



Volume 4

Number 1

Summer 1990

Officers of the Society

Chairman	Mr Philip Witheridge The Paddocks, Gretton Fields, Nr. Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5HJ.
Secretary	Mr John Witheridge 6 Nore Close, Darland, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 3DG.
Treasurer	Mr Jason Cook 18 Hawkhurst Way, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 9PF.
Editor/PRO	Mrs Kim 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.
Cookbook Editor	Mrs June Witheridge 70 Copse Road, Plympton, Plymouth, South Devon. PL7 3QB



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c 1988	

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Editorial

We always appear to be apologising for not managing to produce enough 'Witheridge Times' magazines each year. Again we have to apologise. This magazine is the only one to be issued for the year 1990, and not only that, but it is also being issued late.

What can we say? You don't need more excuses, lets just say, we'll try to do better for the rest of this year and for future years.

Why does this happen? This is a question which needs to be addressed. I'm sure that it is not just because of insufficient effort, or a shortage of information needing to be published, it's more a question of organisation. There is a need for someone to look at the effectiveness of our organisation, we need a management 'Trouble Shooter'. Is there someone out there, with time, and the ability, who can sort us out.

For my own part I know that I'm a bottleneck. I have been placing your letters in my 'Urgent, needing immediate attention' pidgeon hole for some time and I still haven't got around to dealing with them.

May I make a continuing call for information and articles for publication. We are short on family news, we seem only to be publishing information from one or two families.

During Witheridge Day 1990 we had a cookery competition. This was successful and during the day it was suggested that we produce a cookery book containing all those recipes that generations of Witheridge's have enjoyed and survived on over the years. We are continuing with the cookery competition on Witheridge Day 1991, but we are also making a call for recipes from you all. June Witheridge has agreed to collect, collate and edit a Witheridge Family cookery book and so any of you who wish to contribute should send your information to June at the address given inside the front cover. If there is a bit of history or a story to go with it so much the better.

Well that is all I'm going to say, please read on and I hope that you will enjoy the contents of this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Witheridge". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Phil Witheridge (your very temporary editor)

Witheridge Day 1990

by Phil Witheridge

'Witheridge Day 1990' was held in the village hall (Photo top page 4) in Alderton, Gloucestershire, on Monday 7th May 1990. The day was a great success. In all twenty three members attended on the day, but deserving a special mention were Kathy and Paul Witheridge, who attended coming all the way from Ontario in Canada.

There was so much on display of such a high standard. I will not single out any item or any person for a special mention, it all had to be seen to be appreciated. We Witheridge's have so much ability and so many skills.

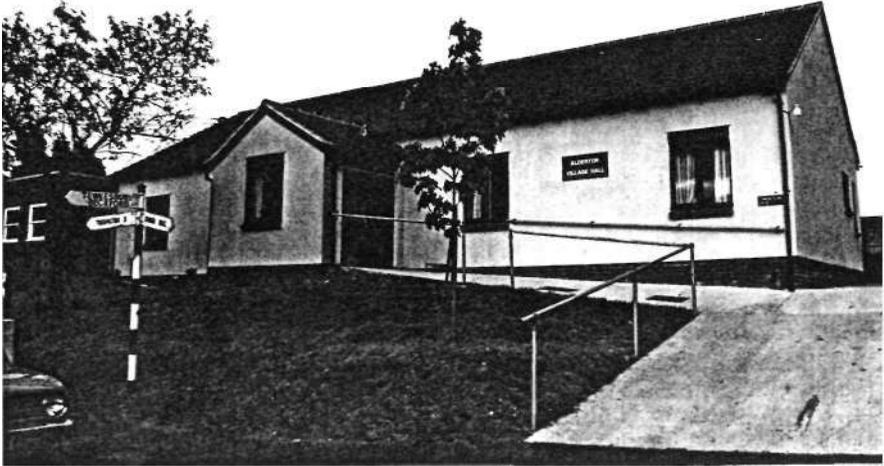
Two competitions were held. In the cookery competition my Wetherherd's Pie came first, followed closely by June Witheridge's 'Scrag Bag'. In the competition for the most authentic forgery, Kim Cook was first with her Witheridge washerwomans pot linked with Sir Walter Raleigh's Cloak. I'm sorry that I can not illustrate her entry. I can however illustrate the entry which came second, Richard Witheridge's wanted poster (see below). Third equals came a letter in a bottle entered by Evelyn Witheridge from New Zealand, and my own entry, a Maris Piper potato with historic pretensions.

The talks were well received but they were not as published. Joyce and Graham Browne had to cancel their talk at the last minute. Kim Cook stepped in with a talk on the origins of surnames. This talk would make a very nice article for a future magazine. My talk went as planned and described the production of the Witheridge Times.

At the Annual General Meeting the existing committee members were re-appointed for a further year and we learnt that the society was solvent.



The Village Hall Alderton in Gloucestershire.



Below those who attended;

Standing; Phil W, Simon W, Larry Smith, Mark W, Zoe Mitchell, Jason Cook, Carl Smith, John W, Harry Payne.

Sitting; Richard W, Roy Cook, Barbara Smith, Kim Cook Jane W, Maureen W, David W, Susan W, Joan Payne, June W, April W, Xathy W, Paul W, Cheryl W.



LOST' MOTHER FOUND AFTER 38 YEARS

CHRISTMAS 1978 will be an extra special occasion for Gordon Witheredge. After 'losing' his mother for 38 years Gordon was re-united with her in October this year and some special Christmas celebrations are planned for the family gathering.

A senior storeman at Green Lane Road, Gordon was parted from his mother in the early days of World War II. Gordon and his brother David were evacuated from their home in Plymouth and after the war was over, because of various changes of addresses, they lost touch with each other and their parents.

After a year working in Exeter Gordon joined the Army and travelled the world — Germany, Korea and the Middle East for 7 years. He came to Leicester in 1956 when he was 'demobbed' and joined Wadkin.

Two years ago, now a married man with three children, Gordon set about trying to trace his parents. He contacted the Salvation Army who agreed to carry out a search. However, after exhaustive enquiries spanning a year, they

admitted defeat.

At this stage Gordon was dejected and had almost given up hope. By a strange trick of fate his daughter's marriage led to new efforts in the search.

His daughter's father-in-law is a keen amateur genealogist and offered to

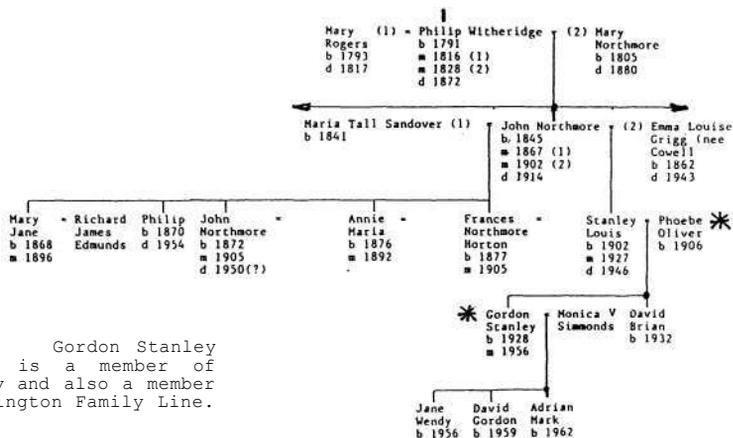
take over the search. Gordon agreed and in five weeks he had the information he desperately wanted. The address of his mother, who was alive and well and living in Plymouth his old home town! Sadly

his father had died many years ago.

"The reunion with my mother was the most wonderful experience I've ever had in my life" said Gordon.

He now keeps in touch with her every week by phone and she will be joining the Witheredge family for Christmas celebrations.

Gordon still hopes to trace his brother David and complete the family reunion. We wish him every success in his search.



Footnote:

Gordon Stanley Witheridge is a member of our society and also a member of the Ermington Family Line.

Family News

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Committee Member Richard Witheridge and his wife Maureen who have become grandparents for a second time. Daughter Ann and son-in-law Gary Melbourne have a second daughter, Rebbecca Jane, born on 19th September 1990 and weighing in at 8lb 2oz.

Engagement

in June 1990 Roy and Kim Cook were delighted to announce the engagement of their elder son Jason (our treasurer) to Zoe Mitchell. Zoe and Jason were at the Witheridge Day 1990 and are shown on the photograph on page 4 of this magazine.

Condolences

Our condolences go to the family of Eric Arthur Gleeson who died in August 1990. Eric Gleeson was the grand-son of William Henry Witheridge and cousin to our members Rod Witheridge, Brenda Dixon, Eric Pover, Joyce Marnham, and Kim Cook, and was also nephew to member Eve Witheridge who lives in New Zealand.

Also the death occurred in October 1990 of Alan Reed, Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. Alan Reed and Kim Cook were both founder members of the East Surrey Family History Society, and it was largely through Alan's encouragement and aid that Kim took the steps to form the Witheridge Society.

Not a lot of people know that;

When you watch the opening of Parliament on Television, and I believe this also applies to all those other Parliaments modeled on the British system, you will see an official, called 'Black Rod' knock on the door of the House of Commons to summon the members of that house to attend the House of Lords, and to hear the Queen's speech.

This ceremony goes back to when King Charles tried to arrest members of parliament in the House of Commons. Since that time Kings or Queens have been excluded from the Commons, and now for the Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament MP's are summoned to the House of Lords.

One of those original members of parliament who escaped the Kings arresting officers was Sir William Strode. He escaped and hid with the Lord Mayor of London. Sir William Strode's estates were close to the village of Ermington in South Devon, and one of his tenants was Leon Witheridge. Leon is recorded as paying rent for Strode Manor Farm in 1580 and after, and is one of the earliest recorded Witheridge's of the Ermington Witheridge Family.

The Tavistock Witheridge's
A Family Line Search Report.
by P.H.Witheridge.

This family line search report was selected to be included in this copy of the Witheridge Times because it relies heavily on the information obtained from the PPR Wills Indexes as given later in this magazine. We have marked with a hash (#) each name on the family tree which is mentioned in those wills. This search examines those Witheridges who once lived in the Tavistock area of Devon and who have been for some time both a mystery and a headache for our researchers.

I must make one or two points before we get too deeply into this report. Firstly the information given in this report is provisional as in some instances it has not been fully proven. I have tried to indicate areas of uncertainty by using dotted lines and question marks on the family tree. Next I must give credit for the support of our researchers, especially Kim and Joyce. Last of all I have to point out that our searches relating to these families are still being pursued.

From the tree it can be seen that there are two major family grouping originating with Richard Witheridge and Mary Phillips in Ogbeare, and Samuel Witheridge and Mary Atwill in Whitchurch. We can also see other smaller groupings of Witheridge's that have lived in this area for shorter periods.

What made us look more determindly at these families was that Alice Witheridge, from Kallaroo in Western Australia, joined the Society. Alice has passed on to us some particulars of the Australian end of her family branch and I've put this information in the tree.

For me an unusual aspect of Alice's family line, is that two Witheridge's namely Alfred and Polly Witheridge, emigrated separately, but met up and married in Adelaide, Australia on the 10th November 1879. The question I can hear you all asking is, were they related?' We do not know, but they could have been as close as second cousins, and this assumes that my guesses regarding their family lines are correct, and that their individual grand-father's, Richard and Samuel respectively, were brothers.

Did they know of each other before going to Australia? Again its possible, but we are not certain. Polly came from Tavistock and Alfred from Orty, and I refer you to the Australian birth certificate given after the text. Alice also tells us that on another birth certificate Alfred is given as coming from Ottery St Mary.

The Witheridge Society have found no records of Witheridge births, marriages or deaths in Ottery St Mary, which is in the east of Devon near Exeter. So where is Orty or Ottery.

Remember that these were Devonshire folk and would certainly have spoken with a Devonshire accent and so Orty is probably the phonetic spelling of how Ottery is pronounced in that part of Devon. I believe Orty equates with a village called Ottery, close to Ogbeare and in the Parish of Lamerton. We have included a map on page 11 to illustrate the area. If this is so then the two families lived within three miles of each other.

Alfred is not a commonly used Witheridge christian name, but we find it almost only used in this area of Devon. Cross checking to find birth records in the St.Catherine's House Indexes we found those for a Polly and for an Alfred Percy both registered in the Tavistock area. Their birth certificates were obtained and the details are given later after this text.

Following these certificate details, are given the details of the Australian Birth certificate for John Witheridge the youngest son of Alfred and Polly. Just look at the mine of information given in these Australian certificates.

The first detail that struck me from this certificate is the continuing use of the name Percy. Alice's husband was called Percy as well as her husbands father. Little did they realise that this christian name came to be used within their family because it was the maiden name of Alfred's mother. Did you notice that in Alfred Percy's birth certificate that the registrar's name was John Percy. Was he a relation of his mother's?

Now let us look at Polly's origins. In Polly's birth certificate we are told that her father was Richard, a copper mine labourer. We have no birth listed for a Richard in Tavistock at this time. We do have however, two marriages (1881 & 1863) and one death (1879) relating to the name Richard. Were there two Richards or just one who married twice. My guess is that the marriage of Richard in 1863, the year of Polly's birth, featured Polly's mother, Mary Ann Hatherleigh. We have linked Polly's father to the Whitchurch Witheridge tree. This is because Richard's year of birth calculated from the age given in the death certificate of 1879, fits in with the other births of this family. Also the address given in Polly's birth certificate, Kilworthy Lane, Tavistock, is close to Whitchurch.

We have constructed a listing of all the Witheridge and Wetheridge entries found in the St Catherines House Indexs for births marriage and deaths for the Tavistock Registration district. These lists start in 1837.

To find records before 1837 it is necessary to consult the Parish Registers. The easy way to do this is to search through the IGI (International Genealogical Index as produced by the Morman Church). There are no Witheridge entries for the Parishes of Tavistock, Whitchurch or Lamerton to be found in the most recent IGI lists for Devon issued in 1988. There certainly were Witheridges in all three of these parishes before 1837 as we can see from the details of Witheridge wills. It is likely that the records of these parishes have not yet been added to the IGI. To find out about these Witheridge's members of the Society will have to search directly in these Parish Registers. A job for the future.

If you look at the Ogbeare tree you will see that Emma Witheridge, the grand-daughter of Richard and Mary Phillips, married the celebrated poet, author, journalist and lyricist, William Crossing. William Crossing's works are familiar to all lovers of Dartmoor even to the present day.

We already know that Witheridges from the North Devon family from Combmartin and Berrynarbor migrated through the Tavistock area on their way to New Zealand and the Tyneside in Northern England. They came to the Tavistock area to work either in, or associated with the mining of copper. Thomas Witheridge, born in Combmartin in 1835, married Ann Serina Roberts in the Parish of Calstock, Cornwall. They were both recorded as living in Gunnislake, which is close to Tavistock but just over the county border in Cornwall. I believe that the William born in 1864 was their son. He went to the Tyneside with them but died there at the age of three in 1867.

In 1864 Thomas's brother John married a Gunnislake girl, Elizabeth Delbridge, in Plymouth, just before they emigrated to New Zealand with, another younger brother, James. If we look in the deaths for Tavistock we will see the death of a John in 1877 aged 75, which would give the year of his birth as 1802. John the father of these brothers was born in Combmartin in 1802. Did he come south with them and end his days here in Tavistock. There is a Tavistock death of a Mary 1857, was this the Mary Hancock who married John in Combmartin in 1827, and who was his wife for the thirty years between 1827 and 1857.

These are not the only links with this north Devon Witheridge family. In the 1851 census for Combmartin we see listed a George Witheridge as a lodger in a Witheridge household. His place of birth was recorded as Cornwall. He was likely to have been a relation from the Tavistock area staying with relations in the north of Devon. Also we see a lumber of christian names commonly used in the Combmartin and Berrynarbor family also being used in the Tavistock families.

Apart from the common names, Mary, William, John, Thomas, and James, we also see, Margaret, George, Edwin, Maria, and Francis. This last name appears in Richard Chowen's family group at the bottom of the tree.

In searching through these records there are one or two items which I would like to examine further. The first relates to two marriage entries in the year 1859 for a Harry Witheridge and Mary Witheridge. These entries have identical dates and references. Did Harry marry Mary? There are also two entries for deaths which have the same dates and references. In 1844 the deaths of a William Witheridge and a Mary Witheridge were recorded by the same entry in the index for deaths. Was this a mother dying in childbirth together with her child. I say this because our researchers only found the birth of a William registered in the same quarter of the year in which the deaths were registered.

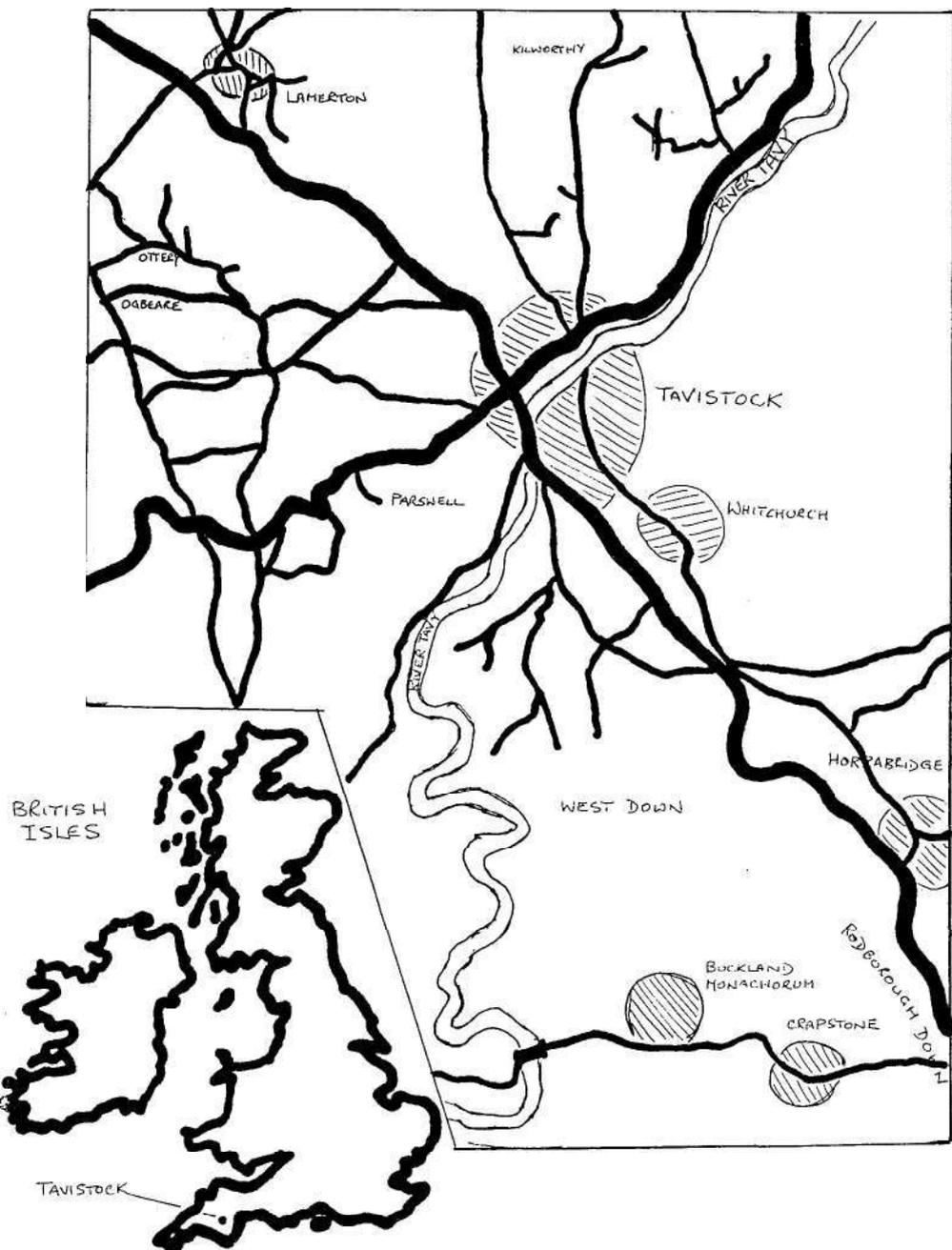
On the tree, pages 14 & 15, I have added two family groupings where generally those mentioned were born in Tavistock, but married and moved to other parts of England, and where it is likely that we will find links possibly to the Whitchurch family when we have searched further. In general the use of the Witheridge surname by decendants of these families has died out in England, although in America and Australia it is still flourishing.

Alice tells us in her letters from Australia that her husband was one of ten children and at the last count she totalled 36 grand-children and 60 great grand-children.

Well that is all for the moment except to speculate on which certificates would be the most benefit in developing our knowledge of these families. The top priority is to link Richard born circa 1835 to his parents. To do this I suggest we get the later marriage certificate involving a Richard, ie ref 1863-S-5b.671.

Next I would like to link both Richard Chowen and William George to their parents. As marriage certificates generally yield more family information and we also get the fathers name and occupation, I suggest marriage certificates 1891-M-2b.350 and 1933-S-5b.628.

MAP of TAVISTOCK AREA



Records of the Tavistock Witheridges
Birth Certificate Details

1855, Reg. Dist, Tavistock, Sub-dist, Milton Abbot, County of Devon.

2nd February, born in Ottery Lamerton, Alfred Percy, boy.
Father, John Witheridge, Labourer on Roads,
Mother, Jane Witheridge, (Jane made her mark)
Registered, 28th February 1855, Registrar, John Percy.

1863, Reg. Dist, Tavistock, Sub-dist, Tavistock, in Counties of
Devon and Cornwall.

5th July, born in Kilworthy Lane Tavistock, Polly, girl.
Father, Richard Witheridge, Copper mine labourer.
Mother, Mary Ann Witheridge, formerly, Hatherleigh.
Registered, 7th July 1863, Registrar, Francis Davis.

Birth in the State of Western Australia.

11th June 1903, at Victoria St. Gottesloe Beach, John, male.
Father, Alfred Witheridge, Dairyman, 45yr, born, Orty Devon Eng.
married, 10th Nov. 1879 Adelaide Sth. Aust. issue, George, 19yr,
William, 17yr, Alfred, 15yr, Percy, 4yr, Cecil Charles, 3yr,
issue deceased, 1, male, 1, female.
Mother, Polly Witheridge, 39yr, born, Tavistock, Devon, England.
Inform't, Polly Witheridge, mother, Victoria St. Gottesloe Beech
Witnesses, Accoucheur, Douglas E Darbyshire, Nurse, Elisabeth
Lenanton, others, Alfred Witheridge.
Registrar, 23rd July 1903, Claremont, by, Anna E Lemmens.

Marriage Certificate Details

1867, May, 5th at Registry Office, Plymouth Devon.
between;

Thomas Witheridge, Age 27, Bachelor, Farmer, of Lord Exmouth
Inn, Drake Street, Plymouth. Father, Samuel Witheridge, Farmer.
and;

Ann Dockett, Age 27, Spinster, of Grapstone, Buckland
Manachorum. Father, James Dorkett (deceased) Farmer.

witnessed;

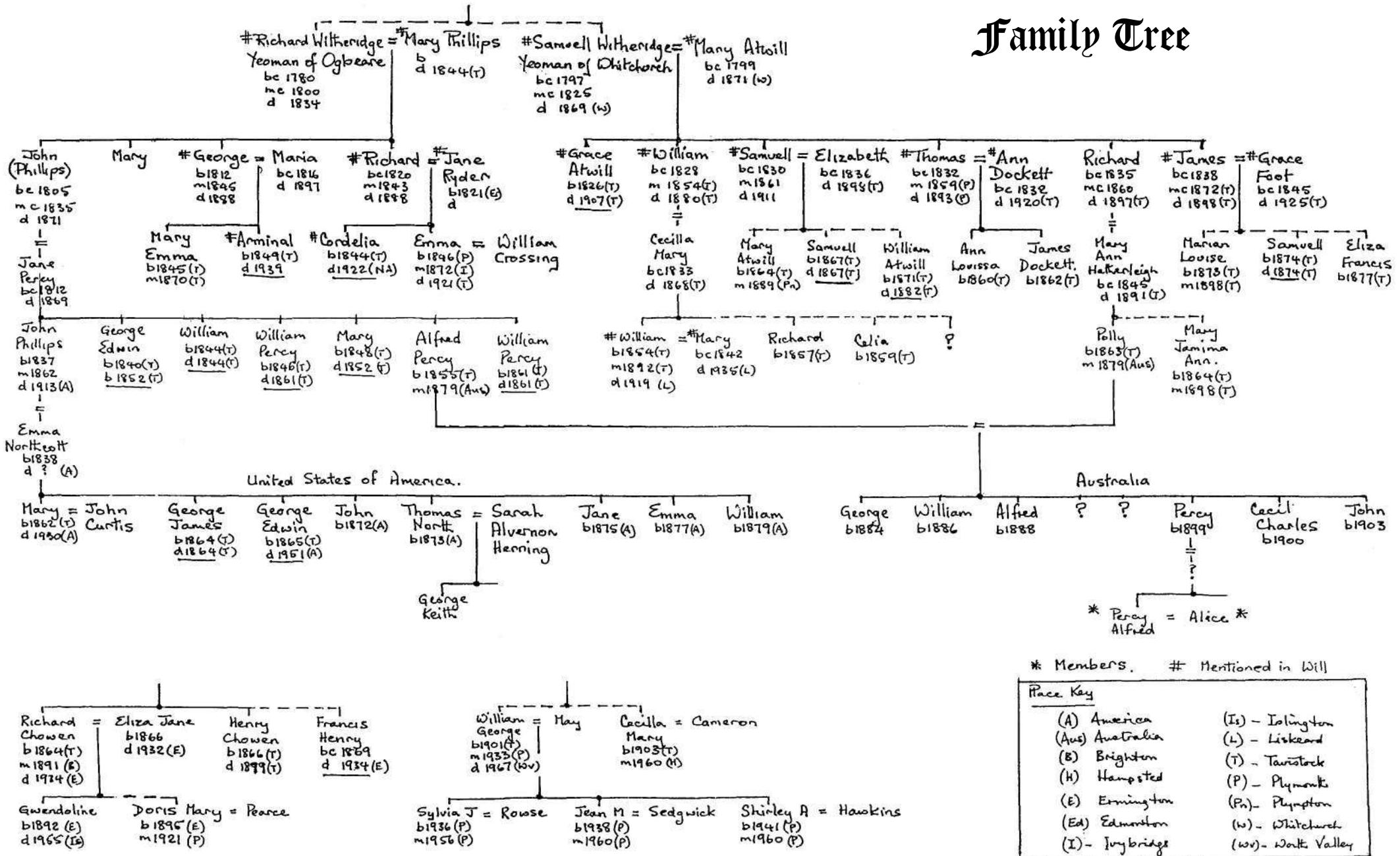
Elizabeth Dockett & Louisa Robertson.

Witheridge births, marriages and deaths extracted from the
St Catharine's House Index

Date/No.	First name(s)	Maiden name	Ref.No	Date/No.	Second event	Ref.No
c1797	b-Samuel			1869-M-d-A72.....	(T)	5b.273
c1798	b-Mary Atwill			1871-D-d-A73.....	(T)	5b.323
c1802	b-John(C)			1877-M-d-A75.....	(T)	5b.258
c1805	b-John (Phillips)			1871-D-d-A66.....	(T)	5b.327
c1809	b-Sarah			1873-D-d-A64.....	(T)	5b.235
c1812	b-George			1888-D-d-A76.....	(T)	5b.249
c1812	b-Jane Percy			1869-S-d-A57.....	(T)	5b.261
c1816	b-Maria			1897-D-d-A81.....	(T)	5b.228
c1823	b-Mary			1903-J-d-A80.....	(T)	5b.231
c1826	b-Grace Atwill			1907-J-d-A81.....	(T)	5b.240
c1828	b-William			1880-D-d-A52.....	(T)	5b.241
c1831	b-Samuel			1911-M-d-A80.....	(T)	5b.302
c1833	b-Cecilia Maria			1868-D-d-A35.....	(T)	5b.247
c1835	b-Richard			1897-J-d-A62.....	(T)	5b.235
c1836	b-Elizabeth			1898-M-d-A62.....	(T)	5b.295
c1838	b-James			1898-M-d-A60.....	(T)	5b.294
	1840-M-b-George Edwin(T)		IX.516..	1852-M-d-A12.....	(T)	5b.286
c1842	b-Mary			1935-J-d-A93.....	(L)	5c..50
	1842-J-b-Emma Ann(T)		IX.488..	1867-J-m.....	(P)	5b.513
	1842-S-b-Mary Ann(T)		IX.453..	1857-S-m.....	(P)	5b.377
	1843-S-m-Grace Moore & J Langham(T)		9.551			
	1844-J-b-Cordelia(T)		IX.498..	1922-D-d-A78.....	(NA)	5b.179
	1844-D-b-William(T)		IX.476..	1844-D-d-A.0.....	(T)	9.349
	Mary died no age given,ref as above.			1844-D-d-A.?......	(T)	9.349
c1845	b-Mary Ann Hatherleigh			1891-S-d-A46.....	(Y)	5b.229
	1845-M-m-George & Maria.....		(T) 9.543			
	1845-D-b-Mary Emma(T)		IX.467..	1870-M-m.....	(T)	5b.564
	1846-J-b-William (Percy)		(T) IX.505..	1861-D-d-A15.....	(T)	5b.240
c1846	b-Grace Foot			1925-M-d-A79.....	(T)	5b.459
	1848-S-b-Mary(T)		IX.452..	1852-M-d-A.4.....	(T)	5b.285
	1849-M-m-Ann &		(T) XX.513			
	1849-J-b-Arminal(T)		IX.509..	1938-M-d-A88.....	(P)	5b.335
	1849-S-m-Mary &		(T) XX.529			
	1850-D-b-Ann(T)		IX.470			
	1851-M-m-Harry &		(T) XX.537	Did Harry marry Mary below.		
	1851-M-m-Mary &		(T) XX.537	Same number as above.		
	1851-S-m-Margaret &		(T) XX.579			
	1854-M-m-William & Cecilia Mary (T)		5b.573			
	1854-D-b-William(T)		5b.310..	1919-D-d-A65.....	(L)	5c..52
	1855-M-b-Alfred Percy(T)		5b.330	Emigrated to Australia		
	1857-J-b-Richard(T)		5b.327			
	1858-D-m-Thomas & Ann Serena Roberts(L)		5c.101			
	1859-J-b-Celia(T)		5b.321			
	1859-D-m-Thomas & Ann Dockett		(P) 5b.544			
	1860-M-b-Anne Louisa(T)		5b.345			
	1861-M-b-Selina(T)We.		5b.356			
	1861-S-b-William Percy(T)		5b.357			
	1861-S-m-Richard &		(T) 5b.642			
	1861-S-m-Samuel & Elizabeth		(T) 5b.623			
	1861-D-b-George(T)		5b.330			

Provisional

The Tavistock Witheridge Family Tree



St Catherine's House listings continued.

<u>Date/No.</u>	<u>First name(s)</u>	<u>Maiden name</u>	<u>Ref.No</u>	<u>Date/No.</u>	<u>Second event</u>	<u>Ref.N</u>
1862-M-m	John & Mary	Northcott	(T)5b.627			
1862-J-b	James	Dockett	(T) 5b.358			
1862-D-b	Mary	(T)	?		Emigrated to America	
1862-D-b	Isabella	(T)We.	5b.353			
1863-J-m	Richard & Mary Ann	Hatherleigh	(T)5b.671			
1863-S-b	Polly	(T)	5b.349		Emigrated to Australia	
1864-M-b	Mary	Jamima Ann	(T)5b.402..	1898-S-m	.....	(T) 5b.679
1864-M-b	William	(T)	5b.390..	1867-D-d-A.3	.....	(Ts)10b.168
1864-J-b	Richard	Chowen	(T)5b.356..	1934-S-d-A70	.....	(H) 1a.199
1864-S-b	George	James	(T)5b.368..	1864-D-d-A.0	.....	(T) 5b.291
1864-S-b	Mary	Atwill	(T)5b.347..	1889-M-m	.....	(P1) 5b.363
1865-J-b	Edwin	Harold	(T)5b.357..	1875-D-d-A10	.....	(T) 5b.275
1865-S-b	George	Edwin	(T)5b.372		Emigrated to America	
1865-S-b	Marion	(T)	5b.365			
1866-D-b	Florence M.	(T)	5b.381			
1866-D-b	Henry	Chowen	(T)5b.364..	1879-D-d-A13	.....	(T) 5b.270
1867-J-b	James	(T)	5b.385..	1870-S-d-A.3	.....	(T) 5b.251
1867-J-b	Samuel	(T)	5b.389..	1873-S-d-A.6	.....	(T) 5b.218
1868-J-b	Hester	Agnes	(T)5b.370..	1949-J-d-A80	.....	(WG) 5f.367
1868-S-b	Frederick	(T)	5b.362..	1869-J-d-A.0	.....	(T) 5b.271
1868-S-m	Emily &	(T)5b.599				
1869-J-b	Laura	(T)	5b.366..	1895-D-m	.....	(T) 5b.756
1870-M-m	Mary	Emma &	(T)5b.564			
1871-D-b	William	Atwill	(T)5b.350..	1882-S-d-A10	.....	(T) 5b.216
1872-J-m	James & Grace	Foot	(T)5b.624			
1873-J-b	Marion	Louise	(T)5b.355..	1898-D-m	.....	(T) 5b.751
1874-D-b	Samuel	(T)	5b.346..	1874-D-d-A.0	.....	(T) 5b.234
1877-D-b	Eliza	Frances	(T)5b.370			
1888-D-m	Annie	Louisa &	(T)5b.721			
1891-S-b	Charlotte	Adeale	(T)5b.349			
1892-D-m	William & Mary	.....	(T)5b.800			
1897-J-b	Marjorie	Celia	(T)5b.344..	1898-M-d-A.0	.....	(T) 5b.292
1900-M-b	Emmie	Matilda	(T)5b.348			
1901-D-b	William	George	(T)5b.329..	1967-D-d-A65	.....	(W) 2d.77C
1903-d-b	Cecilla	Mary	(T)5b.328..	1967-D-m-Cameron	(H)	1a.146f
1930-J-m	Samuel L.M. &	Brown	(T)5b.917		Ermington Family.	
1931-J-b	Lorna M.	(T) Brown	5b.497		Ermington Family.	

St Catherine's House References;

Comprise; Quarter and Year of Index Book, ie quarters ending in M-May, J-June, S-September, D-December. The Index Books are for births marriages or deaths and so we give the event ref.(coding given below) The bracketed initials give the Registration District., (coding given below) The reference number gives the area of Registration and entry number taken directly from the index listings.

Registration District References;

(H) Hampstead. (T) Tavistock. (L) Liskeard. (Y) Yealmpton.
 (W) Worth Valley. (NA) Newton Abbot. (Ts) Tyneside. (P) Plymouth.
 (Pl) Plympton. (WG)

Event References;

b. birth c. christening m. marriage d. death c. circa or approx.

Where There's A Will.....

by Kim Cook

When you start looking at your family tree and trying to discover more about your ancestors and your present-day relations, the first things you look for are birth, marriage and death certificates. As well as the names of the various parties, these certificates also record where they lived and what occupations they followed. This usually whets the appetite, and you find yourself wanting to know more about these people and how they lived. Where can you find more information?

One answer is wills. Of course, not everybody makes a will, even today, and in earlier times wills were even less common, but nevertheless, a surprising number of people did make wills, and where there's a will there's frequently plenty of useful information.

Most wills followed a basic pattern, and started by identifying the testator and giving his or her address. This was followed by a declaration of sanity (the insane were prohibited from making wills) and some comment on their spiritual state, often with burial instructions added. Then having made a declaration of Christian faith, they would often bear this out by making some sort of gift to the church or to the poor of the parish. After this the bequests and the appointment of executor's, and the signatures of the witnesses. In some cases wills may even have attached to them a full inventory of the person's belongings, and these inventories make fascinating reading.

All wills have to be proved (ie tested) to ensure that they are genuine and legal. For centuries the task of probate fell to the church, as the clergy were often the only literate people. So a will was usually proved in the Ecclesiastical Court of the Archdeacon or Bishop within whose jurisdiction the property lay. (There were exceptions, particularly where someone held property in a variety of different areas.)

Where there was no will and the disposal of goods of value was involved, the family could apply for letters of administration (often referred to as admcons). These were also granted where other difficulties arose, perhaps because the executor had died before the testator, or if the named executor was still a minor.

Many of these old documents still survive, and can usually be found in county record offices, although there are many other repositories. For instance, during the interregnum and Commonwealth period of the 1650's the Puritans refused to acknowledge the authority of the ecclesiastical courts and ordered that all wills be proved by a civil court in London.

These wills, together with many others, including a number of those of people with widely scattered properties, and of course those that were proved in London for geographical reasons, can be found in the Public Record Office.

It was while helping a friend search for some wills at the PRO that I came across a totally unexpected and exciting find - the will of Katherine Witheridge of Wembury, whom I believe was my 10 times great grandmother! It is a gem.

Under the heading 'februarie ye third day One Thousand Six Hundred ffiftie ffive' the probate clerk has copied Katherine's will. It begins, 'In the Name of God Amen. I Katherine Wetheregh of Wenburig Widdow being now sick of bodie yet perfect of minde and memorie thanks be unto God I doe now ordaine this to be my last will and testament, ffirst I give my soule and bodie to my Lord Jesus Christ by which I hope to be saved and my bodie to Crestean (Christian) buriall. Item I give to the poore of the Parish five shillings.'

Having dealt with her spiritual state, she then goes on to make bequests to no less than twenty other people. 'Margott Wetheregh and hir three younger sonnes' share twenty shillings, Robert Wetheregh (the eldest of Margaret's four sons and my direct ancestor) receives 'one brasse crock' and his infant son five shillings. John Wetheregh the elder received 'one peuter dish'. Among other interesting bequests are 'one yard of new blew cloth and two shillings' to Grace Ley, and 'one shilling and one coffer' to Onner (Honour) Ley. But most fascinating is her bequest to Mary Horne who is given 'my best redd Petticoate and five shillings'.

Every bequest in this will concerns money and/or portable property. Either the family had no permanent property, or else her husband had bequeathed it to their children when he died. As the will contains no mention of bed, table, chairs or household linen, it seems likely that these had gone, together with any other property, to the children when their father died.

This example of a Commonwealth probate was a surprise find, and a very welcome one, as my searches for Witheridge wills in the record offices in Devon had been singularly unsuccessful. Usually county record offices have plenty of wills, admsons and inventories. Sadly thousands of these documents relating to Devon were lost when the building in which they were housed was destroyed by bombing in World War II. Some were saved, but only two of these relate to Witheridges, and both nineteenth century.

The first is the will of 'Richard Witheridge late of Tavistock Devon Yeoman deceased'. The sole executrix is named as 'Mary Witheridge of Tavistock aforesaid, Widow' and the will was proved in the Archdeacon's Court of Totnes on 12 September 1334. The value of the effects was under £600.

Richard, who died on 9 July 1834, lived at 'Hogbear', known today as Ogbeare, a small hamlet north-west of the main town of Tavistock. The will is dated 5 July 1834, just four days before his death and Richard must have known he was dying. He declares that he, 'being now of sound and disposing mind and memory thanks be given to Almighty God for the same and calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing there is an appointed time once for all to die do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Teatment'. He too commends his soul 'into the hands of Almighty God who gave it' and gives burial instructions. He leaves his youngest son Richard 'my silver watch, silver shoe buckles and silver knee buckles', but his other children receive no specific bequeat, perhaps because they are all married and away from home, having received their portion on marriage. Everything else is left 'unto my beloved wife Mary Witheridge' ... 'to be by her held occupied and enjoyed during her life after which should there be any of the said property left I should wish the same to be equally divided amongst all my children at the discretion of my beloved wife'.

The names of the witnesses, John Percy, Roger Percy and Roger Grossman, are interesting, because at nearby Lamerton in the 1830's a Jane Percy had married John Phillips Witheridge. At present I have no knowledge of the parentage of John Phillips, but as his first child was born in 1837, he could have been born about 1812. Was he perhaps one of those unnamed children mentioned in Richard's will? The Tavistock parish registers show that Richard's youngest son, also named Richard (who inherited his father's silver) was baptised on 22 January 1820, so from their ages he and John Phillips could have been brothers. (Refer to pages 14 & 15)

The second surviving Witheridge will in the Devon Record Office is that of Susanna Witheridge, of Kingsbridge, a widow. Probate was obtained again in the Archdeacon's Court of Totnes by the sole executrix Susanna Shillabear, also a widow, on 14 August 1854. The effects are sworn at under £20.

This will, unlike the two earlier examples, was not made when death was imminent. It was dated 11 February 1841, over fourteen years before the death. Whether because of this, or for some other reason, in this will God doesn't get a mention! Susanna declares herself as 'being in good health and of sound and disposing mind and understanding'.

This will differs from the others in a number of other respects, including the revoking of any previous wills. This rather suggests that there had been an earlier will or wills, but that Susanna had changed her mind for some reason. It also differs in that, despite the small value, it includes land and buildings.

The executrix, Susanna Shillabear is also the main beneficiary, being the daughter of the deceased. To her is left 'All that my Messuage or Dwelling House Courtlage

Garden and Premises with the Appurtenances thereto belonging situate lying and being in Kingsbridge aforesaid late the property of my brother Samuel Bentley deceased which he purchased of William Curtis and others'. (Courtlage is nowadays spelt curtilage, and means the land adjacent to a dwelling house and used in connection with it.)

This property is left to the younger Susanna 'for and during her natural life' and then devolves to Susanna Witheridge's grandson, Samuel Bently Shillabeer, subject to certain legacies to Samuel's sister and brother, Eliza Jane Shillabeer and Henry Shillabeer, to be paid after the death of their mother, when they reached the age of 21. All other goods and chattels are left absolutely to Susanna Shillabeer.

The witnesses were Isaac and Thomas Weymouth and Alexander Saunders. This will therefore gives us a fair amount of information about the family of the deceased, naming her brother (and therefore giving her maiden name), her daughter (including her married surname) and her three grandchildren. From this I was able to start construct my family tree.

Although the will makes no specific mention of Susanna's late husband or his family, the information about her brother gives us the clue needed to locate the marriage. According to the IGI, Susanna Bentley married John Witheridge at Stoke Damerel on 6 November 1793. The IGI also records three children baptised at How Street Baptist Church in Plymouth - Susanna on 14 June 1795, John Bentley on 14 November 1796 and Elizabeth on 28 November 1798.

A record of the monumental inscriptions in Kingsbridge churchyard shows that Susanna's tombstone records her death on 16 August 1853 age 93, while the parish registers give her date of burial as 19 August 'age 92'. This gives us a date of birth of 1759 or 1760. It is reasonable to suppose that her age wasn't very different from that of her husband. So we have a rough idea of when John Witheridge was born, but no apparent clue as to his family and origins.

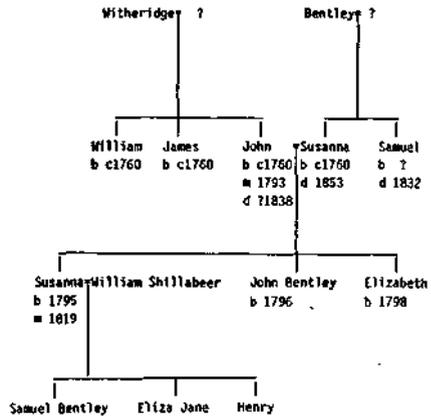
However, this will does provide one further clue, not at first sight very obvious, but valuable all the same. Susanna could just have referred to the dwelling house as being the property of her brother, out for some unknown reason (perhaps on the advice of her lawyer) she added the phrase 'which he purchased of William Curtis and others'.

In the papers of the Yonge family of Puslinch, some miles west of Kingsbridge, there are references to a plot of land of quarter of an acre in Newton Ferrers held by a man called Curtis, and known as Curtis' tenement. On 11 February 1789 this land was sub-let to three brothers, John, James, and William Witheridge. This document records that John was a mason, and that he and his brothers lived in Yealmpton.

This alone would not be enough evidence to prove that John Witheridge the mason was the John Witheridge who married Susanna Bentley, although it makes sense to suppose that John introduced his brother-in-law Samuel to William Curtis for the purpose of doing another land deal.

What really lends credence to this theory is the document detailing the termination of the lease. The Witheridge brothers relinquished their lease on 30 October 1793 because John was moving to Plymouth. And exactly one week later, on 6 November, John Witheridge married Susanna Bentley in Plymouth! The puzzle fits very neatly, but without the naming of Curtis in Susanna's will, I would never have thought of linking these two families. But by using the information in the will, and co-ordinating it with information from other sources, it is possible to project the family tree shown here.

A few years after Susanna's death the whole system of probate was changed. In 1857 the Court of Probate Act was passed. This decreed that from 1358 onwards probate responsibilities were passed from the ecclesiastical courts to new civil courts set up for the purpose. The principle court, called the Principle Probate Registry (PPR), was established in London, and since 1853 details of all wills submitted for probate have been housed here. The actual probate procedures take place in regional sub-offices, but copies of all documents are sent to the head office of PPR at Somerset House in London. Here it is possible to consult the indexes which list the wills for each year in alphabetical order.



These indexes are far more informative than those of the GRO at St Catherine's House. The PPR indexes give the name, address and occupation of the deceased, together with the date of death. This is followed by a note of the legal process applied (ie probate or admons) stating when and where granted, and to whom. Not only is the executor or administrator named, but his or her occupation is also shown. Some earlier indexes also show the address, and relationship to the deceased. The final piece of information gives the sworn value of the estate, for taxation purposes.

With all this information, it is much easier to identify the people involved, and you are much less likely to make a mistaken application for a copy will than you are for a copy GRO certificate.

The cost of obtaining a copy will depends on the length of the will, as copies are charged per sheet. If you just want to peruse a copy of the will on the spot, that can be done. You simply order the will and after a short wait it will be sent up for you to read and make brief notes from. But if you want the full contents you must then order a photocopy, which can either be collected a few days later or sent to you by post.

As part of my Witheridge research I have been collating all the Witheridge entries from these indexes, and to the index information I have added the age of the deceased at death. For deaths from 1866 onwards, the ages shown are those recorded in the GRO death indexes.

Among the very first wills to be processed by the new PPR was that of Henry Witheridge of Ermington, who died on 10 February 1858. In this case, although there was a will, his son (also Henry) was granted admon rather than probate. I haven't seen a copy of the will, so I don't know why this should have been, but perhaps the original executor had already died.

These will indexes are a great help in placing 'stray' Witheridges into the right family, either through an address, or through the name(s) of those who handled the estate. One or two addresses keep recurring. Whistley Farm (spelled in different ways) is one example, linking William Witheridge (died 1880) with Thomas (died 1894). Lagland Street, Poole and Charlotte Villas, Claygate, are others that occur.

This latter case is both interesting and sad. On 10 Kay 1902 Edmund Samuel Witheridge died, and the index shows 'admon (limited) to Edmund Witheridge, paper-stainer'. Seven weeks later Kate Witheridge died, and this time probate was given to Edmund Witheridge, factory manager. Much later, in 1918, a further admon is granted for the will of Edmund Samuel, this time to Kate Prudence Witheridge, with the note 'former grant PR October 1902 cessate'. Meanwhile the Edmund referred to in the first admon had himself died in 1910, with probate of his will being granted to Henry Miller.

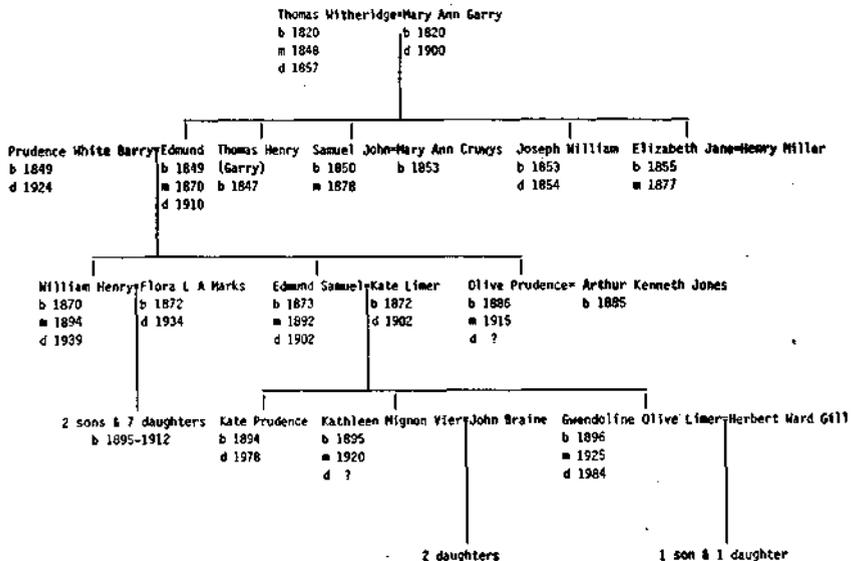
It is quite possible to reconstruct the events in this family (up to a point) by interpreting the indexes. In fact, I have additional knowledge of this case, because it concerns my own family. Edmund was my great-grandfather, Edmund Samuel and Kate were my great-uncle and great-aunt, and Kate Prudence was the eldest of their three daughters.

In the spring of 1902 Edmund Samuel was taken ill with a severe lung infection. His wife Kate nursed him, but she caught the infection from her husband. He had named his wife as the executor of his will, but before the legal processes had been actioned, she too had died. Because circumstances had radically changed, it was five months before Edmund was

allowed to administer his son's estate, however, Kate, in making her will shortly before her death, had named her father-in-law Edmund as executor, so probate of her will proceeded quite quickly.

At the time of the deaths, their three daughters were only seven, six and five, and because of the risk of further contagion the medical authorities whisked them away to an isolation hospital where, for many months, they were not allowed contact with their grandparents, or their aunt and uncle. It was a traumatic and wretched time for the poor little girls, and the youngest suffered particularly.

The eldest daughter, Kate Prudence, could have applied for administration rights when she reached the age of 21 in 1915, but by then she was working as a nurse in World War I, often in overseas postings. Not until her return to England early in 1918 was she able to assume responsibility for what remained of her father's estate. The following extract from my family tree shows the relationships of the people mentioned in the example.



Because these PPR indexes are so useful, we shall be publishing them, with ages added, in forthcoming issues of Witheridge Times. The first extract follows here.

Extracts from the

Principle Probate Registry Index

- 1858 Witheridge, Henry, late of the parish of Ermington, Devon, Carpenter, died 10 February 1858, Ermington. Admon (with will) granted 10 May to Henry Witheridge of Ermington, carpenter, son and one of the residuary legatees. Effects under £200. (Born 1797)
- 1859 Witheridge, Elizabeth, late of Plymouth, Devonshire, widow, died 22 April 1859 at Plymouth. Probate at Exeter granted 24 June to Samuel Ash of 14 Green Street, Plymouth, painter, the sole executor. Effects under £200. (Age unknown)
- 1860 - 1868, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1869 Witheridge, Samuel, late of Whitchurch, Devonshire, yeoman, died 19 December 1871 at Whitchurch. Probate granted Exeter 22 April to Mary Witheridge of Whitchurch, widow, the relict & sole executrix. (Age 73)
- 1870 - 1871, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1872 Witheridge, Mary, late of Whitchurch, Devonshire, widow, died 19 December 1871 at Whitchurch. Probate granted at Exeter 19 March to James Witheridge of Whitchurch. farmer, son & sole executor. (Age 73)
- 1873 - 1879, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1880 Witheridge, William, late of Buckland Monachorum, Devon, widower, died 21 September 1880 at Whisleigh Farm, Buckland Monachorum, Admon granted at Exeter 27 Oct. to William Witheridge of Buckland Monachorum, farmer, son & one of the next of kin. Personal estate under £200. (Age 52)
- 1881 - 1882, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1883 Witheridge, John, Beer, late of 23 Park St, Plymouth, Devon, carpenter, died 5 July 1883 at 23 Park Street. Probate Exeter to Simon Witton of Park Street, Tailor, sole executor. Personal estate £55.5s.2d. (Age 64)
- 1884 - 1887, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1888 Witheridge, Richard, late of Ivybridge, Devon, gentleman, died 6 June 1888 at Ivybridge. Admon granted 21 Sept. to Jane Witheridge of 2 Fore St, Ivybridge, Widow, the relict. Personal estate £176.9s.0d. (Age 68)
- 1889 Witheridge, George, late of Parswell Farm, Tavistock, Devon, died 12 Nov. 1888 at Parswell Farm. Probate to Arminal Witheridge of Parswell Farm, spinster, the daughter, one of the executrixes. (Age 76)
- 1890 - 1891, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1892 Witheridge, Betsy, Minhinnick, of 216 All Saints Road, Birmingham, spinster, died 5 Sept. 1892. Admon London 20 Sept. to William Witheridge, retired carpenter. Effects £246. 14s. 1d. (Age 76)
- 1892 Witheridge, Henry, of Ludbrook, Ermington, Devon, Farmer, died 12 March 1892. Admon Exeter 9 September to Betsy Pearce (wife of Edward Fearsse). Effects £578.8s.11d. (Age 55)
- 1893 no Witheridge wills or admons.

- 1894 Witheridge, Thomas of Whistley Farm, Buckland Monachorum Devon, farmer, died 24 November 1893 at South Devon Hospital, Plymouth. Probate Exeter 8 March to Ann Witheridge, Widow. Effects £278.2s.0d. (Age 61)
- 1894 Witheridge, William, of 1 Denmark St. Aston, Birmingham zinc worker, died 30 Oct. 1894 at Geach St. Birmingham Probate Birmingham 12 November to Hentietta Lapworth, spinster. Effects £15.8s.0d. (Age 42)
- 1895 Witheridge, Henry, of Lagland Street, Poole, grocer's assistant, died 11 Jan. 1895. Admon Blandford 21 March to Emma Jane Brown (wife of William Richard Brown). Effects £35.12s.6d. (Age 68)
- 1896 no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1897 Witheridge, Rebecca, of 3 Strutton Ground, Victoria St. Westminster, (wife of William Witheridge) died 28 July 1896. Admon London 21 Aug. to said William Witheridge, tailor. Effects £10. (Age 71)
- 1898 Witheridge, James, of Whitchurch, Devonshire, farmer & rate-collector, died 17 Feb. 1898. Probate Exeter 20 October to Grace Foot Witheridge, widow. Effects £468.10s.2d. (Age 60)
- 1898 Witheridge, Mary, Ann, of Salcombe, Devonshire, (wife of Robert Ralph Witheridge) died 10 September 1898. Admons Exeter to said Robert Ralph Witheridge, retired master mariner. Effect £81. (Age 55)
- 1899 - 1901, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1902 Witheridge, Edmund, Samuel, of 2 Charlotte Villas, Claygate, Thames Ditton, Surry, died 10 May 1902. Admon (limited) to Edmund Witheridge, paper-stainer. Effects £228.1s.3d. (Age 29)
- 1902 Witheridge, Kate, of 2 Charlotte Villas, Claygate, Thames Ditton, Surry, widow, died 29 June 1902. Probate London 21 Aug. to Edmund Witheridge, factory manager. Effects £261.0s.9d. (Age 30)
- 1903 - 1904, no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1905 Witheridge, John, of 9 Fairview Terrace, Cwmaman, Aberdare, Glamorganshire, collier, died 2 April 1905. Probate Llandaff 12 May to John Adams, collier. Effects £116.15s.0d. (Age 77)
- 1906 Witheridge, Mary, Alice, of 28 Lagland St. Poole, spinster died 2 June 1906. Admon London 4 July to Emma Brown (wife of William Brown). Effects £20. (Age 45)
- 1907 Witheridge, Grace, Atwill, of 4 Glanville Terrace, Whitchurch, Nr Tavistock, Devon, spinster, died 11 June 1907. Probate Exeter 12 July to Samuel Witheridge, farmer. Effects £305.16s.4d. (Age 81)
- 1907 Witheridge, Mary, Alice, Eliza, of 28 Lagland St, Poole, spinster, died 4 Aug. 1904. Admon Blandford 12 Sept. to Arthur Witheridge, gilder. Effects £243. (Age 69)
- 1908 no Witheridge wills or admons.
- 1909 Witheridge, Maria, of Pimpley House, Northam, Devon, spinster, died 26 June 1909. Admon Exeter 23 July to Joseph Witheridge, shoemaker. Effects £169.5s.6d. (Age 71)
- 1910 Witheridge, Edmund, of Cromwell House, Kingston, Surry,

- died 4 Oct. 1910. Probate London 22 Dec. to Henry Miller Esq. Effects £18,979.8s.0d. (Age 61)
- 1910 Witheridge, Elizabeth, of Ermington, Devonshire, spinster, died 9 April 1910. Probate Exeter 1 June to Avis Witheridge, spinster. Effects £106.17s.6d. (Age 70)
- 1910 Witheridge, Robert, Ralph, of Victoria Place, Salcombe, Devon, retired master mariner, died 15 February 1910. Probate Exeter 23 March to Isabella Taylor, widow. Effects £38.15s.9d. (Age 76)
- 1911 Witheridge, Eliabeth, of 108 Sewardstone Rd. Victoria park, Middlesex, spinster, died 5 October 1911. Probate London 26 October to Jane Boss (wife of Alfred Boss). Effects £200. (Age 70)
- 1911 Witheridge, Samuel, of 4 Glanville Terrace, Whitchurch, Devonshire, cattle dealer, died 16 March 1911. Probate Exeter 5 May to Arthur Richard Glanville, estate agent. Effects £284.8s.9d. (Age 80)
- 1912 - 1914, no Witheridge wills or admns.
- 1915 Witheridge, William, George, of Salcombe, Devonshire, retired master mariner, died 7 October 1915. Admon (with will) Exeter 27 November to Sarah Cranch, widow. Effects £95.14s.2d. (Age 86)
- 1916 Witheridge, Sarah, of 13 Brookfield St. Bideford, Devon, widow, died 5 Dec. 1916. Probate Exeter 18 Dec. to Arthur Willie Cock, auctioneer. Effects £383.9s.6d. (Age 82)
- 1917 no Witheridge wills or admns.
- 1918 Witheridge, Edmund, Samuel, of 2 Charlotte Villas, Claygate, Thames Ditton, Surrey, died 10 May 1902. Admon London 20 Feb. to Kate Prudence Witheridge, spinster. Effects £49.11s.0d. Former grant PR Oct. 1902 cessate.
- 1919 Witheridge, Ruth, Bridget, of 17 Tothill Rd. Plymouth, (wife of George Thomas Witheridge) died 22 Jan. 1919. Admon Exeter 20 Feb. to said George Thomas Witheridge, rigger, HM Dockyard. Effects £181.19s.2d. (Age 46)
- 1920 Witheridge, William, of Sunrising, Linkinhorne, Cornwall, farmer, died 19 Nov. 1919. Admon Bodmin 16 March to Mary Witheridge, widow. Effects £195.18s.3d. (Age 65)
- 1921 Witheridge, Elizabeth, of 3 Bridge Street, Stratton, Cornwall, widow died 3 December 1920. Probate London, 21 Jan. to John Wood, retired police inspector. Effects £225.16s.3d. (Age 79)
- 1922 Witheridge, Cordelia, of 2 Mount Herman Road, Torquay, spinster, died 3 Nov. 1922 at Winifred's Nursing Home, Torquay. Probate London 19 Dec. to Tom Farley Curson, house decorator. Effects £1022.7s.1d. (Age 78)
- 1923 no Witheridge wills or admns.
- 1924 Witheridge, Catherine, Drummond, of 18 Herbert Street. Newport, Mon, widow, died 19 Nov. 1924. Probate Llandaff 4 Dec. to William James Witheridge, water works manager and William Charles Craze, grocer. Effects £437.7s.0d. (Age 69)
- 1924 Witheridge, Prudence, White, of Cromwell House, Kingston-on-Thames, widow, died 30 Jan. 1924. Probate London 5 March to William Henry Witheridge, merchant, and Olive

- Prudence Jones, (wife of Arthur Kenneth Jones).Effects £8,741.4s.2d. (Age 74)
- 1925 Witheridge, Emma, of 35 Oswald Street, Shipley, Yorkshire (wife of Richard Witheridge) died 13 Aug. 1925. Admon Wakefield 14 September to the said Richard Witheridge, grinder. Effects £131.13s.7d. (Age 44)
- 1925 Witheridge, Grace, Foot, of Cudliptown, Peteravy, Devon, widow, died 22 Feb. 1925. Probate London 12 March to Mary Alford, (wife of John Fuge Alford). Effects £467.6s.0d. (Age 79)
- 1925 Witheridge, Thomas, William, of 47 Friern Rd. East Dulwich Surrey, died 16 June 1925 at 5 Brunswick Square, Camberwell, Surrey. Admon London 15 Oct. to Helen Parker (wife of William Parker). Effects £483.17s.6d. (Age 70)
- 1926 no Witheridge wills or admns.
- 1927 Witheridge, Avis, of Ermington, Devonshire, spinster, died 18 April 1927 at Plympton, Devon. Probate London 27 June to Mary Jane Edmunds (wife of Richard James Edmunds), Emily Grace Weeks (wife of Thomas Weeks) and Elizabeth Cruze (wife of William Cruze). Effects £108.19s.9d. (Age 84)
- 1928 no Witheridge wills of admns.
- 1929 Witheridge, Francis, Robert, of 18 Kemp Road, Winton, Bournemouth, died 13 March 1929. Admon (with will) London 3 December 1929 to Sarah Jane Witheridge, widow. Effects £280. (Age 45)
- 1929 Witheridge, George, of 34 Crawthrew Grove, East Dulwich. Probate London 15 May to Barclays Bank Ltd. Effects £542.8s.6d. (Age 70)
- 1930 no Witheridge wills or admns.
- 1931 Witheridge, Edwin, James, Albert, of 8 Smithfield Place, Winton, Bournemouth, died 25 December 1930. Probate London 6 January to Harry Chubb, retired confectioner. Effects £390.7s.8d. (Age 73)
- 1931 Witheridge, Ellen, Jane, of 2 Landscore Road, St Thomas, Exeter, (wife of George Witheridge) died 20 Sept. 1931 at Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter. Probate Exeter 30 Sept. to Richard James Wood, brass finisher. Effects £21.12s.0d. (Age 59)
- 1931 Witheridge, Francis, Henry, of 104 Fore Street, London, died 14 February 1931 at Vicars Moor. Vicars Moor Lane, Winchmore Hill, Middlesex. Probate London 25 April to Richard Chown Witheridge, traveller. Effects £8168.0s.8d; resworn £8053.9s.0d. (Age 6)
- 1932 Witheridge, Eliza, Jane, of 9 Berkely Road, Crouch End, Middx. (wife of Richard Chown Witheridge) died 28 Aug. 1932. Probate London 7 October to the said Richard Chown Witheridge, traveller. Effects £3107.10s.0d. (Age 66)
- 1932 Witheridge, Ernest, Matthew, of 193 Beaumont Rd. Plymouth died 18 February 1932. Admon London 19 April to Mabel Ethel. Mary Jane Witheridge, widow. Effects £632.10s.0. (Age 49)
- 1933 Witheridge, Frank, Lionel, of Haviland Road, Boscombe,

- Bournemouth, died 7 Dec.1931 at Firs Convalescent Home, Lorne Park Road, Bournemouth. Admon (limited) to Kathleen Christina Witheridge (single woman) & Lily Miriam Scott (wife of Frank Henry Scott). Effects £35.1s.7d. (Age 53)
- 1934 Witheridge, Elizabeth, of 33 Belgrave Road, Torquay, spinster, died 5 March 1934. Probate to John Henry Burridge, corn merchant. Effects £1830.15s.7d. (Age 87)
- 1934 Witheridge, Richard, Chowen, of 9 Berkley Road, Crouch End, Middx. died West London Hospital, Hammersmith. Probate to Gwendolen Witheridge, spinster. Effects £6196.15s.0d. (Age 70)
- 1934 Witheridge, Walter, William, of 5 South Road Avenue, Handsworth, died West Bromwich. Probate to Arthur Ernest Witheridge & Edward Parkes. Effects £407.5s.2d. (Age 72)
- 1935 Witheridge, Edward, of 119 East Street, Newton Abbot. Probate to Ernest Eginton, insurance agent. Effects £61.13s.8d. (Age 80)
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Membership List

We welcome the following new members to the Society

- 076 Mr Paul Witheridge
(See membership list No 060)
- 077 Mrs Evelyn Joan Witheridge
- 078 Mr Brian Witheridge
- 079 Miss Susan Witheridge
- 080 Mr Tony Witheridge.
2/39 Jennifer Street, Bryndwr, Christchurch 5, New Zealand.
1) David Barry Witheridge 1929-1979; 2) William Henry Witheridge 1870-1939; 3) Dorothy Small; 4) Edmund Witheridge 1849-1910; 5) Prudence White Barry 1849-1924; 8) Thomas Witheridge 1820-1857; 9) Mary Ann Garry 1820-1900; 16) Joseph Witheridge 1788-1872; 17) Jane Bonney 1783-1849.
Wembury 1600-1810, Plymouth 1810-1833, Fulham 1883-1950, New Zealand 1950-1990.
- 081 Miss Bessie Witheridge
Nol Clinton Avenue, Hampton Magna, Nr Warwick. CV35-3TX.
1) Bessie Witheridge; 2) Abel Witheridge 1876-1955; 3) Ellen Teece 1877-1950; 4) William Moses Bowden Witheridge 1838-1909; 5) Emma Garrington 1837-1903; 8) Abel Witheridge 1809-1861; 9) Emily Blake; 16) William Bowden Witheridge 1789-1861; 17) Elizabeth ?; 32) Arthur Witheridge 1753-1848; 33) Elizabeth Bowden c1762-1839.
Ermington 1500-1810, Plymouth 1810-1870, Walsall & Midlands 1870-1990.
- 082 Mr Percy Alfred Witheridge
- 083 Mrs Alice Witheridge
33 Maritana Road, Kallaroo, West Australia, 6025.
1) Percy Alfred Witheridge; 2) Percy Witheridge 1899-1989; 3) Wife not known; 4) Alfred Percy Witheridge 1855-?; 5) Polly Witheridge 1863-?; 8) John Philips Witheridge 1805-1891; 9) Jane Percy 1812-1869; 10) Richard Witheridge c1835-1897; 11) Mary Ann Hatherleigh c1845-1891.
Tavistock 1800-1878, Australia 1878-1990.
-

Useful Addresses

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

Telephone 0392 53509

West Devon Record Office,
Clare Place,
Coxside,
Plymouth,
Devon.
PL4 0JW

Telephone 0752 26485

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

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

Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
London. EC1

Telephone 01-251 8799