



Volume 2

Number 2

Summer 1988

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Editorial

Last time I wrote this column it was as understudy. Sadly, Annette has had to relinquish the Editor's chair because of pressure of work, so now the understudy steps into the principal's shoes.

I must confess it's not a job I could undertake on my own, and I'm delighted that Phil has agreed to act as Production Editor. This means I can type away, making the usual mistakes, knowing that Phil keys it in on the word processor, and all my errors can be corrected. Thank's Phil!

Witheridge Day was again a great success, although we were disappointed that both George Smith and Gordon Witheridge and his family were prevented by illness from joining us. Gordon has been in hospital having a nasal operation, but seems to be well on the road to recovery. George also is in better health, and continues to come up with more fascinating information about the members of his family who fought in World War 1.

But back to the day itself. Once again there were about twenty of us, and once again the day seemed all too short for all the things we wanted to do and say. Joyce presented an excellent talk on the Witheridges, their origins and their land migrations. She had obviously put a great deal of research into it. I hope we can include a condensed version of it in the next magazine.

Phil had also put a great deal of work into preparing a superb display on the life and times of his father, Sidney Philip Witheridge. Sidney had been both a sailor and an airman. He had won the Air Gunner's Bombing Cup at Kohat in 1930 and went on to invent and make his own bomb sight. He must have been a remarkable man.

There were many other exhibits, and of course the AGM at which some new officers were elected. These were John Witheridge, who was elected Secretary, and Jason Cook, elected Treasurer. The full list of officers is, as usual, on the inside front cover.

On a lighter note, we all enjoyed the beautiful cake made by Joyce and Graham to celebrate the Society's first birthday. This delicious chocolate cake was decorated with marzipan oak trees (representing family trees), and had the letters WS and a single candle in the middle. Joyce and Phil ceremoniously blew out the candle and cut the cake, and within very few minutes all that remained was a few stray crumbs. Delicious|

Finally, do please let me have news of your families, past and present, and any letters or articles you may wish to have put in the magazine, so that Witheridge Times can truly reflect the life and times of all our members. Please write soon!

Kim Cook

Kim Cook

Family News

Reunion (1)

In June, Roy and Kim Cook had a reunion of Kim's branch of the Witheridge family, with David and Elizabeth Witheridge from Minneapolis as guests of honour. Other members of the Witheridge Society present at the gathering were Rod Witheridge, Eric Pover and his sister Joyce Marnham, and Brenda and Ron Dixon and their daughter Sarah. Kim had hoped that all eight grandchildren of William Henry Witheridge could come together, but in the event seven of them met together, and nineteen people sat down for tea! Some of the cousins had never, or only rarely met, and it was a great afternoon of family reminiscences and fun.

Reunion (2)

A couple of weeks later, Dave and Elizabeth Witheridge were again guests of honour, this time at a reunion of some of the Witheridges descended from the Northam Branch. Here, where some 24 people gathered, the Witheridge Society was also represented by Christopher and Pam and their three children, and Anthony and Françoise on leave from Brazil.

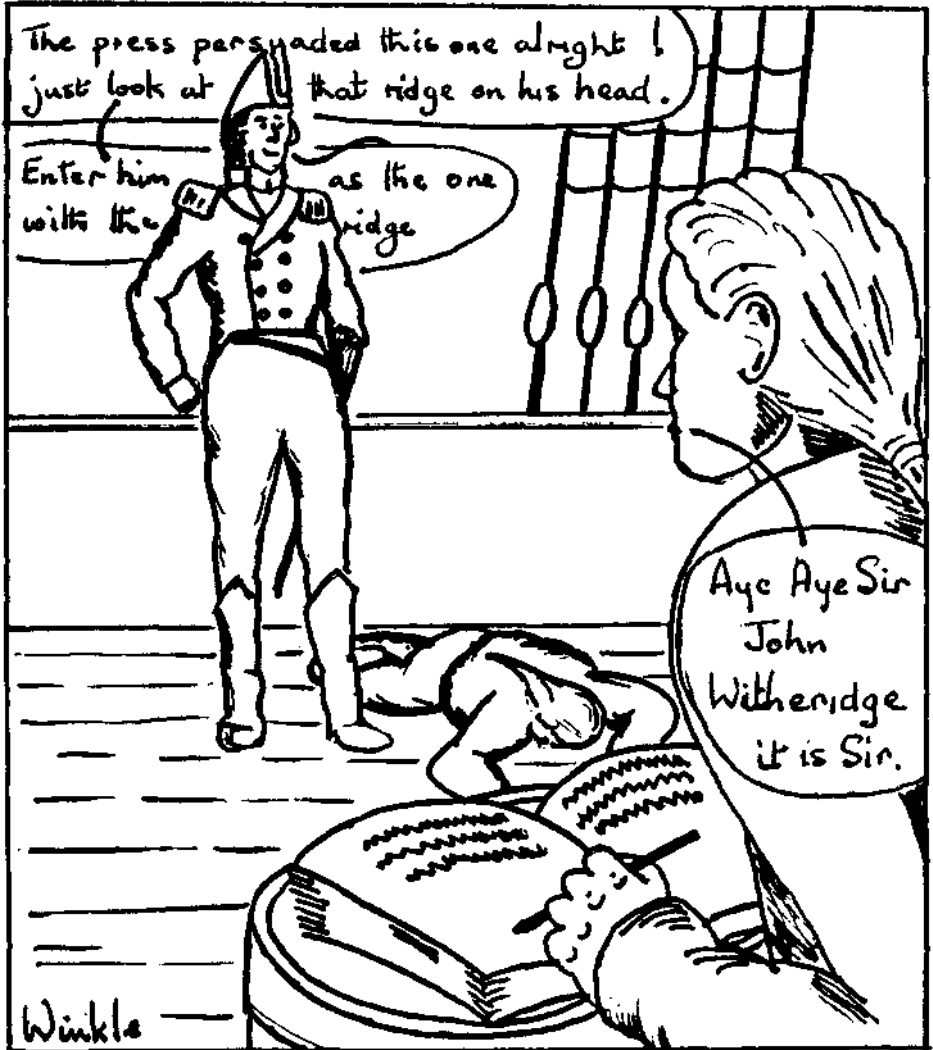
Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Committee Member Richard and his wife Maureen on becoming grandparents for the first time. Daughter Ann and son-in-law Gary Melbourne have a daughter, Sarah Louise, born on the 24th June 1988. Richard says he is too young to be a Grandfather.

Condolences

We send our condolences to the family of Evelyn Maud Farley (Aunt Bet) who died on the 8 April 1988 aged 87. Bet was the last surviving child of Philip and Rhoda Witheridge. She was born, raised and went to school in Ermington. She married George Farley in 1922 and had five children, Beryl, Jean, Sam (deceased), Betsy and Valerie. Her husband George died in 1964.

The **Press-Gang** was the name given to naval parties who were used to forcibly take and impress men for service in the British Fleet. The Press-gang was an inhuman system which, since the end of the Napoleonic Wars about 1815, has fallen into disuse, although the law which sanctioned it, still remains in force. So take warning and be on your guard next time you visit a seaport.



Research Report

by Kim Cook

Work on the indexing of PPR wills is progressing very slowly. Somerset House is only a couple of minutes walk away from St Catherine's, and the wills indexes give much useful information including the address of the deceased, occupation, executors, and value of the estate. If any member is planning a visit, either to St Catherine's or Somerset House, do please contact Joyce, Richard or myself first, and we can advise you on what is needed. For those who haven't yet used the PPR wills index at Somerset House, you'll be pleasantly surprised at how quiet and civilised it is in comparison with St Catherine's. Copying index entries is quite a simple task, and one that will be of great value to the society.

As you will see from the list elsewhere in the magazine, we are continuing to add to our certificate bank. We now have nearly 120 certificates on file, but I feel sure that there are members who haven't yet got around to copying the certificates they have and sending them to Joyce. So please, keep them coming.

Some time later in the year we hope to compile a Witheridge Society Year Book. This will include a full membership list, with details of all the names each member is researching, in alphabetical order, as well as a full list of certificates held by the Society.

To do this properly we will need much fuller information on each member, particularly details of non-Witheridge ancestors. As I have mentioned before, some names crop up in two or more families (Sandover & Northmore for example) and we may find members who are related in the female line. Additionally, we hope to get copies of the book out to other organisations, such as the Guild of One-Name Studies and the Devon Family History Society. This could bring about further useful contacts for our members. An example of this follows later!

Firstly, though, we need the information from our members presented in such a way that it can easily be entered on to the computer for printing out. If you have brief forms (like the ones you filled in when you joined), then fill those out, remembering to use maiden surnames for women. If you don't have birth brief forms, you can simply list your ancestors in numerical order, giving dates of birth, marriage and death, and place of birth as follows.

- 1)Your name.
- 2)Your father's details.
- 3)Your mother's details.
- 4)Your father's father's details.
- 5)Your father's mother's details.
- 6)Your mother's father's details.
- 7)Your mother's mother's details.
- 8)Your father's father's father's details, and so on etc..

Inevitably, the further back you go, the more gaps you will have. Don't worry about those you don't know, just work out the number for the next one you do know (remembering that a father's number will always be double the child's), and add it to the list.

If you have any other research interests relating to places, occupations, businesses or historical events, do add a note of these. I know we have one member who has a great interest in Lord Nelson, and I am continuing to search for information on wall paper manufacturing and the West of England Paper Staining Company in particular. So do list your research interests, not just the Witheridge ones, and we should be able to produce a very useful handbook.

If we are to complete this by the end of the year, we will need all the details in by September 30. If you want a pack of forms including birth brief forms, I have some left at £1.50 per pack. Please send all your information to Joyce Browne at the address inside the front cover.

Now for that promised example of the value of such research directories.

Last year a Witheridge descendant living in Devon saw, in a research directory, the name of a lady in Tasmania who listed Witheridge among her interests. Mrs Riley, the Devonshire descendant, wrote to Mrs Smith in Tasmania to see if there was any link between their two families. There wasn't, but in the ensuing correspondence Mrs Riley mentioned the name of David Witheridge in Minneapolis. So Mrs Smith sent her letter and a copy of Mrs Riley's letter to Minneapolis. David wrote to both, regretting that he was not related to either and saying that he would forward the information to me. When all the correspondence together with a copy marriage certificate of Mrs Smith's Witheridge ancestor, arrived at my home, I was delighted to discover that Mrs Smith in Tasmania is my fourth cousin! Her ancestor, Harriet Witheridge, was the sister of my great-great grandfather Thomas. I have now written to Mrs Smith giving her details of her ancestry back to 1600. She has discovered her family tree, and I've discovered some new relations I hadn't known existed! And we owe it all to a genealogical research directory.

The Combmartin & Berrynarbor Family

by Kim Cook

In this issue we are again looking at a simplified family tree; this time it is for the Witheridges of Combmartin and Berrynarbor in North Devon. This branch of the family is perhaps the most prolific, and it is not possible to fit the full family tree into the format of our magazine.

In selecting the parts to include, I have borne in mind our members Joan and Harry Payne (035 & 055) of Cheltenham, and Dave and Elizabeth Witheridge (042 & 043) of Minneapolis. This chart shows very clearly the relation-ship (7th cousin) between them, and I am very grateful to both families for much useful information included in this article.

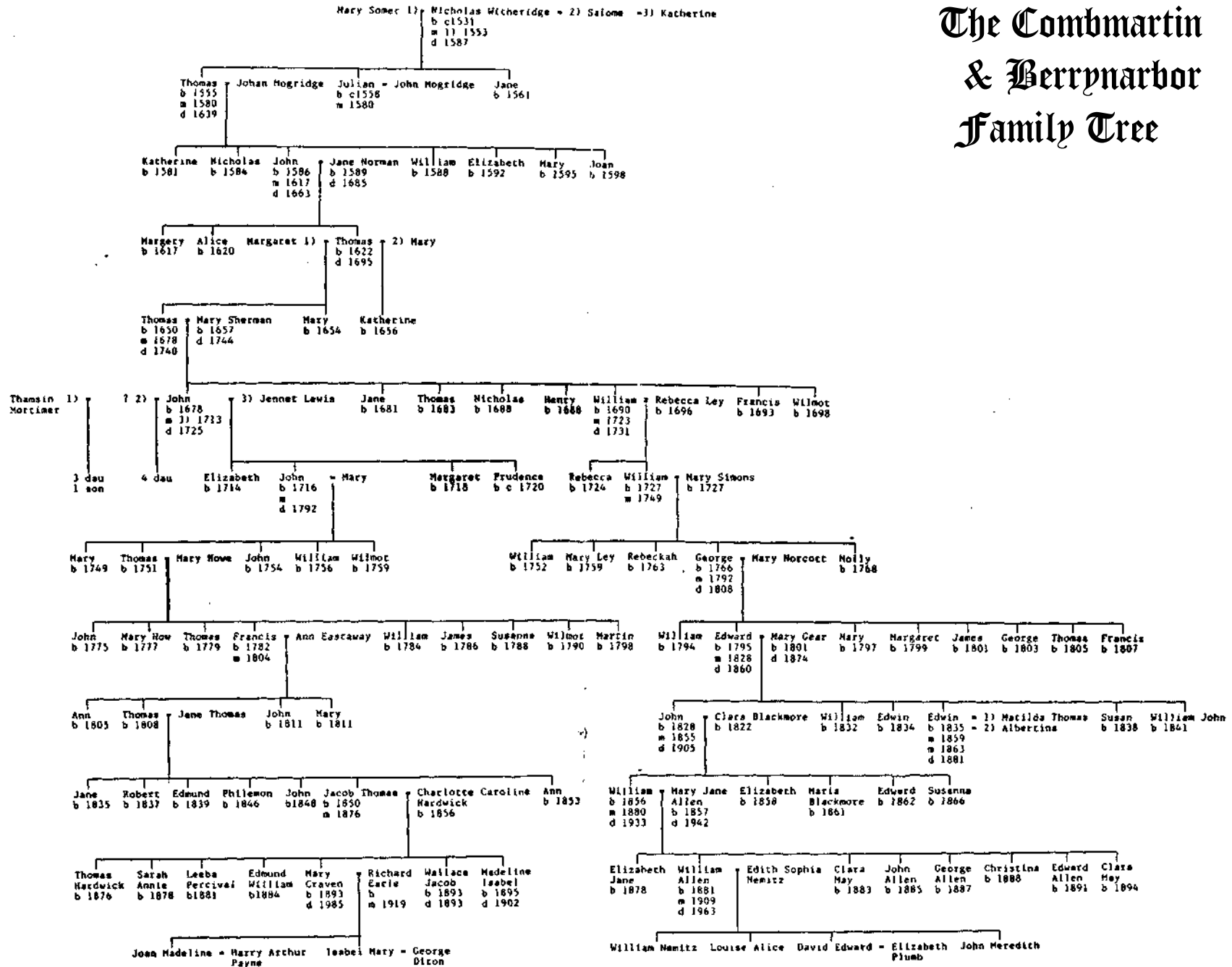
The earliest recorded Witheridges in Berrynarbor are John (c1500-1541), William (c1507-1565), Thomas (c1509-1553), Humfry (c1511-1544) and Edward (c1513-1550). These five men may have been brothers or cousins, and it seems that at least four of them produced descendants. It is believed that Thomas may have been the father of Nicholas (see top of tree), and of a daughter Katherine, but the evidence is not conclusive. In some early records the surname is spelled Witherygg.

The family were still in Berrynarbor at the time of David and Joan's common ancestor Thomas, who was baptised in Berrynarbor on 29th December 1650. His marriage to Mary Sherman took place in Fremington, but their children were all baptised in Berrynarbor. However, subsequent generations began the exodus, first to neighbouring villages and towns, and then further afield.

From the junior branch William (1690-1731) and Rebecca moved to Combmartin where their two children were baptised in 1724 and 1727. This branch of the family stayed in Combmartin until John (1828-1905) his wife Clara and their children moved to South Wales in the early 1870s. The family lived in Cwmaman, Aberdare and John worked as a collier.

In 1877 their eldest son William, his wife Mary Jane and their five children made the long sea journey to America, settling first in Sherrodsville, Ohio, where three further children were born. Later the family moved to Saginaw, Michigan, where their grandson David was born, and where he met and married Elizabeth. Incidentally, one section of this branch stayed in North Devon, and has descendants still living at High Bray, near Brayford.

The Combmartin & Berrynarbor Family Tree

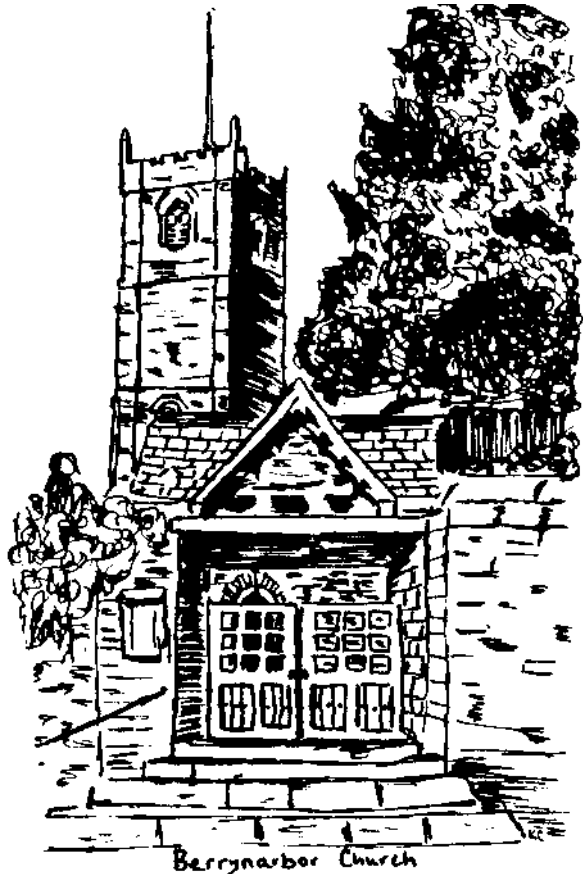


The senior branch stayed a little longer in Berrynarbor. Thomas (b1751) and Mary were married there and both their children were baptised there. However, their eldest son, John, married in Combmartin, and his son, also John, was baptised there. Francis (b1782) married Ann Eastaway in Ilfracombe, where their four children were baptised.

The most mobile was Thomas (b1808), probably because of his job as a coast-guard. Of his children, Edmund was born in Lymington, Hants, Philemon and John in Watchet, Somerset, Jacob Thomas in Barnstable and Ann in Porthleven, Cornwall. I believe Thomas died in Cornwall in 1871 at the age of 62, while his wife Jane lived on until she was 80 in 1893.

Their son Jacob was originally a joiner, so I don't know what took him to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne area, where in 1876 he married Charlotte Caroline Hardwick. Their first two children were born in the Newcastle area, but by 1881 the family was living in Fulham, London, where Jacob died in 1923. Mary Craven (mother of Joan Payne) was a younger and only surviving twin. After Jacob's death the family resided for a while in Whitton, Middlesex, where Joan's own daughter Joan Mary, was married in 1970.

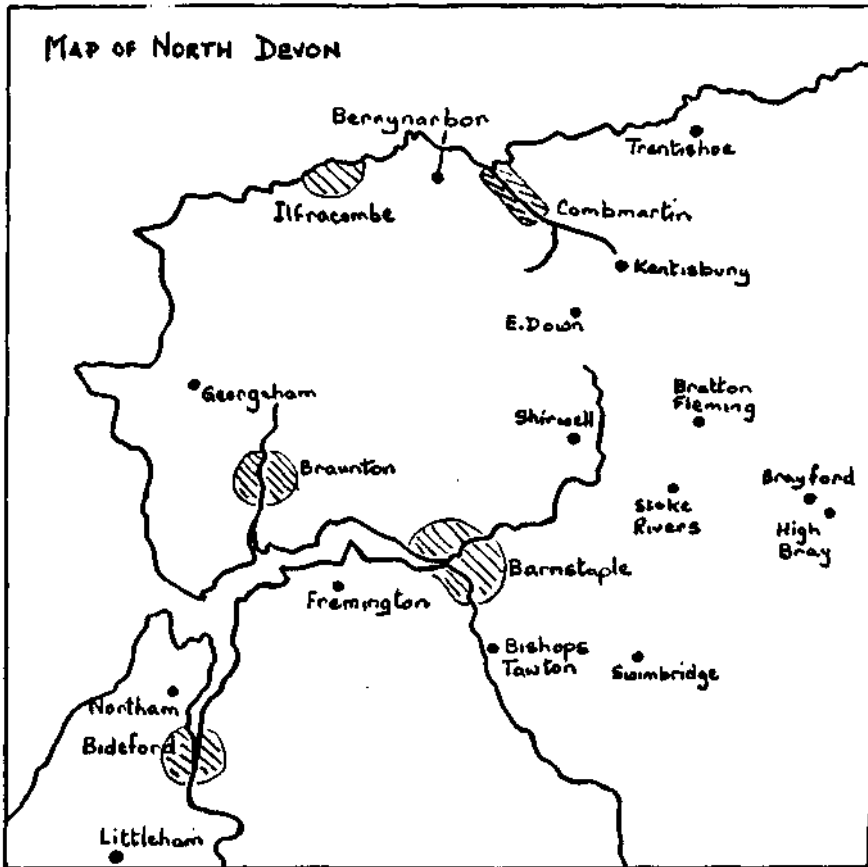
Both the branches have come a long way, geographically and socially, from those first Witheryggs in Berrynarbor. But some things have survived, including the names Joan and Thomas (David's younger son is also Thomas).



Another interesting name (which does not seem to have survived) is Wilmot. This, surprisingly, is a female name, and one which seems peculiar to North Devon. Tamsin (Thamosin, Thomasin) is another West Country speciality, a feminine form of Thomas.

Another member of the family who moved from Combmartin was Edwin (b1835). He married Matilda Thomas in 1859, but thereafter disappears from the locality. For a long time it was believed that he had died without issue. However, I recently did some detective work on this and discovered that Matilda died in Clifton, Bristol, in 1860, where three years later Edwin married his second wife Albertina and had eight children!

I have been in touch with some of Edwin's descendants and hope to include that branch of the family tree in a future issue of Witheridge Times.



GRO Certificates Held

<u>Christian</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Via</u>
<u>Birth</u>				
	Jacob	03.08.1850	Ilfracombe	035
	John	15.04.1865	Combmartin	042
	Mary Craven*	23.02.1893	Fulham	035
	Wallace Jacob*	23.02.1893	Fulham	035
	William	23.09.1856	Combmartin	042
<u>Marriage</u>				
	George	19.02.1860	Combmartin	042
	Jacob Thomas	29.01.1876	Benwell North'd	035
	Mary Craven	06.10.1919	Fulham	035
	Robert	03.02.1879	Birmingham	042
	William	29.03.1879	High Bray, Devon	042
	William	25.03.1883	Cardiff	042
<u>Death</u>				
	Charlotte Caroline	07.09.1936	Hounslow	035
	Edwin	11.03.1881	Barton Regis	042
	Fanny Elizabeth	12.07.1879	Bideford	042
	George	17.09.1901	Pancras	042

* Indicates short birth certificates only.

To order a copy of any certificates you need, send £1 per copy to Joyce Browne (address given inside front cover).

Members changes of address.

- 005 Miss Annette Witheridge
13a Hillmarton Road, Islington, London. N7 9JE.
- 049 Mr Christopher R Witheridge
- 050 Mrs Pamela Witheridge
- 051 Miss Heather Witheridge
- 052 Miss Amy Witheridge
- 053 Master Dale Witheridge
Flit End, Joes Close, rear of School Lane, Greenfield,
Beds.

Ermington Village

by Richard Witheridge

The following is a description of the village as I knew it between 1935 and 1948.

Ermington lies on the side of a hill on the bank of the river Erme, which flows off Dartmoor, through Ivybridge and then on to the sea at Mothecombe.

If approaching Ermington from Ivybridge, you leave the A38 at Ivybridge onto the B3211. In about one and a half miles you pass over the Erme at a hump bridge (Keaton Bridge) and turn sharp left. On this left hand corner is a long building known as 'Witheridge House'.

As a young boy, I remember visiting this house with my Grandmother (With whom I lived after my mother's death in 1936) to see 'Aunt Lizzie'. This was Elizabeth, my Grandfather's sister, who married Willian Cruze. Also living there was Harry Witheridge and his wife Annie (She was the last person bearing the name Witheridge name in Ermington) and died in 1972. Harry was the son of Jane Witheridge, who later married David West.

As you approach Ermington you pass an old corn mill [1] on the left, this is now a small industrial site with a trout farm. This mill used to be driven by a large water wheel and bags of corn were brought up through trap doors to the various levels. There was also a slaughter house down below, and from the village pigs could be heard squealing until the bang of the humane killer gun.

The Mill House, formerly the residence of the mill owner, is now open for teas etc. An advertising plug.

On arriving in Ermington you drop down a short incline where, on the left you see the First and Last Public House [2] I have a photograph of my Grandfather with the Landlord, standing outside, and holding pints of beer.

A few yards further along on the right hand side, you see a large granite built church porch with steps up each side [3]. These steps and porch are mentioned in a land deed extract as a place where rents were to be paid on certain days of the year.

From the porch the path leads to the church [4], famous for its 14th century crooked spire. Legend has it that the beautiful Miss Bulteen was getting married and the spire leaned over to look at her, and could not straighten up again. In fact it was due to settlement. After being struck by lightning in the 1850's it was rebuilt crooked at the insistence of the people in the village. To the side of the tower and behind the church there are gravestones to various Witheridges.

THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL
ERMININGTON



Backing on to the porch is the reading room cottage where I was born. This was in fact the caretakers cottage for the reading room which is next to it. The house and the reading room [5] were built as a school in 1841 and were also used by the poorer children and adults for manufacturing and labouring work. The schoolmaster lived in the house.

This was superseded in 1872 by a new national school and was then turned into a library and reading room. Sunday school was also held here which I actually attended for a while. Later it was also used for dances and socials etc.

Opposite the reading room is No.4 Church Street [6] where I lived with my Grandmother. The cobblestone pavement outside the front door is still as it was in my Great-grandmother's day and the can still be recognised on the old photographs.

Further along on the right hand side of the road is the War Memorial [7] to both the world wars, and to the left of the steps can be seen in an arched recess, a water tap. This was used to supply fresh water to the people living in Nos.2 & 3 Church Street, who carried water in buckets and had to go through a passageway next door to No.4 to get to their toilets or wash-house facilities at the back. They had no rear doors.

Next to the tap is a horse trough which is fed with water from a spring. This spring is just outside the western gate to the churchyard and is covered by a sloping stone structure [8], with a shiny smooth top, which made an ideal slide for the youngsters.

Carrying on up the hill towards the village square you pass the village school on your left [9]. This has now been further extended front and rear. I remember part of it's tower being blown down in gales and finding sheets of lead in the playground. The tower was then completely removed.

My Grandmother used to be the cleaner for the school and I remember her on her hands and knees scrubbing the floors in the two large rooms, especially after a Saturday night dance had been held there. Also lighting the open fires, later replaced by closed stoves.

As you enter the village square, on your left is a long low building [10] which was the Old Inn where Henry Witheridge lived for a time around 1850, followed by son John around 1873. Directly opposite is the Crooked Spire Pub, originally called the New Inn [11], which the only house with electricity, supplied from their own generator at the back of the pub. Gas and electricity was only installed in the village in, the 1950'S.

During the war the centre of the village square housed a large static water tank. I remember this and understand that a few drunken sailors attempted to walk the rim and fell through the wire netting cover.

The road to the left of the Crooked Spire, Chapel Street, leads to the Chapel [12], which is now a private house. I have a photograph showing the foundation stone being laid in October 1891 by Lord Mildmay of Flete. (Flete Castle is about 2 miles away on the road to Yealmpton) The chapel was later used for many years as a Maternity Hospital.

The row of houses opposite the Chapel [13] replaced the former house or houses in which my Grandfather and presumably my father carried out their wheelwright business.

Further up Chapel Street on the right, a small lane leads up to what was the village allotments [14] (No longer there). High up on the right hand side of the lane at the entrance, are two houses. One was the home of Richard and Mary Edmonds [15] (Mary Jane Witheridge) whose son John Witheridge Edmonds was killed at Dardenals in 1914/18 war. A plaque on the north wall of the church in his honour, was formerly in the chapel.

Back in the village square on the west side is a shop formerly owned by the Crimps [16], another family connection. The house on the lower side of the shop where the road leaves the square was the home of Avis Witheridge [17], who died in 1927.

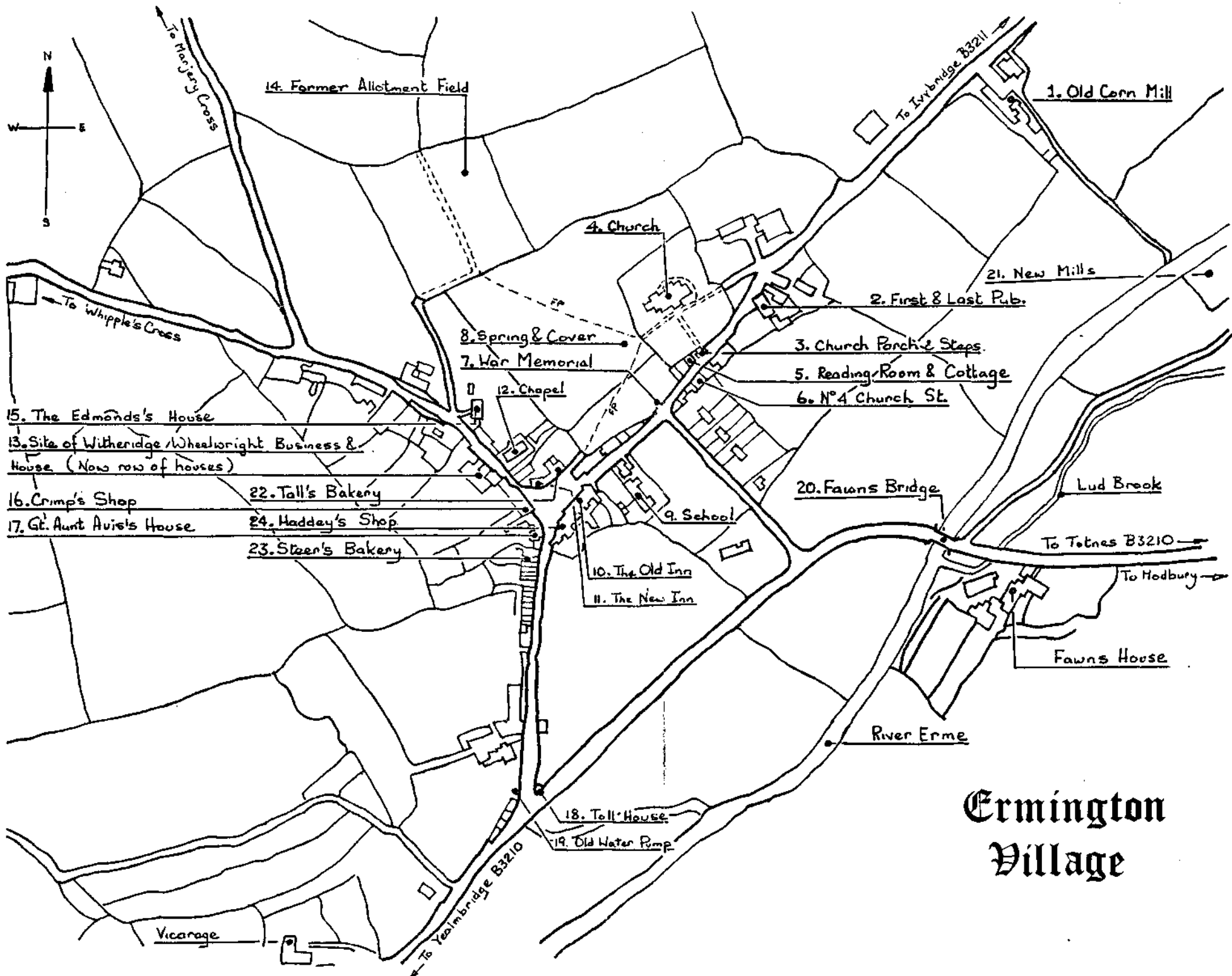
The road on the west side (Town Hill) leads to Yealmpton and Plymouth. At the bottom of of this hill is a toll house [18] and also an old water pump [19].

Opposite the War Memorial, the road leads towards Modbury after passing over the River Erme (Fawns Bridge) [20]. Directly over the bridge on the left, a small road leads to Strode Manor, which is also mentioned in land deeds for Joseph Witheridge.

On the way to the Manor the road passes New Mills [21], where another Witheridge lived in 1870 (A carpenter).

If after passing Fawn's Bridge you carry straight on, in about 1 mile, you arrive at Strode Cross. Turn right and the road leads to Modbury. On the way you pass through a cross roads known as Crownhill Cross. Lower Crownhill is mentioned in land deeds for Joseph Witheridge. Carrying straight on from Strode Cross towards Ugborough you pass Ludbrooke where Henry Witheridge died in 1892.

During my time in the village, it had 2 Bakeries, Tail's [22] and Steer's [23] plus shops, Haddey's [24], 2 grocery shops, one with a post office included, 2 Public Houses, a Church, Chapel and a Gospel Hall. Ermington has changed very little since my life there and has won the 'Village in Bloom' award a couple of times.



Ermington Village

Membership List

We welcome the following new Members to the Society

- 054 Mr Robert D Thomas
Milntown, Ramsey, Isle of Man.
1) Robert Daniel Thomas; 2) George Thomas; 3) Ada Gertrude Witheridge; 6) Francis Robert Witheridge 1853-1899; 7) Sarah Jane Curtis; 12) Robert Witheridge 1828-1897; 13) Emma Shepherd 1827-1908; 24) Robert Witheridge 1793-1851; 25) Ann Light 1803-1877; 48) Arthur Witheridge 1758-1848; 49) Elizabeth Bowden 1762-1839. Ermington 1600-1810; Plymouth 1810-1860; Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole 1860-1910.
- 055 Mr Harry A Payne
5 Porturet Way, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL53 8BN (see No.035)
- 056 Mrs Yvonne Edgington.
- 057 Mr Dean Edgington
- 058 Master James Edgington
186 Holly Lane, Erdington, Birmingham 23.
1) Yvonne Dawn Edgington; 2) Dennis Witheridge; 3) Ena Beard; 4) Arthur Witheridge 1887-1946; 5) Ada Florence Welch 1889-1945; 8) Frederick Witheridge. Summerfield, Sinson Green (Birmingham) & Sutton Coldfield 1880-1988.
- 059 Mrs Barbara A Smith
7 Queens Cottages, Bickford Road, Lapley, Nr Wheaton Aston, Stafford, Staffs.
1) Barbara Ann Smith; 2) Sidney Philip Witheridge 1897-1971; 3) Winifred Emily Frederica Lund 1903-1982; 4) Philip Henry Witheridge 1873-1930; 5) Rhoda Adelaide Mumford 1876-1950; 8) Philip Witheridge 1831-1912; 9) Sarah Harding Ford 1834-1911; 16) Philip Witheridge 1791-1872; 17) Mary Northmore 1805-1880; 32) Arthur Witheridge 1758-1848; 33) Elizabeth Bowden 1762-1839. Ermington 1600-1925; India, Bucks, Kent, Staffs 1925-1988.
- 060 Mrs Kathleen M Witheridge
343 Bright Street, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 4G5, Canada.
- 061 Mrs Joyce Marnham
84 Maylands Drive, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4RW.
1) Joyce Irene Marnham; 2) George Pover; 3) Ethel Gladys Witheridge 1901-1946; 6) William Henry Witheridge 1870-1939; 7) Flora Laura Annie Marks 1872-1934; 12) Edmund Witheridge 1849-1910; 13) Prudence White Barry 1849-1924; 24) Thomas Witheridge 1820-1857; 25) Mary Ann Garry 1820-1900; 48) Joseph Witheridge 1788-1872; 49) Jane Bonney c1790-c1840; Wembury 1600-1810; Plymouth 1810-1883; Fulham & Kingston 1883-1925.

Useful Addressses

Devon Record Office,
Castle Street,
Exeter,
Devon.
EX4 3PQ

Telephone 0392 53509

West Devon Record Office,
Clare Place,
Coxside,
Plymouth,
Devon.
PL4 OJW

Telephone 0752 26485

Devon Family History Society,
Membership Secretary,
Mrs P Witwicka,
4a Cookworthy Road,
North Prospect,
Plymouth,
Devon.
PL2 2LG

Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
London. EC1

Telephone 01-251 8799