



Volume 2

Number 3

Autumn 1988

Officers of the Society

Chairman	Mr Philip Witheridge The Paddocks, Gretton Fields, Nr.Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5HJ.
Secretary	Mr John Witheridge 6 More Close, Darland, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 3DG.
Treasurer	Mr Jason Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 9PF.
Editor/PRO	Mrs Kin Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 9PF.
Membership Secretary	Mr Rod Witheridge Granville House, 33 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, London. W4 4QX.
Research Co-ordinator	Mrs Kim Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way West Wickham Kent. BR4 9PF.
Committee Members	Mrs Joyce Browne 5 Greenhill Avenue, Luton, Beds. LU2 7DN.
	Mr Richard Witheridge 2 Apsley Road, Bath, Avon. BA1 3LP.



Volume 2 Number 3

Autumn 1988

Contents

Editorial	2
Research Report	3
Cartoon	4
Book Review	5
Family News	6
A puzzle from the past	6
The Wembury Family	7
Witheridges and where I found them	13
Membership List	20
GRO Certificates Held	20

© 1988

The Witheridge Times is the official publication of the Witheridge Society. Articles appearing in this magazine must not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Society's committee.

Editorial

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in getting the last issue out. There were complications both with the word processing, and also with the production arrangements for including Richard's excellent and informative map of Ermington. After a further interruption for our family holiday, we found ourselves with all the production material caught in the postal strike for a couple of weeks. Murphy's law was certainly working well, but we hope the issue, when it finally arrived, was worth waiting for.

The year is certainly flying by, and already it is time to be thinking about Witheridge Day 1989. We could hold it at the same venue as before, in West Wickham, but our Chairman Phil Witheridge has suggested that we might like to descend on his home village of Alderton in Gloucestershire, where there is an excellent village hall and a lovely rural setting. The village is situated less than 6 miles east of junction 9 of the M5 just off the A438. The nearest railway station is in Cheltenham only 8 miles away.

This venue will reduce the travelling distances of those who would be travelling from the West Country, Wales and the Midlands. Unfortunately for those who will be travelling from London and the South East it will be further. Please let us have your thoughts on which venue you'd prefer, and as this is the time of the year when new diaries are published, don't forget to enter Hay 1st. as Witheridge Day. Do it now, so you won't get double booked!

But before our next reunion we have the festive season of Christmas, when many families get together. Do make use of the reminiscences of elderly relations and make notes of some of their tales. They will bring your family history to life, and perhaps provide some useful clues for future research.

Our Winter issue of Witheridge Times won't be with you probably till after Christmas, so I'll take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and much family joy



Kim Cook

Research Report

by Kim Cook

In the last issue I mentioned that we were hoping to produce the Witheridge Society Handbook sometime this year. However, with the delays to the last issue of the magazine, we have had to revise these plans, and are now looking to produce our handbook in time for the May Day reunion next year.

To achieve this we will need to have all the information in from you by the end of February 1989. In with this issue of the Witheridge Times we are including a birth brief form. If your information goes back more than four generations, photocopy the blank form first and use the extra forms as you need them. And please do include any information you have concerning the non-Witheridge side of your family. These directories are very useful for putting researchers in touch with one another, and entries could lead to you making contact with long-lost relations. Don't forget to add a list of any special interests you have in terms of places, occupations, unusual names, or particular events. Remember please, to send the information to Joyce Browne at the address inside the front cover, as soon as possible, and no later than the end of February.

Our Chairman Phil Witheridge has been busy on a project to list all Witheridges and Wetheridges in the British telephone directories. This task is now completed, and there are some eighty five names on the list, nine of which are Wetheridges and the rest Witheridges. A few of these names are already known to us, but we plan to mail all those who are not already members, with a view to encouraging greater membership.

One project I personally have in hand for the new year is a visit to the Kent Record Office at Maidstone. Careful examination of the Mormon IGI shows that some of the Witheridges who settled in Birmingham very early in the 19th century came from the Rochester area of Kent. There are also records in certain church accounts of a Witheridge who was a churchwarden in those parts and who was in dispute with the local vicar. Apparently, the vicar was also a Canon of Rochester Cathedral, and in that capacity baptised some children in the cathedral. However, he entered them in the local parish register, rather than the cathedral register, which meant that they became a charge on the local parish. The church wardens quite rightly objected to this, and there is some lengthy correspondence on file concerning the ensuing dispute. At one point the vicar accuses the Witheridge Churchwarden of having too much to say for himself!

This report comes verbatim from a genealogy contact who has seen the records, but I would like to obtain copies of these documents and also to examine parish records to try and determine where the Kent Witheridges originally came from. It is my guess that they were a seafaring family who came originally from one of the Devonshire ports, but whether from north or south Devon remains to be discovered.

Finally, I haven't heard from anyone visiting London for research lately. Don't forget, If you do go, to contact me first as I may be able to save you from covering ground that has already been researched, and point you in the direction of new information.

Cartoon. Can you tell t' Wether.



I'll give you a clue, look for the pained expression. Wouldn't you have a pained expression if your prospects were castration and to end up as lamb chops. Our surname derived from the places where the ridge pastures were used to graze over-winter and store the wether lamb flocks, the Wether Ridges.

The shepherds who tended these flocks were known as 'Wetherheirdes' This occupation resulted in other families having the surnames Wetherhead, Wethered and Weatherhead.

Book Review

by Kim Cook

'Old Witheridge - bygone days in a Devon Village' compiled by John Usmar and Peter and Freda Tout. Devon Books £6.95p.

Although it would seem that only the North Devon Witheridges actually took their name from the existing town of Witheridge, there can be few of us in the Society who haven't been there. I have visited the place on a number of occasions, bought cards and bookmarks with pictures of Witheridge church, and had my photograph taken by the Witheridge sign at the approach to the town. So anything about old Witheridge is bound to be of interest.

This book has a wealth of old photographs, Newspaper cuttings and other reports covering the last 150 years, all preceded by a general introduction to the town and its history. There are some fascinating glimpses of old village life, reporting such events as the Witheridge Union Sick and Funeral Benefit Society Club Walk (1907), a meeting on 'The War and our Country's Call' (1939), and the destruction by fire of the oldest building in the parish, Darte Raffie Farm (1935). There are reports too, of charabanc outings, sheep shearing competitions, early transport, quarrying, cricket and football.

However, for me the book has two major drawbacks. Firstly, it is presented as one continuous narrative, without being broken into chapters, and although there has been some effort at grouping (for instance sport and transport), on the whole there is no logical sequence, either chronological or by subject. Secondly, there is no index. This means that having once found an item of interest, one has to wade through the whole book to try and find it again. This is a pity, because the basic material is interesting, and the quality of reproduction, particularly given the age of some items, is very good.

With my Witheridge interests, I would rather have the book than not have it, but the manner of presentation is disappointing. Nevertheless, the contents are fascinating, and would surely be of interest to our members.

If anyone would like a copy, please send me a cheque with an order, and I will try and order in bulk from the publishers.

Family News

Congratulations!

David and Elizabeth Witheridge of Minneapolis are delighted to announce the arrival of their grand-daughter Rebecca Elizabeth, a daughter for son Tom and daughter-in-law Virginia, who live in Chicago.

All babies are special, but this one is particularly so, for Tom and Virginia's first child, David, was born prematurely after complications that threatened the life of both mother and baby. Sadly, little David lived only a few days. Contrary to all medical expectations, the same rare life-threatening complications arose again, and baby Rebecca was born on the 19th August, 10 weeks premature and weighing only 21b 2oz. After an initial weight loss, she began to gain slowly and at eight weeks she weighed 4lbs, enough to be allowed home. By early November she was nearly 5lbs 8ozs.

David and Elizabeth are travelling to Chicago for Thanksgiving Day, certainly an appropriate day to see their little grand-daughter for the first time.

Well done!

Roy and Kim Cook's younger son Adam has been awarded an apprenticeship with British Airways. Only 16, he was among the youngest of 1,500 applicants for some 30 places based at BA's training centre at Crawley, near Gatwick Airport. Unfortunately, the distances involved mean that Adam has had to leave home and find lodgings in Sussex, but he is enjoying the work and manages to get home most weekends.

A puzzle from the past

By Richard Witheridge.

The grave stone in Ermington churchyard recording the burial place of Arthur Witheridge and his wife Elizabeth, née Bowden, also records the resting place of one of their sons, Able, as follows;

Able, seventh son of Arthur and Elizabeth, died 18th August 1802. Age *i* year 11 months.

In our family tree we have only been able to trace six sons and two daughters born to Arthur and Elizabeth. Perhaps one of the sons was not registered or was there an error in the counting?

The Wembury Family

by Kim Cook

Writing about the Wembury branch of the Witheridge Family gives me particular pleasure, as it is my own. It is also the branch to which Brenda Dixon (012), Eric Pover (016), Joyce Harnham (061), Rod Witheridge (028), and our newest member Heather Smith (062), belong. Most of the information in this article comes from my own files, but I have to thank Heather Smith for the information she sent on the Australian descendants.

The early registers, which date from about 1610, show nothing to indicate who this branch was descended from, but I gleaned much information from the will of 'Katherine Wetheregh of Wenburig Widdow', proved in London on 6 April 1665, which is now housed in the PRO. Katherine's husband being already dead, it is reasonable to assume that he was one of the Roberts who died in the 1630s. She must have been a lady of some substance, for after leaving 'to the poore of the Parish five shillings', she left a long string of bequests of goods (including 'one yard of new blew cloth' and 'my best redd Petticoate') and money. Among these, she gave 'betwix Margott Wetheregh and hir three younger sonnes twentie shillings', to Robert Wetheregh 'one brasse crock and to his sonne three shillings' and to 'John Wetheregh the elder one peuter dish'.

Relating this to the family tree we can easily identify Margaret (née Strapp) and her sons John, Edmond and Moses who were single and still presumably living at home with her, and the eldest son Robert, married to Agnis Galsworthy with a young son who inherited three shillings. John Wetheregh the elder was presumably the eldest of the three sons still at home. These are the only Witheridge bequests in the will, so it is fair to presume that they were her daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandson.

There is an interesting story to be gleaned from the records concerning the second Moses and his wife Agnis Lowe. They had five sons and four daughters, enough you might think to provide them with many descendants. However, soon after Agnis gave birth to her youngest, Rebecca, both mother and child died, leaving the eldest, Elizabeth, to take care of the family. But Elizabeth herself died in 1689. Grace and Robert had already died in childhood, but we are still left with the mystery of what happened to Mary, Moses, Sarah, John and Aaron. There are no records of marriages or deaths for any of them, so did they move to another parish to be cared for by other relations? And did they have any descendants? I have yet to find out.



St Werburgh's Church, Wembury

Parish registers themselves give little direct evidence of the way the family lived, but fortunately some of the manorial records survive, and extracts from them were published 24 years ago in the *Genealogical Quarterly*. This shows that in September 1745, Ann Witheridge 'now Ann Willing', paid £1.2s.0d for a tenement or land holding, John Witheridge paid 10s.0d for 'Heffields', and John Witheridge 'for a cottage, garden and orchard, one harvest day or 6d' paid 4s.0d. Notice that the second John (the two may have been father and son or uncle and nephew) had to pay not only cash rent, but rent in service by working for the lord of the manor for one day at harvest or pay 6d in lieu. Given that 6d. was more than six weeks' rent, we can gauge the value of manpower at harvest-time.

Although the Witheridges were still in Wembury at least until 1870, when Thomas Witheridge, cordwainer, died in Knighton Almshouses 'aged 77', the main branch of the family, in the form of his elder brother Joseph, had already moved to Plymouth. Soon after Thomas was born, their mother Phyllis had died, and the orphaned children were presumably taken into other households to be cared for, as Richard would have been working all day at his shoemaking.

In accordance with the provisions of the Poor Laws, as soon as such children were old enough to work (and that could be as young as ten) they were apprenticed out by the parish overseers, to work for a local employer, usually living in. On 5 October 1797, at the tender age of nine, Joseph was apprenticed to Nathaniel Willing, yeoman of Wembury. This was probably a descendant of the Nathaniel Hilling who had married Ann Witheridge in 1731. Elizabeth, Joseph's younger sister, was in turn apprenticed to Charles Edward, yeoman of Wembury, on 3 August 1802 when she was ten.

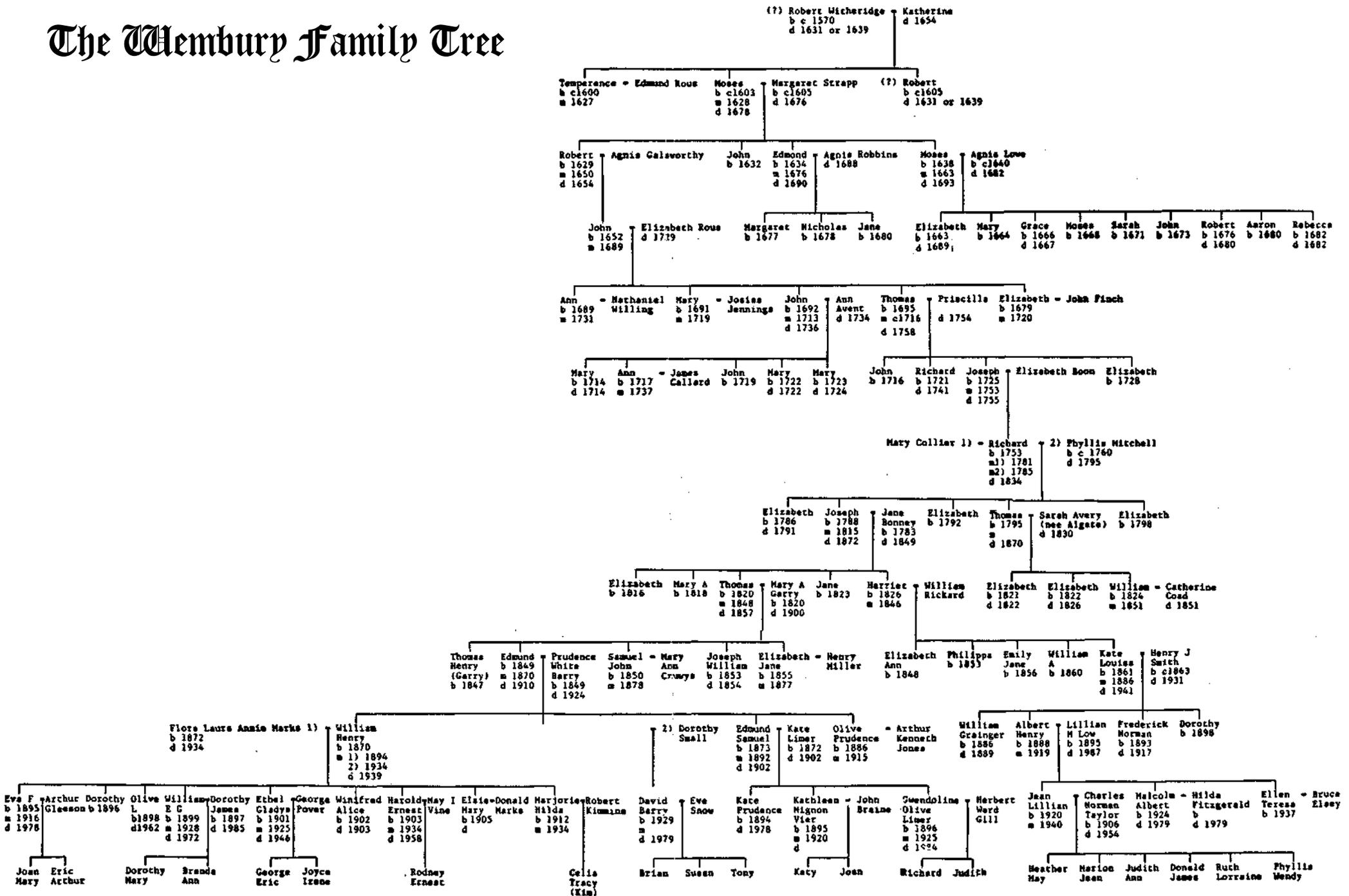
Whether these two were happy in their new homes I don't know, but both would have been bound to stay until they were 21, which in Joseph's case was in 1809. What happened in the next few years remains to be discovered, but by 1815 Joseph was in Stoke Damerel, Plymouth, where on 10 June he married Jane Bonney. By 1820, when Thomas was born, the family was living in the Dock area of the parish where Joseph was a labourer. Jane died in 1849 of cholera and dysentery, and with her at the end was her youngest daughter Harriet, then married to William Rickard.

The Rickard family continued to live in Plymouth at least until 1861, when their youngest daughter Kate Louisa was born. But some time after that they emigrated to Australia, where Kate married Henry J Smith, and from this marriage is descended Heather May Smith of Tasmania.

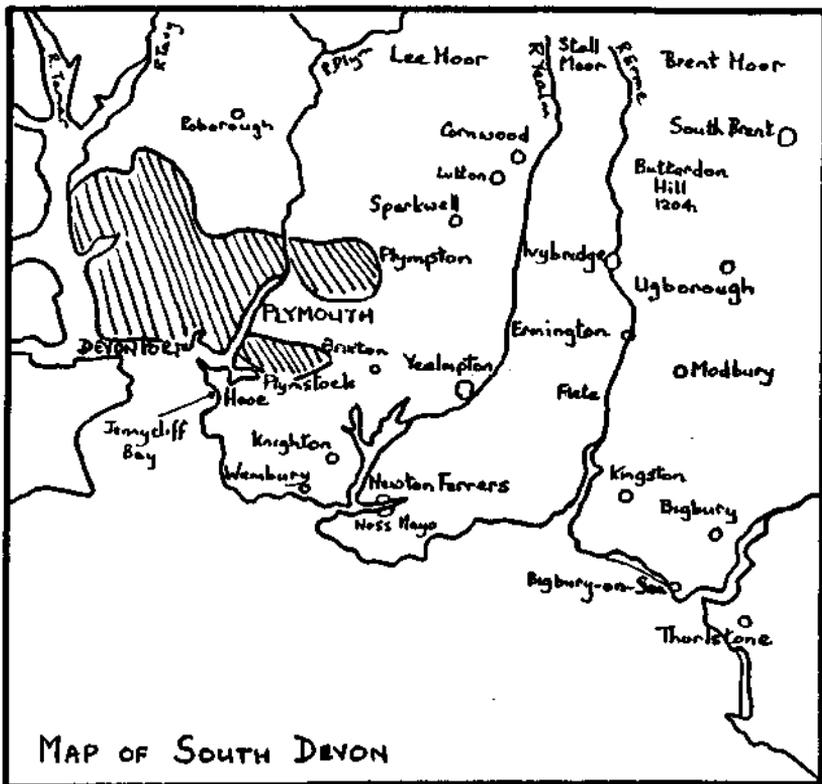
Harriet's brother Thomas had married Mary Ann Garry, and worked as a bargeman in Sutton Harbour (the original harbour of Plymouth). At the age of 37 he contracted a particularly unpleasant disease called phthisis and died, leaving his widow and children quite unprovided for. In later years their son Edmund recalled with pride his hardworking mother who 'maintained her children by turning a mangle'. This is borne out by the 1871 census which gives Mary Ann's occupation as laundress, with her daughter Elizabeth Jane as assistant laundress. Also still living with them was her father-in-law Joseph, who died early the following year.

Mary Ann herself lived on until 1900, when her son Edmund was called from his home in Fulham, London, to be at her death-bed. What became of the eldest son Thomas Henry (born before their marriage and therefore registered as a Garry) I cannot trace. Nor can I trace the birth of any children to Samuel, who had married in Portsea in 1878, or the deaths of him and his wife. Did he too emigrate, and if so, where to? And did Elizabeth Jane and her husband Henry Miller have any children? There is still much to be discovered.

The Wembury Family Tree



As with other family trees, we have one here that sometimes hangs by very tenuous threads and nearly dies out. Robert (b1629) dies after only four years of marriage leaving just one infant son. Joseph (b1725) dies after only two years of marriage, also leaving just one infant son. A strong tendency to produce more daughters than sons has brought the name close to extinction in many generations, not least our own. However, Rod's two sons in the UK, and our young cousins Brian and Tony in New Zealand, give us hope for the continuation of the Witheridge name in this branch of the family.



WITHERIDGES and where I found them

by Joyce Browne

(From a talk given on 'Witheridge Day' May 1988)

The earliest Witheridges I have found so far are in north and south Devon. They are named on the Devon Subsidy Roll (a tax list) for the years 1524, 1525 & 1527. In 1524/5 a John Wythrygge living in the Stanborough Hundred was taxed on goods owned. At Wembury another John Wytherygge was taxed, and a further John Wythrigge is on the list for West Alvington. The North Molton list shows a Peter Wetherugge (an unusual first name for a Witheridge), and at Tauton Epi (Bishop's Tawton) a John Wetherugge is named; yet another John Wetherygge is listed at Berrynarbor. Two William Wetherygges make their appearance, one at Barnstaple and one at Berrynarbor, and a third William Wetherugge is shown as taxed at Lytelham (Littleham), as is a Richard Witherugge.

John Caussye is another name of interest, and he is on the tax list for Bishop's Tawton in 1524, taxed on land. A Fanny Causey married a William Witheridge at Bideford in 1791 and founded a family line which is extant (still exists) and we have had a George Causey Witheridge within living memory.

There are three categories of tax, on land, on wages, and on goods. All of these people, with the exception of George Caussye, were taxed on goods. Did this mean that they were too poor to own or rent land, and did not have wages either, or was it that they were not tied to the Lord of the Manor for wages, but were craftsmen with occupations such as masons, carpenters etc? We know that later, although there were some agricultural labourers in the Combe Martin area, others were seamen, master mariners, and coastguards, and in one area of South Devon there was a tradition of tailoring.

On the subsidy list for 1544 there is a John Wetheryge at Wembury, a Peter Witheruge at North Molton, two John Wetherugges (senior & junior) at Bishop's Tawton, a William and a John Wetheruge at Berrynarbor and a Richard Wethridge at Barnstaple. The first woman, Agnes Weithrige, appears at Littleham, along with Richard, William and William junior.

Parish registers were first ordered to be kept in 1538, but few were begun then, and the first Devon Witheridges on the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which is compiled by the Morman Church from the parish registers, appear about 1551 in both north and south Devon. So far it would seem that there is no connection between the Witheridges of north Devon and those of the south.

The lovely name Chrystyan is one of the earliest names to appear on the IGI. A girl child to Baldwin Withredge was thus named in 1551 at Alwington in North Devon.

Another source of information for early Witheridges is the Muster Roll of 1569. England was under threat of war from the Spanish, and at that time practically no standing army was kept but every able-bodied man between the ages of 16 and 60 years was liable to be called out in the defence of the realm. From time to time, in order to test the numbers of men and equipment available, orders to muster were given by the Sovereign. This meant that every able-bodied man had to present himself with his weapons on a given day at a specified time and place. Even women were called upon to provide weapons according to their means. The actual weapon had to be presented, money would not suffice. The men, horses and equipment were to be inspected by two or three important men of the area or parish. These men were called presenters and were required to present a certificate, giving the names of those mustered, and a list of equipment. Where these lists have survived, and the Devon list of 1559 is one of them, we have an indication of who was of age, and their status in the community, despite the fact that some wrangling undoubtedly went on!

In north Devon in the Hundred of Shebbear the presenter was William Wytheridge, and another William had to muster and provide weapons commensurate with his ownership of goods between the value of £10 & £12. His son, another William, not only had to do the same, but had to supply one steel corselet and a harquebus. This might indicate that he was a little better off than his father.

The harquebus, arquebus or hackbut, was the first gun to have a stock shaped so that it could be aimed and fired from the shoulder. See sketch below.



It was also the first to employ a serpentine, which was a movable 'S' shaped clamp holding a smoldering slow match, pivoted and connected to a trigger that brought it in contact with the firing pan. The burning end of the slow match dipped into the priming powder and the resulting flash ignited the coarse powder in the touch hole and discharged the piece.

At this time there was controversy over the effectiveness in battle of the gun versus the bow and arrow. The skill of archery was dying out and the gun was winning. Nevertheless, in north Devon at Littleham, we have two archers, William and his son Tibalde. There was a harquebusier, (we would call him a marksman) in Barnstaple, John Witheridge, and in Fremington the presenter was Roger Witheridge. Tavistock is mentioned for the first time in this list where William Wytherudge is a billman. At Wembury another William is a pikeman, and at Plymstock yet another William is a harquebusier.



Pikeman circa 1660

The pike and bill were weapons which together gave the foot soldier the means of effectively fighting attacking horseman.

The pike is a spike on the end of a long pole of up to 18ft in length. It was of use only to keep horsemen at a distance thus ensuring his security, but it could not deliver a mortal blow. Another weapon was necessary to compliment the pike and this was the bill. The bill had a cutting blade like a scythe, sharpened on the concave side and mounted at the end of a 6 to 8ft pole. The billman would cut and slash at a horseman and was now able to deliver a killing blow.

Sometimes the bill would incorporate a hook to enable the billman to hook onto the rider's armour or clothing and pull him from his horse. This bill and hook combination was called a bill-gisarme.

We know that there were Witheridges in London at this period, and indications are that they included Devon men. At least two of the most famous mariners of the Elizabethan age, Hawkins and Drake, were from Devon and often sailed from Tilbury, and are likely to have crewed their ships with men from their native county, both north and south.

In 1570 we have a Denys Whytrige baptised at St.Margaret's Westminster, and a Robert Witheridge was baptised in 1571 at the church of St.Mary at Hill. A hundred years later, in 1670, we have the name Armonel occurring. In Stepney a girl child was baptised with this unusual first name which was usually only to be found in Devon.

The first Cornish Witheridges appear in 1595 at Gwinear, according to the IGI. A Blanch Wetheridge was baptised there, daughter of a Bowden or Borden Wetheridge. Cornish Witheridges could have originated from north or south Devon, and throughout the 17th and 18th centuries we have them fairly evenly distributed between Morwenstow, Kilkhampton and Poughill in the north, and Maker and Saltash in the south.

It is not until 1625 that the name Whitridge appears in the Coleshill area of Birmingham, but this is a doubtful connection and could be associated with the surname Whiteridge. The first clearly attributable Witheridge appears in 1806. This is interesting as it is the Baptism of an Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Inwood Witheridge and his wife Elizabeth. In 1796, at St. Botolph's, Aldgate, London, a Robert Inwood Witheridge married an Elizabeth Stokes. Two children were born to them in London in 1801 and 1803 after which they do not feature again in London, but it appears that they moved to Birmingham, where three more children were born. A Robert Inwood Wetheridge (believed to be the same man) was one of four sons born to John and Sarah Wetheridge at Strood, near Rochester, Kent, between 1770 and 1774. The IGI shows nothing for the Newcastle area or for Wales.

Registration of birth became compulsory on 1st July 1837 and from that date we need to look at the records in the General Register Office at St. Catherine's House, London, for our Witheridges. However, although registration was compulsory, there were initially no penalties for failing to register, so it is reasonable to suppose that a number of events escaped registration.

The table, see page 19, shows an attempt at a geographical analysis of all the Wetheridge/Witheridge names on the St. Catherine's House indexes from the first quarter, dated September 1837, for the next 130 years. I have grouped the figures into ten year periods and have made some comments on the whereabouts of families during this time. The indexes are grouped into four quarters for each year, the month named being the last month of the quarter.

Cornwall In spite of the earlier names on the parish registers, the first registered birth is not until 1853, Ann Witheridge, in Helston, and there is no Cornish marriage before this date. The first events in north Cornwall are the marriage in the march quarter of 1866 of Nathan Witheridge in Stratton, the birth in the December quarter of 1866 of David Witheridge in Stratton, and the death in 1859 of Edmund Witheridge at St. Columb. Other events are mostly in Helston, Penzance, and Truro, but the last deaths are in Redruth, Camelford, Truro and Penzance.

Bear in mind that these names are of registration districts which usually contain other nearby towns and villages.

Devon The figures for Devon in the first forty years are higher than for any other area, confirming the geographical origin of the name. The names occur in Barnstaple, Bideford, Totnes, Tavistock (some excise men), Plymouth, Ermington, Kingsbridge, and Stoke Damerel, among others. We know that in the first half of the 19th century much movement took place. North Devon Witheridges went to London (and some to America). There were already Witheridges in Plymouth but some of the other south Devon families went there. Three of the Ermington Witheridges (brothers) went to Plymouth and one woman went to Poole. Subsequently some of the Ermington Witheridges in Plymouth went to Bournemouth. Two went to London and some left London for Poole. One, in the metal working side of the Ermington branch, went to Birmingham. There was also movement from the Wembury and Kingsbridge areas to the London area, usually via Plymouth.

Somerset The first birth, in June 1845, is of a Philemon Thomas Witheridge, in Williton, north Somerset. Williton is near Watchet which is a small port, once larger, and I believe that this birth reveals a connection with another birth in East Anglia in the first decade. This was also of a Philemon who died of convulsions aged 14 months. His father was named as Thomas Witheridge, a boatman. I think that Thomas was the father of both Philemons. It is known that he was a coastguard and served in Watchet, Wells Norfolk, Lyminster Hants, and Barnstaple. One of his sons remained in the Newcastle area and this began the Newcastle connection.

Other Somerset events are in Bridgwater, (Ermington connections), although one death was that of a man born in St. German's Cornwall. More recent events were in Taunton and Bath, still with south Devon connections.

Kent & SE Coast The first marriage, in 1891, is that of a Richard Chowne Witheridge at Brighton, and he is subsequently found in London. Some events are in Chatham and Sidcup, some are possibly the Camberwell Wetheridge family.

Gloucestershire Early events are mainly in the Bristol area, and stem from a descendant of the Berryarbor family, but some later ones are from the Ermington branch.

Oxfordshire Records show hardly any Witheridges here. The first marriage is of a Mary Grace Witheridge at Wallingford in 1876.

London We have seen where some Witheridges originated. The peak decades for births in London were 1887-1916, accounted for by Witheridges from both north and south Devon and the Wetheridge family of Camberwell.

From 1896 onwards we have the movement out of London to the Home Counties and farther afield.

East Anglia The first events are those already mentioned (Philemon) and of the later ones, one or two have a Bournemouth-Ermington connection.

Midlands As the Midlands grew in prosperity so the figures of Witheridges rose. Some were there before 1837 and at least one family is descended from William Bowden Witheridge the millwright from Ermington, and another family more recently in Leicester is also from the Plymouth-Ermington branch.

Newcastle There are fairly consistent events after 1867 with, probably, a north Devon connection. Some were Coastguards, and the first recorded names were William Thomas, Charles Robert and William Hardwicke Witheridge.

North West England Very few Witheridge events are recorded here. The first was that of a marriage of Elizabeth Witheridge in Liverpool in 1842 (she could have been a seaman's family), and later there were one or two events in Rochdale.

Wales Here there are a surprising number of Witheridges. About the earlier ones I know next to nothing. From the 1870s there are definite links with Combe Martin, and given the easy sea route it is likely that other Welsh Witheridges have there origins in north Devon.

What did all these people do for a living? I imagine the Cornish families to be agricultural, or perhaps in mining. The north Devon Witheridges appear to have been agricultural labourers, seamen, coastguards, and here again there may have been some miners. Some of those who left for London became associated with the railways and at least one attained a responsible position on the technical side.

The Ermington family were yeoman farmers, then carpenters, builders, wheelwrights, millwrights, engineers, and one kept a public house. Others from south Devon were tailors, masons and one made his fortune as a designer and manufacturer of wallpaper. One south Devon man began as a sailmaker and ended as a grocer, while yet another who began as a carpenter/builder, ended as a master dairyman, while yet another was a sailor as well as an airman. Now there are Witheridges in many diverse professions. If any conclusion can be drawn from all this it is, perhaps, that the Witheridges are practical people who can turn their hand to anything and adapt to any environment!

Much research is awaiting to be done, so find your ancestors, Witheridges, and tell us all about them.

TABLE---Showing the Geographical Distribution of the Numbers of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the Surnames Witheridge and Wetheridge in the GRQ Indexes for each Decade from 1837

Decade	*Note	N.Cornwall	S.Cornwall	N.Devon	S.Devon	Somerset	Hants,Wilts,Dorset	Kent & SE.	Home Counties	E.Anglia & Essex	Midlands	Gloucestershire	Oxfordshire	London	Newcastle & NE.	Lancs & NW.	Wales	TOTAL
1837	b	-	-	16	34	1	3	-	-	-	4	-	1	6	-	-	-	65
to	m	-	-	4	15	1	5	-	-	-	3	-	3	3	-	1	-	32
1846	d	-	-	5	16	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	27
1847	b	-	1	10	29	5	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	5	-	-	2	65
to	m	-	1	7	21	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	1	40
1856	d	-	-	4	15	3	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	1	30
1857	b	1	4	12	46	-	4	-	3	-	8	1	-	1	-	-	3	64
to	m	1	1	10	25	-	-	-	1	-	7	-	-	5	-	-	-	50
1866	d	1	-	9	23	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	43
1867	b	2	8	14	47	-	3	-	1	-	6	1	-	14	4	1	2	101
to	m	4	-	3	16	-	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	5	2	-	1	39
1876	d	-	3	7	33	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	1	-	1	56
1877	b	-	6	8	22	-	7	-	2	-	11	-	-	14	2	-	10	84
to	m	-	4	3	7	-	4	-	-	-	8	-	-	6	1	1	11	45
1886	d	1	1	7	15	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	8	2	-	1	41
1887	b	-	6	1	17	1	7	-	1	-	15	-	-	7	-	-	12	67
to	m	-	3	2	21	3	1	1	2	-	8	-	-	5	1	-	2	47
1896	d	-	2	5	23	-	3	1	-	-	5	1	-	6	1	-	10	58
1897	b	-	-	-	21	4	1	-	7	-	16	2	-	6	-	1	1	59
to	m	-	5	2	20	2	4	-	4	-	5	1	-	11	1	-	2	57
1906	d	1	1	7	17	3	4	1	-	-	4	2	-	3	-	-	1	49
1907	b	2	3	4	12	4	1	1	7	-	16	1	-	26	4	2	9	94
to	m	-	4	4	2	9	5	2	3	-	10	1	-	8	-	1	7	56
1916	d	-	1	4	15	2	2	-	2	-	11	1	-	14	1	-	3	56
1917	b	-	2	-	1	10	3	-	7	2	9	1	-	11	5	-	6	57
to	m	-	2	1	10	-	3	2	2	-	15	2	1	5	1	-	2	46
1926	d	1	2	7	13	3	4	-	4	-	6	1	-	6	2	-	3	52
1927	b	1	-	-	10	2	2	-	-	-	10	2	1	6	1	-	3	38
to	m	-	1	1	9	5	2	-	3	2	19	1	-	11	2	-	4	59
1936	d	-	2	2	11	6	5	-	1	-	18	2	2	4	-	-	3	56
1937	b	-	4	3	3	7	3	-	2	2	10	4	1	12	5	1	6	62
to	m	-	2	1	5	7	4	-	5	1	12	4	4	15	5	-	7	72
1946	d	1	1	-	9	-	3	1	1	-	6	1	-	5	-	-	6	34
1947	b	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	3	-	7	6	1	17	-	1	14	55
to	m	-	3	1	3	5	9	-	2	-	16	1	4	15	4	-	8	69
1956	d	-	-	-	9	2	2	-	2	-	7	1	1	13	1	-	8	46
1957	b	-	-	-	4	3	2	4	-	-	8	1	5	21	4	-	8	60
to	m	-	-	-	2	3	4	3	2	2	-	4	-	2	13	4	2	44
1966	d	3	5	1	6	5	4	1	4	1	5	2	2	8	4	-	2	55

*Note b=births m=marriages d=deaths.

Membership List

We welcome the following new member to the Society

062 Mrs Heather Smith
 Leatherwood, Doaks Road, c/o PO Lilydale, Tasmania,
 Australia 7268.
 1)Heather May Smith; 2)Charles Norman Taylor; 3)Jean
 Lilian Smith; 6)Albert Henry Smith 1888-1955; 12)Henry
 John Smith 1886-1931; 13)Kate Louisa Rickard 1861-1941;
 26)William Rickard; 27)Harriet Witheridge 1826-?;
 54)Joseph Witheridge 1788-1872; 55)Jan Bonney 1782-1849.
 Wembury 1600-1810; Plymouth 1810-1865; Australia
 1865-1988.

GRO Certificates Held

<u>Christian Name(s)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Via</u>
<u>Birth</u>			
Frederick	09.02.1844	Birmingham	006
John	15.04.1865	Combmartin	042
William	23.09.1856	Combmartin	042
<u>Marriage</u>			
George	19.02.1860	Combmartin	042
Robert	03.02.1879	Birmingham	042
Samuel John	08.03.1878	Portsea Island	001
William	29.03.1879	High Bray, Devon	042
William	25.03.1883	Cardiff	042
<u>Death</u>			
Edwin	11.03.1881	Barton Regis, Bristol	042
Fanny Elizabeth	12.07.1879	Bideford	042
George	17.09.1901	Kentish Town, London	042
Jane	11.10.1849	Plymouth	001
Mary Ann	13.06.1900	Plymouth	001

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

Useful Addresses

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

North Devon Record Office,
Tuly Street,
Barnstaple,
Devon.

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