

Volume 9

Number 1

Spring 1995

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E D I T O R I A L

Spring Greetings to every one of our readers. This is the time to look forward to a year of exciting research and discovery. Last year our researchers pursued several lines of enquiry which resulted in stories for the magazine, and there are more stories and research notes to come. We have had frustrations and disappointments when the trail seems to come to a dead end, but I have noticed that sometimes, although failing to find one item, something quite unexpected appears.

New discovery can be upsetting if it demolishes a favourite theory, and one fact any researcher discovers is that our ancestors could be economical with the truth about names, ages and parentage, maybe hoping never to be discovered! Nevertheless, we hope to continue searching with our Witheridge W's in the forefront of our minds - 'Who', 'Where' and 'When', and with 'What' evidence?

Graham's contribution to research recently has been to obtain a copy of the book "The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1660 - 1615" which is available only to members of the Navy Records Society. This is an alphabetical index of commissioned officers, their rank, promotion if any, and date of death or discharge from the Service. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a Witheridge among them, but if anyone is interested in any other name, Graham will be pleased to make a search. Our address is inside the front cover.

An invitation to our Annual General Meeting and 'get-together' on Sunday, 7th May, at Alderton, Glos., is enclosed with this magazine. All members, their families and friends are welcome. Let's make this a day of discovery, meeting friends and relations we haven't met before!

I look forward to seeing you -

Joyce

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WITHERIDGE
SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, 7th May, 1995, in the Village Hall, Alderton, Gloucestershire, at 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the seventh Annual General Meeting held on the 2nd May, 1994
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Research Co-ordinator's Report
9. Election of Officers
10. Any other business

The Annual General Meeting is part of our Witheridge Day reunion, and if you are not able to attend, but would like to nominate a person to hold office in the Society, please complete the form attached to the invitation which accompanies this magazine. It is necessary to obtain the consent of any person so nominated.

Please return the form to me, the undersigned, or to Mrs. Mayda Witheridge, Secretary, addresses inside the front cover.

If there is any matter which you would like to be considered under 'Any other business' it would be helpful, but not essential, if you would give me, or our Secretary, Mrs. Mayda Witheridge, prior notice.


Abraham Brown.

FAMILY NEWS from John Witheridge

I would like to share some news with you all. To both Mayda and I it is very special. Our younger daughter Cheryl and her partner Aaron have just presented us with our first grandchild - Christopher John Young - born 3.40 p.m., Saturday, 1st October, 1994, and weighing 7lb. 15 oz.

Cheryl and Aaron are keen judo addicts. Aaron runs his own club and organises competitions and assessments. Christopher at the ripe old age of one week and one day was taken to his first assessment. I have it on very good authority that he floored them all.

NEWS FROM THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

Supplied by John Witheridge

On Friday, 22nd September, 1995, to mark the 21st anniversary of the Federation of Family History Societies, there will be a late afternoon Cocktail Party in the Cholmondely Room of the House of Lords, followed later by a tour of the House. Lord Teviot, President of the Sussex Family History Group, has arranged this programme for the Federation of Family History Societies.

Places will be limited and admissions will be by ticket only, at the cost of £15.00. At this stage it is thought that one ticket only will be offered to each society, though there may be a change in numbers as this offer is taken up. It is up to each member society how they allocate this ticket.

On behalf of the Witheridge Society I have accepted our ticket. It now remains for us to decide who we put forward as our representative, so that when requested I can forward a name to the organisers.

1994 British Isles Genealogical Register

The Federation proposes to market this edition on fiche (24) at a cost of £25.00. County sections are available now to County F.H.S.

1881 Census transcriptions - availability listing as from
30th November, 1994

| County | No. | Cost |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| Beds | 31 | £6.20 |
| Berks | 43 | 8.60 |
| Bucks | 35 | 7.00 |
| Cambs | 36 | 7.20 |
| Cornwall | 63 | 12.60 |
| Devon | 107 | 21.40 |
| Dorset | 39 | 7.80 |
| Glos | 104 | 20.80 |
| Heref | 27 | 5.40 |
| Herts | 39 | 7.80 |
| Hunts | 15 | 3.00 |
| Leic | 59 | 11.80 |
| Northampton | 51 | 10.20 |
| Oxford | 35 | 7.00 |
| Rutland | 7 | 1.40 |
| Shrops | 47 | 9.40 |
| Somerset | 87 | 17.40 |
| Suffolk | 67 | 13.40 |
| Warwick | 132 | 26.40 |
| Westmorland | 15 | 3.00 |
| Wilts | 51 | 10.20 |
| Worcs | 71 | 14.20 |
| Anglesey | 15 | 3.00 |
| Brecon | 15 | 3.00 |
| Caenarv | 27 | 5.40 |
| Cardig | 19 | 3.80 |
| Carmarth | 27 | 5.40 |
| Denbigh | 23 | 4.60 |
| Flint | 19 | 3.80 |
| Glamorg | 91 | 18.00 |
| Merion | 15 | 3.00 |
| Monm | 40 | 8.00 |
| Montgom | 15 | 3.00 |
| Pemb | 15 | 3.00 |
| Radn | 11 | 2.20 |
| Isle of Man | 15 | 3.00 |
| Guernsey | 11 | 2.20 |
| Jersey | 15 | 3.00 |
| Royal Navy | 11 | 2.20 |

Post and packing extra. Call John Witheridge for details.

FAMILY EXPOSURE - A WITHERIDGE FAMILY AND PARTNERS

by John Witheridge

For a long time I have wondered what each and everyone of you is like, and I know that some of you share this curiosity. (What are your characteristics, both physically and mentally - how does your family fare in the arts, etc?) I have written to some of our members asking for photographs both old and new, to copy here in our magazine as the start of a new series in which we can introduce ourselves to each other.

Our letters, and the way we write articles in the Witheridge Times, give an indication of our mental make-up. With the photographs which I hope will be shown here, we will indeed know more about, and will recognise our family members from all around the world. So please send any photos you can spare, of yourselves and your family, and any other members or descendants of Witheridge families, to me. If you need them to be returned, I will do so in my next letter to you. It may be that you have photographs which you hesitate to hand on to others, but perhaps you could have copies made, or even photocopies. I feel that many of you will gain great pleasure out of this, trying to compare the build and countenance and colouring of each member and ancestor.

Here are the first in what I hope will be a gallery of photographs:

1. The family of Michael Allan Witheridge and his wife Dorothy, née Robson, taken not long after they moved to Eastwood in New South Wales, Australia - probably in the year 1959/60. Michael was the accountant of Helena Rubinstein Cosmetics in New South Wales. The picture shows Michael and Dorothy with their son Anthony John (on the right with dog). Anthony now lives in the USA with his wife Jane, and Danny.

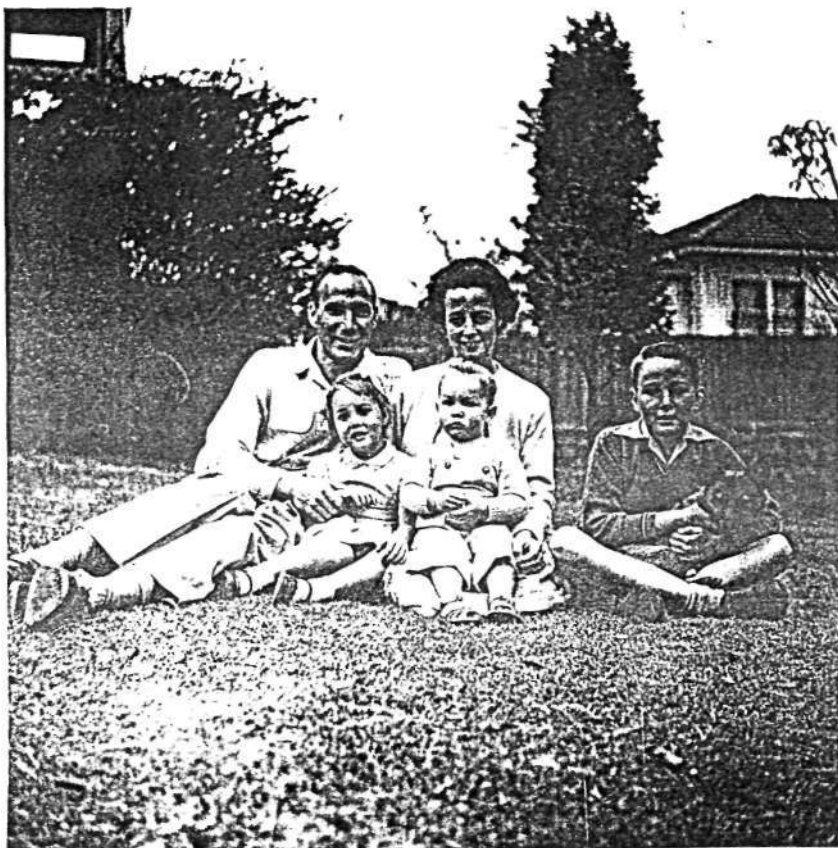
Anthony (Tony) graduated as a Pure and Applied Chemist.

Kerry Ann (next to Dad) followed her father into accountancy, and is married to Kerry Patrick McManus.

Last, but not least, Grant Michael (on Mom's knee) is a civil engineer with a Master's degree in Hydraulics.

2. This shows the fourth child, Bradley Alan, second from the right, with the three other children. This must have been taken in the year 1962. Bradley has been visiting the USA during the last few months, visiting a girl he met in Australia, while she was over there on a university course. Until this time he was working as a chemical engineer at Colgate Palmolive.

One note which might amuse you all:- Anthony (Tony), Jane and Danny visited England last year. They stayed the night in a hotel in Combe Martin, hardly a stone's throw away from the country town of Witheridge. Tony felt very let down when the booking clerk asked him to spell his surname!





NOTE FROM CANADA

Kathy Witheridge wrote telling of the lovely holiday she and husband Paul had when they visited Paul's "Uncle Clarence" for the first time. Strictly speaking, Clarence Ayre is not Paul's uncle, he and Paul are second cousins twice removed. Clarence was 'found' as a result of Kathy's researches, and he told a thrilling tale of his parents' hardships as pioneers in the territory of Saskatchewan, Clarence being the first white child to be born in the area (1911). You can read the story and see the family tree in the magazine Volume 6 No. 2 Summer 1992.

Kathy was amazed to see how alike were Clarence and Paul's father, Clifford George (2nd cousins once removed), even to a birth mark on the side of the face. "Really spooky", Kathy says.

This adds impact to our appeal for family photographs unless of course we don't want to be thought like any of our Witheridge relations!

The indomitable lady in the picture is Mary Saunders Witheridge, great grandmother to Clarence and 3 x great grandmother to Paul. Isn't it remarkable that we have a photograph of someone who was born 180 years ago?



Mary Saunders Witheridge,
Baptised Bradworthy 1812.
Married George Witheridge,
1839, at Bradworthy,
Emigrated to Canada, 1841,
Died Toronto, 1902,
Aged 89 years

WORK AND PLEASURE

by John Witheridge

Strange as it may seem, it is not very often that I find the opportunity to work and research on the Ermington family tree, my own family line. I do seem to enjoy the challenges of the Berrynarbor and Combe Martin lines, so perhaps this report will correct the imbalance and redress my inclinations to research other family branches.

Two weeks after our AGM at Alderton, I returned home from a trip to Leeds in Yorkshire to find awaiting me an invitation to a family gathering. The family concerned was the Devonshire family, the VELVINS. So two weeks later I donned my hat as Chairman of the Council of Family Societies, and my warm friendly smile of the Witheridge family and set off to Gosmore in Hertfordshire where the meeting was to be held. In fact this village is just north of Graham and Joyce Browne's house, by some ten miles.

On arrival I met all the members of this family as one by one the gathering grew in numbers until it reached about twenty five in total. They were each busy with the research they had brought with them, each clamouring for information and exploring relationships. Family trees were laid out and photocopies of marriage, burial and birth certificates, plus a selection of census copies from the early years. It was their very first meeting.

On this day I came away with more facts and figures that they had presented to me than I could have ever have wished for. Let me list them for you and explain as I go.

Item One: Ermington parish records (Not yet filmed) These details copied by hand from the registers.

Marriage of Sarah Witheridge and John Velvin
10th March 1851. Marriage No. 60.
John Velvin of full age. Bachelor. Butcher.
Sarah Witheridge Spinster. Minor
Father, George Velvin Butcher
Father Henry Witheridge, Carpenter
John and Sarah both signed the register.
Witnesses, Betsy Witheridge* and Mary Ann Conway+

(We do have a record of this marriage in our St. Catherine's House indexes, in the registration district of Plympton St. Mary, in Volume XX page 473. Though as you may know, the index for marriages prior to 1912 did not include the name of the spouse).

Baptism of Sarah Witheridge, daughter of Henry and Betsy Witheridge.* 23rd January, 1831.
Father's occupation: Painter and glazier

Marriage of Henry Witheridge and Betsy Coleman*
M.Fiche 10, page 33, No. 99
3rd June, 1825. Both signed the register.
Witnesses: Richard Coleman and Mary Ann Coleman

(Both of these two items are to be found in the IGI for Devonshire under the name 'Witheridge', but the detail which accompanies them could only have been obtained from the parish registers)

Baptism of Betsy Coleman* daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Coleman: 22nd May, 1804 (Not baptised as Elizabeth)

This item is new to us, except that one of our newest members (name below) did send similar information just before our last AGM.

Henry Witheridge, son of Arthur and Elizabeth:
Born 8th December, 1797 M.fiche 12, line 1 page 1
Baptism 24th December, 1797 (IGI)

Marriage of Richard Coleman and Elizabeth Ryder:
5th January, 1803. Both signed. Witness: John Ryder (signed)
M fiche 10, line 1 page 4

Baptism Richard Coleman, son of George and Grace Coleman:
Born 16th April, 1776, baptised 11 May, 1776
M fiche 11, line 3, P.R.5, page 1

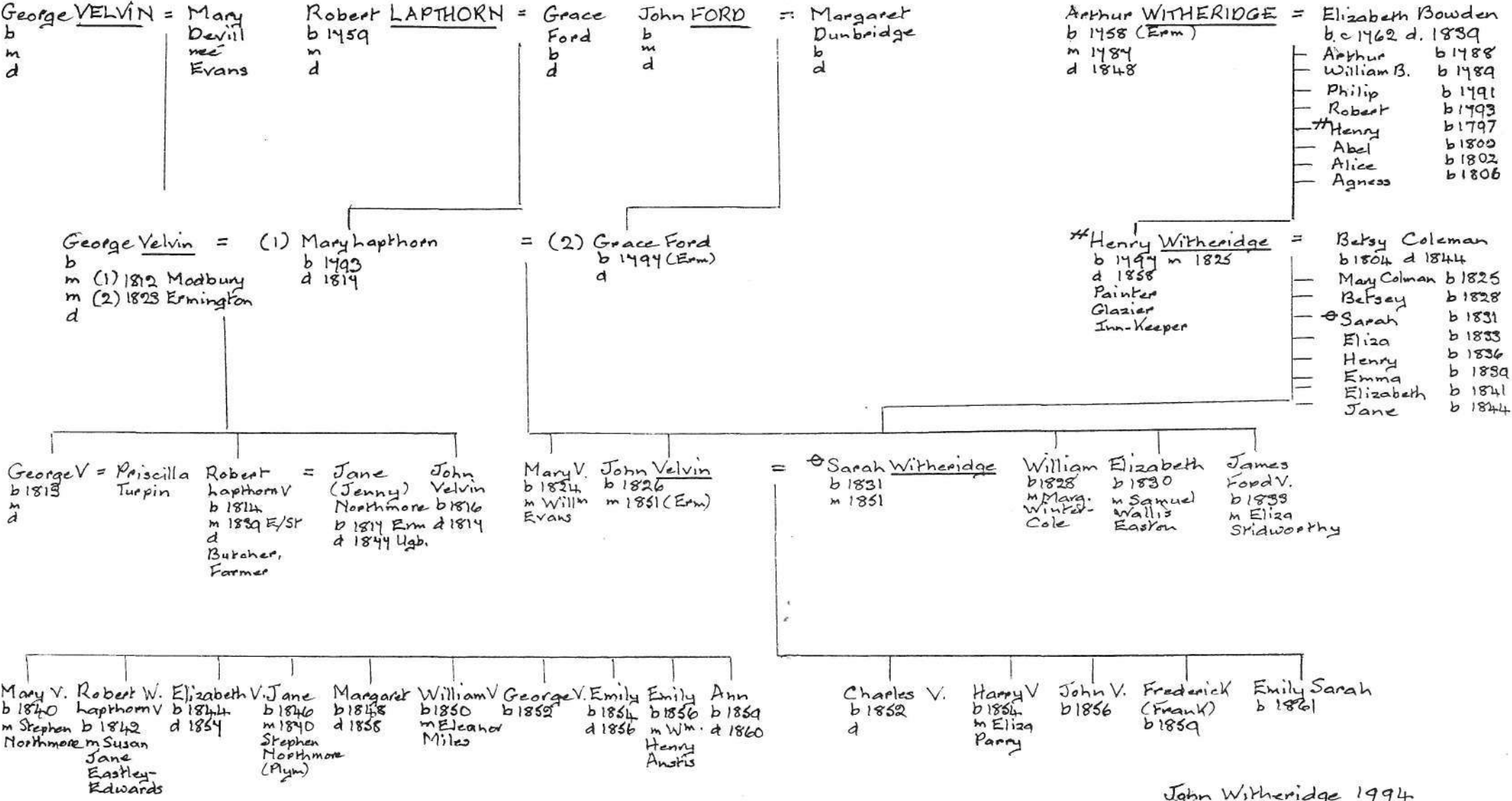
Parish Register 5 1776-1812. On inside cover:
"26th July, 1785, George Coleman was chosen as clerk by George Toned, Vicar."

Marriage of George Coleman and Grace Cummin:
26th November, 1756. M fiche 8, line 4, page 1, No.16
George Coleman of Ermington and Grace Cummin of Bigotry
George signed his name. Witnesses were not legible.

We have to thank Mrs. Pat Kopaczynski, our member No.112, and Mrs. Doreen Wherry of the Velvin name study group for this information. Doreen lives in Ivybridge, Devon.

With reference to Henry and Betsy Witheridge* and their children: (1) Betsy Coleman was never baptised 'Elizabeth'.
(2) Mary Ann Conway+ (Witness to marriage) was the older sister of Sarah Velvin nee Witheridge.
(3) Grace Cummin - I wonder if there is any connection to the Cumming marriage in the Bristol Combe Martin family?

THE VELVIN/WITHERIDGE/LAPTHORN TREE - ERMINGTON AREA



John Witheridge 1994

From another member of this gathering, Mr. Amand, I received the following:

Census 30th March, 1851. Ermington

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|----|--------|---------|-------|-----------|
| John Velvin | Head | Mar. | 24 | male | Butcher | Devon | Ermington |
| Sarah Velvin | Wife | Mar. | 20 | female | | Devon | Ermington |

(i.e., Sarah Velvin nee Witheridge, and again below-)

Census April, 1861. Ermington

106 Laucury Farm Ho.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|----|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| John Velvin | Head | Mar. | 34 | male | Farming | 50 acres | employing |
| | | | | | 2 men | Devon | Ermington |
| Sarah Velvin | Wife | Mar. | 30 | female | | Devon | Ermington |
| Charles | " | son | 9 | male | | " | " |
| Harry | " | son | 7 | " | | " | " |
| John | " | son | 5 | " | | " | " |
| Frank | " | son | 2 | " | | " | " |
| / | " | dau | 1 | mth | female | " | " |

Census April 1861. Ugborough

No. 24 Butcher's Shop

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|------|----|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Robert Velvin | Head | Mar. | 47 | male | Butcher/Farmer | 50 acres | |
| | | | | | Employing | 4 labourers | |
| | | | | | | Devon | Modbury |
| Jane Velvin | Wife | Mar. | 44 | female | | Devon | Ermington |
| Mary | " | dau | 20 | | | " | " |
| Robert | " | son | 18 | male | | " | " |
| Jane | " | dau | 15 | female | | " | " |
| William | " | son | 12 | male | Scholar | " | Ugborough |
| George | " | son | 10 | male | " | " | " |
| Emily | " | dau | 4 | female | " | " | " |
| William Cole | | | 21 | male | Servant | " | " |
| Henry Matthews | | um | 23 | male | Servant | " | Modbury |
| Elizabeth | Servant | | | | | | |
| Witheridge | | um | 21 | female | " | " | Ermington |
| Mary | Visitor | | | | | | |
| Witheridge | | um | 31 | | Dressmaker | " | " |

Elizabeth Witheridge - aged 21 in the year 1861 was the 6th child of Philip Witheridge and Mary Northmore. She was working as a servant to the Velvin household, and being visited by her older sister, Mary, the eldest child of that same marriage, born 1829.

Jane Velvin, wife, was the sister of our own Mary Witheridge, née Northmore, and the two Witheridges, Elizabeth and Mary, were Mary Northmore Witheridge's daughters.

Received from Doreen Heaton

Census Yealmpton 1851. H0107/1877 folio 260

147 Kitney Lodge

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-------------------|
| Northmore Rebecca Head | wid 69 | wid.of | Devon Marlborough |
| | | Ag.lab. | |
| " Richard son un | m 32 | Ag.Lab. | " Yealmpton |

Rebecca Northmore listed here is reputed to be the mother of our Rebecca Witheridge, née Northmore, and Richard was Rebecca junior's brother.

It was a great day - the type of day out that I hope happens to me many times over. Not only do I love to meet new relations and those who are not quite relations, but this type of gathering is of great interest to me from the view point of an officer of the Council of Family Societies to see what assistance can be give by the Council to these families on the first steps of tracing their genealogical lines.

I hope that with all the information which was given and received, we have found a focal point where we can meet as friends and relations - the Velvins, the Northmores, the Amands, the Searles, the Witheridges and Hamleys plus many other branches of the interconnecting families.

Perhaps, with your permission, I will be allowed to invite some of them to our next family gathering. After all, in many respects they are of Witheridge descent, AND many of our family are Northmores and Velvins.

I would say that this was a day well spent, and I look forward to spending more time with our new found relations.

THE JURY IS STILL OUT

by Joyce Browne

The story I have to tell will arouse your indignation and evoke your pity, the case you have to decide is whether or not the strands of information can be ravelled together into one thread, to be woven into the fabric of our own family history.

The first strand came from Kathy Witheridge in Ontario, and was published in the Witheridge Times, Autumn 1994. It was the discovery, on the IGI for North America, of the names of Prudence and Silvester Witheridge, born to Silvester and Mary Witheridge at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1686 and 1688, and the marriages of a Mary Witheridge in Salem, Mass., in December, 1694, and a Mary Wetheridge in Ipswich, Essex, Mass., on the same day in 1694.

The Mary mother of Prudence and Silvester, was born Mary Buckley or Buckley. Her father was William Buckley, a yeoman who had got into debt, lost his house and land, and subsequently set up as a shoemaker in Salem Village. Her mother was Sarah Buckley (maiden name unknown) who was born in England and moved to Ipswich, Massachusetts, around 1650.

Mary Buckley married Silvester Whitterage/Whitteredge at Marblehead, Essex, Mass., on the 17th November, 1684. (Another version of the IGI, North America - note the difference in the spelling of the 'W' name).

Subsequently, we discovered that Silvester Witheridge, father of Prudence and Silvester, died at some time between 1688 and 1692, and that the Mary who married Benjamin Procter in December, 1694, at Salem, Essex, was his widow.

This Mary figured prominently in the next strand which came from Kathy and Annette Witheridge almost simultaneously. Kathy had investigated several sources, including the Essex, Mass., Society of Genealogists, and her local library. Annette was on an assignment in Massachusetts for her newspaper, and unearthed information about Mary Witheridge in the local archives. The story was this:

The colonists who had managed to remain planted on the inhospitable shores of New England for over fifty years felt that God's approval of their actions in leaving the Old Country was evident in their increased prosperity, their success in the fishing trade, and the ability to manage their own affairs.

The British Government, however, not concerned with God's approval, and increasingly irritated by the actions of the citizens of Massachusetts, revoked the Massachusetts Bay Company Charter. This upset the fishing industry, and because of disturbances, public meetings were restricted except for elections.

The inhabitants of the province, particularly those of Boston and Marblehead, the principal fishing port, seethed with indignation. There were more protests and riots. There were expeditions against the French at Port Royal and Quebec which were unsuccessful, and the settlers lost ships, money and men. There were rumours of attacks by the Indians, the higher taxes caused hardship, and the terrible winters caused privation.

In 1691 there was a new Charter, and unpopular Royal Appointees were sent from England to enforce it. This charter curtailed local powers and initiatives, and worse, it appeared that the authority of the Puritan Church was being challenged. Could it be that God had turned His face away from the colonists?

Into this turmoil of uncertainty and depression came a Puritan Minister, one Cotton Mather. The cause, he proclaimed, of all this trouble was the Devil - and who was encouraging the Devil and spreading his wickedness in the colony? Why, those spirits of evil - Witches - of course!

Marblehead's Minister of the Church was a mild man, and the village was more tolerant of dissent than the village nine miles away - Salem. The Minister at Salem was a Mr. Parris, a firebrand, married with children, who employed a West Indian servant named Tituba. Tituba was well versed in the arts of voodoo and sorcery. How it was that the devil-hunter Mr. Parris failed to sniff this out and tolerated it in his own household has never been explained.

Mr. Parris's kitchen, where Tituba reigned, was a place of fascination and excitement for the Parris children and their repressed friends, and they absorbed tales of the Devil and his cohorts of witches who could curdle milk, and inflict illness and even death on babies and adults.

The first 'witch' to be accused as Cotton Mather's diatribes spread, was Wilmot "Mammy" Redd of Marblehead, who was said to have inflicted hurt on two girls of Salem. How she traversed the nine miles between the two villages was not specified. Presumably it was accepted that she had travelled by broomstick.

Mr. Parris's daughter, Elizabeth, who had nightmares and disturbed behaviour, was diagnosed as being 'bewitched'. She and her friends were asked to name the witches who were active in the neighbourhood. She named Tituba, who confessed - turned "King's evidence" and became a prosecution witness. The hysterical girls and the hypocritical Tituba unleashed a wave of superstition and hatred which engulfed the village and spread throughout the colony.

The citizens and the judiciary, who ought to have known better, listened to wild accusations, made unlawful arrests, and conducted questioning in unlawful places. Evidence of apparitions seen hovering over the heads of accused women was believed, even when it came from a five year old child. At first the accusations were levelled at unpopular women, the old, the ugly and the socially unacceptable, then an explosion of prejudice and sometimes envy engulfed Salem and its environs as woman after woman was accused of being familiar with Satan, and of causing the most bizarre symptoms and illnesses. No woman was safe as the terror spread from unfortunates to the well-to-do, and some neighbours paid off old scores.

Women awaiting trial were held in terrible conditions and had to pay for their own food, and even for the "attendance" of their gaolers.

"Mammy" Redd was arrested in May 1692 and condemned to be hanged on the 22nd September, 1692. Seven other women were hanged with her in front of a huge crowd, many of whom had travelled miles to see the spectacle.

Many of the names on the records of the trials appear in the records of the Church. One was Sarah Buckley who was among the Congregation of the Church at Marblehead in 1684. Sarah was born in England and taken to America where she married William Buckley, then a shoemaker. They were well respected at Marblehead, and she was commended as "a good woman" when her husband was appointed "leather sealer" to the community. They were well known to the Minister, the gentle Mr. Cheever. Then they made a fatal move to Salem. There they found the character of the Minister, Mr. Parris, a great contrast to that of Mr. Cheever. Mr. Parris, in addition to his fiery wrestlings with the Devil, caused controversy over his life style, and the size of his salary. Salem was an unhappy place.

The Buckley tragedy began when Sarah Buckley was "named" by one of the afflicted girls. One girl accused Sarah of biting her, another said that she had seen her at her feet.

Yet another said Sarah had "torn her" and brought her "Satan's books". Sarah's daughter, Mary Buckley Whittredge, now a widow, was also accused and both were sent to gaol on 18th May, 1692.

William Buckley's land and property were confiscated, but he fought for his wife and daughter with the scant means at his disposal. He wrote to the Minister of the town where Sarah had grown up, who gave a strong testimonial of her Christian faith, and her goodness and kindness to all.

Then a Benjamin Hutchinson testified that his wife had pains in all parts of her body, and when the 'afflicted' hysterical girls were consulted, one of them said that she could see the spectres of Sarah Buckley and her daughter Mary upon the body of the sick woman. Benjamin Hutchinson petitioned the sheriff to restrain the evil spirits of Sarah and Mary, and the two women were clamped into heavy shackles of iron.

It is difficult for us in this day and age to understand the logic of this thinking - if they believed that Satan was so powerful, how could they imagine that his disciples were likely to be restricted by handcuffs and leg irons?

The family was charged for the shackles as well as the women's maintenance!

In September a special court sat to hear the accusations against Sarah and Mary. The weight of the evidence seems to have been against Sarah, but Sarah, although urged to confess and perhaps save her life, insisted that she was innocent. A girl called Sarah Sheldon screamed that she could see "a black man" whispering in Sarah Buckley's ear. That clinched the matter - the two women were indicted.

William Buckley then obtained two more letters, one from Mr. Cheever, and one from a clergyman at Salem, Mr. Higginson, both testifying to the good character of Sarah. He presented them to the Court officials. The nature of the testimony from these well known men probably helped to delay the trial, and now other factors had an influence on events.

As the terror spread to the upper echelons of society (the wife of the Governor of the province was accused) saner minds were brought to bear, legal requirements were enforced, and some of the hysterical evidence was disallowed. Even so, in January, 1693, Sarah and Mary were brought to trial.

The jury mentioned Mr. Cheever's letter and brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty".

It was too late for Sarah to resume a happy normal life. She died shortly after, and when her husband William died in abject poverty, the Minister recalled the injustice done to them, and his record said "Lord forgive".

The inhabitants of New England realised, belatedly, that they needed forgiveness, and some public officials were castigated, and some public apologies made, but one of the originators of the madness, Cotton Mather, still thought that his preaching and actions were justified.

One of the 'afflicted' girls confessed to falsehoods, but Tituba and the others disappeared, and Mr. Parris left Salem. The community suppressed and hid many of the records of events, but Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopaedia records that in Salem at the peak of the witch hunting mania, more than 200 persons were imprisoned, 55 were tortured, 19 were hanged and one was pressed to death.

Mary Whittredge fared better than her mother and father, and less than two years after she was acquitted, married Benjamin Procter (what became of her two children by Silvester Whittredge we do not know). She had four children by her second husband and outlived him, dying at what was now called 'Danvers' in 1748, at the age of 84.

That is the story of Mary's trial for witchcraft - now for the enquiry into whether she was a Witheridge, albeit by marriage.

This must begin with her husband, Silvester. The first we knew of him was from Kathy and Annette who sent us the details of the birth of his children which were published in the magazine, Autumn, 1994 - name given as "Witheridge".

Annette sent us more details from the IGI, this time recording the marriage of Silvester and Mary in 1684 - name given as "Whitterage".

"Well", you may say, "given all the known variants of our name, this could well be a clerical error."

Yes it could, but we know that there are families of Whitterages, Whitridges, Whitredges and Whitrigs who have no connection with us.

Kathy made extensive enquiries and consulted various documents: "A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England...those who came before 1692" (published 1969,) records the marriage of Mary Buckley and Silvester Whitterage but records the birth of the children, Prudence and Silvester under Witheridge.

At her second marriage, to Benjamin Procter, Mary is recorded as Witheridge (The marriage of a 'Whitridge' is also recorded, which might indicate that there was a recognised difference between the two names)

"The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts" by David Hoyt gives records a William Whitridge or Whitred who went to America on the ship Elizabeth in 1635. The Probate Index of Essex County, Mass., gives a variety of 'W' names, none of which was Witheridge or Silvester.

"New England Marriages Prior to 1700" records some Whitredges and Whitridges, and shows Silvester and Mary's marriage as "Whitterage".

An extract from the book "John Procter of Ipswich, and some of his descendants", by Leland H. Procter, published 1985, records the marriage of Benjamin Procter as being with Mary Whittredge, widow of Silvester Whittredge.

Nowhere in the sources which Kathy has consulted is there a record of Silvester's birth or his death.

We still wonder who he was, but there is, perhaps, one clue. In 1626 a child christened "Silvester" was born to Edmond Wetheredg and Alice Werren Wetheredg in Modbury, Devon. There is no further record of him. Did he emigrate to America?

If he was the Silvester for whom we are searching he would have been 58 when he married Mary Buckley. It is possible that he fathered two children before his death, which came some time between 1688 and 1692.

What do you think?

=====

F O U N D - A Pennsylvania family - an extension of the Tavistock family

I wonder if I could ask you all for a little good will toward the widow of a man who, I have been told, was the last remaining Witheridge descendant in this section of the USA?

Let me tell you the story, so far, of our last surviving Witheridge in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, USA. She is Mrs. Jean E. Witheridge, and was widowed many years ago when her husband, John Witheridge, died. John was the son of John Witheridge and Mary Rivehimer, and was one of three children (as you will see from the very sparse tree). John senior was the son of John Phillips Witheridge, born 1837 and Emma Northcott, born 1838, and married in Tavistock in 1862 (see

rear page fold out family tree in magazine Volume 5, No.2
Summer 1991)

This name and address was posted to me by Tony and Jane Witheridge of Geneva II USA., who had recently carried out a survey into the Witheridge name in the States. (For which we are very grateful). I have written to all the addresses.

Jean, who is 85, has given me quite a lot of family information about this branch, even though she has made it very clear that she is not interested in joining our society. She states that she now has no relations either Witheridge or from her own family, or from the Lewis line that you see mentioned on the tree. This must make for a very lonely life. We know that she does have relations, even though they are in Australia. Just think of all the love that could be extended from the Tavistock/Australian families who are related, and from those of us Witheridges who are not actually related! Can I please ask that some of you out there will join me in writing to her on a regular basis?

Jean has been in hospital quite a lot recently, have had quadruple by-passes, and recently a very bad angina attack. She was, until retirement, a Registered Nurse and also gave 45 years of her life as a Red Cross volunteer. Can we try to make some return for the devotion she has given all her life?

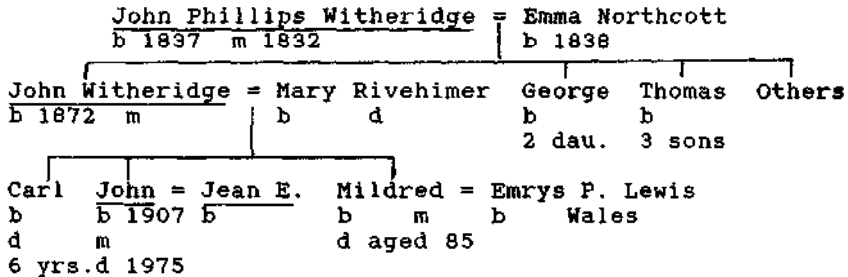
I make a separate point concerning Jean's family - if any of you know any detail about her relations and her husband's ancestors, please pass it on to me. I need to verify all the information Jean has given, to prove or disprove this family connection, and know where to start looking for possible existing relations both Witheridges and descendants of Witheridges.

We do know of a possible family line, as you can see from the tree - that of a George Keith Witheridge, son of Thomas North Witheridge and Sarah Alvernon Herring, and your help would be welcomed.

Jean's address: Mrs. Jean E. Witheridge,
 270 E Main Street,
 Nanticoke,
 Pennsylvania 18634-1724
 USA

Thank you - John Witheridge, Membership Secretary

The Pennsylvania Tree - so named because the last remaining Witheridge of this branch lived in PA USA. In truth it is an extension of the Tavistock Tree.



There is much research needed on this family's tree. Hopefully more information will be gained in the next year.

UP-DATE ON NEW MEMBER FIRST INTRODUCED IN MAGAZINE -
WINTER 1994 by John Witheridge

- 123 Mrs. Amanda Calder née Witheridge
- 124 Mr. Jeffrey Charles Calder
- 125 Master Jackson Charles Calder

(1) Mrs. Amanda Calder née Witheridge (1965 -) (2) Brian Witheridge (1944 -) (3) Lesley Christianson (1945 -) (4) Keith Ambrose Witheridge (1915-1922) (5) Laura Mary Betty Pike (1920 -) (8) William John Witheridge (1872-1932) (9) Ann Elizabeth Thomas (1877-1957) (16) William John Witheridge (1843 -?) (17) Margaret Toomey (1849-1920) (32) William Witheridge (1809/11-1894) (33) Johanna Maher (-) (64) John Witheridge (1775-) (65) Elizabeth Harris (-) (128) Thomas Witheridge (1751-) (129) Mary How (-)

Combe Martin and Berryarbor 1500-1835-40 - Australia, Melbourne, Victoria 1840 to present day.

I have taken this list of Amanda's ancestors back to the marriage of Thomas Witheridge and Mary How so that members of the society can see at a glance where the family line begins. Amanda's nearest relatives within the society are Velma Metcalfe, Carol Goins, and John Roberts Witheridge. I will leave the experts to work out the exact relationships.

Amanda has a brother, Aaron Tragae, and a sister Zenobia Raqual. Aaron is a long standing Witheridge name, but let us hope that some time in the future the society can count Zenobia as a first.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

126 Mrs. Joyce Ann Stephens, née Witheridge
127 Mr. Terrence Leslie Stephens

95 Phelipps Road,
Corfe Mullen,
Wimborne,
Dorset

BH21 3NL (Yes, it is 'Phelipps' and not 'Phillips')

(1) Joyce Ann Stephens, née Witheridge (1941 -) (2) Cecil Frank Witheridge (1893-1969) (3) Grace Caroline Lewis née Norfolk (1900-1976) (5) Emma Jane Witheridge (1864-1942 - married George Dunford 1899) (10) Robert Witheridge (1827-1897) (11) Emma Shepherd (1827-1908) (20) Robert Witheridge (1798-1851) (21) Ann Light (1803-1877) (40) Arthur Witheridge (1758-1847) (41) Elizabeth Bowden (1765-1839) Ermington 1570's-1825, Plymouth 1825-1864/5, County of Dorset and other towns 1865 to present day.

I would especially like to welcome Mrs. Joyce Ann Stephens to the Witheridge Society, where she should at once feel like a member of the family. She has countless extended cousins, the closest being Joyce Browne, our editor. The name 'Joyce Ann' is associated for me with days and nights poring over the Witheridge birth and marriage indexes from St. Catherine's House. To me this name came before my eyes with the mental note "That's Joyce". Later it became apparent that there was more than one Joyce - (at least three in fact). Later still I realised that Joyce Ann was a member of the Ermington family from Dorset, this same family to whom I wrote inviting them to our Witheridge gatherings. So here at last, Joyce who also has an older sister, Pamela, comes to join our Society. What about twisting the arms of a few relations, Joyce? Just for me - anyway - "Welcome Cousin!"

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Pat and John James: Mr. and Mrs. J. James,
Members Nos. 108 & 109 17-5221 Oakmount Crescent,
Burnaby BC
V5H 4R4 Canada

Mrs. Yvonne Edgington: 90, Holly Dale Road,
Member No. 056 Erdington,
BIRMINGHAM,
B24 9IS

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SOCIETY SHOULD BE
PAID TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Devon Record Office, (Tel. No. 0392-53509)
Castle Street,
Exeter,
Devon EX4 3PQ

West Devon Record Office, (Tel. No. 0752-26485)
Clare Place,
Coxside,
Plymouth,
Devon PL4 0JW

North Devon Record Office,
Tuly Street,
Barnstaple,
Devon

Devon Family History Society,
New Members Secretary,
Miss Valerie Bluett,
63 Old Laira Road,
Laira,
Plymouth
Devon PL3 6BL (Tel.No. 0752-662985)

Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7BA (Tel.No. 071-251 8799)

