joyce Marnham, and all her family.

George Stephen Smith, 1924–2004

By Kim Cook

A recent check on former members of *The Witheridge Family History Society* disclosed that a number of these had died within the last couple of years. One of these was George Smith.

George Stephen Smith was born in St Pancras on 16 May 1924. His parents were George Henry Smith (1899–1976) and Ellen Frances Witheridge (1894–1972), daughter of George Causey Witheridge jnr (1858–1931) and Margaret Rumsey.

George joined the Witheridge Society (as it then was) at our first meeting in 1987. Although very interested in his family history, at that stage knew little about it, other than that his grandfather's name was George Causey Witheridge. From my card index I was able to extract quite a bit of information for him, going back two further generations, and found that he was related to some of the Witheridges I had already met, including Col Anthony Witheridge, and Rev John Stephen Witheridge.

George soon set to and researched his family history with enthusiasm, and on one occasion, while delving away at St Catherine's House (then home of the General Register Office), bumped into Joyce Browne. When, in the autumn/winter 1987 issue of *Witheridge Times*, I asked for help in identifying two Witheridges who had died in World War I, George was quick to respond. The very moving article he wrote at the time is reproduced below.

For many years George lived in West Horndon, Brentwood, and he was still living in the Brentwood area when he died in April 2004, aged seventy-nine.

Remembering

By George Smith

*[As we have only recently learned of the death of George Smith, and given the recent 90th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Somme, it seems appropriate to reprint this article, which first appeared in *The Witheridge Times* Volume 2 Number 1, Spring 1988.]*

The article *We Will Remember Them* in the last issue of *The Witheridge Times* really stirred some memories for me, as both the Witheridges who died in World War I were from my branch of the family. Indeed, had Frederick John Witheridge not died, I might never have been born!

My mother, Ellen Frances Witheridge, was the youngest child of George Causey Witheridge. George had a younger brother Harry, who emigrated to New South Wales, where he lived with his wife Annie and son Frederick John. I believe Harry and Annie died quite young, and Frederick came back to England to rejoin the rest of the family.

Back in England he met and fell in love with his cousin Ellen. War was in progress, and Frederick John had joined the Royal Navy, serving on *HMS Amethyst*. Courting was restricted to letters and leave-times, which were very brief. The couple became engaged, and on his last leave they were so busy making the final wedding arrangements that Frederick John was late back to his ship.

In fact, by the time he got back to port, the Amethyst had sailed, and he was put on board the Vanguard instead. This ship was blown up in Scapa Flow on 9 July 1917, and he was killed. It has been said that the Vanguard was sabotaged, but I am going to do a bit more research on this.

I have in my possession two beautiful pictures printed on silk. One, of my mother, has been copied from a photograph which still exists. The other is of Frederick John in naval uniform. The pictures appear to be of oriental origin, so perhaps Frederick John had them made while in an eastern port. I wonder if they were a Christmas or even engagement present for my mother.

At the Witheridge reunion in January, Kim Cook suggested that I contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as they keep records of the burials and/or memorials of all the British war dead. I wrote straight away, and they replied promptly, giving me some very useful information.

Frederick John died on 9 July 1917, age 26, and is commemorated on Panel 23 of the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. This is one of the Naval Memorials commemorating those Naval casualties who have no grave but the sea. The CWGC records confirm that he was the son of the late Harry and Annie Elizabeth Witheridge of new South Wales.

I also asked about the other cousin George, and they told me that he died on 1 July 1916 while serving with 9 Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. After the war the Army Graves Service was unable to locate his grave, and he is therefore commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, about eight kilometres north-east of Albert in France.

A little more research showed that George died on the first day of the battle of the Somme, which was probably the worst day ever for battle casualties. At evening roll-call on that dreadful day, British units alone registered some 57,000 less men than had been present at the morning roll-call. Of these, about 20,000 were dead. Many of the wounded did not recover. It is hardly surprising that George's grave could not be located, when the battle raged back and forth over the same ground for two months.

In fact over 70,000 of the British soldiers who fought and died in the Somme area have no known grave and are therefore commemorated at Thiepval. The men of the Devonshire Regiment, including George, are commemorated on Pier 1, Face C of the memorial.

Sadly, the 'war to end all wars', did not live up to its title, and some of those who survived World War I did not survive World War II. Although ours was the only branch of the Witheridge family to sustain losses in World War I, losses in World War II were probably spread more widely, particularly as there were so many civilian casualties. Among these were my mother's sister Alice Emily Witheridge, and her husband Stephen Taylor. They were both killed in their home at 175 Grafton Road, Kentish Town, in an air-raid on 19 February 1944.

Editor's notes: At the time George wrote this, he was unaware of other Witheridge casualties of World War I, some of whom were also from his family. Those we know of, together with those who gave their lives in World War II, are featured on the Roll of Honour on our website. The January meeting referred to by George in his article, wasn't the annual reunion, but an additional regional meeting held by Kim and Roy Cook at their (then) home in West Wickham.

Why Orkney?



When I explained that I was moving house from Bath, after taking early retirement from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in Bristol, the one question I was always being asked was ‘Why Orkney?’

Well, I am not even sure of the answer myself!

We all like to think that we inherit certain characteristics from our ancestors—so it could have been the Crocker/Witheridge connection from Bideford, or the influence of my Scottish maternal grandparents, who retired to Gourock on the Clyde. From 1958 (when I was ten) until 1963 (when I was fifteen), my mother and I spent a month every summer with my grandparents. While the ‘women’s work’ was getting done, my grandfather, Jimmy, and I travelled around by Clyde steamer and had a lovely time. I learned about the Clyde, the history of local industry and steamers like the *Cowal* and the *Waverley* (which is still in commission). I enjoyed seeing how these boats worked and was never bored. I also learned to swim, at age ten, in the open-air, sea-filled pool at Gourock. In retrospect, I also have a sneaky feeling that I was Jimmy’s perfect excuse to escape from the house!

I have never previously lived by the sea and yet here I am, on a small island called *Stronsay*, with my front gate no more than twenty paces from the shore and with sheep in the field beyond my garden wall. How on earth did this happen! Friends tease me and say that I bought a house from a one-legged man on a ferry. It is absolutely true, but it is a much longer story that started in June 2004, when I saw the house and *just wondered* if I could re-mortgage my house in Bath and buy it.

I will spare you the account of the house buying and all the visits I made to Stronsay over eighteen months, and just say that on 2 December 2005 I arrived at my new house for good, only to find damp and some recent storm damage. I am still here.

Deep down, *Orcadians* do not feel that they are part of Scotland, perhaps in the same way that ‘UK-dians’ do not feel that they are part of Europe! We do not have the tartan dolls or ginger wigs for sale up here—the emphasis is on good food produce and local crafts, including fine jewellery. I also discovered that each individual island has its own identity—another reason, perhaps, why we northern islanders feel that we do not belong to the mainland.

In the winter it is two-and-a-half hours, each way, by boat to Kirkwall, on the mainland, because the ferry also calls at the islands of *Sanday* and *Eday*. Not many people would spend five hours on a round trip to the nearest supermarket, but we do. Our two local shops are perfect for day-to-day groceries and lovely fresh meat, but, if you need a carpet or a new cooker, a five hour trip is on the cards!

I recently took the ferry to *North Ronaldsay* and cycled around the island, with its seaweed-eating sheep and incredible lighthouse. I discovered another, different island-identity. I also learned to spot gannets, great skuas and fulmars, and was thrilled to the core with my first sighting of killer whales.

Well the house has dried out. I love it here.

I am 59° north: seals basking on white sand by beautiful, blue seas; healthy air and food; extremely windy, but rarely icy; short summer nights, when it never gets dark; long winter nights when it never seems to get light; a strong sense of community; houses left unlocked; good medical care; and a New Year's Eve, that I shall remember for a long time. Perhaps these are reasons enough.

A Strange Coincidence

By The Editor

By some sort of weird coincidence, the above article arrived in my e-mail inbox last June, when we were on holiday in the Highlands of Scotland (yes, I *am* the sort of person who rents a holiday cottage that has a broadband Internet connection). We were showing an American friend around Scotland. The day before, we had stood on the most northerly point of the British mainland, by the lighthouse at Dunnet Head, looking across the Pentland Firth to the most southerly of the Orkney Islands.

It was June—mid-summer—and we were so far north it hardly got dark at all at night. Our friend comes from New York State, one of the northern states, and I wanted to show how much further north we were than New York. So, I did a little investigation, on the Internet, and the results surprised even me.

Dunnet Head at 58° 40' north, is 1234 miles (1986 km) north of *New York City*, at 40° 47' , and only 176 miles (283 km) south of *Anchorage, Alaska*, at 61° 13' north. Even *London*, at 51° 32' north, is 742 miles (1194 km) north of New York City.

Just for comparison, here are the latitudes for some other northern hemisphere cities, that we think of as pretty far north: *Toronto* 43° 40' , *Ottawa* 45° 24' , *Moscow* 55° 45' , *Stockholm* 59° 17' and *Oslo* 59° 57' .

On the side: A stairlift for a Dartmoor Tor

Planning permission is being sought for a stairlift on one of Dartmoor's most iconic natural rock formations.

Artist Alex Murdin, who says he has the backing of disabled groups, has applied to Dartmoor National Park Planning Authority for permission for the stairlift at Haytor Rocks. Alex said: 'I have a father with polio. Why should he have to sit in the car park?'

However, Hugh Robinson, deputy secretary of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, said: 'There were a series of steps built into the Tor in the 1800s, but I think this is absolutely ridiculous. Someone is playing a silly joke and it should be treated as such'.

The above is a summary of an article carried by the BBC news website on 2 July 2006.

Haytor Rocks is on the southern edge of Dartmoor and close to Bovey Tracey, where the *Witheridge Family History Society* will hold its twentieth anniversary reunion in 2007. The rocks can be seen from the *Coombe Cross Hotel*, the actual venue of the reunion.



By Kim Cook

Marks, Witheridge and the Wether-man

Those who were at the Witheridge reunion in May 2005 will remember our lovely lunch, at *The Rising Sun* on *Witheridge Hill*, and our meeting with local historian Angela Spencer-Harper. Even those who weren't able to be there will have read about our discussion (see pages 13–14 in the summer 2005 issue of *The Witheridge Times*, Volume 19 Number 2) on the meaning of the name Witheridge, with Angela favouring the *ridge of the willows*, while my own research indicates the *ridge of the wethers*, a wether being a castrated ram.

This conversation came vividly back to my mind as I researched my Marks ancestry in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, particularly in the Reading, Henley and Shiplake areas, so close to our reunion venue. We have long accepted that none of our known Witheridge families originated in that area, but could our *Wembury Witheridge* line prove to have links by marriage with Witheridge Hill?

For many years the ancestry of my grandmother, Flora Marks, who married William Henry Witheridge, has been a mystery. Flora's father, William Lovelock Marks, born on 9 November 1840 in Reading, was the illegitimate son of Hannah Marks, presumably by a man named Lovelock. Up to now, I had found no further trace of William until he appeared in Kensington in the 1871 census. However, with the recent on-line release by Ancestry of the indexed 1851 census, I decided to have another look for him, and found him! William Marks, a ten-year-old scholar, born Reading, was living with his grandparents, Thomas and Sarah Marks, in the village of Assenden, near Henley, where Thomas kept a public house called The Red Cross.

Further research led to the discovery of other children of Thomas Marks, though as yet there is no sign of Hannah. The provisional *enhanced narrative pedigree* follows.

[Note: the enhanced narrative pedigree styles differs from the normal style of the magazine. So, genealogically significant names appear in bold, rather than being underlined—the standard magazine style reserves bold text for headings or exceptional emphasis. Ed.]

Enhanced Narrative Pedigree for Flora Marks

Thomas Marks, born c 1787, Shiplake, married c 1810, **Mary** (surname unknown). They spent the early years of their marriage in Shiplake, but by 1815 had moved to Arborfield, Berks. By 1851 they were back in Oxfordshire, running The Red Cross public house in Assenden, near Henley, and possibly brewing their own beer. Sarah died between 1851 and 1861, but Thomas continued to run the pub. By 1871 Thomas had retired to Eye and Dunsden, and he died before 1881. The known children of Thomas and Sarah were:

- 1 **George Marks**, born c 1812, Shiplake, at home with parents in 1851. He has not been found in any later census. A George Marks married Mar qr 1854 (Henley 3a 534) either Ellen Hughes or Elizabeth Maria Wheeler, and a George Marks died Jun qr 1859 (Henley 3a 302).

- 2 **Hannah Marks**, born c 1814 (date and place of birth unknown, so if born after 1817, she may have been the daughter of Thomas by his second wife, Sarah). Hannah was in Reading in November 1840 when her son was born, but not found since. Hannah and her unknown partner (possibly a Lovelock) had
- 1 **William Lovelock Marks**, born 9 November 1840, 17 Lyndhurst Street, Reading, at home with grandparents in 1851. Not found in 1861, but by 1871 he was lodging at 12 Charles Street, Kensington, and working as a painter. He may well have been found work by his uncle, John Marks (see 4, below). He married on 8 June 1871 at St Philip's Church, Kensington, Eliza Jeffreys, and gave his occupation as house decorator. The marriage certificate says William's father was John Marks a malster [sic], clearly not the case. This entry was probably an attempt to conceal his illegitimacy from his wife's family, and appears to have combined his uncle's name with his grandfather's occupation, the latter toned down from brewer to maltster to appease her Baptist family. William's eldest daughter, **Flora Marks**, born 1872, married on 20 October 1894, **William Henry Witheridge**.
- 3 **Thomas Marks**, born c 1815, baptised 24 December 1815, Arborfield, Berks, mother's name Mary. Not yet found in 1851. He married (wife unknown), but by 1861 he was a widower and had returned to live with his widowed father at the pub in Assenden, and was working as a labourer. He married 2), c 1865, **Elizabeth** (surname unknown), born c 1830, Henley-on-Thames, and in 1871 they were living at 13, Lockton Street, Kensington, London, where Thomas was a labourer and Elizabeth a cook.
- Mary Marks presumably died between 1815 and 1817 (unless there is an error in the baptism entries), and Thomas married Sarah. Thomas and Sarah had
- 4 **John Marks**, born c 1817, baptised 25 December 1817, Arborfield, Berks, mother's name Sarah. In 1851 he was unmarried, living at 38 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, working as a plumber and painter employing three men. Also in the household was a housekeeper, Barbara Martin, and her 19-year-old son William described as a trade servant. Between 1851 and 1861 John married **Adelaide** (surname unknown), born c 1831, and in 1861 they were both at 38 Tavistock Street, with a live-in apprentice and a housemaid. By this time John was employing ten men and two boys. Adelaide died Dec qr 1869, aged 37, and in 1871 John, a widower, was still at 38 Tavistock Street, but now a builder and plumber employing only two men. John died Dec qr 1878, aged 60.

While looking for other possible family members, I found a Hannah Marks born in 1814 in Harpsden, and was able to track back some of the Marks family in Harpsden to Shiplake. Looking for possible links between these and my own ancestors, I came across a fascinating entry in the 1851 census.

William Marks, born c 1801, and his wife Ann, born c 1812, had eight children, born between 1835 and 1850 in Ipsden, Oxfordshire. Ipsden is a little north of the Shiplake area, and this family may not be related to Thomas - at least not closely - but what struck me as hilarious was the location of the family, and the occupation of William: they lived on *Witheridge Hill*, in the parish of Rotherfield Greys, and William was a *castrator*—truly a wether-man!

News from Australia

A follow-up to the previous issue

The spring 2006 issue of *The Witheridge Times*, Volume 20 Number 1, carried some family news about Amanda Witheridge, from Mount Martha, Victoria. It looks like that item was somewhat premature, in reporting that Amanda was through the worst of it.

Amanda has been back in hospital again, this time for an operation to remove her gall bladder. Although this is not directly related to her previous ill-health, she says that it is common among those suffering from Crohn's disease and colitis. Amanda goes on to say that she is beginning to feel her old self again, and is determined not to let these health problems defeat her.

Amanda, we wish you, again, a speedy and successful recovery and a real end to these two years of sustained and traumatic problems with your health.

News from the United Kingdom

Kim Cook contributes two items of family news from the UK.

Ruby Wedding Anniversary

When Brenda Witheridge married Ron Dixon on 1 April 1966, she quipped 'Only a pair of fools would marry on April Fools' Day'. But they weren't fools—far from it—and on 1 April 2006, they celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Over fifty guests—family, friends, neighbours and colleagues—joined them for an evening reception in the Clockhouse Suite at the Rowhill Grange Country Club, near Dartford, Kent. Chief among the guests were their daughter Sarah and her husband Martyn Chudley, and their son Richard, who between them had been responsible for organising the event, as well as the youngest member of the family, two-year-old grandson Haydon Chudley, and Brenda's sister



Brenda and Ron Dixon, then and now

Mary with her husband Michael Foster.

After drinks and nibbles in the lounge and bar area, everyone adjourned to a superb meal in the beamed banqueting suite, accompanied by music from the sixties. Ron's brother, John Dixon, had organised a cunning quiz, testing our memories of the past forty years, which caused great hilarity, and everyone enjoyed a great evening.

Congratulation, Brenda and Ron. May you have many more happy years together.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Grant Witheridge (son of Rod and Sue) on his marriage to Melitta Campbell.

Last year Grant had whisked Melitta off for a romantic weekend in Paris and proposed on bended knee. Who could resist?—not Melitta!

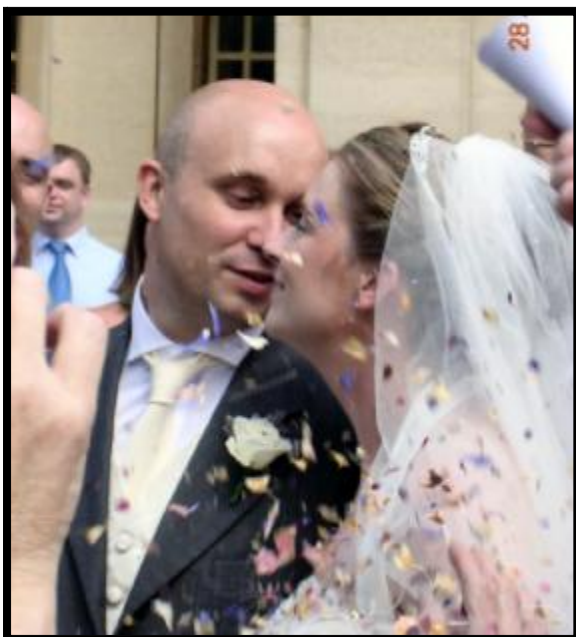
On 28 July, they were married at the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Bridget of Sweden in Isleworth. Grant's brother, Lance, was best man. See below for photos.

The afternoon reception at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Box Hill, near Dorking, Surrey, was followed by an evening event, at the same hotel, for a larger crowd, and on Saturday there was yet another gathering at Henry's in Richmond, attended by many of those who couldn't make the Friday celebrations.

Melitta's present to Grant was to hire an Aston Martin DB7 for the long weekend! Groom and best man duly drove to the church in this stunning car, and on Sunday, before departing for their honeymoon, Grant and Melitta could be seen swanning around Richmond Park in it.

The first part of the honeymoon was spent on safari, after which they travelled to a honeymoon lodge on Zanzibar.

We wish them both every happiness.



Witheridge Family Recipes

This issue features a recipe that makes good use of all the cooking apples around at this time of the year (at least in the northern hemisphere—sorry down-under).

Canterbury Tart

Ingredients (for 10–12 servings):

For the pastry

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) 100 g (4 oz) chilled butter, cubed | 3) 25 g (1 oz) icing sugar, sifted |
| 2) 225 g (8 oz) plain white flour | 4) 1 egg, beaten |

For the filling

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 5) 4 eggs | 10) 4 large cooking apples, peeled, cored and quartered |
| 6) 225 g (8 oz) caster sugar | 11) 2 dessert apples, peeled, cored, quartered and thinly sliced |
| 7) Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons | |
| 8) 100 g (4 oz) butter, melted | |
| 9) 25 g (1 oz) demerara sugar | |

To serve

- 12) Cream

Method:

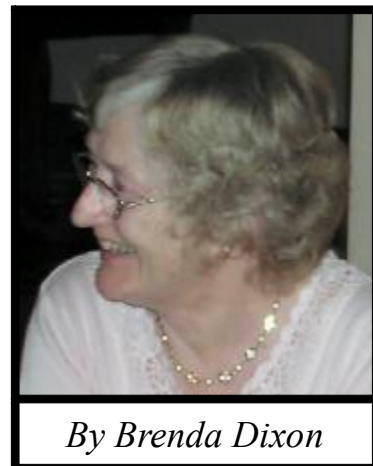
You will need a 27 cm (10½ in) flan tin about 4 cm (1½ in) deep.

If making the pastry by hand, rub the butter into the flour and icing sugar until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs, then stir in the beaten egg and bring together to form a dough. If made in a processor, combine the flour, butter and icing sugar in the bowl, then process until the mixture resembles ground almonds. Pour in the beaten egg and pulse the blade until the dough starts to form a ball around the central stem. Form the pastry into a smooth ball, put inside a plastic bag and chill for 30 minutes. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured work surface until slightly larger than the tin, then use a rolling pin to lift the pastry into the tin. Trim the edges and prick the base all over with a fork. Chill for a further 30 minutes.

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Put a heavy metal baking tray to heat in the oven.

To prepare the filling, beat the eggs, sugar, lemon rind and juice together in a large mixing bowl. Stir in the warm melted butter, then coarsely grate the cooking apples directly into the mixture and mix well. Have ready the thinly sliced dessert apples.

Remove the tart tin from the fridge and spread the lemon mixture in the base. Level the surface with the back of a spoon and arrange the dessert apple slices around the outside edge, neatly overlapping. Sprinkle the apple slices with demerara sugar. Put the tart on to the heated baking tray in the oven and bake for about 40–50 minutes or until the centre feels firm to the touch and the apple slices are tinged brown. Serve Warm with cream.



By Brenda Dixon



Witheridges in the News

A letter to the Telegraph of 6 May 2006 - sent in by Richard Witheridge

Equipment in Iraq

SIR - Martyn Pocock (Letters, June 2) is fully justified in feeling despair and outrage at the failure of the Government to provide adequate armour for our troops in Iraq. Vehicles such as the armoured Land Rover offer wholly inadequate protection against the improvised explosive devices in use there, and soldiers are dying as a result.

What defies belief is the imbalance to be found in the MoD's current equipment procurement programmes. The Royal Navy has recently received into service new ships. In the pipeline are two aircraft carriers, new destroyers and new submarines. The RAF has ordered a huge number of Eurofighters, the cost of just one of which is £80 million.

Any such amount could purchase very large numbers of adequately armoured vehicles. Is it not high time that the MoD's equipment priorities were re-examined and emphasis placed where it is needed in order to save lives?

Michael Witheridge Hayle, Cornwall

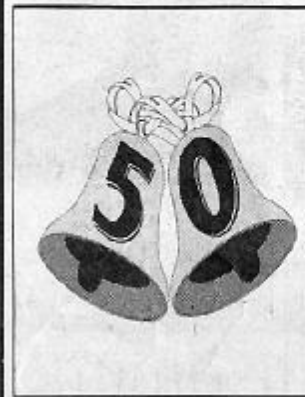


31-03-06
Witheridge
Thomas and
Margaret

50 years

Congratulations Mom and Dad on your
Golden Wedding Anniversary.
Lots of love Michelle, Dev, Devina,
Suzanne, Roy, Catherine, Wayne,
Wayne junior, Stephan xxxxxxxxxx

Witheridge - Wilkes
Thomas Henry to Margaret Rose



March 31st 1956
at
St Johns Church
Pleck
Happy Anniversary
Darling
Love Margaret

*Two cuttings from the Walsall Observer,
sent in by Mark and Jenny Witheridge.*

*Thomas and Margaret, although not
members, are known to the Society and
are members of the Walsall family tree.*

FFHS and the GoONS

By the Secretary, Beryl Witheridge

If you take a look at the Society's Financial Statement, on page 9, you will see that *The Witheridge Family History Society* subscribes to two umbrella organisations: the *Federation of Family History Societies* (FFHS) and the *Guild of One-Name Studies* (GoONS). We derive several benefits from this, including:

- Both the FFHS and the GoONS provide contact details for our society on their website.
- The FFHS publishes a journal, the *Family History News & Digest*, twice a year and a newsflash four times a year. As secretary, I receive copies. The newsflashes are also available for download in PDF format (by anyone—no sign in required), from the FFHS website at www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Newsflash.
- The FFHS runs seminars, which are open to members at a small charge. For example, the editor and I plan to attend a seminar on *Publicity and Promotion*. See the FFHS website for more details at www.ffhs.org.uk.
- The FFHS membership includes public liability insurance.
- The GoONS publish the *Journal of One-Name Studies* four times a year. Again I, as secretary, receive a copy. You can see the table of contents for these journals by visiting the GoONS website at www.one-name.org/journal.
- The GoONS also run seminars and conferences. See their website at www.one-name.org for more details.

If any member wishes to borrow the Society's copy of the FFHS or GoONS journal, please contact me via e-mail to Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com, telephone me at 01628-484026 or write to the address shown on the inside cover of this magazine. Such a loan would be for a short period only (in fairness to other members) and you would be expected to pay postage costs. It you want to buy your own copies, you can do so via the FFHS or GoONS websites.

Currently, the only journal I have received, since taking up office, is the *Journal of One-Name Studies* Vol 9 Issue 3 July–September 2006. I have also received two newsflashes from FFHS, but as I stated above, anyone can download these from the FFHS website. I will publish an updated list of journals received, in upcoming issues of *The Witheridge Times*.

One item of news, that came to us via the GoONS and may be of interest to members:

- The National Archives intends to move its Family Records Centre (FRC) staff and services to Kew, from its current location at Myddelton Street, Islington, by the end of 2008

Not Members e-mail Addresses

By the Editor

We have no e-mail addresses to publish here, in this issue (e-mail addresses for the new members can be found on pages 23–25). I thought the following a suitable substitute:



Young master Witheridge—a future member perhaps?

Post scriptum: the next issue and don't forget

I am not sure that I ought to be pre-announcing the contents of the next issue—I keep having to eat my words. In this case, my own article, on using your computer to search digital versions of the magazine, is held over yet again. There was so much that just *had* to go into this issue! I will try very hard to fit it in next time.

And don't forget, *please* complete the questionnaire about the twentieth anniversary reunion and get it back to Richard. It does not matter if your plans are not yet set in concrete, Richard needs to have some idea of members wishes so that he can plan ahead!

Until the next issue, may good fortune attend you. *The Editor.*

Continued from inside front cover

Officers of the Society

Webmaster

Mr Paul Witheridge
343 Bright Street
Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 4G5, Canada
e-mail: Webmaster@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

Representative for North America

Mrs Kathy Witheridge
343 Bright Street
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, N7T 4G5
e-mail: NAmerica@WitheridgeFHS.com

Representative for New Zealand

Mrs Velma Metcalfe
49 Chester Road
Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand
e-mail: NZealand@WitheridgeFHS.com

Committee Members

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

Mr Graham Browne
Address as for Mrs Joyce Browne

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

Mr Richard Witheridge
Address as for Mrs Maureen Witheridge

Mrs Pamela Glynn
9 Nichol Place,
Cotford St Luke, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 1JD

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