



Volume 8

Number 2

Summer 1994

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E D I T O R I A L

Greetings and best wishes to everyone! There are many items of interest waiting to be included in this edition, and so I will keep my editorial brief.

Firstly, we welcome new members Mrs. Irene Birdsall of Darlington, Co. Durham, Mrs. Patricia Kopaczynski of New South Wales, Australia, Mr. Anthony (Tony) John Witheridge and family of Australia and USA., and Mr. John Meredith Witheridge and family, USA. Their details and addresses are in the 'New Members' section.

Secondly, our thanks to all those who are busy researching and who have sent us valuable information, particularly John Witheridge, our Membership Secretary, and Kathy Witheridge of Ontario, Canada. (Kathy tells us that they have had the worst winter in Canada that she can recall.)

Thirdly, Witheridge Day has come and gone, and after discussion on possible change of venue, it was decided to book the Village Hall at Alderton for Monday, 1st May, 1995.

Do let us have any news of yourselves - and keep searching!



FAMILY NEWS

John tells us that he has been in touch with Gordon Witheridge of Leicester who has suffered much ill health over the past few years, and has had several spells in hospital. At the time of writing, Gordon was somewhat better, and out of hospital. We send our best wishes to him and to his wife, Monica, with hopes that we shall see them again at one of our future meetings.

THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Alderton on Monday, 2nd May, 1994

Recorded by John Witheridge

Chairman: Graham Browne

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Joan and Harry Payne, Kathy and Paul Witheridge, June and David Witheridge, Zoe and Jason Cook, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Bessie Witheridge, Mayda Witheridge, Carol and Ron Goines, Pat and John James.
2. Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting held on the 3rd May, 1993 These were accepted as published in the Witheridge Times, Volume 7 Number 2.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes: There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report: Graham was happy to report that in the seven years since the formation of the Witheridge Society by Kim, our Life President, the membership had increased and was still holding its strength in total membership. The level of research had risen to a high point in the last year, with the assistance of both old and new members. He expressed his personal thanks, and also those of the Society in general, to all those listed below for the work and dedication they have shown during the past year - in many cases "above the call of duty."

To Philip as publisher, and for the extra work with accounts etc.

To Richard for the continuing work with records and his new and demanding task of Treasurer, and to Susan for her assistance with the accounts.

To Kathy for her continued hard work on the Canadian membership and for the excellent research that she has completed during the year.

To Joyce for her work in editing the magazine, and keeping the reports and items included in the Witheridge Times factual and full of interest.

To John and Mayda for the correspondence which they maintain throughout the world, and for completing other tasks that they have been asked to carry out.

The highest praise went to the members of the Society: to all those who assisted with research, information, photographs, copies of records, and all manner of interesting items. Also especially to the two overseas member families who made donations to be spent on the actual Witheridge Day festivities. It was a charming thought.

5. Secretary's Report: Mayda reported that it was a year to crown all years. The work that was carried out surpassed all other years. The average was ten letters per week, mainly to the Society membership, and to obtain research and information for the records and the magazine.

Mayda wished to express her thanks to all who write and call on the telephone. (Separate report)

6. Membership Secretary's Report: John reported that the year had been very hectic indeed, but his only regret was that the Society's funds did not quite reach the figure he had hoped for. His thanks to all of the membership who assisted with this problem was deeply meant. Membership was remaining constant, the new boosting the few who leave as time goes on. He was very happy to welcome all the new members who had joined the Society in the last year and a half.

He wished to express his thanks to all those who made correspondence by letter such an enjoyable way of life, and hoped that you will allow it to continue for as long as you can stand the strain of his bad spelling and grammar! (Separate report)

7. Treasurer's Report: Richard reported that we have the sum of £618-67p in the Society's account, having paid all outstanding claims. He said that he would like to point out that with the existing good will of the committee and membership, it would not be necessary to raise the subscriptions during the next year. An increase in subscriptions might be necessary if those committee members who do not submit a full account of their expenditure should need to do so in the future.

Richard reminded those submitting claims to do so before the end of the year so that an accurate assessment of our yearly accounts can be made. (Separate report)

8. Research Co-ordinator's Report: Richard reported that this work was proceeding as normal. As research results came in the information was recorded. He thought that there might be a case for a new publication to all membership, covering all new aspects of our research and an update on family trees. It could perhaps be a variation of our original hand book, set in a loose leaf binder where new items could be added without altering the text of original items.
9. Election of Officers: It was voted that the undermentioned should carry out the duties for the coming year:-

Life President	Kim Cook
Chairman	Graham Browne
Secretary	Mayda Witheridge
Treasurer	Richard Witheridge
Assistant Treasurer and Committee Member	Susan Witheridge
Membership Secretary	John Witheridge
Research Co-ordinator North America's Representative	Richard Witheridge
Editor	Kathy Witheridge
Publisher, Distributor and Committee Member	Joyce Browne
Committee Members	Philip Witheridge Annette Witheridge Mark Witheridge

10. Any Other Business: It was agreed by all members present that our four year rule for committee and officer posts should be abandoned. It is now sufficient for officers to be voted to office each year, until such time as a ballot is required to choose between two candidates, or an officer is not fulfilling his duties, or an officer wishes to retire from office.

It was proposed by Joyce and seconded by Kim, that we should seek full membership with the Federation of Family History Societies, and that John should make the arrangements and act as representative for the Witheridge Society. All agreed.

There was further discussion concerning a new Hand Book or similar publication. It was agreed that a further study be made into the practicalities of this suggestion, so that recommendations could be made at a later date.

Mayda Witheridge Secretary

SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY, 1994

Once again, it has to be an absentee report - ill health making it very difficult to travel, and more to the point, being unable to eat the required food when I arrive. But I know that you will accept that I am with you all in spirit.

What a year we have had! By 'we' I mean John and myself. It is a good partnership, and we work well together. John does all the work and I sign the letters, or something similar to this. It has bothered me in the past that I have the position of Secretary in name purely to keep the two secretarial posts under the same roof. I am quite happy for this to continue as long as everyone realises that it is John who actually does the work. For my part I attempt to correct his terrible spelling and point out the odd grammatical errors that are made. Some still slip through. Personally, I think that the word processor was built with John in mind so that his mistakes can be rectified afterwards.

Our work has even surmounted previous years' records for producing letters. Letters are coming in at about ten per week, and we do answer them all. Some, because of the work load do have to wait a few weeks before the answer is on its return flight - usually because research has to be carried out in answer to queries made in the original correspondence. This last year there were demands on our time that could not have been avoided, but in this we managed to enter into correspondence with members while asking for their assistance with Society subscription problems. This has caused letters that we would have written to some members to be shelved. With a little organisation we will rectify this problem this coming year.

Letters concerning research are posted out to the four corners of the world. In many respects these have to take precedence over every day correspondence, they are the Society's life line. From this research and as a result of the enquiries from it, it appears to me that there are approximately ten further items in the offing for the magazine. Much of this research is connected with the Societies that are members of the Council and the Guild.

The formation of the Council of Family Societies has caused more letters. This is greatly outweighed by the return information from all these new friends and some possible relations. As a bystander even I can see the benefits that this Council of Societies will bring. I hope that the idea will spread, so that the benefits to all will be obvious.

I would like to thank all those of you who posted cards to us at Christmas, also for the telephone calls throughout the year. It makes our job all the more worth while. In answer to the requests for more humorous poems - wait and see.

MAYDA WIHERIDGE, SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT, MAY, 1994

This past year has been a very busy year indeed, with a great variety of occupations to keep my mind and hands busy.

The collection of membership subscriptions became a long and arduous task, taking me until the end of October to finally total up the year's income. I had hoped that we would have topped the thousand pound mark, but when all the dust had settled it was quite an amount short of this figure. Although I am happy to say that we are now well and truly "in the black". I have no doubt that Richard will give this meeting the real facts of what we all achieved. When I say "all", this is what I really mean, for it was you, the members, who made my job last year much easier than it could have been. Thank you!

As usual I have written many letters in this past year, both in this capacity and that of my wife Mayda's assistant. I have written scores of letters to possible new members - some with return answers and many without reply. I have noticed a trend in this. Those who do not answer the first letter possibly answer the second. If not they usually answer the third - even if only to say "please don't write again"! Joking aside I do seem to get an answer from the second and third letters, and from this we are starting to gain more new membership overseas. In this I have been helped by our membership from all over the world. Even last week on Sunday I had a phone call from the USA telling me of new names. Letters have come from Australia full of addresses, from a new member in the USA with a list of new names. From Canada letters have come with new membership and addresses. We are indeed fortunate to have a membership that cares about our Society. To all of you who have assisted me in this way, no matter where you are, I say "THANK YOU".

In this last year we have gained the following new members: beginning with Fenwick and Peggy (Margaret) Witheridge from Newport, Gwent. Next we had Flo Streatfield from Western Australia. What a trooper she became with the wonderful information about her family!

Then Zoe Cook joined the throng when she and Jason moved into their new home in Croydon.

Next, Pat and John James from Canada who was very pleased when I contacted him as he had tried to join the Society twice before and never made it.

I then contacted Mrs. Irene Birdsall from Darlington. She is a friend of our Bessie Witheridge, who gave me her address. In the last three to four weeks we have gained four more members - Mrs. Kopaczynski from Australia, Anthony John and Jane Witheridge from the USA, son of our Dorothy Witheridge from New South Wales, Australia, Janice and John Meredith Witheridge from the USA, and last but not least our newest member, Mrs. Catherine Spina from Canada who was introduced by our representative there, Kathy Witheridge.

Thank you also to those of you who have entered into correspondence with me in the last year. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I do. I do hope that we are all gaining the closeness of a real family - the Witheridge family.

JOHN WITHERIDGE, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT MAY 1994

Our researchers Joyce, Philip, and John, have been busy once again during 1993 and have turned up a considerable amount of information, including a whole load a records of Witheridges in and around the Kingsbridge area of South Devon, as you have heard from Philip's talk this morning.

Also, we have found records of two people being deported for stealing, one an 'Emily' for stealing at Devonport in 1847, and the other named 'Isaac' convicted at Exeter in 1742.

Further updating of the GRO records and exploring of the Kent and Combe Martin families has also been undertaken.

John has also been busy helping to set up a new Council of Family Societies, as he mentioned in the magazine recently.

I am still trying to get all the information being passed on to me on to computer, so that it can be printed for all to see, and possibly for others to carry out research and add to our knowledge. We hope that the GRO lists can soon be printed, may be a few pages at a time, building up to a full list.

RICHARD WITHERIDGE, RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

TREASURER'S REPORT, MAY 1994

Witheridge Society Financial Statement 31st December, 1993

At the May 1993 Witheridge Society meeting I agreed to accept the nomination for Treasurer, providing that the existing financial situation could be clearly stated.

Our Membership Secretary, John Witheridge, agreed to undertake the task of looking into the records and providing a clear statement. This he has done, with a great deal of effort and patience - for which I and the Society owe him a debt of gratitude. The task, which was not without cost, is partly indicated by John in his Finance Report in the magazine Winter 1993, Volume 7 No.4. There was, however, much more work before the matter was finally sorted.

However, he finally presented me with a report which is clearly laid out. I was then left to consider how to present this, as some of the incomes and expenditure refer to previous years. I originally intended to try to show the finances as though they had been paid in the correct years, but this has proved to be too confusing, so I have presented this account as it stands up to the 31st December, 1993.

Currently we have a sum of £618-67p in the bank after paying out all the claims up to 31st December, 1993.

I know that some expenditure on behalf of the Society is being paid by members and treated as donations to the Society. For this we are grateful. Should these sums be claimed, however, we would probably need to revise our income to cover the costs. At this time I consider the sum in the bank to be sufficient for a society of our size, providing we can maintain the membership level, for which a rise in subscriptions could do more harm than good. If these extra claims for payment were to be submitted, then it might be necessary to limit the research within our resources. This is only a suggestion and would have to be agreed by the committee.

You should all have a copy of the Finance Report, and this will also be inserted into the first magazine following this meeting.

I would like all members to submit their claims for payment before the end of the year so that the accounts can reflect end of year balance.

Once again thanks to John, our Membership Secretary, for his sterling efforts in getting the finances straight.

RICHARD WITHERIDGE, TREASURER

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 1993.

INCOME.

Membership subscriptions for 1993.	£310-00.	
Donation to Society.	£ 8-00	
Certificate sales.	£ 10-00	
Pencil sales during Mayday meeting.	£ 3-50	
Reclaimed Subscriptions.	£358-12	
Subscriptions paid to membership Secretary direct for 1992.	£ 73-00	
Balance in Bank at December 1992	£ 82-72	
Payment to bank by outgoing Treasurer in April 1993.	£ 56-40	
Interest in Membership Secretary Account	£ 0-43	
TOTAL INCOME CREDITTED FOR 1993	<u>£902-17</u>	
Advanced payments for 1994	£ 46-00	
Advanced payments for 1995	£41-00	
<u>TOTAL INCOME 1993/1994/1995.</u>	<u>£989-17.</u>	<u>£989-17.</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Bank charges for exchange rate on subscription cheques.	£ 9-53	
Payment for certificate.	£ 5-00	
Part payment for hire of hall. Rest treated as donation.	£ 20-00	
Payment re P H Witheridge claim for printing 4 vols and despatch plus Witheridge Day invitations.	£174-60	
Payment re J M Witheridge claims. Account No1. for reclaiming uncashed cheques etc.	£ 19-84	
Account No2. for all correspondence including membership to Guild of one name studies.	£ 61-53	
Payment to J M Witheridge for unpaid 1992 claim for correspondence etc.	£ 58-00	
Payment re J Browne claim for purchase of certificates for the society.	£ 22-00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£370-50	<u>£370-50.</u>
<u>FINAL BALANCE.</u>	<u>£618-67.</u>	<u>£618-67.</u>

We believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 31st December 1993.

R. Witheridge 15/2/94
R H Witheridge
Treasurer. Dated

S. Witheridge 15/2/94
S L Witheridge
Assistant Treasurer. Dated

A. Stone 28.2.94.
Auditor. Dated

COMBE MARTIN NEIGHBOURS

By John Witheridge

Can I be your guide around the village of Combe Martin? No, I will not bother you with details about the buildings or the scenery. I might make reference to the church, but only in passing. Now, let all of us pretend that we Witheridges are walking back through the ages to visit our relations as their lives unfold in this haven that they have called home for so long.

The year? Oh yes! It does not matter at this point. No-one knows that we are coming, but we can see William Ley, senior, walking down the High Street with his son William, and his daughter-in-law, Joan. Proud William and Joan are showing off their new baby to their neighbours. Her name? Yes, let me introduce you to the baby - not that she will recognise us, neither will her family. You see, we have not yet arrived as relations, nor will we for another 27 years. The baby's name? - Miss Rebecca Ley, baptized on the 2nd July 1696.

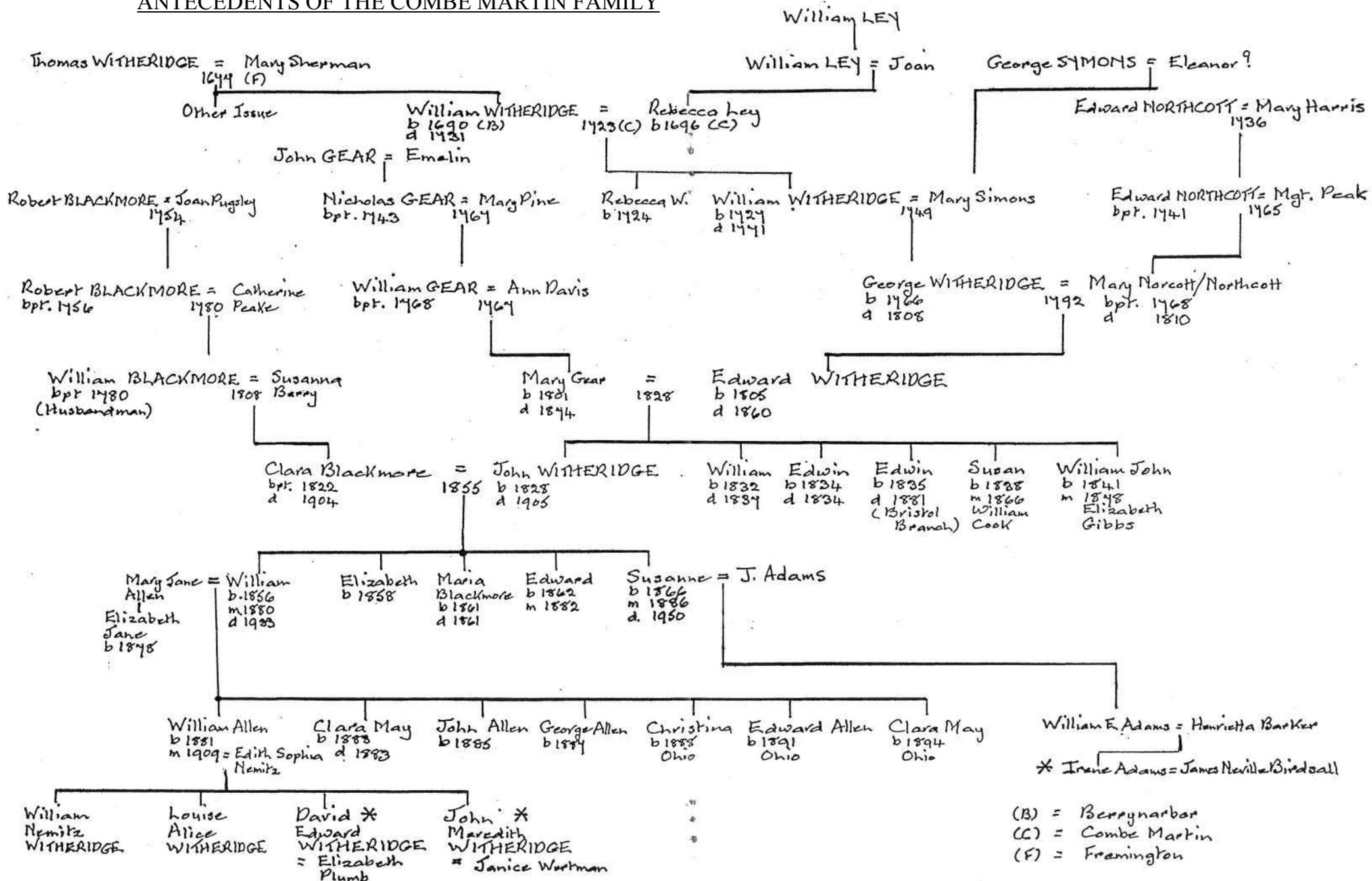
Time passes and now we find ourselves at a wedding. This time we are expected because we belong to the family of the groom. He makes a fine figure in his sailor's clothes! Rebecca rebukes me - it is the dress of a Mariner. At the age of 33, William is 6 years Rebecca's senior. What a pleasant family group this makes - Thomas Witheridge and his wife Mary Sherman, William Ley and his wife Joan, and the bride and groom, Rebecca Ley and William Witheridge. The following year the happy couple are blessed with a daughter, Rebecca, born in 1724, and then a son, William born in 1727.

By fate or coincidence, whichever you wish, another young couple are setting up home only streets away. They are George and Eleanor Symons. Their daughter Mary was baptized on the 19th July, 1727. They are not from this parish, but George has found work locally.

A few more years slip away, and it is now 1731. In the Witheridge household, eight years of married life come to an end with the death of William senior, Rebecca's husband.

Five years later, across town, another young couple are getting married. They are Edward Northcott and Mary Harris. Over the years they will have three children - Mary, baptized in October, 1737, Edward baptized in October, 1741, and William baptized in February, 1744.

ANTECEDENTS OF THE COMBE MARTIN FAMILY



(B) = Berryngbar
 (C) = Combe Martin
 (F) = Framington

* Members

Data from Combe Martin Parish Records and Members, May, 1994



THE PINNACLED TOWER OF COMBE MARTIN

"Life has to go on." This is the thought that has played in the mind of Rebecca Witheridge, née Ley. In 1741, having grieved for ten years, she agrees to marry John Mules, giving security to her family.

The year 1743 sees a happy event in the lives of another Combe Martin couple, John Gear and his wife Emelin. Their son Nicholas is born in April.

We move on to 1749, a very good year, for two children born in the same year (1727) finally marry. They are William Witheridge, junior, and Mary Symons. Joining in the celebrations are William's mother Rebecca, and step father John Mules, Mary's parents George and Eleanor, and her brother George, baptized in 1725. Within the next 19 years William and Mary have five children - William, born 1752, Mary Ley, born 1759, Rebecca, born 1763, George, born 1766 and named after Mary's father, and Molly born in 1768.

Now let me introduce the last of our family connections. Meet Robert Blackmore and his wife Joan Pugsley. They married in 1754, and in 1756 their first child, Robert, was born and baptized.

While William and Mary's family are growing up there are more marriages to attend. Firstly, that of Edward Northcott (Sailor) and Margaret Peake in 1765. The two men standing as witnesses are William Norcott and Thomas Gubb. Secondly, in 1767, the marriage of Nicholas Gear and Mary Pine. The witness here today are John Gear (father) and - Well what do you know? - Thomas Gubb. Within two or three years both marriages are blessed with children. To Edward and Margaret a son Edward, born 1767, and a daughter Mary baptized in 1768. To Nicholas and Mary a son William baptized in 1768.

Whilst we are here in the 1760's we ought to pay our respects at the funeral of Rebecca Mules/Witheridge/Ley, and I also ask you to accompany me to the last resting place of her husband, John Mules (it is now 1768) for he did help raise some of our Witheridge children.

The wedding of Robert Blackmore and Catherine Peake, on the 10th June, 1780, is next on our list of calls. Yes, you are correct - Catherine is a relation of Margaret Peake. We believe that she is a much younger sister. In that same year, 1780, we join in the celebration of the birth of Robert and Catherine's son William, baptized on the 6th September, 1780. The years pass again, and in 1792 we find ourselves at another Witheridge wedding, that of George, son of William Witheridge and Mary Symons, to Mary Norcott/Northcott.

In the next sixteen years they are to have eight children, their second son Edward being born in 1795. In the year 1797 there is another wedding, that of William Gear (a thatcher) and Ann Davis. The witnesses are Richard Tucker and Thomas Smyth. We must remember to return to witness the baptism of their daughter Mary on the 4th October, 1801.

We make one more dash across the village to the wedding of William Blackmore (Husbandman), and Susanna Berry. William did well to court and marry this lady, for she is a daughter of the family descended from the Berry's of Berry, Lords of the Manor of Berry (BERRYnarbor). Perhaps William was a tenant or worked for this family? William and Susanna's daughter, Clara Blackmore, is baptised in December 1822.

In 1828, Edward Witheridge, son of George and Mary Northcott, and future father-in-law of Clara Blackmore, is to marry Mary Gear. He is described as "Husbandman/Labourer and Servant". Later in the year 1828 their first child, John, is born. Other children follow - William, two Edwins, Susan and William John.

Here we should bring ourselves down to earth from our imaginary stay in the village and deal with the facts. The family of Edward Witheridge and Mary Gear have been the originators of much of the travel attributed to the Combe Martin and Berrynarbor families. Their first child, John, married Clara Blackmore in 1855, and their children were all born in the Combe Martin area, but some time before John and Clara's oldest son William married Mary Jane Allen in 1880, the family had moved to south Wales.

William and Mary Jane WERE married in Pontypridd, and their children, up to and including George Allen, were born in the Pontypridd area, but their later children were born in Sherodsville, Ohio.

There is one last lady who has joined our family in marriage, and I would like to mention her as I end this report. She is the wife of David Witheridge - Elizabeth Plumb (Members 41/42). I was carrying out some research in our local library last year, and was fascinated by this item:

"Authors and Writers Who's Who"

"Elizabeth Plumb, born 27th September, 1907. Saginaw, Michigan Free Lance Writer, former Kindergarten teacher. Educated B S CENTRAL Michigan University, 1940 Colgate Rochester Divinity School, New York 1941/42"

There followed a list of eight published books of which Elizabeth was the author.

As I finish, I find myself thinking that we Witheridges, past and present, men and women, have been very lucky in the partners who have shared our lives. I for one hope and wish that all future generations will have the same good luck (or good judgment?)

WITHERIDGE DAY 1994

"Oh, what a beautiful morning! Oh, what a beautiful day!" And so it was! The sun shone on Witheridge Day and the temperature soared. The only cloud was a wisp of disappointment at the small number of members who made the journey to Alderton. In all there were eleven members plus three invited guests:- Sheila and Tom Jewell of the Devon Family History Society, and Ernest Hamley of the Hamley, Hambly and Hamlin Family History Society, and the Council of Family Societies.

Our guests contributed in no small measure to the interest and enjoyment of the day.

We were also conscious of the good wishes of overseas members, particularly from Mrs. Goines who sent a contribution which helped with the cost of the refreshments, and from John James in Canada who sent a bouquet of red roses which looked gorgeous on the luncheon table, and provided a bloom for everyone to take away afterwards. We send them our sincere thanks for their thoughtfulness and generosity, and wish that they could have been with us.

Graham opened the day with his welcoming address, and then John whisked us off on a quick tour of the Council of Family Societies which he has helped to found. He explained its aims and objects, which are to facilitate communication between Societies and promote the spread of research information.

Ernest Hamley reinforced this by telling us of his own experiences whilst researching, and of information available which could help us as individuals or as a society. There was discussion on this and on the subject of copyright.

Witheridge interest was stimulated by Sheila Jewell, who had brought with her some of the results of her study of documents concerning mariners of the early Stuart period. In 1619 the Lord High Admiral of England, the Duke of Buckingham commissioned a survey of the ships and sailors of the south coast of Devon. Some Witheridge names appear on these lists, and also on a list of 1626.

Tom Jewell told us of a Witheridge bankrupt of the eighteenth century. He was Henry Witheridge of Nymett Tracey, Devon, and the notice of his bankruptcy appeared in a London Gazette of 1724. We shall try to follow up these items of information and report on them when more is known. Tom also gave us some helpful comments on the use of computers in family history.

Copies of Philip Witheridge's booklet on the Thurlestone and South Milton families were handed round, and we were all reprimanded for opening them before he began his talk. We felt that it was his fault for making the cover so attractive an invitation to the contents!

Several members of the Thurlestone family were mariners, and Philip's talk aroused questions on ships and barges engaged in coastal transport of limestone, which was one of the cargoes of the boat of one, William Witheridge. Several loose ends on the family trees for this district were tied up, but some questions remain to be researched, and we hope to publish Philip's talk later.

Lunch was a happy time for us all, with plenty of food and conversation, and Kim, as Life President, cut the birthday cake.

The Annual General Meeting followed. There was lively discussion on some items, and the Minutes of the Meeting are published in this issue.

The photographic competitions this year were won by Susan Witheridge and her mother, Maureen. (Is there a moral here somewhere?) The Mystery Objects competition - where everyone was asked to give a name or state the use of various objects which were displayed, certainly did cause some puzzled queries, and some comical answers. Kim's knowledge proved to be superior to the rest, and she won.

Our thanks are due to those who helped the day to run smoothly in various ways, and particularly to Roy Cook and Philip Witheridge for their help in the kitchen. "Thank you everyone!"

We felt that our day had been worthwhile, and had helped to cement friendships. It was certainly enhanced by the presence of our guests, whom we thank for their contributions, and for making the journey to Alderton.

Editor

HEARTS OF OAK

By Joyce Browne

At the conclusion of my article "For Those in Peril on the Sea", (Magazine Winter 1992) I said that I felt that the John Witheridges (sailors) about whom I wrote, hadn't finished with me yet. I was right - their names have come up from the depths again!

Imagine the year 1656, and the sight of some thirty seven sailing ships of war anchored off the coast of Italy at Florence. Hear the rattle of rigging, the flap of sails and the rumble of guns as they move on their trunnions. Listen to the voices of the officers as their shouted orders float over the water. One of those voices was that of Captain Witheridge, commander of the ship "Plymouth", in the second squadron, a ship of fifty guns.

How do we know this? As a result of the efforts of Mr. Tom Jewell of Exeter, who has done some research on our behalf. Mr. Jewell has found some State Papers containing letters from various Residents and Ambassadors to the Princes of Florence, to their home headquarters.

The English ships were under the orders of The Protector, Oliver Cromwell, and comprised approximately half the British Fleet which was having a busy time blockading the Channel, attempting conquest in the West Indies, seizing Spanish treasure ships, and had just completed a successful action against Tunis.

No wonder the inhabitants of Florence were somewhat apprehensive about the reason for this visitation, and the foreign ambassadors were engaged in finding out details of the fleet and Cromwell's intentions. (Espionage!). One ambassador, Thadio Vico, wrote home to Venice and sent a list of the ships and armaments. Here it is:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Guns</u>
Naseby	Admiral (? Blake)	74
Unicorn	Clarke	56
Fairfax	Blay	56
Lyme	Smith	52
Noubery	Blake	52
Entrance (Intrata)	Howard	46
Bristowl	Penrose	40
Maidstone	Adam	40
Tanton	Browne	40
Nantwich	Joffer	40
Centurion	Spachter	40

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Guns</u>
Ruby	Kerby	40
Kolchester	Blake	26
Resolution	R, Bodiley	84
Rainbow (Rambero)	Stokes	54
Speaker	Stanner	52
Plymouth	Witheridge	50
Tredagh	Harmon	50
Newcastle	Curtesen	50
Kentis	Hamon	40
Foreseight	Mortham	40
Dragon	Cadducke	40
Amity	Packe	34
Guiney	Sherre	32
Mermayd	Floet	26
Swiftsure	Beren Bourne	56
Andrea	Yong	56
Bridgewater	Erneing	52
Lampport	Coppin	52
Worster	Nixston	48
Windsbey	Amer	40
Diamante	Lane	40
Hamsheir	Story	36
Jersey	Simonds	40
Phenice	Whetstone	40
Providence	Luise Jhon (sic)	32
Assurance	Holland	34

Who was the Captain Witheridge of the Plymouth? I believe that he was Edward, born 1616 at Barnstaple, son of John Witheridge and Agnes Cockhill (see family tree Barnstaple and East London, magazine Winter 1992). We know that Edward was a mariner, and that he spent some time in Boston, America, during 1643 and 1644 (See "A Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England" by John Palmer). He also owned land in the Parish of St. Philip in Barbados, part of which he sold in 1654, and subsequently entered a law suit against the heirs of the purchaser, claiming that he had not been paid. His son, another Edward, was born in 1656.

We must assume that Edward survived this expedition of Cromwell's fleet in 1656, as his name appears again in a law suit of 1684 concerning the same Barbados property - 'Moultrap's Farm'.

This time Edward was the defendant, but unfortunately I have not been able to decipher the documents sufficiently to determine the outcome of what was a very complicated case.

Edward's Will was made in Lymehouse, London, and proved in 1697. Edward lived to see the restoration of the monarchy. I wonder if he sailed in Charles II's Navy? Are you ready for another list?

The following names are taken from an Index made by a Mr. F.A. Crisp, circa 1920. We know these men were mariners.

1623	John Witheridge	see Melch Bennett 1623
1626	John Witheridge	see William Palmer 1626 (Melch Bennett and William Palmer were ship owners and merchants)
1652	John The Elder	Instow Will PCC Relict Annis (Agnes)
1652	Edward Witheridge	R.N. Commander of "Success" 90 men 30 guns. Gone to Barbados (J. Prestwich - Republica 1787 p.127 (The location of this book is not known at present)
1652	John Witheridge	R.N. Commander of the "Bonadventure" 180 men 44 guns. Convoy in the Mediterranean. J.Prestwich - Republica
1692	John Witheridge	Master of the Plymouth ship "Mercy" 80 tons, 7 men. Calendar S.P. Treasury Books 1689-92. P 1936

These names are familiar. John 1623 and 1626, is the John I called 'John (2)' in my article in the magazine of Winter 1992. He was born in 1572 and died before 1657. Was he the commander of the Bonadventure, 1652? I think not as he would have been about 80 years old at this time. I think it more likely to have been John born 1604, the sailor I named 'John (3)'. In 1653 the widow of this John, Judith Witheridge, petitioned to administer the good and chattels of her husband John "a mariner", who had died "in parts beyond the seas".

There could be a discrepancy or overlap of dates here. In 1651, the "Bonaventure" was engaged in a naval battle with the Dutch off south Foreland. The English fleet was commanded by the famous Robert Blake and the Dutch by Admiral Tromp. Two ships, with great gallantry, attacked the ship of the Dutch Admiral. According to the British Dictionary of National Biographies, "...the Garland and the Bonaventure were taken and the captains slain." Was this Captain John Witheridge? His name does not appear in this list after this date.

Because of the gap in time the John, Captain of the Plymouth ship "Mercy", must have been yet another John - possibly

John, son of Edward born 1656, we know nothing about him - or a John, son of Thomas of Barnstaple born 1638. We are open to ideas.

The third list is taken from a survey of sailors and shipping made by the Lord High Admiral of England in 1619, in order to know what naval strength was available, and another survey of 1626.

1619 PLYMSTOCK Mariners at home -
 Christopher Witheridge, age 20
 NEWTON FERRERS, Mariners, sailors and fishermen -
 Christopher Witheridge, age 58

1626 SOUTH MILTON - Fishermen
 John Weatheridge, age 23
 William Weatheridge age 50
 BARNSTAPLE - sailors
 John Weetheradge, age 23
 William Witheridge age 18

1626 BARNSTAPLE SHIPPING-

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>Burthen</u>	<u>Ordnance</u>	<u>Capable</u>	<u>Owner's Names</u>
			<u>to carry</u>	
Providence	180 Tons	8	12	Penticost Dotheridge William Palmer Richard Medford Henry Mason John Witheridge

(Reference ISBN 0 901853 33X "Early Stuart Mariners and Shipping", Devon and Cornwall Record Society, New Series Vol 23. Edited and with an introduction by Todd Gray; Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter)

Some of the names on this list we know from Parish Registers, and the John and William of Barnstaple could have been the sons of John(2) and Agnes Cockhill, born in 1603 and 1608 respectively.

Possibly we have raised more questions than we have answered, but finding the answers could take a long time, and meanwhile those concerned with ships and sailors may find interest in these ships and names other than Witheridge.

Any comments and answers will be welcome. Keep casting the nets!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

- 111 Mrs. Irene Birdsall,
75, Stanhope Road South, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 7SF
(1) Irene Birdsall née Adams. 1925. Spouse James
Neville Birdsall. (2) William Edward Adams 1898-1947.
(3) Henrietta Gladwyn Barker 1899-1981. (4) John Adams
?..-1945. (5) Susanna Witheridge 1866-1950 (6)
Alexander Barker ?..-1943 (7) Sarah Jane Murray née
Davies ?..-1933 (10) John Witheridge 1828-1905 (11)
Clara Blackmore 1822-1904 (14) Benjamin Davies ?
(20) Edward Witheridge 1795-1860 (21) Mary Gear 1801-
1874 (22) William Blackmore 1780-? (23) Susanna
Berry Married 1808

Combe Martin - Berrynarbor - Ilfracombe - within the
registration area of Barnstaple 1500s-1875s, Cwmaman
Aberdare (Wales) and Darlington Co. Durham 1875s-
present day.

- 112 Mrs. Patricia Joan Kopaczynski,
90, Bonds Road, Roselands, New South Wales 2196,
Australia.
(1) Patricia Joan Kopaczynski née Brown 1936 - (2) John
Raymond Brown 1911 - (3) Valerie Daphne Toll Burton
1913 - (4) Raymond Henry Brown 1889-1970 (5) Rosalie
Eveline Harvey 1888-1959 (8) John William Brown 1856-
1917 (9) Helena Hosking Ryder 1863-1939 (10) George
Harvey 1852-1935 (11) Sarah Maria Goodsell 1867-1921
(16) Robert Brown 1821-1909 (17) Charlotte Baker 1827-
1905 (18) Samuel Ryder Jnr. 1816-1897 (19) Eliza Hoskin
1825-1893 (20) Henry Harvey 1824-1890 (21) Aramida
Lippiatt 1824-1859 (22) Charles Goodsell 1843-1866 (23)
Sarah James ?-1919.

The Ryder family line had two marriages in to the
Witheridge family. (1) Elizabeth (Betsy) Ryder Colman,
grand daughter of John and Mary Ryder, and daughter of
Richard Colman and Elizabeth nee Ryder, married Henry
Witheridge of Ermington 3rd June, 1825, and (2) Jane
Ryder, daughter of Samuel and Jane Ryder née Prout, and
grand daughter of the same John and Mary Ryder above,
married Richard Witheridge at Plymouth in 1843.

Glos., Ermington, Plymouth, West Alwington Bristol.
Birmingham, Ewhurst Sussex, all areas until
approximately 1850/70s. New South Wales and Tasmania
to present date.

- 113 Mr. Anthony (Tony) John Witheridge
114 Mrs. Jane Witheridge
115 Thomas Anthony Witheridge
216 Hawley Lane, Geneva. IL.60134 USA and Australia

See Member No.84 Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge NSW,Australia

(1) Anthony John Witheridge 1952- (2) Michael Allan Witheridge 1925-1971 (3) Dorothy Robson 1928- (4) Robert Witheridge 1886-1953 (5) Jean Elizabeth Byles 1898-1975 (8) Philemon Witheridge 1846-1939 (9) Mary Carvarth 1952-1926 (16) Thomas Witheridge 1808-1871 (17) Jane Thomas 1811-1893 (32) Francis Witheridge 1782-? (33) Ann Eastaway ??

Ilfracombe and Barnstaple, Devon, Helston, Cornwall - 1800 - 1890s. Australia and USA 1870 to present date.

- 116 Mr. John Meredith Witheridge
117 Mrs. Janice Elinor Witheridge née Wertman
118 John Witheridge, Jnr.
Box 1807, Saginaw, Michigan 48605 USA

(1) John Meredith Witheridge 1922- . (2) William Allen Witheridge 1881-1963 (3) Edith Sophia Nemitz 1883-1961 (4) William Witheridge 1856-1935 (5) Mary Jane Allen 1856-1942 (6) Wilhelm Johann Nemitz ?? (7) Theresa Jacobs ?? (8) John Witheridge 1828-1905 (9) Clara Blackmore 1822-1904 (10) William Allen ?? (11) Christiana Richards ?? (12) Wilhelm Nemitz ?? Caroline ??...(16) Edward Witheridge 1795-1860 (17) Mary Gear 1801-1874 (18) William Blackmore 1780- ? (19) Susanna Berry ?? Married 1808

Combe Martin and Berrynarbor, Devon, 1500s -1879. Pontypridd and Cymanman, Wales, 1880-1888. USA 1889 to present date.

IT'S A SMALL WITHERIDGE WORLD

I was delighted to receive a letter from new member Mrs. Pat Kopaczynski, telling me that she was pleased to have her first magazine - the edition for Spring 1994. Pat said what a surprise she had when she saw the death certificate for Philemon Witheridge who died in 1937, and discovered that he died not ten minutes away from where she lives. The Doctor who signed the death certificate was well known to her as Dr. Hope, a well loved family doctor who attended her in all her childhood illnesses!

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

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

North Devon Record Office,
Tuly Street,
Barnstaple,
Devon

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

Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7BA (Tel.No. 071-251 6799)

