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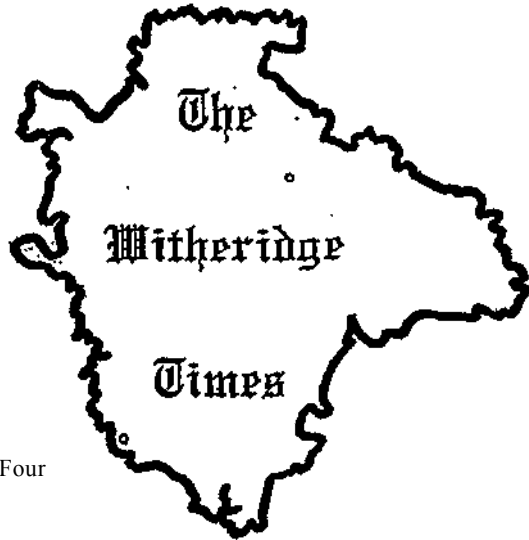
Number 4

Winter 1996

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Continued Inside Back Cover



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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS



As a New Year approaches we take stock of the old year, sometimes with a sense of pride at achievement, and sometimes with regret at the lack of it. I confess to both emotions.

Our magazine aims to bring information to members and I feel pleased at every new story, and doubly pleased when we can conclude it, as we did with the tale of the two Witheridge brothers from the Tavistock family who sailed to New Zealand in the ship "Dallam Tower", although I would like to know whether the old anchor found in Wellington harbour is that from the Dallam Tower?

The news of the eruption of Mt. Ruapehu arrested our attention, but our television and news bulletins are now silent on the matter, is the volcano itself now silent?

I have no doubt that the story of the Thomas family is not yet over, and I know that Captain Edward Witheridge, Mariner, is still occupying John's attention as well as mine, so I look forward to more naval stories in the new year.

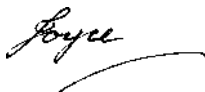
One regret is that the story concerning our 'Wanted' John Witheridge is by no means finished, but at least we know more about him than we did when the first article was published.

This year our first article in computers for genealogy appeared, but so far there has been no follow up (the Editor is not qualified to write one!)

Another source of pleasure is the section on new members and their families. I think it is remarkable that this year all of our new members are from overseas - Australia, Canada and New Zealand - is there a moral here somewhere?

This edition covers a wide geographical area, and we hope that our magazines for the coming year will continue to do so.

As we move forward to the coming year we send our best wishes for the future to all our readers, and look forward to meeting some of you in 1997. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all, and as Charles Dicken's Tiny Tim said "God Bless Us Every One!"

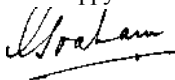


GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I take the opportunity of an approaching New Year to send my good wishes to all our members and their families, and I would like to thank all those whose hard work has helped the society to grow.

As an 'honorary' Witheridge myself I send special thanks to all those who have supported the enthusiasts, and assure them that their support is greatly appreciated.

I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 1997!



CORNISH FISHERFOLK

by John Witheridge

Porthleven, Cornwall

Some of the inspiration and information for this article was provided by a book recommended to me by two separate individuals, one a genealogist with whom I have contact and the other member John James of Canada. The book is "Facing South West" by Merville Matthews, and my thanks go to the author. John James's research into the Porthleven family is first class and I am very grateful to him.

The fluctuation in the price of fish in general and pilchards in particular has had a profound effect on the lives of the Cornish fisherman and his family. In August 1880, pilchards could be purchased on the dock for as little as six shillings per one thousand. The fishing stock was so plentiful that at that time the small tradesman could not earn the most meagre of livings.

In 1886 the mackerel season was a complete failure, causing great hardships for the fishing families, to the extent that a certain Rev. J.E. Hargreaves (a Methodist Minister) set up a soup kitchen at his own expense. The kitchen, open three days a week in the months of April and May, was set up in his own house (Bosian House). On each of these days he produced 11 gallons of quality soup. Later this same year the Cured Pilchard trade received a set back when no orders were received from the main sales sources. A delegation was sent to Italy to sell the product.

It seems to me that the fishing industry held nothing but grief. For instance, in 1883 a fisherman's wife aged 44 years, and with nine children, was unable to support her family and they were at starvation level. Her husband and one son were fishing at Plymouth with the Porthleven fleet, and had earned nothing for several weeks. She had to apply to the Board of Guardians at Helston and ask for help. In many similar cases the Board had little to offer. When indeed it did offer assistance invariably it was by way of a loan. But often they gave sound advice. They encouraged the younger men to leave the fishing fleet and to seek employment in the mercantile fleet. This advice was not always received in the way it was meant. Young wives and their men were reluctant to be separated for months on end, but the older fisherfolk did realise the potential to earn money to pay for food and rent, although this in turn meant that the man would be away from home for some time before he could return with the money which would ease the situation.

A system was devised whereby wives could draw part of the wages from the shipping office while their men were away, making life much easier.

The advice to leave the fishing fleet was heeded by a young Philemon Witheridge, and in the course of events he was able to visit Australia. Although it is a great pity that the same advice was not accepted by his brother, Robert Witheridge.

Tragically, Robert was washed overboard from the boat 'The Guiding Star' in Plymouth waters off Start point, and was drowned. A collection was taken at the Wesleyan Chapel on behalf of his family and totalled £10.0.0d. His widow successfully applied to the Helston Board of Guardians for a continuance of five shillings a week in support of herself and nine of her children.

Elizabeth Jane	b 1859	Emily	b 1871
Edmund	b 1861	Catherine	b 1875
Mary Ann	b 1863	Mary Kitchen	b 1877
Anne	b 1865	Charlotte Mary	b 1877
Jane Thomas	b 1866	Robert	b 1880
Martha Pears	b 1869		

You will notice that there are more than nine children here. Elizabeth Jane, the oldest child had married by the time of Robert's accident, and Edmund died as an infant in May 1862. This leaves nine.

The figure of five shillings a week, awarded by the Board of Guardians was quite a princely sum. Elizabeth Ann Witheridge carried out her duties as a single parent (quite a different meaning in those days) with many sacrifices to her own well being. She was truly a loving mother and a wife devoted to the memory of her man Robert. She died in 1908 at the age of 69 years, which would seem to give her a birth date of circa 1839 which was two years younger than her husband Robert.

I am sure that this information will send me off on another of my inter-family researches some time soon. Strangely though, as a footnote to the Kitchen family - Elizabeth Anne's youngest child Robert married a girl in Kerrier named Martha J (What the surname was I have no idea, but it will not elude me for long I can assure you). Robert junior also died at a youngish age (59) in Kerrier in the year 1939, and his widow Martha then married a member of the Kitchen family.

Another story perhaps?

Seen engraved on a table top tomb in the churchyard of Lydford, Devon

Here lies in the horizontal position
The outside case of George Routleigh,
Watchmaker
Whose abilities in that line were an honour to his profession.
Integrity was the mainspring
And prudence the regulator
Of all the actions of his Life
Humane, generous and liberal, his hand never stopped
Till he had relieved distress.
So nicely regulated were all his motions
That he never went wrong
Except when set a-going
By People
Who did not know his key
Even then he was easily set right again.
He had the art of disposing of his time
So well
That his hours glided away
In one continual round
Of pleasure and delight
Till an unlucky minute put period to His existence.
He departed this Life
November 14th 1802 aged 57
Wound up
In hopes of being taken in hand By his Maker
And of being thoroughly cleaned and repaired
And set a-going
In the World to come

IN PURSUIT

by Joyce Browne

When first we try to trace a long dead ancestor we begin with a clue, go on to search for records, certificates, Census information, entries in parish registers and so on. Then we evaluate the record, ask who made it - can we trust it? When we are satisfied then we have 'found' an ancestor and he/she is added to the family tree.

So it was with our "Wanted" John Witheridge. Our first clue came from the record of the Summary Court of Devon, 1809. Further information was found at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London - the record of his offence, conviction and sentence. The parish registers of North Tawton and Halwell yielded confirmation of his marriages and the birth of his sons (two Williams and a David) (See Witheridge Times, Summer 1996)

All this is reliable, but these are records of events in a man's life witnessed or attested to by others. Seldom are we fortunate enough to have an account by a man speaking of himself, but in the case of John Witheridge we have his own version of his life made in a sworn statement.

Through the good offices of our friend Sheila Jewell, who discovered the document, we have seen a copy of the Settlement Examination of John Witheridge who was applying for a certificate of settlement in the parish of Halwell. It was sworn on oath before two Justices of the Peace for the County of Devon on the 12th October, 1802, and it reads:-

"Examination of John Wetheridge who is now resident in the Parish of Halwell in the County of Devon, Husbandman, taken on Oath before us, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County (this) twelfth Day of October, 1802. Touching the place of his last Settlement. Who saith he hath heard and believed that he was born in the Parish of Bideford in the said County and lived (with) his parents there until he was about the age of thirteen years. That he was apprenticed by his Parents (the words "by his Parents" crossed out and the word "himself written over) to one John Bourn of the Parish of Littleham in the said County, Yeoman, that 5 pounds were ?given with him and the Indenture he understood was enrolled. He lived with him 7 years. That he quitted the service of the said John Bourn by mutual consent about half a year before his time expired and hired himself as an Hostler to Mrs. Pratt of the Old London Inn in the parish of St. Sidwell's in the City of Exeter as a yearly

"servant at Five Pounds ten shillings per annum and continued in her service eighteen months. That he quitted her service and hired himself with one John Cook of the parish of Crediton in the said County, Yeoman, as a yearly servant at the wage of Five Pounds seven shillings per annum and remained in his service one year and a half. That he quitted the service of the said John Cook and entered into His Majesty's Royal Navy where he continued seven years and five months. That about eight months since he came into the Parish of Halwell in the said County where he now resides and works with one Anthony Goodwin of the said Parish, Yeoman, as a weekly servant, but is not his servant on Sundays, nor does he live in the house. And this Examinant further saith that he never did any other act whereby to gain a settlement to the best of his knowledge or belief. About a fortnight (since?) he intermarried with Jane Emmett Widow."

Taken and signed before us the day and year above written	A HAWKINS I. ? SEARLE	The mark of John Wetheridge Crediton
--	--------------------------	--

So there we have it! Now we know that he was born and lived in Bideford until he was about 21 years of age, you will ask if we have found his parents. The short answer is "No, we haven't!"

Let us work back from the date of John's examination to find an approximate date for his birth.

"About eight months since he came into the Parish of Halwell...."

October, 1802	- eight months	=	Jan/Feb 1802
January, 1802	seven years five months in		
	Royal Navy (assuming he came straight		
	to Halwell from Navy)		
	joined Navy	=	August 1794
August 1794	1 year and a half service		
	with John Cook	=	February 1793
February 1793	1 year and a half service		
	with Mrs. Pratt, Exeter		August 1791
August 1791	Quit apprenticeship 6 months		
	before time expired (7 years)		
			1784
1784	Aged about thirteen when		
	apprenticed	=	Birth c1771

So far we have not found an appropriate birth in the Bideford registers near this date.

Before we look any further for John let us look at the background to his statement.

In 1662 Justices of the Peace had the power to order the removal of newcomers into a parish if they were likely to, or had become, a charge on the parish Poor Rate. A working class newcomer could be asked questions about his background and if he had not obtained a certificate of settlement and fell on hard times, could be transported back to the parish which was deemed to be responsible for him.

A newcomer could obtain a certificate if he fulfilled certain conditions such as being apprenticed to a parishioner, or by serving a year in a parish, or by being able to pay certain rent or rate demands. With these qualifications in mind, let us look again at John's statement.

We have an advantage over the Justices of the Peace - whatever John says or does not say concerning his whereabouts, we know that he was in North Tawton in 1798 when he married Mary Atkins, a fact that he has omitted to mention. If John's statement is chronologically correct then he was in the Navy when he married. There is no mention of this in the parish register. It does say that he was "a sojourner", meaning that he was a visitor from somewhere else, and if the baptism date for his son William is to be believed then he must have visited North Tawton some months before the wedding.

Was he on leave from the Navy at that time?

'That time' was in the middle of the Napoleonic Wars, when great sea battles were being fought, and Britain's Navy was busy blockading French ports to prevent their trade and to prevent invasion of Britain. Men served on ships for years without setting foot on land, and when they came into port were often not allowed on shore for fear that they would desert. North Tawton is not near any port. This raises the question 'Was John in the Navy in 1798?'

Could he have joined the Navy after his marriage? If he did, that could have accounted for his leaving North Tawton and his wife and son, but then he could not have served for seven years and five months before going to Halwell.

Supposing the account of John's places of work is correct, but the time sequence is wrong - supposing he joined the Navy when he left his apprenticeship circa 1791, and served for seven years and five months - that would bring his discharge up to 1798, a significant year for him. He could have left North Tawton after a few months, and then served his eighteen months with Mrs. Pratt in Exeter and eighteen months with John Cook in Crediton.

This statement was sworn on oath, but are we looking at a truthful testimony or one carefully constructed by a man who knew the ropes?

John would have known the rule that residence must be established for at least a year before settlement could be claimed, and he is careful to state that his periods as a hired servant were each for a year and a half, giving the impression that he is not a fly-by-night vagabond. He states that in his work in Halwell he does not live in the house, maybe so that the J.P's would think that even if he lost his present employment he would have a place of his own to live.

As a former sailor in His Majesty's Navy he would command some respect, and his designation as 'husbandman' would indicate that he had some farming skills higher than that of 'labourer'. He was anxious to make a good impression, and of course it is not surprising that the North Tawton episode is missing from the account.

Is that all that is missing?

We know that his date of birth is missing, but I show here some dates which we have found in the IGI and the Bideford registers. These I give without comment, but they may give food for thought.

Bideford Parish Register

Baptism

7th December, 1760 John, son of John and Anne Wetheridge

Marriage

31st January 1791 John Wetheridge married Ann Lee Of This Parish

Baptism

6th November 1791 William son of John and Ann Witheridge.

Burial

10th March 1793 Ann Witheridge

Could our John possibly be older than we think?

We are trying to make a more detailed search of the Bideford registers and those of some adjacent parishes. Naval records are at the Record Office in Kew, but with no name of any ship in which John served it would be very difficult to search - but not impossible.

We cannot say that we have got our man, but we are still in pursuit!

Copy of a letter received by John Witheridge, Secretary

THE POSTCARD INDEX

Colin Buck, 36 Kirkwood Way, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7EX

Dear Mr. Witheridge,

I am writing to inform you about THE POSTCARD INDEX. The index is a collection of many thousands of picture postcards dated between 1899 and 1950, the vast majority being pre 1920. All the cards are indexed by the recipients name and address. The aim is quite simple. TO TRY AND UNITE THE OLD POSTCARDS WITH MODERN DAY DESCENDANTS OF THE RECIPIENT.

I am writing to all the "One-Name" societies at the suggestion of Colonel Ian Swinnerton who has looked at my service and is generously allowing me to use his name in my communications. The Swinnerton Society has registered their name on my "Interests Index".

For a £3.00 registration fee I will register your Society's name with any or all of its variants. I will search the present index (14,000 names) and inform you of any that conform to your requests, i.e., anywhere or in certain areas. I will also regularly check the names, as I do with all the names in the "interests index" against the hundreds of new cards I receive every month. If cards are found which are of interest to you then the charges are:-

£1 per Postcard. Subsequent cards, for the same address, 25 pence.

Should anyone wish to purchase the first published index of 10,000 names then they are available for £8.00 or on disk (Microsoft Works database) at £5.00.

If any of your members wish to register any of their other interests then the charge is £3.00 for four names and locations and the system of registration and search is the same.

I would stress that the index is purely a hobby, any monies received are used to purchase further postcards for the index.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

COLIN BUCK

**TAKE A FEW MOMENTS OFF FROM THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AND
TEST YOUR KNOWLEGE ON OUR QUIZ!**

Old Occupations

1. If your ancestor was a "*hind*" what was his job?
2. What did a '*Frobisher*' do?.
3. What was a '*Fellmonger*'?
4. What was a '*Costermonger*'?.
5. What was the original occupation of a '*Huckster*'?
6. What was the work of a '*Flatman*'?l
7. What did a '*Mercer*' sell?
8. What was a '*Feroner*'?
9. A '*Copeman*' was originally a dealer, but by the 18th century the word had come to mean - what?
10. What work did a '*Currier*' perform?

Legal

11. What was '*pannage*'?
12. What was '*burgage*'?
13. What was '*curtilage*'?
14. What is a '*caveat*'?
15. What is a '*messuage*'?

General

16. What was a '*Bantling*'?
17. What was a '*Bridewell*'?

General - continued

18. When did the first eleven ships with convicts, mariners, officers and wives, land in Australia?
19. When was the first Canadian parliament created?.....
20. When was Income Tax first levied in England?.....

Answers on the next page - if you have over fifteen correct you should be setting the quiz!. If your score is between ten and fifteen you have done well, and if it is under ten - well maybe you have learned something.

In old documents the quarter days when rent was payable and tenancies were entered into or terminated are often referred to by the names of the saints without a date given. Saints days or 'feasts' are also referred to by the name of the saint. Here is a list of the 'feast' days with the dates given:-

Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ	1 st January
Epiphany	6 th January, Twelfth day
Purification of the Blessed Virgin	2 nd February
St. Matthias the Apostle	24 th February
<u>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin</u>	<u>25th March, Lady Day</u>
St. Mark the Evangelist	25 th April
SS Philip and James the Apostles	1 st May, May day
Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ	Movable
<u>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</u>	<u>24th June, Midsummer Day</u>
St. Peter the Apostle	29 th June
St. James the Apostle	25 th July
St. Bartholomew the Apostle	24 th August
St. Matthew the Apostle	21 st September
<u>St. Michael the Archangel</u>	<u>29th September, Michaelmas</u>
St. Luke the Evangelist	18 th October
SS Simon and Jude the Apostles	28 th October
All Saints	1 st November
St. Andrew the Apostle	30 th November
St. Thomas the Apostle	21 st December
<u>Nativity of our Lord</u>	<u>25th December</u>
St. Stephen the Martyr	26 th December
St. John the Evangelist	27 th December
Holy Innocents	28 th December, Childermas

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

1. *'Hind'* A farm labourer or a household servant
2. *'Frobisher'* A polisher of armour - sometimes called a 'Furbisher'
3. *'Fellmonger'* A dealer in hides, especially sheepskins
4. *'Costermonger'* Originally a seller of apples, later anyone who sold fruit and vegetables from a barrow.
5. *'Huckster'* Originally a seller of ale in the street, later a retailer of small goods from a shop or booth.
6. *'Flatman'* A boatman who sailed or worked on flat bottomed boats, mainly on rivers or canals.
7. *'Mercer'* A dealer in silk, cotton or linen goods.
8. *'Feroner'* A dealer in iron goods, an ironmonger
9. *'Copeman'* Originally a dealer but by the 18th century the word had come to mean a receiver of stolen goods.
10. *'Currier'* A dresser of leather.
11. *'Pannage'* The right to pasture swine, or the payment for that right in woodland.
12. *'Burgage'* The tenure of land on a yearly rent
13. *'Curtilage'* A plot of land near the house, often a vegetable garden - this term found in Wills.
14. *'Caveat'* A warning notice concerning a Will, usually that it is about to be disputed.
15. *'Messuage'* A house with its outbuildings and yard and sometimes its garden.
16. *'Bantling'* A term sometimes found in parish registers meaning an illegitimate child.
17. *'Bridewell'* A county gaol, later a prison in London.
18. *'Arrival in Australia'* 1788
19. *'CanadianParliament'* 1841
20. *'Income Tax'* 1799

A NEW ZEALAND FAMILY

by John Witheridge

This is the story of a member of a Witheridge family who lived in London in the years prior to World War II and emigrated to New Zealand during his twenties.

David Witheridge of the Wembury family was the child of William Henry Witheridge and his second wife, Dorothy Small. His half brothers and sisters were much older. In fact they had children of David's own age. It is said that he was a lonely child living in a large house in Kingston-on-Thames. His father, William Henry, died in 1939 when David was about ten years old. The family business had failed, so David and his mother moved away - mother Dorothy taking a job as a nurse on the boats moored on the river Thames, giving valuable assistance to the injured during the Blitz.

David was never a strong child and in many ways his poor health became unbearable and he spent many months in Guildford Hospital suffering from that terrifying illness, rheumatic fever. It is understood that he was lucky to live through that period. Finally the day came when he was discharged from hospital and he went to live with his mother's sister in Ilford.

The years rolled by and when he was old enough, David joined the Royal Air Force. In 1949 he joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force. This was a period in time when most of the men serving in the defence forces had been demobbed and it meant that the New Zealand government recruited ex-servicemen from the UK to join the RNZAF as part of the immigration scheme.

David was with a draft of twenty five to thirty men who sailed out on the SS Atlantis from Southampton, taking six weeks to complete the journey and calling at Suez, Aden, Colombo, Freemantle and finally Wellington. By all accounts the journey out was very enjoyable, and they had the experience of travelling on a large steamer, but as in all cases where long journeys are concerned, one is only too pleased to disembark at the journey's end.

Nineteen fifty one sees New Zealand in the throes of a dock strike at all of the ports in the country. Guess who is 'volunteered' to keep the ports working? All officers and men alike shared in the loading and unloading of cargoes, each one doing his bit for the new country.

Now at this time, a young lady (Evelyn) back home in England found the urge to enlist in the WRNZAF. Life was a bit tame after serving for four years in the ATS during the war. So the attraction of serving in New Zealand in the Women's Air Force was strong and an ideal choice.

Eve also sailed out in six weeks on the SS Atlantis, finally berthing in Wellington on the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1951. A public holiday had been declared and the town was deserted. All shops and offices were closed. This seemed to exaggerate the quiet of the town and in Eve's own words, everything seemed slow and quiet and the cars seemed as though they had come out of the ark.

David by this time was an instructor at the Admin School at Whennapai in Auckland, then at the Central Trade Test Board at Woodbourne. This was followed by a tour at the Air Department in an administrative capacity and later at the Central Recruiting Office in Wellington. In this town our two characters met at a Station dance.

When our young Queen went out to New Zealand, just months after her coronation, she presented new Colours to the RNZAF. David was on parade. Eve was actually involved in the drawing up of the designs for these colours (what an honour). Some years later, having completed six years in the WRNZAF, Eve retired and returned home to England. David followed when on leave and they married at Shenfield, Essex, in 1958.

They returned to Wellington to live, David still as a member of the Air Force. Brian and Susan their first two children were born there. Tony, their third child was born in Blenheim, just after David's posting to Woodbourne where they lived for five years.

At this time New Zealand was beginning to catch up with the rest of the world - modern cars, more fashionable clothes, less holidays. The population had exploded and modern technology was taking over. Now the boot was on the other foot. Jobs were not so easy to come by, and employers were able to choose who was best fitted for what jobs were on offer. This was a primary factor in the final years of David's 24 years in the Services. They decided to take his last posting at Wigram, Christchurch, with the thought in mind that the big city would have more to offer by way of employment when David left the Air Force, plus better educational chances for the children.

Although not a great sports man himself, David did involve himself in being an umpire for softball and hockey. For several years he was also coach for a marching team. When he did eventually retire from the Royal New Zealand Air Force, he worked in the Department of Statistics in Christchurch, but as a result of a heart attack he was sent to Wellington Hospital for open heart surgery, once for three by-passes and again for a valve. It seems that the childhood scourge of rheumatic fever had left him very weak, damaged beyond any realistic repair. He was a very sick man for two years until his premature death in 1979 at the age of 51 years.

Brian, David and Eve's older son, served three years in the New Zealand Army, then made a career change to the Federal Police Force in Perth, West Australia where he is involved in security duties at the local airport. Brian and his wife, Michelle, have a son, Christopher David, born 17th May 1992 - which is a strange co-incidence for I have just looked at the calendar, and that it today's date, 17th May, 1996. Happy Birthday, Christopher!

Susan, their daughter is treading in the footsteps of Mum and Dad and has been in the RNZAF for 16 years. I know that one year ago she was a Flight Sergeant Instructor for the Air Training Corps in Auckland, where she organised training courses and camps for her units.

Tony, the youngest child lives in Christchurch and worked as a Chief Mechanic at the Datuna Park Go Kart track where he is kept very busy. I am told that motors were always his whole life. As a child he was hooked on motor mowers and then graduated to motor cars.

Eve Evelyn keeps herself very busy and over the years has given her time to many good causes (I am sure that Eve will not mind me telling you that she has received two Community and Christchurch City Council awards for her services.) Her activities include the Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Red Cross, Girl Guides and the Ex WAAF club. I know that she has visited Perth to see Christopher, Brian and Michelle several times in the last four years.

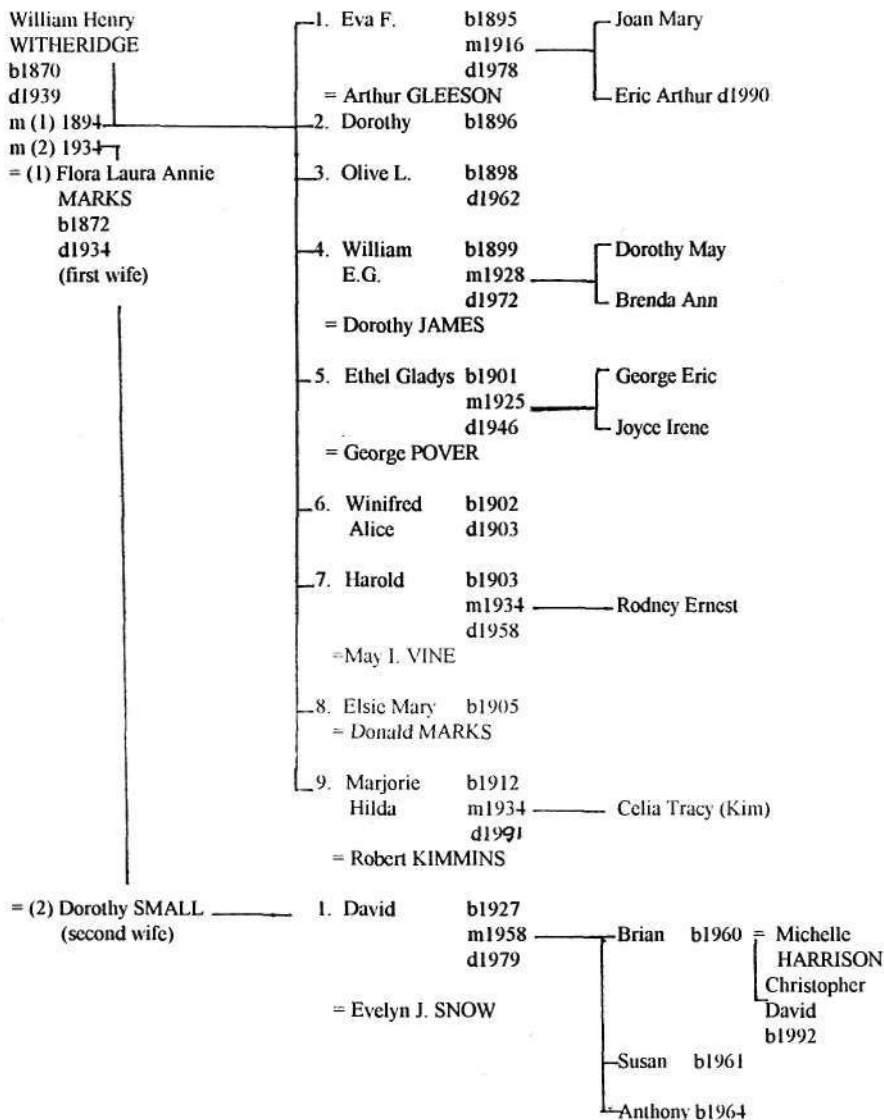
David's family, as you will seen in the beginning, is from the Wembury family branch, and he was second cousin, by a second marriage, to our President, Kim Cook.

Susan, at one time, was in hospital in Whennapai, Auckland. The next bed was occupied by a gentleman of the name 'Witheridge'. Naturally they got talking and he turned out to be Velma Metcalfe's uncle.

This story to me is the modern history of one of the sections of our many groups within the Witheridge families. We all research our distant relations with great vigour and in many cases neglect our relations who are much closer to us.

History becomes just that (history) when the event is just one day old. Some times events will take over and look you straight in the eye saying "Here I am - who am I?" To illustrate this fact, I have spent a great amount of time in the past four years trying to locate a 'Brian Witheridge' in Western Australia. I did not tie the two names together until a few months ago. Mind you, the exercise was very productive. In the process I located at least four other Brian Witheridges and, more to the point, the families from which they were born.

THE WEMBURY-CHRISTCHURCH FAMILY TREE



This story is living proof that we as a family society are treading a path where we are drawing our families together - families separated for many reasons and the members going their way in life oblivious of brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles aunts, etc., who may even be living in the next town. In many cases this is due to the arguments and disagreements of our ancestors. What a waste. What a crying shame! In this tenth year of the anniversary of the Witheridge's Society's formation, let all of us, no matter where we are, make a concerted effort to bring those families who may have strayed from our knowledge, into the recognition that the Witheridge Society is there for them as well as the existing membership.

Wedding Group of Pauline Gaylard Member No. 146

Back far left:
Owen Gaylard.

Centre row L-R:
Unknown.
Mae Gaylard.
Glenath Hazell
née Witheridge.
Velma & Rodney
Metcalf.
Andrew Gaylard.

Front row L-R:
Caroline Gaylard.
Pauline & Peter
Gurnett.
June Gaylard.



NEW MEMBERS News from John Witheridge

No. 148	Mrs. Brenda Louise	Dwyne nee Clarke
149	Mr. William Thomas	Dwyne
150	Miss Erin Constance	Dwyne
151	Mr. John William	Dwyne
152	Miss Annie Katherine	Dwyne

Contact address:- Mrs. Brenda L. Dwyne, 48 Barons Avenue South, Hamilton, Ontario, L8K 272 Canada

(1) Brenda Louise Dwyne nee Clarke 1953 - Spouse William Thomas Dwyne 1944 - (2) Ronald Gordon Clarke 1915 - (3) Sylvia Maud Witheridge 1915 - (4) Norman Carlyle Clarke (5) Marion Small (6) John Northmore Witheridge 1872-1932 (7) Mary Jane Knight 1880/1 - 1923 (12) John Northmore Witheridge 1845-1914 (13) Maria Tall Sandover 1841-1877/8? (14) William Knight c 1841/2 (15) Elizabeth Ann ? c 1847 (24) Philip Witheridge 1791-1872 (25) Mary Northmore 1804-1880 (48) Arthur Witheridge 1737-1848 (49) Elizabeth Bowden c 1757-1839 (50) John Northmore 1773 - (51) Mary Horton 1779-1859.

Ermington Devon, and Bodmin Cornwall 1540s - 1910s. Canada 1910s to present date.

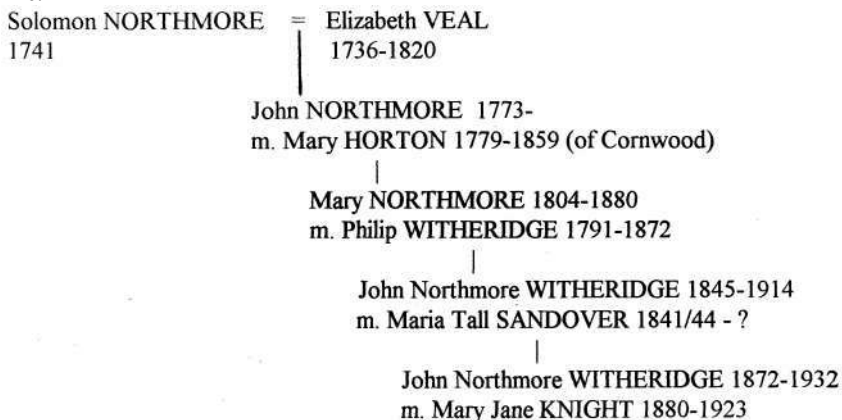
It is truly gratifying to find that another Ermington/Canadian Witheridge family has found its way into the folds of the Witheridge Society - found and guided by the able hands of our North America's representative Kathy Witheridge - carrying out her duties in the manner that we have all come to expect and welcome.

Brenda is the third daughter of Sylvia Maude nee Witheridge and her husband Ronald Gordon Clarke. Brenda and William were married in 1944 and have three children, Erin, John and Annie. We would like to welcome all of you to the Witheridge Society, hoping that your stay with us will be long and fruitful, and take you back on a journey through the history of your family connections and showing where the characters within your family had their origins. Brenda: if you read the last magazine (Summer 1996) page 21/22 you will find much information that will be applicable to your family line.

The following chart will help you to begin your journey into the past, and fill in a few gaps concerning the Devonshire families who are part of your ancestral heritage. The last name in your birth brief was Mary Horton, 1779-1859, and she was married to John Northmore on the 19th December 1799 at Cornwood in Devon.

This chart, to which I have added new research at the very last moment, has two main factors of interest. It shows two lines of descent through families other than our own, and also brings the lives of these players into an area where I am sure you will find some

interest. The area in question is Cornwood. Why Cornwood I hear you ask? Bear with me:-



John Northmore Witheridge, born 1845, and his family have led us quite a dance over the years - see the 1881 Census for Ermington: -

John	36 ml.	Head	Marr.	Born Devon,	Ermington	self
John	8 ml.	Son	Unm.	Devon	Ermington	John
Mary	12 Fm.	Dau.	Unm.	Devon	Ermington	John
Philip	10 ml.	Son	Unm.	Devon	Ermington	John

These are all the persons shown at the family home in Ermington.

This is what is registered at No. 12, Hampton Street, Plymouth:-

Sandover	Andrew	Head	Wid.	35 ml.	Butcher	Born Devon	Yealmpton
"	Edith	Dau.		9 Fm.	Scholar	" "	Ermington
"	Thomas	Son		8 ml.	"	" "	"
"	Harry	Son		7 ml.	"	" "	"
Witheridge	Maria	Serv.	Marr.	37 Fm.	H. Keepr.	" "	Cornwood
"	Annie	Dau.		6 Fm.	Scholar	" "	Ermington
"	Frances	Dau.		3Fm.	"	" "	"

I searched quite thoroughly in Yealmpton for an Andrew Sandover - to no avail, but I did find the undermentioned and I am quite certain that this is the correct family and date.

<u>Sandover</u>	<u>Andrew Wotton of Thomas and Grace Bapt.</u>	<u>16th July, 1845</u>	<u>Ermington</u>
"	Elizab. Wotton	" "	6 th Jan. 1841
"	John Wotton	" "	14 th Jan 1831
"	Mary	" "	21 st Mar. 1827
"	Philip Wotton	" "	18 th Feb 1823
"	Thomas Wotton	" "	30 th Oct 1833
"	William Wotton	" "	7 th Oct. 1835

Thomas and Grace Wotton married on the 2nd July 1820 at Stoke Damerel.

This is undoubtedly the same Andrew, and I must say that I had hoped that I would have found Maria's name in this list. Maria and John Northmore Witheridge were married in Ermington, so under the law of averages she was living in that parish before the wedding - so if not a sister to Andrew, was she a cousin? Remember that the Plymouth census did list her as being born in Cornwood.

To add credence to this last statement - there have been Sandovers living in the Cornwood area. One of them actually married into the Northmore family: -

Richard Northmore, 1745-1831 married Damaris Sandover 1759-1799

Richard was the next younger brother to Solomon mentioned in the first chart when he married Elizabeth Veal. The Tall family also lived in Cornwood and what is more, Maria is one of their family names.

Birth records actually show that Damaris was born to a Richard and Elizabeth, 24th September, 1751, at Cornwood. The 1881 Census shows Maria's age as 37, giving a birth date of 1844. This is different from our records which indicate 1841. Could the lady have lied about her age, or do our records need correction?

I hope to prove that Andrew was Maria's brother, and this is why she was his housekeeper in the later years of her life. Obviously a need for further research!

Welcome cousins!

Erin Constance Dwyne Member No. 150, picture taken at age 17



Wedding Picture of Brenda and William Dwyne, Members Nos. 148 and 149



**Left John William
Dwyne 1981 Age 14
Member No. 151**



**Right Annie Katherine
Dwyne 1985 Age 10
Member No. 152**

New Member

No. 153 Mrs. Doreen Mary Pedersen, née Witheridge

Contact address:- 14, Epsom Street, South Dudley, Wenthaggi 3995. Victoria, Australia

(1) Doreen Mary Pedersen nee Witheridge 1946 - Spouse John Pedersen (2) Douglas Witheridge 1914-1988 (3) Evelyn Hope Lily Hodge 1913 - (4) Harry Arthur Frederick Witheridge 1890-1958 (5) Mabel Porter 1891- (8) Frederick Arthur Witheridge 1866-1958 (9) Ruth ??????? 1858-circa-1928 (16) Arthur Witheridge 1837-1898 (17) Charlotte Honey Fredrick 1830-1905 (32) Philip Witheridge 1791-1872 (33) Mary Northmore 1805-1880 (64) Arthur Witheridge 1758-1847 (65) Elizabeth Bowden 1762-1839 (66) John Northmore 1773-1845 (67) Mary Horton 1779-1859

It is remarkable that on behalf of the Witheridge Society I now extend a welcome to another 'cousin' with an Ermington/Northmore connection! I give a welcome to a lady (Doreen) to whom I have been writing, and trying to encourage towards membership, for some years.

We have both been engaged in our own family interests, and indeed share one particular interest in common - that of a shared ancestor. In Doreen's case Philip Witheridge and Mary Northmore are her three times great grandparents. This same couple are my two times great grandparents. This, I think, makes Doreen my second cousin once removed, and she has similar relationship to members Philip Witheridge, Barbara Smith, Richard Witheridge and David Witheridge. There is a third cousin relationship with Bessie Witheridge and a connection with Joyce Browne and Joyce Stephens. I will leave the experts to work these out!

Doreen has three sons, Gavin, Neil and Clinton, and two brothers and one sister, and her mother Evelyn Witheridge lives just down the road.

I have no doubt that in time we will have Doreen's family tree occupying the centre fold pages. Welcome Doreen - we hope that you will enjoy being a member.

STOP PRESS!

The society would like to congratulate Cheryl, daughter of Mayda and John Witheridge, and Aaron Young on the birth on the 9th October 1996 of a son, James Leonard. Cheryl and Aaron, both Judo enthusiasts, tell us that James weighed in at 7lb. 15 oz. Perhaps he and his older brother Christopher John will be able to add their voices to the festivities next May!

PLYMOUTH

Place & Ref.	Key
(C) Camelford	# Certificate
(D) Devonport	□ Will.
(ES) East Stonehouse	
(F) Falmouth	
(NT) Newcastle upon Tyne	
(P) Plymouth	
(PM) Plympton St Mary	
(Po) Portsmouth	
(R) Redruth	
(S) Sunny	
(T) Truro	
(Wv) Woth Valley.	

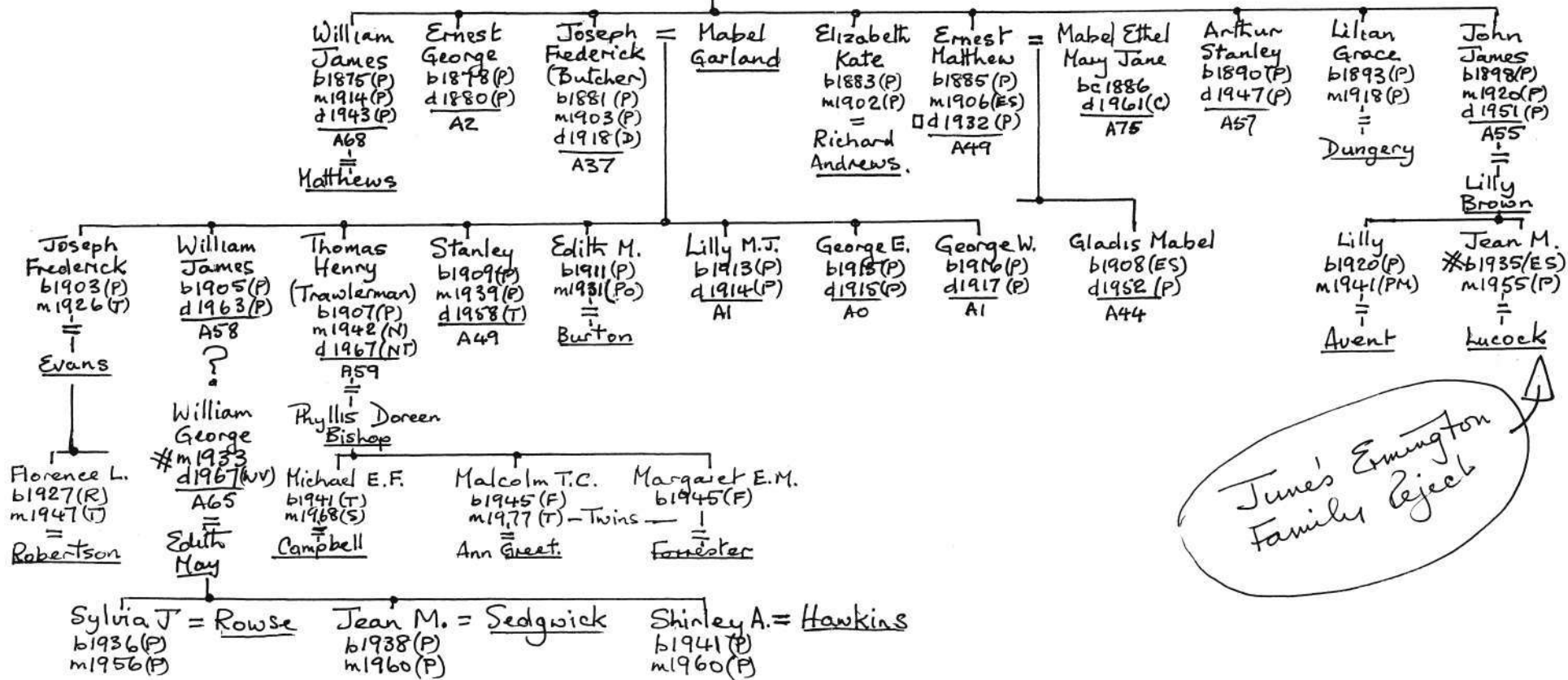
Where from?

William James = Mary Ann Bountis
(Merchant) Formerly Tenrose
(Seaman)
bc 1836
mc 1856
dc 1856

William James = Mary Ann Walters
(Fisherman)
* b1856 (P)
* m1874 (P)
d1919 (P)
A60



PLYMOUTH HOE, WITH SMEATON'S TOWER, AND A DISTANT VIEW OF THE WOODED SLOPES OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE



James Emington Family Rejet

MISTAKES CAN HAPPEN!

by June Witheridge

During investigations into the Ermington Witheridges someone came up with a birth of a third child, JEAN, to Samuel Witheridge and his wife Gwendoline in 1935. In spite of this being incorrect (they had only two children, Lorna born 1931 and David born 1934), each family tree that I see has Jean on it. On the last family tree I saw I noticed that she not only was born but married in 1955. How these myths can survive and grow!

I checked with Lorna and David and with Gwendoline's surviving sisters and they all said 'definitely no third child', so I took myself off to the Plymouth Registry Office and obtained her birth certificate. As all can see she belongs to a completely different family, and one that I personally know nothing about, does anyone else?

So please, I appeal to all investigators, possessors of family trees, etc., take up your Tippex or mouse and correct your family histories.

It is certainly a warning to all of us to check and re-check before adding any name. Its always easier to add a name than to subtract later as everyone then thinks that someone just hasn't added all the names.

Good hunting - but beware and do not assume anything!

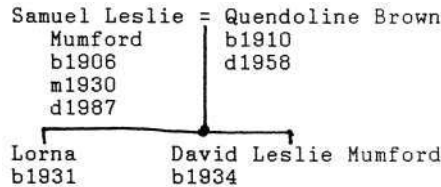
Extracts from the St.Catherine's House Indexes.
Witheridge Births & Marriages.

Event-Year-Qtr .-First Names—Maiden Name-Registered—Cert.No.

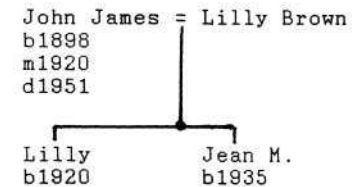
Marr.	1920.J.	John J.(James)	Brown	Plymouth	5b766
Birth	1920.D.	Lilly	Brown	Plymouth	5b360
Marr.	1930.J.	Samuel L. M.	Brown	Tavistock	5b917
Birth	1931.J.	Lorna M.	Brown	Tavistock	5b497
Birth	1934.D.	David L.M.	Brown	Plympton	5b262
Birth	1935.M.	Jean	Brown	E.Stonehouse	5b352

Corrected Families.

Ermington Witheridges,



Plymouth Witheridges.



The tree of the 'Plymouth Witheridges', as far as it is known, is given inside this fold out sheet.

Registration District <i>East Stonehouse</i>										
1935. Birth in the Sub-district of <i>East Stonehouse</i>						in the <i>County Borough of Plymouth</i>				
Columns:— 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*	
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
114	<i>Eighteen February 1935 77 Dumford Street UD</i>	<i>Jean</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>John James Witheridge</i>	<i>Lilly Wetheridge femery Brown</i>	<i>labourer Pransion factory 4 3 Trematon Terrace Mutley Plymouth UD</i>	<i>L Wetheridge Mother 3 Trematon Terrace Mutley Plymouth</i>	<i>Fifteenth February 1935</i>	<i>Cain Reep Registrar.</i>	

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

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