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EDITORIAL

This editorial for the Autumn magazine is being written in blazing, most un-autumn like heat. I know I often put in a little bit about the weather, but I crave your indulgence as I really think that our British climate is changing. Always variable, we now seem to experience more extreme swings from cold to hot and - that phenomenon seldom heard of here until a few years ago - drought.

What we do hope is that our magazine will not dry up but continue to grow. From our first edition of Spring, 1987, the magazine has expanded from 12 to 24 pages. This year's summer edition had 26 pages and this one has 28 plus a separate booklet for the Minutes of the AG.M. and Officer's reports. Growth in size adds to production costs, and to postal costs. Our postal rates have just been increased and so we try to maintain a balance between what is desirable and what is practical.

We have news of new members from overseas, and we hope that as a result of the Family Day in Minneapolis some of our American families may visit England next year. The announcement of our proposed 10th anniversary meeting in Devon was in the Summer edition of the magazine, and although some details of the programme have yet to be finalised, we trust that everyone is giving this consideration so that Richard, the co-ordinator, can make the necessary arrangements.

One of our regular contributors, John Witheridge, has done an enormous amount of research in order to give us the article "Men, Ships and the Sea" This is a complicated and difficult subject and the records are not easily available. We hope to reap more benefit from his efforts as he toils his way through subsequent pieces.

Keep your articles coming!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joyce', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

WITHERIDGE DAY USA 1996

by Kim Cook

Saturday, 8th June, 1996, was a red-letter day in the history of the Witheridge Society, when for the first time a Witheridge Day was held in the USA. Twenty-two people gathered for a celebration luncheon in the Macmillan Center in the magnificent Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The day was very hot (temperatures in the upper 80s), but when we entered the History Center the spacious coolness of the marbled interior was wonderful. At various points along our route to the Macmillan Education Suite were notice boards bearing the legend 'Witheridge Party, Saturday June 8th, 11a.m.-2.0p.m.' with arrows to direct us to the right section of the building. A truly impressive welcome!

We were all there to honour Rev. David Witheridge of Minneapolis on his appointment as Honorary Vice President of the Witheridge Society. David has been researching his Witheridge ancestry since the mid 1960s, and in 1969 he trawled the UK telephone directories and wrote to every Witheridge listed. Since then he has maintained an amazing stream of correspondence with Witheridge descendants throughout the world. His research has always been thorough and meticulous, and he has always been most generous in sharing the results of that research.

The AGM decision to appoint David as Vice President was the Society's way of saying 'thank-you' to him for all he has done for us, both in research and in bringing people together. It was fitting, therefore, that this celebration to honour David brought together Witheridge descendants from the USA, Canada, Australia and the UK, as well as George Mellon former President of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and his wife Dolores, a member of the Board of MGS.

Prior to the great day, and armed with the guest list, I had compiled a series of five family trees to include every Witheridge descendant present. Not surprisingly, the Combmartin and Berrynarbor branches were the best represented, with 13 members present. These included David himself, his elder son Jim with partner David Torborg, and younger son Tom with wife Virginia Selleck and daughter Rebecca. David's sister-in-law Janice Witheridge (a WS member) and her son Jay made the 14 hour drive from Saginaw, Michigan, and his niece Jennifer Burke had made a similarly long journey from Royal Oak, Michigan.

David's second cousin Jean Tomlinson (a grand-daughter of Elizabeth Witheridge Chivers had come from Bella Vista, Arkansas, and was staying with her daughter Patricia Johnson of Clearview, Minnesota. With them was Jean's son Dennis of Prior Lake, Minnesota.

From his present home in Geneva, Illinois, came Tony Witheridge (also a WS member) eldest son of our Australian representative Dorothy Witheridge, descended from Thomas Witheridge and Jane Thomas.

The Bradworthy branch was represented by Bruce Freed who had travelled from Embro, Ontario, Canada, and his brother Paul, who is a Minneapolis resident! Paul and Bruce are the grandsons of Ida Estella Mary Witheridge and her husband Marwood Oke.

Roy and I represented the Wembury branch, and the guest list was completed by Margaret Torborg (mother of David Torborg), George and Dolores Mellon (also related to David's late wife Elizabeth), and Bill and Elizabeth Whitbeck (good friends and neighbours of David and his family for 45 years).

All the family trees were displayed along one wall of the room, together with mounted displays of photos of the 1995 and 1996 Witheridge Days in the UK, and of David and Elizabeth's first UK visit in 1976. David's son Jim, who was our MC for the day, had organised name badges for everyone, showing where they had come from, and which branch of the family they belonged to, so guests soon got to know one another and had great fun finding themselves on the family trees.

An excellent three course lunch was served at mid-day, with vegetarian catering for those who wanted it. The circular tables were draped in white linen and decorated with flowers. David said a beautiful grace, giving thanks not only for the food, but for the fellowship of friends and families.

As we lingered over coffee, Jim, as MC, thanked everyone for coming, and read messages of congratulations and best wishes from people who hadn't been able to come. These included David's 83 year old sister, Louise Mark, and also Paul and Kathy Witheridge (who had only just returned to Ontario after their visit to the UK).

Jim then introduced me. Although I had known all along that I would have to speak at the luncheon, there just hadn't been enough time in our hectic schedule to prepare anything, so I had to apologise for 'winging it'!

In conveying the greetings and thanks of all Witheridge Society members, and of the Committee in particular, I spoke of how great an encouragement David has always been. When I first began my Witheridge research back in 1961, I could find no-one else who was the slightest bit interested. In fact many people thought that genealogy was a decidedly odd pastime! My vision of one day bringing together Witheridge descendants from around the world seemed like impossible nonsense.

David's mail-shot in 1969 included a letter to my aunt Dorothy, which has been passed on

to me. This letter (a copy of which I had with me) had given me the re-assurance that family history was not an oddball occupation, and throughout the years that followed, David's help and encouragement had been invaluable. Without it I probably would not have persevered with trying to form a Witheridge Society. When the dream became a reality, David and Elizabeth had become the first overseas members of the Society.

In speaking of the 1996 AGM, and the unanimous decision to appoint David as our Honorary Vice President, I also mentioned the AGM decision to consider holding our tenth anniversary reunion in or near Witheridge itself. I had brought with me copies of the forms that had been handed out at the AGM and invited anyone who was interested to consider joining us for Witheridge Day 1997. I had also prepared forms asking people to name other family members who might be interested.

I then thanked all those who had helped to make the luncheon such a success, naming two in particular: Jim Witheridge who had organised name badges, ferried Roy and me around getting art paper for the family trees, allowed me to use his computer for forms and press releases and acted as MC, and Virginia Selleck (Witheridge) who had booked the room, organised the meal and the flowers, and also organised further refreshments at David's house both for Saturday afternoon and Sunday lunch. Virginia has also brought a beautiful guest book which everyone present signed as a memento for David.

Then came the presentation, of which David had no prior knowledge. The Society had commissioned an artist to prepare an illuminated citation on vellum. It read: 'Presented by the Witheridge Society to Rev David E. Witheridge of Minneapolis on his appointment as Honorary Vice President, in recognition of many years of meticulous research, faithfully recorded and generously shared'. Underneath the signatures of 'Kim Cook, President', and 'Graham Browne, Chairman' the document was 'Dated this 6th day of May 1996'.

The initial capital letters had been illuminated in blue and gold, and a simple border, also in blue and gold, had been drawn around the edge. With Jim's help we had found a framing company that had put the citation in a double mount (the inner mount gold, and the outer one blue, matching the illumination), with a plain but beautiful gold frame, and fixed it with the necessary hangings. Having thanked David for all his support, I read the citation and then presented it to David.

David was visibly moved, and it was some moments before he could reply. He spoke of his gratitude for the honour of his appointment, and of the joy and friendship that his Witheridge research had brought him. He then invited everyone to join us back at his home for the rest of the afternoon.

The formalities over, we all mingled and chatted some more, signed the guest book and lingered again over the trees and photographs on display. Then at 2.0 p.m., the displays were dismantled and the flowers were gathered up to adorn David's home.

On the way back to David's Dennis Tomlinson stopped off at the home of his son Sean and brought him and the grandchildren to join the celebration. People spilled out onto the front lawn, the little ones rode tricycles up and down, and everybody mingled, swapped family news and then came into the house again to cool off! Virginia and Jim kept everyone plied with refreshing drinks, but sadly Tom (recovering from recent surgery) and Rebecca (an exhausted seven year old) had to go home to rest.

Throughout the day the family trees were continually examined, relationships were worked out and questions asked about Witheridges around the world. At one point I found myself in the porch room answering questions on family history, whereupon Jim hauled me back into the sitting room to share these answers with everyone else. Everyone seemed keen to know about English records, historical backgrounds, and especially the Witheridge ancestral villages. Many expressed a keen wish to come to England for a 1997 gathering in Devon, and I promised to relay their comments to the Committee.

We dispersed at about 5.0 p.m, only for most of us to meet up again a couple of hours later in a Minneapolis restaurant for supper. Tom and Rebecca re-joined us and once again the Witheridges were doing the two things we are all good at - eating and talking!

Even when we all finally said goodnight, the celebrations weren't over, as many of us met up again for a buffet lunch at David's on Sunday. The mix was different - Janice and Jay Witheridge having left for their journey home to Michigan, and Paul and Bruce Freed having rejoined us.

Altogether it was a wonderful weekend where we were able to put faces to names, to learn more about other branches of the family, and above all to make friends and have a good time. We wish more of our UK friends could have been there, but there are compensations. Over 70 photographs were taken by various people during the weekend, and I have copies of them in an album. Virginia also took a video of the occasion. I haven't seen it yet, but hope to have a copy shortly, and will try to get it converted to UK video format so that we can show it at future gatherings.

But above all, the best news is that many of those present hope to be able to come to Devon for the Witheridge Day 1997. For some, the cost of a trip to the UK could be prohibitive, but I'm sure that Witheridge Society members will be generous with their offers of hospitality so that those who wish to come may be spared the burden of hotel bills for at least part of their stay.

Throughout our trip to the US we received the warmest of welcomes and the most generous of hospitality, and we have come to love our many American friends very dearly. We look forward to being able to repay some of that kindness and generosity next year.

Presented by
The Witheridge Society
to
Rev David Witheridge
of Minneapolis
on his appointment as
Honorary Vice President

in recognition of many years of meticulous research
faithfully recorded and generously shared

Kim Cox

President

Graham Grouse

Chairman

Dated this 6th day of May, 1996.

LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN FROM THE REV. DAVID WITHERIDGE

22nd June, 1996

Dear Graham,

I want to express my deep appreciation for the honor bestowed upon me in my appointment as Honorary Vice President of the Witheridge Society. Although I have been unable to attend the Annual General Meetings on Witheridge Day, my thoughts have been with you all, and I have watched with great satisfaction the progress of the Society since its beginning.

The visit to America this year by Kim and Roy Cook was a very special experience, climaxed by a luncheon at the Minnesota Historical Society building on June 8th, at which Kim presented me with a beautiful framed certificate naming me as Honorary Vice President.

The planning for this luncheon revealed an amazing interest in our common Witheridge heritage, and many in distant parts of the United States and Canada wanted to come, but couldn't. In the end we had twenty-two present, mostly Witheridge descendants from Minnesota, Ontario, Michigan, Arkansas, and Illinois (originally from Australia!) plus two very close neighbours and a former member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and his wife, currently a member of its Board

Kim's description of the possibilities of a world wide gathering of Witheridge descendants in Devon next May, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Witheridge Society, brought an enthusiastic response, with many already planning to attend. I am personally looking forward to this event, and I hope to see many Witheridge descendants whom we met on our three trips to England and many more whom I have not yet had the privilege of meeting.

So I thank you and the other officers and members of the Witheridge Society for honoring me in this way and for setting in motion a new wave of interest in the Witheridge family history and in the Witheridge Society.

Yours very sincerely,

DAVID E WITHERIDGE

MEN, SHIPS AND THE SEA

by John Witheridge

I have always held our ancestors in the highest regard and affection. Some of the exploits that I have been able to research over the years have held me spellbound. But may I say, and without any wish to demean the others, that the research I am about to present to you in this article has left me numb, speechless, greatly humbled and very honoured that I have had the privilege to carry it out. This article, covers part of the life of one of our greatest characters, and indeed an assistant in the creation of British history.

It was not until recently that the Witheridge Society realised just how many of our ancestors were captains within the Navy. We knew that several were experienced mariners and some masters of trading and working vessels. I would like in this article (the first of many) to show you just what manner of men our families have reared. In this instance I would like to put before you the exploits of one man:-

CAPTAIN EDWARD WITHERIDGE/WITTERIDGE

The ships:-

The Success

The Mary Prize

The Middle borough

The Kentish

The Plymouth

I referred to Captain Edward briefly in a recent article entitled 'Kent Witheridges' in Vol.10.No. 2 Spring 1996, and before this Joyce Browne wrote a piece concerning him and other seafaring members of our family. I take up the story of events at the period written about in that article. I must admit that I used Joyce's article as a spur to find more data concerning these naval men, but I did not bargain for the amount of information that I was about to uncover.

Let me begin with a quote from an index in the article which Joyce wrote - Witheridge Times, Vol. 8. Number 2, Summer 1994, page 21:

"1652 Edward Witheridge, R.N*., Commander of the *Success* 90 men and thirty guns"

*This line was taken from an Index by Mr. FA. Crisp, circa 1920, but strictly speaking the Navy was not "Royal" during the years of the Republican Commonwealth of England (the Interregnum) 1649-1660.

The Success was originally a French ship of the line, named the 'Jules' and was captured by the British fleet on the 19th October, 1650. She was renamed and sailed under the British pennant until 1652. She was classified as a fourth rate gun ship and carried 34 guns. From 1660 the Success was referred to as 'The Old Success' This indicates that another ship of this name had been constructed and had taken her place in the Navy listings. It is therefore safe to assume that from this time that 'The Old Success' had been de-masted and was in use as a hulk, perhaps for storage. In 1662 she was sold.

Throughout our history there have been eighteen ships that have sailed under the name 'Success', Edward's ship being the very first of this long line of illustrious ships. The second 'Success' was also a re-named ship, originally named the 'Bradford' of 1658, and this was a British built vessel.

In the very extensive records which I have built up on Naval subjects I found the fourth listing of a ship named the 'Success'. It is stated to be a stores hulk, and was purchased on the 20th August 1692, and on the 13th January 1707 was sunk as a breakwater at Sheerness Dockyard To me this indicated that this vessel could be the same ship that Edward sailed in 1652, although I do not have positive proof that they were the same. "Success Three??" I hear you question! No this is impossible for this ship was a fire ship and it foundered in the year 1673. This conclusion is backed up by another section of research that I am carrying out, where I have found several families who lived in the 'Old Success' at Sheerness.

In 1652/3 Edward took command of another ship - the Middleborough - the Middleburg as she was referred to more often. Joyce found the following item (via The British Library) in "The First Dutch War" Volume III published by the Navy Record Society.

"1652/3 That Captain Harris, Commander of the ship Middleborough be discharged from his command of that ship for neglect of his duty. That Captain Edward Witheridge, late Commander of the ship "Marie" Prize, be appointed Captain of the ship Middleborough, and the Generals of the Fleet are to give him a commission accordingly."

So this reference gave us details to two vessels that Edward commanded.

At least two researchers of the Witheridge Society have made in depth searches into the Naval Commissions lists from that period. To no avail. The books available do not register the commissions of those dates, but it seems that the Generals of the Fleet did comply with the directive for we find that in a list of ships under the command of Vice Admiral Penn- a fleet sailing from Portsmouth - is the following notation. Please read it carefully, for it is not quite what you might expect:-

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>	
James	360	66	Vice Admiral Penn
Vanguard	300	38	Capt. Joseph Jordan
Andrew	350	56	Capt. Wm. Graves
Lion	220	50	Capt. Jno. Lambert
Entrance	200	44	Capt. Rich.Newbery
Laurel	200	48	Capt. Samll. Howeth
Centurion	200	42	Capt. Waltr. Wood
Diamond	180	42	Capt. Will. Hill
Portsmouth	170	38	Capt. Robt. Durnford
Adventure	170	42	Capt/ Robt. Nickson
Expedition	140	32	Capt. Vallis
Providence	140	32	Capt. John Pierce
<i>Middleborough</i>	120	32	<u>Capt. Tho. Witheridge</u>
Paul	120	29	Capt. Anth. Spatchurst
<i>Mary Prize</i>	120	37	Capt. Maddison
Duchess	90	24	Capt. Rich Suffield
<i>Success</i>	160	38	Capt. Wm. Kendall
Convert	120	32	Capt. Richd. Gethinge
Dolphin	120	30	-
Mermaid	100	26	Capt. King

I included the above list to show you that every statement one reads or hears cannot be taken at face value. There is no doubt that two captains of the same surname existed at that time, each being referred to as 'Captain Witheridge'. In fact there were three Captain Witheridges but two were working in the same areas at that time and it is very hard to separate their activities. It is possible that both Edward and Thomas did command the *Middleborough* in the same year, but it could be that one of these names is an error or a wrongful application of the name. Or perhaps both names applied to the same man. Strangely there has only ever been one ship of this name in the British Navy. She was a prize of war.

Middleburg Again this vessel was a prize, taken in 1652. There is no mention of its country of origin, but at that time it could only be a prize from one of the earlier Dutch wars. (Probably taken at the Lizard and I think another story) She was disposed of in 1657 and there is no indication of how this was done.

Mary (prize) ship. 14 gun 109bn, Spanish built, captured in 1654. Captured by the Dutch in 1666.

Mary PRIZE 36 gun ship captured 1649. Last listed in our naval listings 1655.

To be honest, I am not sure which of these two vessels Edward commanded. I would assume that as promotion it would have been the 26 gun ship in which he sailed, and the date does fit better.

In 1654 Edward was assigned the ship Kentish. This command was seen as further promotion and was quite a feather in his cap. Recently built, (1652) in the dockyard at Deptford by the great ship building company of 'Johnsons' , it is almost certain that Edward was her first master, a great honour. The *Kentish* or *Kent* as she was to be known at a later time, was 104 feet long and 32 feet wide, having a draft of 13 feet 6 inches and a displacement of 601 tons. She was a fourth rate frigate of the Ruby class, with armaments of 40 cannon and manned by 170 men. As proof of this I submit this list of ships, captains and armaments which also lists the size of the crew.

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Captains</u>
George	350	60	(Robert Blake, General John Stoakes, Captain
Andrew	300	54	Richard Badiley Vice Admiral
Unicorn	300	54	Joseph Jordan, Rear Admiral
Langport	260	50	Roger Cuttance
Hampshire	160	34	Robert Blake
Bridgewater	260	50	Anthony Earning
Foresight	160	36	Peter Mootham
Worcester	240	46	William Hill
<i>Plymouth</i>	260	50	Richard Stayner
<i>Kentish</i>	170	40	<u>Edward Witteridge</u>
Diamond	160	36	John Harman
Taunton	160	36	Thomas Foules
Ruby	160	36	Edmund Curtis
Newcastle	180	40	Nathaniel Cobham
Amity	120	30	Henry Pack
Mermaid	100	22	James Ableson
Pearl	100	22	Ben.Sacheverell
Maidstone	140	32	Thomas Adams
Princess Maria	150	34	Thomas Lloyd
Elias	140	32	John Symonds

This list shows the vessels that were patrolling the Mediterranean in the year 1654. Why were they there? The answer:- to rid the seas of the Barbary pirates, to keep a watching brief over our old adversaries Spain, France and the Netherlands, and also to prevent the depredations of Prince Rupert on the ships of the British Commonwealth. Prince Rupert, former leading commander of the Royalist forces had been banished from Britain and had turned pirate.

There is a tradition that whilst in the Mediterranean General Robert Blake, General at Sea of the Commonwealth Navy, took his fleet to and from Cadiz, where he maintained cordial relationships and received civility and support. He went on to Leghorn where he managed to obtain compensation from the Grand Duke for earlier support of Prince Rupert when the harbour had been under Papal control, and payment for ships that had been purchased from Prince Rupert when they were not the property of Rupert to sell.

From Leghorn, Blake's travels were to have taken him to Tunis via Trapani, but news being received that the Sultan of Turkey's men-of-war were already anchored in Tunis Bay, there was no need to visit Trapani to seek the local news. February 6th 1655 found Blake's fleet anchored in the roads to the bay. He delivered a paper of demands to the Bey of Tunis, who showed great anxiety to bring about peaceful negotiations between the Sultan of Turkey (the main supporter of the pirates) and the British, but it is recorded that no firm peace was obtained.

Blake sailed on to Porto Farina/El Bahira, where more of the Sultan's men-or-war lay blockaded by our frigates. The Sultan's ships were reported to be unrigged, their guns planted (unready for use) and the fleet's crews encamped ashore. Attack was indeed difficult- it was found that our fleet's provisions were getting low, and in order to replenish these stores the main fleet sailed off to Cagliari leaving the *Plymouth*, *Kentish* Mermaid, Foresight, Newcastle and the Taunton to maintain the blockade.

On March 14th 1655 Blake again wrote (Thurloe State Papers iii 232) saying that "he intended to sail with the first fair wind and endeavour to bring the business to an end."

On the 18th March further talks with the Bey of Tunis reached the same level of intractable argument, finally ending in no compromise, and the English were not allowed to buy bread and perishable foods from the town.

April the 4th (Columna Rostrata 141) The harbour containing nine of the Sultan's ships was a small bay at the mouth of the river Medjerda. The bay was almost closed by a small spit of land. On this was a fort with twenty guns and along the shore of the bay were further emplacements. Blake divided his fleet into two sections, the lighter vessels to attack the ships and the heavier to attack the fort. This, the latter group included the *Kentish* and Captain Edward Witheridge. The ships rode the tide at a stiff breeze in perfect order to batter the fortifications, whilst the lighter vessels took advantage of the breeze to maintain a ferocious attack on the Sultan's ships. It was soon very obvious that the superiority of the English gunners was gaining the upper hand.

Soon the gun emplacements and the fort were breached and all guns dismantled. With the fortuitous aid of the stiff breeze that prevailed, the smoke from the ships' cannon and from the burning disorder of the enemy's emplacements drifting towards the town

masking the lighter English squadron as they sailed into the harbour, they were able to deploy their ships' boats, rowed under the command of Captain John Stoakes, and board the nine enemy ships, where they set about the complete burning of the Sultan's vessels.

The action completed, the squadron drew out of the bay into the approach roads. None of our men-of war was damaged to any great degree, and losses of our crews were stated at a figure of twenty five dead and forty eight wounded. This engagement was the very first time that a squadron had been used to mount a seaborne assault on a fortified bay and town with success (according to Thurloe S.P iii 547). The Protector (Cromwell) praised all in a very gracious letter.

Even though our family cannot claim a great admiral or general among our line of descent, we have the knowledge that they took their share in the making of British history.

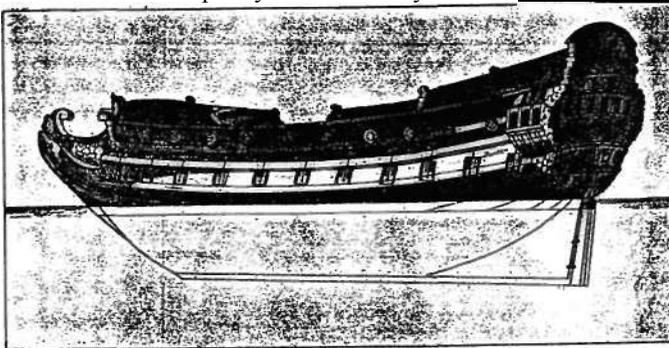
Kentish

Later known as the 'Kent'. Built by Johnsons of Deptford. 1652. Ruby Class fourth rate frigate. Lh 1104 feet. Br. 32 feet 6 inches. Dh. 13 feet 6 inches. 601 tons. 40 guns. Wrecked in 1672.

The following year, in February 1656, Spain, being very wary of our superiority in the Mediterranean, declared war. At the beginning of that year Cromwell had sent a new captain to command Blake's Flagship 'The Naseby'. He was Captain Edward Montague who later became the first Earl of Sandwich. Lawson was appointed to sail as Vice Admiral in the 'Resolution', but history tells us that on political grounds he was removed from his command and that Badiley took command of the second squadron. In this squadron "12 in number" the fourth largest ship was the *Plymouth* and its master was Edward Witheridge. Yet another promotion. In fact there were only 12 ships of greater size in the complete fleet of 36 men-of war, three squadrons. You will note that Captain Stoakes was commanding the Rainbow (Rambero), another prize.

Plymouth

Built by Taylor, Wapping 1653. A Speaker Class, third rate frigate. Lh 116 feet. Br. 34 feet 8 inches. Dh. 14 feet 6 inches. 741 tons. In 1660 she carried 62 guns. In 1677 she carried 60. This vessel was completely re-built in the year 1705.



The PLYMOUTH.

Edward succeeded to this command on the promotion of Edward Stayner to the Speaker, vacating the *Plymouth*. Now back to the history lesson -

The object of this exercise was to blockade the coastline in the area of Cadiz. Again fresh supplies were needed and Blake and Montague with the major section of the fleet sailed to Oeiras Bay for water and provisions. While they were attending these needs the Spanish West India Fleet appeared on the horizon. Stayner in the Speaker was lying off Cadiz with a squadron of six frigates and I report his own words in the letter (Stayner to the General G. Penn ii 155,156)

Quote " In the evening (8th September 1656) we espied eight sail, some five or six leagues to the westward of Cadiz. We using the best means that we could to meet with them next day, which we did; it being little wind at N.E. It was nine of the clock before we came up with them; but having a fresh gale in the night, all but we and the Bridgewater were to the leeward and could not come up to us. It proved to be the Spanish fleet, come from the West Indies, which were four of the King of Spain's, three merchantmen and one prize, a Portugese. We engaged the fleet, but being four leagues off Cadiz could not stay for our ships; but we, the Bridgewater and *Plymouth* engaged them, and had a sharp dispute, some of us. But the Admiral being the smallest ship, we slighted her, for we conceived there was some policy used in the flag; by which means, the Admiral and the Portugese prize got into Cadiz. The Vice Admiral, and one more, we sunk and burnt two; we took one. The captain of her, which we have on board, saith she hath in her two millions in silver. The Vice Admiral hath as much I do believe. The *Plymouth* chased another, who came ashore near St. Peters; but it seems they had no silver in her. The ship we took is as good as all the fleet besides. The other, that Captain Harmer hath taken, is very rich, but little silver in her. Both the prize and our ships are sorely wounded, both in mast and hull. There is no news, only I believe the fleet will follow us; the Galleys came outThis is all; only there is a loss in men in some ships, the number I know not" Unquote.

(This last paragraph is printed word for word from the letter concerned, of which I am very grateful to have knowledge).

This action was modestly and hastily reported and a great quantity of treasure shipped to England. The course of history congratulates Stayner on this event, but records also indicate sympathy for the Spanish Vice Admiral. This ship fought valiantly for six hours before catching fire, and it was reported by a letter (to Penn ii 157) that this ship was carrying the Marques De Badajos, who with his family was returning from Lima where he had been Governor for several years. Both he and his wife and two children perished in the burning vessel.

It was Montague (in the Speaker) who transported the treasure and the prize home,

accompanied by others of the great ships. The captor, Stayner, went with him and returned to the fleet within a few months.

Blake, whose health was never very good, gradually deteriorated whilst riding out the winter with the remainder of the fleet, enduring the hardship of maintaining a prolonged blockade. It was not until Stayner returned to the fleet that news came to them of more treasure ships coming their way. They at once weighed anchor and by the 20th April, 1656 were standing off Santa Cruz de Teneriffe where a Spanish fleet, sixteen in total, was found to be moored in the harbour. (Heath 391) The entrance to the bay was guarded by a very strongly built castle, and at intervals around the bay were smaller forts each containing five or six guns, each being connected one to the other by a network of earthworks which were manned by troops with muskets.

The Spanish were forewarned of a possible attack and were in full knowledge of Blake's escapades in Tunisia. They had taken the precautions of strengthening their defences and had landed the silver from their ships, each ship being fully manned, fully provisioned and ready to sail. Quite a daunting scene to behold, and what was to be done, in an effort to lay waste to these ships and harbour emplacements? (S.P.Dom eliv. 104)

The winds at Teneriffe are notoriously foul for any attack mounted against the harbour. They either blow from off shore in a patchy and squally manner, causing the risk of ships becoming becalmed within range of cannon shot, or they blow directly into the harbour at a steady breeze, enabling the attacking force to sail in, but then finding it impossible to return to the open seas. It would have to be complete victory or complete annihilation. Few men would have taken this gamble, and as history will state, this action raised Blake's name to even higher standing than ever before.

The Spaniards had drawn up ten ships in a half circle in the lower bay area, just off the town. The remaining six, all great galleons, were moored in line opposite the entrance to the harbour.

Blake had seen one favourable error in the defence of the harbour. Namely, that the ten ships and some of the shore batteries could not fire at certain times because the six galleons were in their line of fire.

The morning of the 20th April found a sea breeze and a flowing tide into the harbour. Blake's plan was to destroy the ships and the castle on the flow tide and to return on the ebb. Stayner led with order to attack the galleons, while Blake was to bombard the castle and forts. Thus we see Edward Witheridge in the *Plymouth* amongst the group of vessels (Speaker, Bridgewater, Providence) and some lesser ships. These vessels bore down on the galleons and as they closed with them they anchored to windward, each ship broadside to its counterpart. To have anchored by the stern between the galleons would have been sheer folly, giving clear target to the shore batteries and the ships moored off the town.

As the six galleons were taken the order went out to set fire to each. At this point of no return the greater part of Blake's fleet eased past the burning hulks. The forts, realising that their galleons were no longer a hindrance to their fire power, brought their shore batteries into play - but too late to save the day for by now the smaller vessels near the town were ablaze. The ebbing tide gradually drifted the English fleet back out into the open sea, assisted by a dramatic change in the wind blowing from the S. West, a rare and uncommon occurrence.

The total losses to our fleet were forty killed and one hundred and ten wounded. The Speaker was rendered unfit for service. The number of men lost to the enemy is unknown. The fact that they lost sixteen vessels of the line and many that were anchored in the harbour, leads to speculation that well over a thousand Spanish sailors perished in this battle.

On 17th June 1657, leaving many ships behind under Captain Stoakes to maintain a shipping presence against Spain and the pirates, Blake set sail for home, although he was destined never to see his beloved England again. He died on board the *George* on August 7th 1657 at the entrance to Plymouth sound. Four days later Badiley also died (Whitelock 664) It is assumed that Edward Witheridge and the *Plymouth* were to return home as an escort to the *George*.

In five to six years our Edward was promoted from the master of a privateer to Captain of the *Plymouth*, with at least one (to our knowledge) mention in dispatches. He was obviously a very able captain and more to the point, a very able combatant. For a frigate to trade broadside for broadside with a Spanish galleon and still continue to fight with the rest of the fleet at Santa Cruz he and his crew must have been some of the best sailors in the Commonwealth Navy.

The naval exploits of Edward Witheridge from this point are not yet known, but certainly the *Plymouth* sailed into more glory. She was re-built in 1795 by Johnsons (Blackwall) and up rated to 60 guns, but foundered in the same year. In 1720 *Plymouth II* was built and saw active service until 1764.

I hope that this little item of history has shown you how our family members have given their best to our country. Remember that there are two other Captains Witheridge, and I will try to separate their exploits into some form of logical order.

There are one or two points that I would like to make before I close this article:-

My records show a Captain Thomas Withing as Commander of the *Middleburg* in the year 1653. He was in the middle sector of the White Squadron under the command of Admiral William Penn. This listing shows all vessels that took part in the first battle with

the Dutch at the North Foreland The *Plymouth* is not among those listed, thus adding credence to my theory that Thomas Withing/Witheridge and Edward are not the same man, and that there were three Captains Witheridge at that time, John Witheridge being the third.

Some years later Samuel Pepys dined with the captain of the *Plymouth*, Captain John Haywood, and another, Thomas Binns, of the Essex. In their company was Sir Richard Stayner. Later he returned to the Nazeby to rest. (Pages 48 and 51, The Diary of Pepys Vol. One, dated 3rd May, 1660) At this point we must remember that there had been a change in the old guard. Those who were loyal to the Commonwealth would not have suited their new masters of the Royal household.

God bless them all!

THE RED SQUADRON

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Commanders</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>
<i>Resolution</i>	The Generals		550	88
<i>Worcester</i>	George Dakins	Captain	220	50
<i>Advice</i>	Jeremy Smyth	“	180	42
<i>Diamond</i>	William Hill	“	180	42
<i>Sapphire</i>	Nicholas Heator	“	140	38
<i>Marmaduke</i>	Edward Blagg	“	160	42
<i>Pelican</i>	Peter Mootham	“	180	40
<i>Mermaid</i>	John King	“	100	26
<i>Golden Fleece</i> *	Nicholas Forster	“	180	44
<i>Loyalty</i> *	John Limbry	“	150	34
<i>Society</i> *	Nicholas Lucas	“	140	44
<i>Malaga Merchant</i> *	Henry Collins	“	140	36
<i>Martin</i>	John Vessy	“	90	14
3 fireships			
<i>Triumph</i>	James Peacock	V. Adm.	350	62
<i>Laurel</i>	John Stoakes	Captain	200	48
<i>Adventure</i>	Robert Nixon	“	160	40
<i>Providence</i>	John Pierce	“	140	33
<i>Bear</i>	Francis Kirby	“	200	46

- *These ships were hired armed merchantmen

THE RED SQUADRON - continued

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Commanders</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>
<i>Heartsease</i>	Thomas Wright	Captain	150	36
<i>Hound</i>	Jonah Hide	“	120	36
<i>Anne and Joyce*</i>	William Pile	“	119	34
<i>London</i>	Arthur Browne	“	200	40
<i>Hannibal*</i>	William Haddock	“	180	44
<i>Mary</i>	Henry Maddison	“	120	37
<i>Thomas and William*</i>	John Jefferson		140	36
<i>Speaker</i>	Samuel Howett	Rear Adm.	300	56
<i>Sussex</i>	Roger Cuttance	Captain	180	46
<i>Guinea</i>	Edmund Curtis	“	150	34
<i>Tiger</i>	Gabriel Sanders	“	170	40
<i>Violet</i>	Henry Southwood	“	180	40
<i>Sophia</i>	Robert Kirby	“	160	38
<i>Falmouth</i>	John Jeffreys	“	100	26
<i>Four Sisters*</i>	Robert Becke	“	120	30
<i>Hamburg Merchant *</i>	William Jessel	“	110	34
<i>Phoenix</i>	Henry Eaden		120	34

- These ships were hired armed merchantmen

THE WHITE SQUADRON

<u><i>James</i></u>	<u>William Penn</u>	<u>Admiral</u>	360	66
<i>Lion</i>	John Lambert	Captain	220	50
<i>Ruby</i>	Robert Sanders	“	180	42
<i>Assistance</i>	William Crispin	“	180	40
<u><i>Foresight</i></u>	<u>Richard Stayner</u>	“	180	42
<i>Portsmouth</i>	Robert Danford	“	170	38
<i>Anne Peircy*</i>	Thomas Ware	“	120	33
<i>Peter</i>	John Littleton	“	100	32
<i>Exchange*</i>	Henry Tedman	“	100	30
<i>Merlin</i>	George Crapnell	“	90	12
<i>Richard and Martha *</i>	Eustace Smith		180	46
<i>Sarah*</i>	Francis Steward		140	34
<i>Lissa Merchant *</i>	Simon Bailey		160	38
1 fireship			30	10
<i>Victory</i>	Lionel Lane	Vice Adm.	300	60
<i>Centurion</i>	Walter Wood	Captain	200	42

- Hired, armed merchantmen

THE WHITE SQUADRON - continued

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Commanders</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>
<i>Expedition</i>	Thomas Foules	Captain	140	32
<i>Gillyflower</i>	John Hayward	“	120	32
<u><i>Middleburg</i></u>	<u>Thomas Withing</u>	“	120	32
<i>Raven</i>	Robert Taylor	“	140	38
<i>Exchange*</i>	Jeffery Dare	“	120	32
<i>Globe</i>	Robert Coleman	“	110	30
<i>Prudent Mary*</i>	John Taylor	“	100	28
<i>Thomas and Lucy*</i>	Andrew Rand		125	34
<i>Andrew</i>	Thomas Graves	Rear Adm.	360	56
<i>Assurance</i>	Phillip Holland	Captain	160	36
<i>Crown</i>	Thompson	“	140	36
<i>Duchess</i>	Richard Seafeld	“	90	24
<i>Princess Maria</i>	Seth Hawley	“	170	38
<i>Waterhound</i>	Giles Shelly	“	120	30
<i>Pearl</i>	James Cadman	“	100	26
<i>Reformation</i>	Anthony Earning	“	160	40
<i>Industry</i>	Ben Salmon		100	30

THE BLUE SQUADRON

<i>George</i>	John Lawson	Adm.	350	58
<u><i>Kentish</i></u>	Jacob Reynolds	Captain	180	50
<i>Great President</i>	Francis Park	“	180	40
<i>Nonsuch</i>	Thomas Penrose	“	170	40
<i>Success</i>	William Kendall	“	150	38
<i>Welcome</i>	John Harman	“	200	40
<i>Oak</i>	John Edwin	“	120	32
<i>Brazil*</i>	Thomas Heath	“	120	30
<i>Eastland Merchant *</i>	John Walters	“	110	32
<i>Adventure *</i>	Edward Greene	“	160	38
<i>Samaritan*</i>	Shadrach Blake	“	120	30
1 fireship.....			30	10
<i>Vanguard</i>	Joseph Jordan	V. Adm.	390	56
<i>Happy Entrance</i>	Richard Newbery	Captain	200	43
<i>Dragon</i>	John Seaman	“	260	38
<i>Convert</i>	Philip Gethings	“	120	32
<i>Paul</i>	Anthony Spatchurt	“	120	38

* These were hired, armed merchantmen

THE BLUE SQUADRON - continued

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Commanders</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Guns</u>
<i>Gift</i>	Thomas Salmon	Captain	130	31
<i>Crescent</i>	Thomas Thorowgood	“	115	30
<i>Samuel Taboat*</i>	Joseph Ames	“	110	30
<i>Benjamin</i>	Robert Sparks	“	120	32
<i>King Ferdinando *</i>	Richard Paine	“	140	36
<i>Roebuck</i>	Henry Fenn	“	100	30
<i>Rainbow</i>	Will. Goodsonn	Rear Adm.	300	58
<i>Convertine</i>	Anthony Joyn	Captain	210	44
<i>Amity</i>	Henry Pack	“	150	36
<i>Dolphin</i>	Robert Davis	“	120	30
<i>Arms of Holland</i>	Francis Mardrig	“	120	34
<i>Tulip</i>	Joseph Cubitt	“	120	32
<i>Jonathan*</i>	Robert Graves	“	110	30
<i>Dragoneare *</i>	Edward Smith	“	110	32
<i>William and John*</i>	Nathaniel Jesson		120	36
<i>Nicodemus</i>	William Ledgart		40	12
<i>Blossom*</i>	Nathaniel Cock		110	30

* These ships were hired armed merchantmen

SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

By Joyce Browne

Have you ever thought that you would like to own a little piece of Devonshire? A desirable residence on the edge of Dartmoor perhaps? A unique opportunity now presents itself. The Diocese of Exeter is offering the church of St. Michael and All Angels at Princetown, Dartmoor, for sale at a price of £40,000.

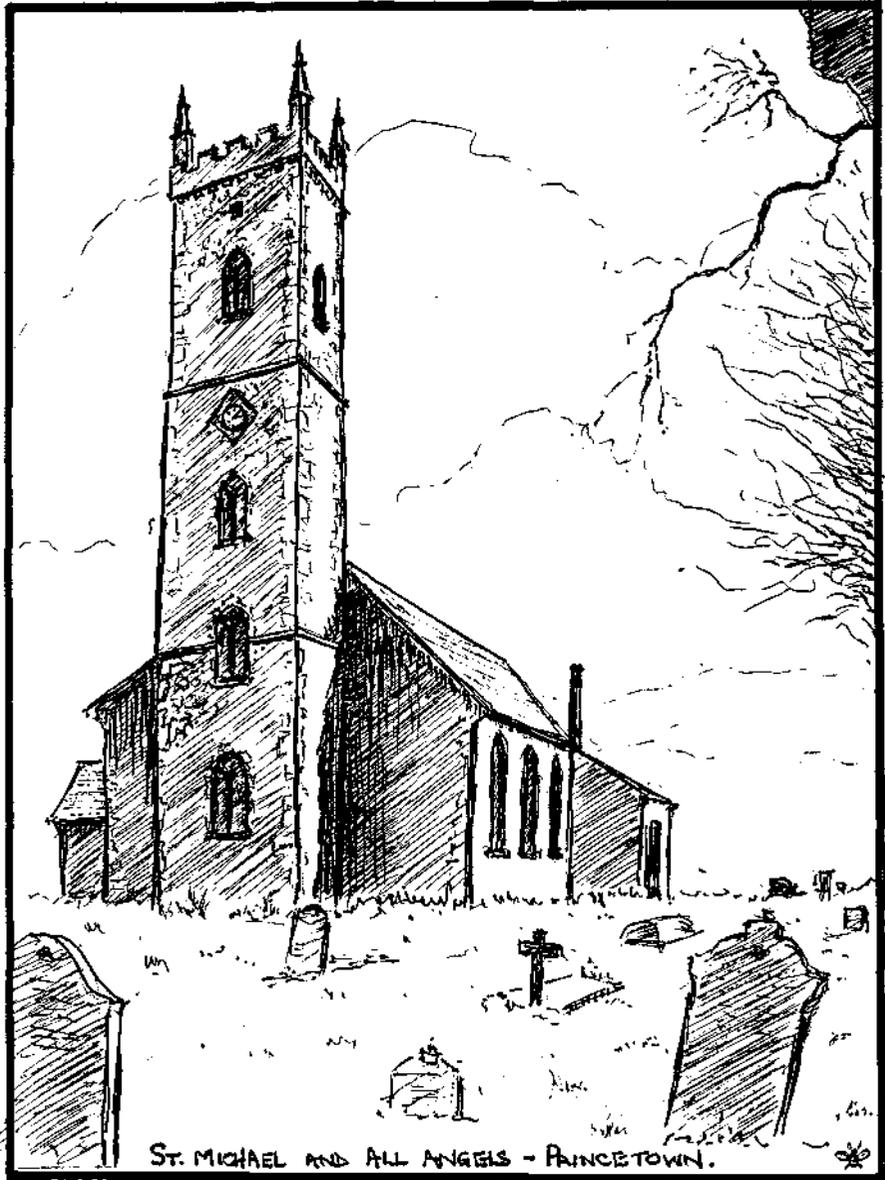
The church stands, grey and forbidding, almost opposite the gates of Dartmoor prison. Its tall tower, once the local landmark, now competes with a soaring television mast, but the landscape would be the poorer without it. Could it ever be without it? Yes! If the church is not sold the church authorities are threatening to demolish it as they cannot afford the upkeep. The last repair costs amounted to £150,000, far beyond the means of the congregation, last reported to be nine worshippers.

As British churches go, St. Michael's is not old. Building began in 1810 when Britain was at war with France, and Dartmoor prison was constructed to hold French prisoners-of-war. The prison and the village of Princetown which served it needed a place of worship, as it was often impossible to cross the moor to the nearest town of Tavistock.

French prisoners began the building, and were joined by Americans who were captured after America went to war with Britain in 1812. The American connection is a surprise to many people as this episode in British history is not dwelt upon. The hostility to America arose because America sided with the French during the Napoleonic Wars and tried to break the British blockade of French ports. An American force invaded Canada and burned Toronto (then York), and a British force captured Washington and burned the White House. On land honours were about even, but at sea the British fleet was superior, and the majority of prisoners in Dartmoor would have been seamen.

The Anglo-American war ended in 1814 with the treaty of Ghent, but that was too late for many poor souls, who, worn out by the harsh regime and the miserable climate of the Moor, lie in the churchyard of St. Michael's. Their graves are unmarked, but they are not forgotten. An American organisation called "The Daughters of 1812", whose ancestors are buried here have preserved links with the church and the village, and have contributed large sums of money for the upkeep of the church.

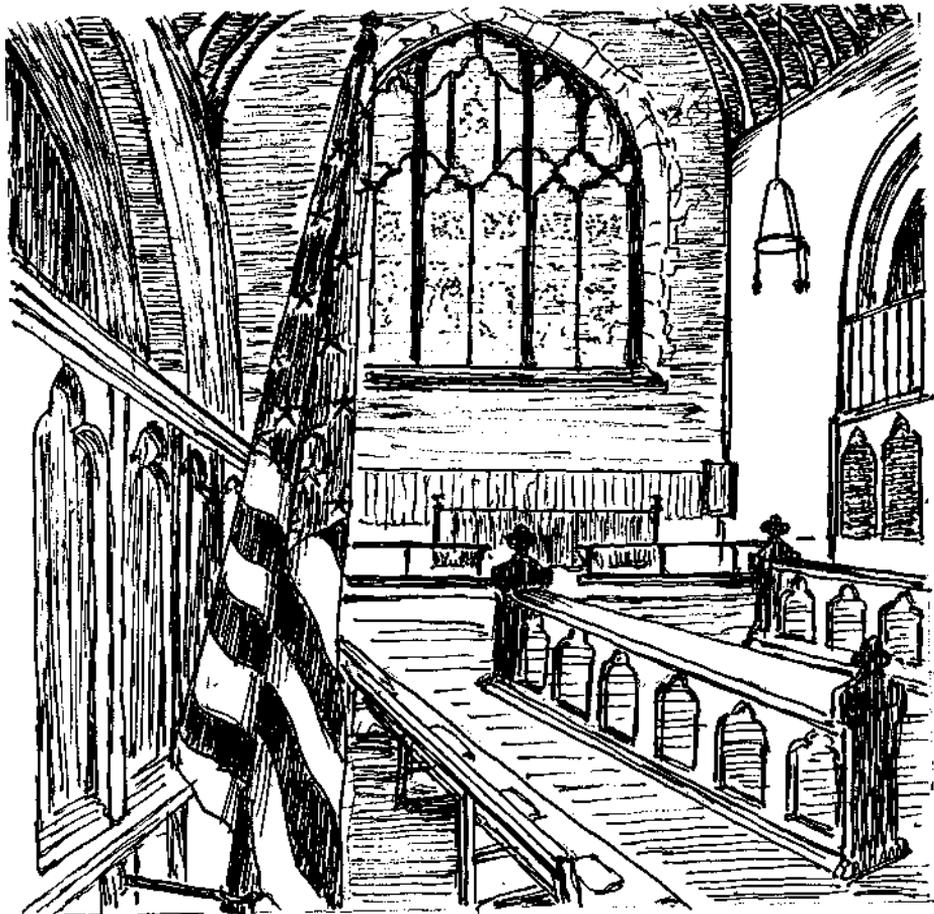
Not surprisingly, the Daughters of 1812 are enraged at the thought of the church being sold, and have appealed to several people in high places to intervene and save it.



ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS - PRINCETOWN.

The churchyard is still in use for burials of prisoners and local people, and is well cared for. Presumably it will still be needed even if the church is sold, so maybe this would not be such a desirable purchase after all?

The French Tricolour and the Stars and Stripes hang inside the church. Wouldn't it be sad if the flags of two nations, now our friends, were lowered because we have deliberately obliterated a piece of history?



NEW MEMBERS News from John Witheridge

Overseas members sharing one magazine per quarter:

- 144 Mrs. June Valerie Gaylard nee Hazell
- 145 Mr. Andrew Stuart Gaylard
- 146 Mrs. Pauline Shelley Gurnett nee Gaylard
- 147 Miss Caroline Barbara Gaylard

Contact address: Mrs. June Gaylard, 25 Juniper Road, Sunnynook, North Shore City, Auckland, New Zealand 1310

(1) June Valerie Gaylard nee Hazell 1944 - Spouse Andrew Stuart Gaylard 1947 - (2) Ronald Arthur Hazell 1914-1989. (3) Glenath Rona Witheridge 1916 - (4) William Hazell 1882-1966 (5) Kate O'Conner-Foxley 1892-1979. (6) James Witheridge 1881-1933. (7) Lilian Punch 1882-1954. (8) William Thomas Hazell (9) Martha Dixon (10) George Albert Foxley (11) ?? O'Conner (12) John Witheridge 1838-1911 (13) Elizabeth Delbridge 1844-1906 (14) Walter Punch 1851-1934. (15) Jane Barbara Corbett 1858-1946. (24) John Witheridge 1802-? (25) Mary Hancock...(48) John Witheridge 1775-... (49) Elizabeth Harris.
Combe Martin 1500-1860s New Zealand 1860s - present day.

We extend a true Witheridge welcome to our newest members from New Zealand. For those of you who have not yet worked it out, June Valerie is the older sister of our very own Velma Metcalfe. June is already living up to Velma's reputation by sending in her first items of family interest,

The first concerned Andrew's family - Andrew's great grandfather William Gaylard was born in 1838 in Stoke under Ham, Somerset. He emigrated to New Zealand in the steamer 'The Lord Worsley'. This ship was wrecked at Te Namu Bay. We are certainly pleased that he survived, Andrew!

The second is a photograph of the wedding group of Andrew and June's daughter Pauline and her husband, Peter Gurnett. We would like to wish them well in their life together.

June will know most of her nearest relatives within the Society - Velma, Carol Goins, John R. Witheridge - but will she be aware of more distant cousins - Amand Calder and her family? Also Peter Witheridge and his family, both from Australia, and more distant relations. The Rev., David Witheridge, Mrs. Janis and Mr. John Witheridge, these are two related families from the USA. There is Albertina Rossiter from Somerset, England and many more. What a great opportunity to get to know one another - fulfilling the main object of the Witheridge Society!

Velma and John Roberts Witheridge are the main researchers for this smaller family branch. I have had the honour to work with Velma many times over the last few years and together we have filled in some missing links. You, the reader, may think that this research is all sewn up. Not at all! Velma has much more to write up - just wait and see! Perhaps June will add her talents to Velma's to bring back to life all the historical happenings from that section of the Witheridge family. The Australian link is expanding so rapidly that virtually each day I have to correct the tree with new information.

I wish you all the best of luck in your research, hoping that you all make new friendships out of existing relationships. Welcome to you all.

NEWS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

by June Gaylard, July 1996

The weather is always a talking point, no matter where you live. Whilst some areas are basking in heat waves some are shivering at the ferocity of their winter.

At this moment ours is a little of both. Yesterday we experienced the coldest day - "just a degree off the City's lowest maximum of 7.2 degrees which was recorded in 1945 when the mercury failed to rise above 8 degrees" In July the average temperature is of 14 or 15 degrees. We rely on gas for heating our homes. At this very moment every available heater is switched on. The fact is that snow did fall in the ranges in Thames. Further south where people are not so thin blooded, they have just had the worst snow storm for 40 years. People were trapped in their cars, truck drivers were marooned, and 600 houses were without power.

Mount Ruapehu continues to erupt, and has once again caused the closure of eight North Island airports, because of the danger of flying through the ash which is thrown up many hundreds of feet into the sky. Noisy displays of exploding lava bombs have placed the ski season in jeopardy for the second year in a row. Thankfully we live far enough away from Mt. Ruapehu to have the colourful displays and not the disadvantages that nearer residents have to cope with.

How is your weather today?

LIST OF BOOKS HELD BY THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

Any member wishing to borrow one of these books should send a stamped, addressed envelope, A5 size, to John Witheridge, Secretary, address inside front cover of magazine.

Beginning Your Family History	George Pelling	FFHS
British Genealogy Miscellaneous Journals	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Census returns 1841-1891 in Microform	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Cheshire. General Bibliography 1 & 2	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Church Registers	Lilian Gibbons	FFHS
Civil Registration	Tom Wood	FFHS
Company & Business Records for Family Historians	Eric Probert	FFHS
Current Publications (Microfiche) by Member Societies		FFHS
Dating Old Photographs 2 nd ed.	Robert Pols	FFHS
English Genealogy	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Families at War		ESFHS
Family History Bookstalls		FFHS
Family History Research in Yorkshire	Pauline Litton	FFHS
Family History Society Secretaries	Gillian Thompson	FFHS
Family History News and Digest 93/94/95.96		FFHS
Hampshire. Genealogical Bibliography	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Handbook 1993/4		FFHS
Hatred Pursued Beyond the Grave	Jane Cox	
Heraldry for Family Historians	Iain Swinnerton	FFHS
How to Tackle Your Family History. Prelim Guide		FFHS
Keeping Your Family Records	Iain Swinnerton	FFHS
Lancashire. Genealogical Bibliography	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Latin for Family Historians	Michael Gandy	FFHS
Lincolnshire. Genealogical Bibliography	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
List of Lecturers 3 rd Edition		FFHS
Londoners' Occupations	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
London & Middlesex. Genealogical Bibliography	Stuart Raymond	FFHS
Marriage, Census and other indexes 5 th & 6 th	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Militian Lists and Musters 1757-1876	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Occupations - a Preliminary List	Joyce Culling	FFHS
Poor Law Documents before 1834	Ann Cole	FFHS
Post Office Archives. PRO Readers Guide No.4	Jane Cox	PRO
Probate Jurisdiction - Where to Look	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Publishing Family History Journals		FFHS
Quarter Sessions Records	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS

BOOK LIST -continued

Record Offices	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Register of One Name Studies 1993/410 th Edition		GOONS
Sources for Family History in the Home	Iain Swinnerton	FFHS
The Book of Trades vol. 3 1818	Beryl Hurley	WFHS
The Family Historian's Enquire Within	Pauline Saul	FFHS
The Hearth Tax and Stuart Tax Lists	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
The Protestation Returns 1641-42	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
The Surnames of Wales	J. & S. Rowlands	FFHS
Treasurer's Guide for F.H. Societies	Peter Dewdney	FFHS
Tudor Taxation Records. Guide for Users	Richard Hoyle	PRO
Using Computers for Genealogy	David Hawgood	FFHS
Using Marriage Records - Family Historians	Pauline Litton	FFHS
Using Newspapers and Periodicals	Colin Chapman	FFHS
Victuallers Licences	Jeremy Gibson	FFHS
Was Your Grandfather a Railwayman?	Tom Richards	FFHS

TAILPIECE

From All Saints' Church Magazine, Lightwater: "The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the basement on Friday."

?? A new idea for Witheridge Day perhaps??

THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Alderton on Monday, 6th May, 1996

Recorded by John Witheridge

Chairman: Graham Browne

In Graham's opening address, he thanked Mrs. Carol Goins for a donation towards the expenses of the Witheridge Day celebrations, and welcomed all members attending, particularly Kathy and Paul Witheridge, who had travelled a great distance to be with us. He also welcomed our honoured guests, Sheila and Tom Jewell and Ernest Hamley.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Joan and Harry Payne, Bob Thomas, Francoise and Anthony Witheridge, Zoe and Jason Cook, Annette Witheridge, Mayda Witheridge, Barbara and Reg Popplestone, Carol and Ron Goins, June and David Witheridge, also from Gordon Amand (Velvins), Sandra Dove (Velvins), Doreen Heaton and Ann Potter (Northmores).

2. Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting

The Minutes as published in the Witheridge Times, Volume 9, Number 2, Summer 1995 were accepted and passed as read.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

Kim Cook raised points concerning the tenth anniversary meeting next year and the proposed venue in Witheridge Village. These were discussed at this time and also at a later period in the day.

4. Chairman's Report

Graham began his report by quoting the objectives set out in sections of our constitution, and indicated success in these fields, but he pointed out that we are still contemplating a new hand book. The report was accepted.

5. Secretary's Report

Mayda's final report indicated the growth our Society has made throughout the country, and indeed there has been an awakening all round the world of our existence. She made

one recommendation that the Society lodges a permanent advertisement in "The Family Tree Magazine" to expand further in this field.

In the discussion and questions on the report it was pointed out that we need to lodge copies of our magazine in the major libraries. Col. Iain Swinnerton has been asked to write an article for our magazine concerning to whom and where we should send copies. The report was accepted.

The Chairman then made reference to the work that Mayda has done over the years and thanked her for her support.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Our advertising all around the world via Internet, CompuServe and magazine is working. We do need to do more. Our membership has grown and in all we have lost only 7 members since our formation. This is quite abnormal in modern family societies. They tend to lose just as many as they gain each year, and in many cases lose more. The report was accepted.

7. Treasurer's Report

Richard gave his report and produced on a separate sheet the full accounts, finally telling the meeting that we had £731.94p in our account. He stated that in his opinion there was no need to raise subscriptions this year. The report was accepted.

8. Research Co-ordinator's Report

Research in Australia and New Zealand, research here in England and new research in Canada is gradually building up, together with research into families who married into our family. There is a need for more collective co-operation between researchers. It was agreed that there were many areas where we should all concentrate. The report was accepted.

9. Election of Officers

Chairman	Graham Browne	Prop. by Kim	Second. John
Vice Chairman	June Witheridge	John	Philip
Secretary	John Witheridge	Philip	Joyce S.
Membership Secretary	John Witheridge	Kim	Philip
Treasurer	Richard Witheridge	John	Kim
Assistant Treasurer	Susan Witheridge	Kim	Philip
Editor	Joyce Browne	Kim	Philip

Co-ordinator	Richard Witheridge	Prop. by	John	Second.	Graham
North American Rep.	Kathy Witheridge		John		Joyce B.
Publisher	Philip Witheridge		John		Paul
Australian Rep.	Dorothy Witheridge		John		Philip
New Zealand Rep.	Velma Metcalfe		John		Philip

Committee Members: Annette Witheridge, Mark Witheridge, Joyce Stephens

10. Any Other Business

Kim suggested that David Witheridge of Minneapolis be made Honorary Vice President of the Society in recognition and thanks for the meticulous work that he has done for the Society. There is to be a meeting in America to present a scroll to commemorate this. The meeting voted that, as a good will gesture, a sum of money be offered towards the cost of the hire of the venue at which this presentation will take place.

It was decided that the Witheridge Day meeting and the AGM. for next year would be on Sunday, 4th May, 1997, in Witheridge Village, with the possibility of using the 3rd and 5th May for excursion to places of local interest. This was agreed.

Recorded by John Witheridge Secretary, Witheridge Society, 5th May, 1996 at Alderton

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT. MAY 1996

I would like to quote from the Society's constitution regarding the Society's objectives - our first objective is to "bring together families bearing the name Witheridge or Wetheridge and their descendants". I'm sure we have done this during 1995 - thanks mainly to Kim, Kathy, John Philip and Joyce and our Australian members too. We have mainly had success with the WITHERIDGE name, but not the WETHERIDGES.

Dorothy Witheridge, as our first Australian representative, has already organised and held the first Australian Day which took the form of a picnic. Kathy, Our North American representative, has, as always, worked enthusiastically in spite of considerable personal difficulties which she has experienced, and has given the Society a tremendous amount of support and valuable information.

Our second objective is to encourage the study of genealogy and the history of the Witheridge families. Again I am sure that we have fulfilled this objective by the untiring efforts of our researchers at home and overseas.

Our third objective is to produce regularly the Witheridge Times - this has been done very efficiently due to the efforts of our editor, and Philip our publisher. Our thanks to them.

Regarding the Society's financial state, it is, as Richard will tell us, reasonably healthy and very much in order.

Our membership numbers are still satisfactory, thanks mainly of course to John and Kathy.

Last year Joyce and I had the pleasure of entertaining Mavis Witheridge, and some other members at our home. Mavis was recruited by John and she lives near Perth, Australia, and was over here on holiday. She is a member of the Tavistock family. The day was almost a mini Witheridge Day, as John will tell you.

The production of an updated Society handbook is still to be worked out, but as was the case last year, officers have not had the opportunity to progress further with it. It has not been forgotten and will, I am sure, be discussed and moved forward before our next AGM.

Graham Browne Chairman

THE TREASURER'S REPORT, MAY 1996

This year's financial statement has been much easier to prepare and it has now been possible to show last year's figures for comparison, although some explanation may be necessary, particularly regarding the membership income. This may not always reflect the true income, as some members pay in advance, sometimes two or three years in advance.

This year, again, I have made the statement for the year up to 30th April, 1996. This is to make sure that all payments for the year, since the last AGM., have been included and that the final total reflects the funds currently held at the time of the AGM.

There is little to say about the funds again this year except that we have just the right amount in the bank for a Society of our size.

This year we have had a donation to pay for the cleaning of the hall after our meeting. Next year this should be added to our expenditure. This year we have had a one-off payment for a scroll to present to the Rev. David Witheridge, who becomes our Honorary Vice President.

I recommend that the subscription rate stays as it is for another twelve months at least.

Richard Witheridge Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR TO 30TH APRIL, 1996

1995 INCOME

£618.6	Brought forward from 1994/5		£761.62
£477.52	Membership subscriptions	£356.00	
£ 28.00	Donation to Society	£ 34.50	
£ 0.50	Printing on Witheridge Day	£ 00.00	
£ 21.00	Sales of back copies of magazine	£ 11.00	
£ 8.61	Postage paid in for back copies	£ 00.00	
£ 0.97	Interest in Membership Secretary account	£ 1.06	
<u>£536.60</u>	Total Income	<u>£402.56</u>	
<u>£1155.27</u>	GRAND TOTAL		<u>£1164.18</u>

EXPENDITURE

£ 36.00	Payment for hire of hall	£ 42.00	
£179.63	Payment re P.H Witheridge's claim for printing 4 vols. Magazine and dispatch plus W. Day invitations	£180.40	
£125.02	Membership Secretary's account for correspondence, etc.,	£146.84	
£ 8.00	Subscription to Guild of One Name Studies	£ 8.00	
£ 20.00	Subscription to Federation of Family History Societies. Part year paid Aug. 1994		No part sub this year
£ 25.00	Subscription for Federation of Family History Societies. Year 1996. Paid Dec. 1995	£ 25.00	
	Miscellaneous payment - Scroll for David Witheridge, Vice President of Society	£ 30.00	
<u>£393.65</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO APRIL 30 TH 1996	<u>£432.24</u>	
<u>£761.62</u>	FINAL BALANCE		
	(statement dated 19 th April, 1996)	<u>£731.94</u>	

We believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30th April, 1996.

Signed: R. WITHERIDGE Treasurer Dated 3rd May, 1996
S. WITHERIDGE Assistant Treasurer Dated 3rd May, 1996
G. BROWNE Auditor Dated 6th May, 1996

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT, MAY 1996

Another year has come and gone - this happens in the blink of an eye - where did the year go?

Once more our letter writing department has been working overtime. Last year the Society was represented at two genealogical fairs, six conferences, one Federation AGM, one Guild AGM., one Council AGM. You were given a world wide profile on Internet and CompuServe. Your Society as been talked about and has been the centre point of many lectures throughout the country along with many of the great names in genealogy and family history. Your Society holds its own level of standing - up there with the best! Your history is written about in all the best journals and indeed the Witheridge Times is read by all the major organisations.

There is room for improvement in this area. A continuous Society advertisement in the Family Tree magazine might bring in more interested persons.

Another Witheridge newsletter hit the press this year (at a cost of one million dollars per issue!) Member Anthony Witheridge, the son of Dorothy our Australian representative is the editor. We will be sending some items to add to his next production run.

Other than this not much has been happening - oh yes! - I managed another poem!

Mayda Witheridge Secretary

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT. MAY 1996

This year we have gone from strength to strength. Our membership register has reached 143 individuals, well over ten members have joined this year. For the size of the family we represent, this is very good. At a meeting last week I was asked how many members we gained in a year, and how many we lost. When I explained that we had lost only seven in the time that the Society has been running, people were amazed. Other societies run at an equal number - they gain what they lose. Our new membership is changing in its type of person. Now we are gaining a high proportion who are already interested in genealogy.

For instance, we have just received an indirect approach from an Eric Witheridge on the roots CompuServe. We have two colleagues to thank for the interception of this message

my good friend Mr. Ernest Hamley, and a much newer friend, Mr. Iain Kerr. It is becoming very obvious that we need to enter this world of computers. Our days of operating on word processors are coming to an end.

From the financial aspect membership subscriptions are flowing in, and I am sure that we are holding our own in this respect, but Richard will know the real value of our funds.

From an overall and external point of view, our society is now widely known. I attend a great many gatherings, meetings and conferences. I am being increasingly asked to talk on the genealogical subject and invariably the topic is turned to our own society. It seems that we are somewhat abnormal! We have a large contingent of younger members, we research in wider fields than other societies, our activities cover wider areas. This coming year, with your permission I would like to enter our magazine into the Elizabeth Simpson awards, and send our magazine to the British Library and many other institutions. Perhaps then we might start to produce a new handbook in a radical style.

As you will know by now, I am perhaps almost a political figure with the various movements in genealogy. I must admit I like it, but my main object is to further our Society and the research we undertake. This may take some of my spare time away from our membership, but I ask you to bear with me in this. You will gain by the input to our Society in the long term.

John Witheridge Membership Secretary.

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT, MAY 1996

This last year's research has been very good, thanks to the efforts of our researchers.

A lot of the findings have already been reported in the magazine so this report will, in the main be re-capping.

Firstly contact was made with the Velvin family and information provided on the marriage of Sarah Witheridge to John Velvin in 1851. The Velvin family were still in Ermington when I lived there and were farmers. Much other information was also provided which will be useful in the continuing research.

Research taking place in Australia and New Zealand is now presenting us with new information and this is thanks to the efforts of Dorothy and Velma.

Further research has been taking place on parish registers and the GRO., and searches for connections with Cecil Frank Witheridge and John Pengelly Bussell/Witheridge (the latter

still unresolved). The Brooking/Witheridge marriage still presents more questions than answers. Searches into Barnstaple, Fremington, Tavistock, Bradworthy and Yealmpton families are still going on. Searches are also being carried out for Witheridge who were connected with the sea.

In Canada, Kathy has contacted Ivor Witheridge the son of Sgt. Major John Witheridge, and this has provided the answer to a particular problem. Sgt. Major John turns out to be John Northmore Witheridge from the Ermington branch. His son mentions names of people who can be identified on the Ermington tree and a few who were still alive when I lived there. Ivor has also sent us a photograph of his elder sister's grave, which has the words at the bottom "H F Vincent Ivybridge".

I have seen the grave stone, which is a small white cross to Evelyn Mary who died at two months old. It is inscribed "Evelyn Mary Aged 2 Months of John and M Witheridge. December 1905. The Lord is my Shepherd". The second name was unclear. This left me confused as the only J N W known to me at that time was married to Maria, i.e., Sgt. John's father and mother. So another question has been answered. H F Vincent was the undertaker at Ivybridge and handled all funerals at Ermington during my time there.

This report does not cover all the research but at least gives an idea of the efforts being extended by the researchers, for which they deserve our thanks.

Richard Witheridge Research Co-Ordinator

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY - continued from front cover

Representative Australia	Mrs. Dorothy Witheridge, 95, Vimiera Road, Eastwood, NSW Australia 2122
Representative Canada and North America	Mrs. K.M. Witheridge, 343, Bright Street, Sarnia, Ontario. Canada N7T 465
Representative New Zealand	Mrs. Velma Metcalfe, 49, Chester Road, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand

Committee Members:-

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

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