

Hello again Friends,

I must commence this 2nd Newsletter with an apology for not getting it to you early in September. They do say that the older you get the quicker time goes - Heaven only knows what pressures I will face if I live to be 90 years of age!!!

Following weeks of really lovely weather throughout the whole of September, we have experienced days of heavy rain and the need to think about preparing for the on-set of winter months. Wherever you are in the world, I do hope that life is treating you kindly and that you have things to look forward to.

There is quite a lot to cover in this 2nd Newsletter, so let's get down to business.

FAMILY NEWS:

1. A Tragic Loss:

I doubt if there are very few folk in the world who will not have heard of the appalling death of **HANNAH WITHERIDGE,** who was murdered on Sunday 14 September, whilst on holiday in Thailand. Kim Cook has kindly provided me with the basic family details in order that I can pass these on to you. "Hannah, aged just 23, was the youngest of four children born to Anthony (Tony) and Susan (Sue) Witheridge. She grew up in Hemsby, Norfolk, where her grandparents, Donald and Eileen Witheridge set up a holiday business in the late 1950s. Over the years the business flourished and many of Donald and Eileen's children and their spouses have been involved in helping to run the business. Eileen died in May 2000, and Donald on 1 July 2011. Donald's obituary was published in the Summer-Autumn 2011 of *TWT*. The family is descended from James Witheridge and Hannah Jerman of South Devon and Weston-super- Mare."

Whilst Hannah's family are not officially members of the Society, some of their close relations are current members. The family are linked with us all as they are Witheridges. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tony and Sue, and Hannah's siblings, Paul, Tania and Laura.

2. A Most Joyous Birth:

RALPH EDWARD JOHNSON

Our Treasurer, Liz Davey and her husband Chris, (Vice Chair of the Society) have become first-time Grandparents to Ralph Edward Johnson, who weighed 6lb.14oz at his birth on the 22nd August. We also send good wishes and congratulations to Ralph's parents, Rebecca and George Johnson.



Proud grandmother with day old baby Ralph

3. A Most Welcome New Member.

REBEKAH CARLSON

On September 22nd, I received the following e-mail from USA. -

“My name is Rebekah Carlson; my uncle, Steve Karnes, graciously sponsored me to become involved in the Witheridge Family History Society. I have attached my application and a photo of myself and my family; please let me know what else I can do to get more involved!”



Rebekah, with her husband Dr. Matthew Carlson and their 2 yr old daughter, Ingrid Elizabeth.

Rebekah's membership number is 266 and she can be contacted at rebekahdiane03@gmail.com

A very sincere welcome to Rebekah, Matthew and Ingrid. We will let you get settled into the Witheridge Family and then I am sure we will be delighted to respond to the last line of your e-mail!! Well done Steve - lovely to see the younger generation taking a real interest in their family history. With the addition of Rebekah, the Combe Martin branch of the Witheridge Tree grows ever larger.

Are there members of your family who would welcome being sponsored by you - Christmas is just around the corner?!!

4. Sharing Great News.

I want to share some personal good news with you. (Hope you don't mind). You may recall that in *TWT* Volume 26 No.1 - 2012, my sister, Angela and I wrote an article entitled "Lost and Found" which told the story of my search for my birth family. Angela mentioned the fact that although I had managed to find out what had happened to all my siblings, our eldest sister did not want any contact and the only boy in the family felt unable to go beyond corresponding with us once or twice a year since 2006.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that at the end of August our brother, David, actually turned up on my doorstep and introduced himself and his wife Julie, expressing surprise that I did not recognise him, especially as it was only 71 years since we last saw each other!! Whilst they were with me, we managed to SKYPE Angela in Australia and hope that before long they will be able to meet up in person.

It is always lovely to be able to hear good news, so don't forget to send me a note of happy events. But if life is not treating you too well, then that's what families are for - whether good or bad, we want to be there for each other.

5. On The Move.

I have received word that ALLAN & JUDITH WITHERIDGE (#165) are moving from their home in Figtree NSW on 29 October. I haven't yet got their new address, but I am sure **JUDITH** will let us know it shortly. I anticipate that they will retain their e-mail address which is jwitheridge@hotmail.com You will recall that **JUDITH** was our Australian representative until her retirement from the position last year. Our very best wishes to you both **ALLAN & JUDITH** - sure it will be something of a wrench to leave your lovely bungalow in Figtree, but may your new home bring you even more years of happiness.

KIM (our Researcher), & ROY COOK (#01) have had something of a nightmare time during the past year. Both of them have struggled (and are still struggling) with serious ill-health issues. In addition to their health struggles, **KIM & ROY** were badly let down regarding the sale of their home in Tenterden, Kent. However, it is good to hear from **KIM** recently that they have plans to move early in November. I am sure that high on their list of priorities when looking for their new home was the need for a large room in which to store all the massive amount of **WITHERIDGE** material that will be moving with them! Do take care **KIM & ROY** as you look forward to being settled in your new home. E-mail address for **KIM & ROY** - Witheridge1987@aol.com

Maybe I shall be able to insert some pictures of the new homes in the next newsletter? Can I remind all members of how important it is that you advise me of new addresses and especially if you change your e-mail address!

Sincere thanks to Kim for the following article.

Every Man Remembered

by Kim Cook

In this centenary year marking the start of World War 1, there have been many events and initiatives aimed at remembering the horrors of that war, and the courage of those involved. One of the most comprehensive is **Every Man Remembered (EMR)**, a project organised jointly by the **Royal British Legion (RBL)** and the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)**.

The aim of this project is to ensure that every person whose life was lost in the 1914-18 war, is remembered in an individual and personal way. It is often assumed, quite wrongly, that every WW1 death is commemorated in the home country on a war memorial, or on a plaque or board in a church or community hall. These memorials were organised locally on a voluntary basis. Some communities couldn't, or didn't, raise the funds for a memorial. Even where a memorial was in place, many UK memorials were destroyed by bombing in WW2 and not replaced. This lack of a tangible memorial is now being redressed by one on the Internet. A web-site, at www.everymanremembered.org, has a page for every single person lost, and we are all encouraged to honour someone special to us, whether by family ties, friendship, or local association.

The openings screen on the website gives an overview of the project, and offers two options, to commemorate someone you know, or to find someone to commemorate. If you are looking for a specific surname, then choose the 'someone you know' option. This takes you to a page where you can enter a surname, Christian name or initial, and other details, if known, but just a surname is sufficient, particularly if it's not among the most common. Entering the surname Witheridge brings up a list of six Witheridge profiles, for **Thomas, George, Alfred Richard, William Henry, J F and Frederick John**. From our own research we know that J F is Joseph Fred, and that he was the brother of George, also killed. For each one there are basic details of unit and date of death, with age if known. Clicking on the banner under each name brings up the additional information set out below.

Private Thomas Witheridge

Australian Infantry, AIF, died 2 March 1917, age 32. Buried Warlencourt Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Son of Philomon & Mary Witheridge of Prince Alfred Street, Berry, NSW. Native of Greenwell Point, NSW. Australian Service No 5688.

Private George Witheridge

Devonshire Regiment, died 1 July 1916, age unknown. Commemorated Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, British Service No 16812.

Private Alfred Richard Witheridge

Australian Infantry, AIF, died 25 October 1917, age 28. Commemorated Ypres (Menin Gate), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Son of Alfred & Polly Witheridge of Queens Park, Western Australia. Australian Service No 2754.

Private William Henry Witheridge

Australian Infantry, AIF, died 20 September 1917, age 19. Commemorated Ypres (Menin Gate), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Son of Annie Elizabeth Witheridge, of Stafford Ville, Lincoln Street, Campsie, NSW, and the late Henry Witheridge. Native of Balmain, NSW. Australian Service No 6403.

Private J F Witheridge

Devonshire Regiment, died 4 November 1918, age 40. Buried Plymouth (Ford Park) Cemetery, Devon, UK. Brother of Mrs L Dungey, of 4 Higher Batter Street, Plymouth. UK Service No 28397.

Leading Stoker Frederick John Witheridge

Royal Navy, died 9 July 1917, age 26. Commemorated Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, UK. Son of the late Harry and Annie Elizabeth Witheridge; brother of Mr H H Witheridge, of 32 Cameron Street, Balmain, NSW. UK Service No SS/112681.

Each name you click on brings you to a page which offers two options - to commemorate that person, leaving a short text or dedication, with your name(s), and then the further option of creating a fuller profile, with details of the person, their family and their war service.

My searches for Wetheridge and Weatheridge produced no results. I had thought that maybe someone from the prolific Wetheridge family of London might have been killed in this conflict, but they seem to have been very lucky, with no fatalities at all.

My own Witheridge branch (Wembury) was also lucky, but that was primarily because most of their offspring of service age were female! My Uncle Bill (**William Edmund George Witheridge**), born in December 1899, was called up, but never got to France. He told me how he had gone away for training, and was en route to the coast ready for embarkation, when the Armistice was signed in November 1918. He was the father of our member **Brenda Dixon**.

There were, of course, other Witheridge descendants in the female line, who lost their lives in the 1914-18 war. One of these was **John Witheridge Edmunds**, born 1896, son of **Richard James Edmunds** and **Mary Jane** (née **Witheridge**), of the Ermington branch. His EMR profile is as follows.

Private John Witheridge Edmunds

Royal Marine Light Infantry, died 21 August 1915, age unknown. Commemorated at Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, UK. UK Service No PLY/2275

Although my own immediate family suffered no losses, Roy's family did. A few years ago, I discovered that Roy's father had a brother, George, whom we had previously known nothing about. In researching his life, I learned that he had been killed in France in September 1918, at the age of 19, and was buried in Meath Cemetery in Northern France. Roy and I were both greatly saddened that no-one in George's family had been aware of this, and to discover that he has no memorial in the UK. We have taken the opportunity to pay tribute to him on the Every Man Remembered web-site.

There must be many members of the Witheridge FHS who lost family members, but are unaware of the EMR web-site. I'm sure they'll wish to commemorate those who died serving their country. Where there are no known close kin of those who died, maybe members of the wider family would like to ensure that they're not forgotten.

If, in the course of researching your own family at that time, you come across another Witheridge descendent who died in WW1, please let me know, so that I can ensure the name is added to the roll of honour on our own WFHS web-site.

While preparing this article, I came across an item in the parish magazine of St Mark's, Biggin Hill, Kent. This church is close to the St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, where 452 allied airmen who were killed during WW2, while operating from Biggin Hill airfield, are commemorated. The current Anglican Chaplain, **Rev Chris Baker**, wrote this about remembrance. It expresses extremely well what remembrance is about, and is reproduced here with his permission.

Remembrance is more than looking back. It is bringing the service, the actions, and sacrifices of those in the past, and those more recent, into the present reality of our lives. We may respond with sadness, grief, anger, or any number of emotions, but our response can lead us into renewed action in the present, to work for peace and reconciliation for the good of all humanity.

Thank you Kim for this timely reminder.

Moving on to think about next year - as promised in the last newsletter, I am able to confirm that a booking has been made for the **Witheridge AGM and Reunion for 2015**. This will take place on **16 May, 2015**, in the **SP2 Community Centre in Salisbury, Wiltshire**. I will give you further details in the first newsletter of 2015, but in the meantime, please seriously consider the possibility of you joining with us on this day. We will also be looking at family things to do on the Sunday. Watch this space.

Lastly a reminder from **BARBARA FINEMORE (#179)** Membership Secretary.

Subscriptions for 2015 are payable in January 2015. Barbara will be giving full details of ways in which subscriptions can be made in the next newsletter which will be due for posting in the early days of December 2014. (barbarafinemore@gmail.com)

When I was preparing this newsletter, I was concerned that I would not have enough to put into it! Now I need to apologise for the fact that it is so detailed!!

Will be in back with Newsletter No.3 very soon now, but in the meantime, everyone, take good care of yourself and don't be shy - keep in touch!!

Love from,

Beth (#253)
Secretary. beth.neilly40@gmail.com