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Continued Inside Back Cover



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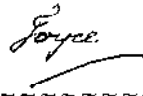
EDITORIAL

Greetings to all our readers! This is the time of year when I begin to look forward to our meeting at Alderton. This year I shall miss Alderton, but I hope to have a double joy of being in Devon, and meeting friends and relations from across the world. This is a unique opportunity to meet stalwarts of the society like David from Minneapolis, and Kathy and Paul from Ontario, and also to greet more recent members who have previously only been known through research. Do come and join us, if only for one day!.

This issue carries an advertisement for microfiche viewers. From time to time John, our secretary, receives information from suppliers and passes it on. Any such information is printed here on the understanding that products or events are not necessarily endorsed by John or the society, but are included for the information and interest of members.

The articles by John which appear in this issue are the result of an enormous amount of research and we do thank him for his efforts. More power to his pen!

Don't forget to join us at Tiverton on Saturday, 3rd May.



~~~~~

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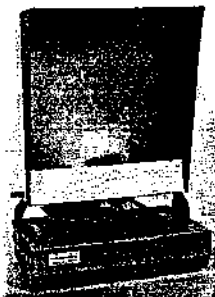
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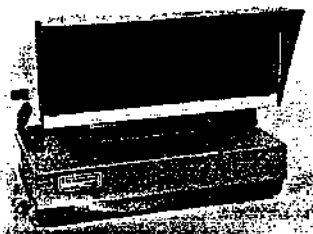
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## FAMILY NEWS

**B**elated congratulations to Maureen and Richard Witheridge on the birth of another grand child. Hannah, a sister for Sarah and Rebecca, was born to their daughter Ann and son-in-law Gary Melbourne on the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1995. This information has only just come to hand and we hope that it is not too late to wish them all well!

**G**ordon Witheridge, of Leicester, has been in hospital for a hip operation and we understand that he is now making progress.

**K**im Cook, our President, has been undergoing a series of investigations to discover the cause of her recent ill health, and it has been diagnosed that she is suffering from a lung disorder. There is no immediate cure, but she has begun a course of medication which offers a chance of improvement in the long term, and she feels hopeful of the outcome.

**P**at and John James, of Burnaby, Canada, have been in our thoughts as both of them are recovering from operations. Pat has had surgery to remove her spleen and John has had to have the prostate gland removed.

Our love and best wishes go to them all, with our hopes for a speedy recovery.

## MEMBER NO 107 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Margery Flo Streatfield,  
18 Wandoo Street,  
Kelmescott 6111  
Western Australia  
Australia

**FOUND!** - An addition for the South Huish/South Milton/Yealmpton Family Tree

(Magazine Winter 1995)

From the Parish Register. Loddiswell

"Walter Witheridge married Elizabeth Boys. Banns 9 - 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1769"

We knew that this Walter, born South Milton 1733, married an Elizabeth, but we did not know her surname.

## WHO REMEMBERED THOMAS?

by Joyce Browne

If you had been given a reference to a Witheridge name on an Index - "F.A. Crisp - Memorial Rings Index" would you have known what you were looking for? I didn't - but I should have!

Tom Jewell gave us this cryptic reference some time ago. My first thought was that someone named Crisp was interested in bell ringing and had made notes on peals rung on special occasions, and my second was that a Rings Index was a kind of loose leaf revolving flip card file, but whatever it was, the name of Thomas Witheridge was on it, and I wanted to see it!

I applied to the British Library, Great Russell Street, London, and they sent me a list of works published or edited by F.A. Crisp - 60 titles, some printed on Mr. Crisp's private printing press.

Frederick Arthur Crisp was born in 1851 in Suffolk. He was a genealogist and transcribed numerous parish registers, mostly from East Anglia, and wrote papers on genealogy and related subjects. A collector of porcelain, he catalogued and wrote about his collections and the results of his research into the Lowestoft china factory. He was also a collector of memorial rings, and it was only when I saw the list of his catalogues that the penny dropped.

"Memorial Rings, Charles the Second to William the Fourth, in the possession of Frederick Arthur Crisp (With an introduction by Bower Marsh) pp 357 (Privately printed at the author's private press, London 1908)"

As a veteran attender of Antique Fairs, addicted to collecting all sorts of useless objects, and unable to pass a stall selling antique jewellery I have seen some memorial rings.

It has long been the custom when someone dies for their jewellery to be given to relatives and friends as a keepsake. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, rings became the most popular memento, and of course, often there were not enough rings from the deceased's estate to go round for those who wished to claim them. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century it had become the custom and a status symbol to have rings specially made as mourning jewellery, and sometimes an instruction was given in a Will for a sum of money to be set aside to provide mourning rings, and the price and design would be specified. The quality varied, some comparatively inexpensive, and some of gold and enamel.

Some rings had a head which opened like a locket and contained a braided wisp of hair from the head of the departed. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century people were very fond of depicting classical urns on the head of a ring. These were painted on ivory or etched on gold with initials on the urn.

Other rings were fashioned with a scrolled hoop, and a shield shaped head. Some had gold or other metal on the inside and were enamelled on the outside with white or black enamel. There is a tradition that white enamel denoted a single person, and black was used for a married person.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw an increase in the production of mourning jewellery. Mass production became possible. The discovery of gold in Australia and New Zealand meant that gold became within the reach of ordinary people. The exploitation of the South African diamond mines made diamonds more plentiful, and thus cheaper, and manufacturers produced quantities of sentimental objects in gold, silver, pearls and jet. Brooches and bracelets were worn, and lockets containing hair were popular. These can still be found, many minus the hair.

Of all the objects made, probably rings are the least likely to have survived, given the fact that they are small and easily mislaid, and are subject to the heaviest wear. Nevertheless, Mr. Crisp made a collection of early rings - a large collection it would appear, if his catalogue ran to 373 pages.

After more negotiation with the British Library, they sent me a photocopy of page 86 of Crisp's catalogue. There are four rings described on the page:-

"237 Gold, Diamond-shaped head, under which is some hair. Shank enamelled in black in five scrolls. (Maker's initials J.W.) inscribed:  
Rob: Salmon Ob: 16 Aug. 1755 Aet 67"  
Engraved inside 'Lydia Salmon ob 20 Feb 1756 aet 75"

This would seem to commemorate two people, possibly husband and wife, Rob or Robert Salmon, who died on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1755 aged 67 and Lydia Salmon who died seven months later on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1756, aged 75.

The next item is:

"238 Gold, enamelled in black in four scrolls Inscribed:

Thom Witheridge ob 30 Oct. 1755 aet 72



So here we have a commemoration for a Thomas with a possible birth date of c 1683, and no indication of family.

Thomas is in good company for the next ring catalogued is:

"239 Gold, enamelled in black in four scrolls Inscribed:  
Hon. Lady Bab. North ob: 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1755 aet 43"

There is a footnote which says that Lady Bab. was Lady Barbara Herbert, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, who married William Dudley North Esq., of Glemham Hall, Suffolk, in 1730, and was aunt to the then Earl of Pembroke.

The next ring described is different in that it is enamelled in white -

"240 Gold set with paste. Shank enamelled in white in five scrolls.  
Maker's initial W.C. Inscribed: Tho Cooper ob 8 Jan 1756 aet 22"

#### Note

"Thomas Cooper of St. Michael le Quern, London died in Paris.  
Administration granted 1756 to Mary Cooper, widow, the mother"

There is no mention of any difference in the quality of the rings, nor does it say, except in the case of No. 237, whether they were inscribed on the inside or the outside of the hoop.

I am inclined to think that they were inscribed on the outside, but in the case of No. 237 with two commemorations, probably inscribed on both sides.

Who was this Thomas? From the ring we know the date of his death, and possibly the year of his birth, and that maybe - if the black enamel tradition is correct he was married or a widower.

I believe that the custom concerning black and white was being followed at that time, as in the description of the white enamelled ring, No. 240, the deceased's age is given as 22 years, and the footnote says that administration of his estate was granted to his mother, which seems to point to a young unmarried man.

No suitable Thomas, married or unmarried, sprang to mind immediately, and so I looked through all the family trees I have, knowing that the name Thomas appears in several of our families, but not with the birth date in question.

The only one with the correct birth date was on the Combe Martin/Berrynarbor tree -

(Handbook 1988 and Magazine Summer 1988.) Thomas born 1683, was the son of Thomas, born 1650 and Mary Sherman.

Thomas and Mary had nine children, and Thomas was brother to William who married Rebecca Ley, who were ancestors of members David Witheridge, and John Meredith Witheridge, USA, and Betty Rossiter of the UK, and connected with other members in the USA, New Zealand , and Newcastle-on Tyne, UK.

We have never known any more about this Thomas, except that his name is on the IGI. Was he married? The IGI gives a marriage of a Thomas to an Alice Clark in Berrynarbor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1709. This could well be our Thomas, he would then have been 26 years old. I cannot trace any children (on the IGI) born to Thomas and Alice. We need to search the parish registers for more information.

My search has not revealed very much, but at least it appears that Thomas, born 1683, lived to a good age. He had friends or relatives who wished to commemorate his passing, and someone had the means and was prepared to pay for at least one gold ring fashioned in his memory.

Frederick Arthur Crisp died in 1922. Does anyone know what happened to his collection? Is it still in his family ?. Was it disposed of in its entirety or sold off piecemeal?

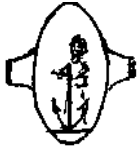
I had never been interested in mourning jewellery - the idea of having a locket with a melancholy inscription or wearing someone's hair always seemed to me to be sad, and somewhat macabre. Now I shall examine every piece I come across with a new interest. I don't suppose that I shall find Thomas's ring, but I may find another interesting inscription!

---

Footnote- Two possible ways to find out more would be

- (a) Find a Will - this would be unlikely as nearly all Devonshire Wills were destroyed in the bombing of Exeter in 1942
- (b) Re-search the parish registers of Combe Martin and Berrynarbor to try to find the burial of a Thomas in 1755

## Memorial Rings



## MISTAKES CAN HAPPEN - MORE THAN ONCE!

by Joyce Browne

In her article published in the magazine of Winter, 1996, June Witheridge pointed out that mistakes can happen, and that myths not only survive, but grow. In our anxiety to correct a mistake we published a tree which ought to have been 'blue pencilled'. I have always been uneasy about the formation of this tree, labelled "Plymouth", and so I decided to dust off the file on this family, and re-investigate. Not that this file has ever been inactive for long enough to gather much dust - Kim, Philip, and I have all tried individually and together to unravel the skein, but certain knots will not untangle.

Let us begin with the birth of William James Witheridge. His birth certificate states that he was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1856, at 1, Johnson's Ope Parade, Plymouth, that his father was William Witheridge, a merchant seaman, deceased, and that his mother was Mary Jane Witheridge, late Bounty, formerly Penrose, and that she registered the birth.

This tells us that William James' mother had been married at least once before she became Witheridge, and that her husband must have been alive at the beginning of 1856, but died before the baby was born. The trouble is, we cannot find a record of death for a William in 1856 or just prior. Of course, as he was a seaman he could have died at sea, or abroad, but we cannot find a record of his marriage or his birth, and so we begin the tree with uncertainty.

We do know more about William James, as his life progresses. He married in 1874. at the age of 17. He was a fisherman and he gave his father's name as 'William'. His bride was Mary Ann Walters and she gave her age as twenty years when she was married. Their first child was born in 1875 and given the name 'William James'.

The tree in the magazine of Winter, 1996 shows an 'Ernest George' as the second child, born in 1878. This is an arbitrary attribution, as we have no certificate proof, but Ernest George died at two years of age, and another child born subsequently was named 'Ernest' so we accept this as probable.

We have a birth certificate for the next child - Joseph Fred born 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1881, at 16 New Street, Plymouth, just three weeks too late to be accounted for on the 1881 Census. In an endeavour to find more about the family I searched the Plymouth Census Record for 1881, but on the night in question the family was not in residence at 16 New Street. The family living there appear to have no connection with our Witheridges. I had expected to find Mary Ann and son William James, maybe her husband, or some relative who had come to look after her, but no - I could not find them anywhere in Plymouth, neither are they to be found on the Census 1881 Surname Index for Devon.

Kim had confirmation from family sources of the births and names of the five younger children born to William and Mary Ann Walters, but it was when we tried to check on the next generation that we were in difficulties again.

Joseph Fred, born 1903, did not present a problem, but his brother, William James, born 1905, has caused much discussion and searching. The birth certificate for the child born on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1905 to Joseph Fred Witheridge, butcher, and Mary Witheridge, formerly Garland gives the child's name as William James but confusion arose when we saw the St. Catherine's House index entry of a marriage, in 1933 of a 'William G. There was a 'William G' who could have been the candidate, or the entry in the index could have been mistranscribed. I checked - and it wasn't - William G, it was, so we obtained the certificate. This shows that William George Witheridge, trawlerman, married Edith May on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1933. He signed his name as 'William George' and said that his father was Joseph Fred who was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon Regiment when he died in 1918. ? Was this another child of Joseph and Mabel Mary Garland, or was he really William James? The matter was finalised by recall of Kim's contacts with William's daughters. Their mother's name was Edith May and their father was William James and had never been known to them by any other names. Why William took a fancy to the name 'George' we shall never know.

The William George shown as a ? possible on our published tree, who died in 1967, is not of this Plymouth family.

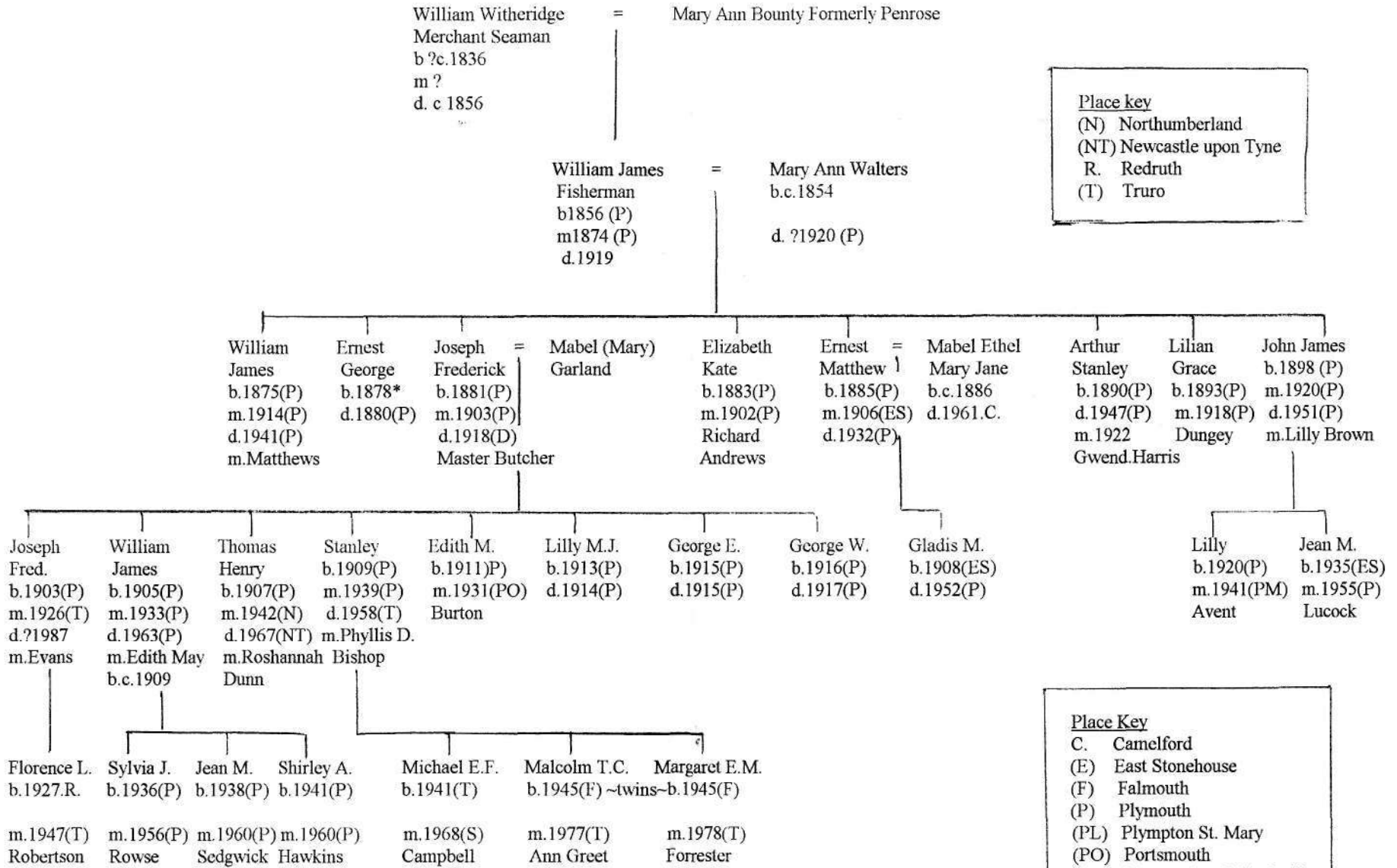
To retrace for a moment to Joseph Fred, senior, who married Mabel Mary Garland in 1903 - it would seem that he was in the Army when he died in 1918. Mabel Mary had by then had eight children, three of whom had died between 1914 and 1917, and then she was left with four boys and a girl to bring up on her own. Her life cannot have been easy. We don't know when she died, or if she re-married. She seems to have vanished from the records.

Thomas Henry, born in 1907, a trawlerman serving in the Royal Navy, married Roshannah Dunn, a widow, in Northumberland in 1942. Our knowledge of this is supported by a certificate, but the three children attributed to him on our tree in the magazine of Winter 1996, Michael, Malcolm and Margaret, belong to his brother Stanley, born 1909. Their mother was Phyllis Bishop, who married Stanley in 1938.

Kim has had personal contact with the younger members of this family, and so we feel reasonably confident that we have eradicated the mistakes and myths, and can now, with apologies, present an amended tree.

**THE PLYMOUTH FAMILY TREE**

From information to hand January, 1997



## FROM BERRYNARBOR TO BERRY, THE EXPANSION OF ONE FAMILY BRANCH

### Part One

by John Witheridge

Once again I propose to embark on a story of fact concerning a character, who in my opinion, has done more to expand the frontiers of the Witheridge families than any other Witheridge in our history. He is Philemon Witheridge, born 1846, but as you will expect the story begins some years before with the parents of this man.

At approximately this period in the history of the Combe Martin and Berrynarbor family, (a family that I love to research even though it is not my family branch), the family began to fragment, some taking part in the industrial revolution which was sweeping through and creating work in this country, some emigrating to other lands on the wave of enterprise. Some followed their yen for intrigue and some for adventure, each member of this family going his or her way in life, some staying at home, and all finally ending at the grave. No matter what avenue they chose, life was hard.

Thomas Witheridge, born 1808 in Ilfracombe was the father of Philemon. He was I am sure, a fisherman at heart even though life's journey took him along another road. Why else would he have uprooted and travelled to Cornwall to live? To - yes you've guessed it, the fishing community of the Helston, Penzance and the Lizard areas. It was in this area that he met Jane Thomas, born 1811 who was soon to be his wife and the mother of his many children. It was, I am sure, the meeting with the Thomas family which laid out his future life's work-plan. To my knowledge there were at least two members of that family who were Coastguards. I am positive that it was they who put the idea into his mind as a fitting occupation for a future in-law relation. Perhaps it was even these men who arranged for an interview with their superiors to see if he could match up to the requirements of this new form of service. Thomas had been born to a family steeped in rural occupations. Even though his parents had met and married in Ilfracombe in 1804 he was undoubtedly a man of the sea. This could have accounted for his eventual choice of occupation - "Coast Guard" - being the mixture of rural and seafaring ways that had surrounded him all his life.

Being a Coastguard at that time and in that area was not the sort of occupation that you might imagine. The Coastguards were set up in 1822 to crack down on smuggling. Another duty that they were expected to perform was to assist ships in distress, and in the case of shipwrecks, assist the passengers and crew, generally to save lives. In the most terrifying storms there was very little that any person on land could do to help, but with the dramatic breakthrough of the invention by George Mamby (a life long friend of Horatio Nelson) of a mortar which could fire a shot from shore to wreck with 500 yards of line attached, more and more lives were saved.

By the mid nineteenth century the Coast Guard was given a new role as a reserve force under the Royal Navy to defend the coast and the realm and assist the ready manning of naval ships. For your information there is a National Coastguard Museum at Brixham, Devon, where the whole story is told.

Whether Thomas's choice of occupation was made before or after he met Jane is debatable, but I do know that he was serving on board the Revenue Cutter "Active" as a trainee boatman until the first week of March 1831. On the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1831 he was nominated to the Coastguard station at Elmer in the county of Sussex. On the 9<sup>th</sup> March of this same year he married Jane Thomas in Gunwalloe, Cornwall. So in little short of a week he travelled from Sussex after leaving the "Active" to Gunwalloe, some ten miles south of Porthleven, then travelled back to Elmer to start his new job.

Can we break here and analyse this journey? The "Active" would have set him ashore at Elmer where he would arrange lodgings and report to the next station of work. Elmer Sussex is situated between Littlehampton and Felpham, and the Coastguard station was situated near Acton and Middleton-on-Sea. So now we can see that on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> March he would have set out on the journey home to marry Jane. It would I am sure be impossible to travel that distance by coach in the time. Horse would be a quicker means of transport unless a ship was available.

The Marriage registers show that Thomas was living at Landewednack on the Lizard Point at the time of the wedding. I wonder why? Here are the marriage details:-

Marriage Gunwalloe Thomas Witheridge, Bachelor, Mariner of Landewednack, and Jane Thomas, Spinster, of this parish. 9<sup>th</sup> March 1831. Licence. Both made their mark. Witnesses Samuel Hill and Thomas Ryder.

A question arises here. Why was he registered as a Mariner? Why not in his newly chosen occupation? The wedding by all accounts was a hasty affair, set to co-incide with full time employment at Elmer. There are no Witheridge relatives as witnesses, remember Thomas moved to Cornwall away from the family. There were no relatives living there.

Landewednack, being some eight miles as the crow flies from Gunwalloe, is now a suburb of the town of Lizard at the most southerly point of England and Cornwall. Then after the wedding the journey would be made in reverse to Elmer. Did Jane travel back with him? I think not, but it is possible. ( A reason for more research I feel). I have been informed by an expert on the Coastguard service that very junior nominees were not encouraged to have wives accompanying them in their early years. In most cases they would live in a dormitory with other junior and unmarried men of the station, under the supervision of a more senior member of staff and his wife. They would pay board and lodging to the lady, who would wash and cook for them. Most stations employed in the region of forty officers and men under the command of a Naval Officer.



Our records show that Jane and Thomas had a daughter, Jane, born 1835. This would have been during his first nomination at Elmer. Robert, the first son, was born in 1837, but we have no idea where he was born. His birth could be registered somewhere in that same area. However, there is an 1871 census listing for Pittsdeep, Hampshire, which I have acquired (possibly John James one of our members in Canada will also have a copy). This indicates that Robert was born in Pittsdeep. I find this hard to believe and considering that two other children were also born at this station I reserve judgment. Indeed I need to carry out more research into these two matters.

The Coastguard records tell us that Thomas's next nomination was at Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, but our own record of St. Catherine's House indexes for births indicate that Pittsdeep near Boldre at Lymington was in fact the next nomination. In this area we have the registration of two births, Edmund born 1839 and William born 1841. Coastguard records show that Thomas was transferred to Wells in Norfolk where Philemon (1) born 1843 lived and died (1844) in the brief spell of fourteen months. On the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1845 Thomas was nominated to Watchet Station, Bridgwater port, Somerset, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1850, he was discharged for one year on a pension of £26.0.0d. Was this extended leave, compassionate leave, or rehabilitation from an injury? There is no reason given. The experts I have questioned will not put forward any other conclusions.

At this station Philemon (2) and John were born in 1846 and 1848 respectively. Jacob (Thomas) was born at Ilfracombe in 1850, this being the same year that Thomas received his year's leave on pension. Were the two events connected? In 1853 a daughter, Jane was born at Porthleven. Finally the census shows that in 1871 Thomas and some of the family were again living at Pittsdeep. Within a week of the census he died. To substantiate the data above I submit the following:-

"Edmund Witheridge, born 21<sup>st</sup> April 1839 at Pittsdeep parish of Boldre in the registration district of Lymington county of Southampton. Father Thomas Witheridge. Mother Jane formerly Thomas. Occupation of father - Boatman in the Preventive Service" Jane made her mark on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1839 at Pittsdeep, Boldre.

"John Witheridge, born 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1848 at Minehead. Father Thomas Witheridge. Mother Jane, formerly Thomas. Father's occupation, Coastguard Officer" Signed by Thomas Witheridge, father, Minehead, On the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1848

"Jacob Witheridge, born 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1850 at Ilfracombe. Father Thomas Witheridge. Mother Jane formerly Thomas. Father's occupation Mariner" Signed Thomas Witheridge, father, at Ilfracombe on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1850. (Please note the occupation - was Thomas moonlighting while on a pension?)

"Ann Witheridge, born 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1853 at Wendron, Helston, Cornwall. Father Thomas Witheridge, mother Jane formerly Thomas. Occupation of father - Coastguard" Signed by Thomas Witheridge at Sithney, Porthleven, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1853.

We have registration evidence in the St. Catherine's House indexes of the births of Edmund, born 1839 (Lymington), William born 1841 (Lymington), Philemon born 1843 (Walsingham), Philemon Thomas born 1846 (Williton), John born 1848 (Williton), Jacob born 1850 (Barnstaple) and Ann born 1853 (Helston). These registrations show Registration districts and not the actual parishes or towns. Member John James who has researched this family for many years could not find a birth for William, born 1841, and perhaps thought that this was a figment of our imagination, but he is shown in the St. Catherine's House indexes.

There is absolutely nothing to indicate birth or baptisms for Jane and Robert, both being born too early to be registered at St. Catherine's House, but I have gained some new information concerning the three sons, Robert, Edmund and William.

Robert, born 1837, who married Elizabeth Ann Kitchen in 1859, died at sea in February, 1882. He was washed overboard when fishing off Start Point in the Plymouth area. The ship was the "Guiding Star" out of Helston. Robert is the subject of another article.. Robert and Elizabeth had eleven children. The youngest, Robert, was born in 1880, eighteen months to two years before his father died.

Edmund born 1839 died at Porthleven on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1859 aged 20 years.

William born 1841 died at Porthleven on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1861 aged 20 years.

These last two will need more research work. Why did they die so young? What was the coincidence relating to both deaths at the age of 20 years (in the same town and from the same family with two years separating the events? So far I have found only the basics, and it was quite a battle finding these three dates. As it was I had been searching for them for many years. In spite of the great help that we usually find in the St. Catherine's House indexes, none of the three previous events given above is listed! (You win some and you lose some!)

1871 Census. Pittsdeep, Hampshire

|                   |                |          |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Thomas Witheridge | B. Ilfracombe, | Devon    |
| Robert "          | Pittsdeep      | Hants.   |
| Edmund            | Pittsdeep      | Hants.   |
| Philemon          | Watchet        | Somerset |
| John              | Minehead       | Somerset |
| Jacob             | Ilfracombe     | Devon    |
| Ann               | Porthleven     | Cornwall |

## HMS GALATEA

by John Witheridge

### LEEWARD ISLANDS 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 1807 (Naval History of the Present Day)

The dawn broke in misty sunlight with ne'er a breath o' wind. The hazy mist drifted over the sea, enveloping the ship as in a blanket, a mantle of protection, shielding against the foe. The calm was suddenly shattered from aloft, from the masthead. "Sail off the starboard quarter!" The mist swirled as a figure loomed from its depths. "Lookout, what manner of vessel do you see?" boomed George Sayer, Captain of the Galatea. "Not sure Sir" came the reply, "could be French. A corvette I think. Yes! A corvette making south east steering for La Guaira Sir"

Slowly the mist stirred and in the top sail a little slack was filled. Men scurried about hauling the sheets, securing the halyards. The timber groaning and the masts creaking, the sails filled and the Galatea shuddered into motion and was brought about into the fresh breeze that had developed, the Captain plotting a course to intercept the corvette (at 18 leagues off the port bow) before she claimed sanctuary at La Guaira.

Thomas Wheteridge, a seaman on board the Galatea busied himself with the crew to maintain every available inch of sail. The Galatea was a member of the fleet in the Leeward Islands, off the coast of Caracas, under Rear Admiral Sir Alexander Cockrane KB, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels.

Gradually the Galatea began to overhaul the corvette, the distance between them now down to 12 leagues - then calm!. The sheets hung limp, the lines sagged - no movement at all. Captain Sayer ordered that the ship's boats be lowered and manned with five officers and fifty seamen. Twenty Marines also accompanied the crews, under the direction of First Lieutenant William Coombes. The boats were rowed for twelve leagues in eight hours, part of the time in burning sun.

As the boats drew close to the corvette 'Le Lynx' as she was named, Coombes hailed her to hove to, to be answered with a salvo of cannon fire and musquetoons. The boats separated, three to port and the remainder to starboard, passing to the rear of the stern of the French National Corvette, in an attempt to board from both quarters. The Lynx's guns were all trained aft to fire on any trailing ship and were in an ideal position to wreak havoc on the small long boats that pursued her, but somehow our boys managed to come alongside, but three times were repulsed in the attempt to secure a foothold on the ship's deck. The last attempt, however, began in a different style. Instead of boarding, they poured shot from their arms and musquetoons through the stern and quarter ports, clearing the decks of the French, most of whom fled down below, but a few went aloft.

The remainder crowded aft and were cut down in great numbers as our men gained a strong foothold and cleared the decks, driving all before them. The bowsprit and the jib boom were covered with men, and some escaped to the rigging. Realising that all was lost and their officers were dead or wounded the French crew surrendered.

### Statistics

The French corvette was manned with one hundred and sixty one men and officers and was taken by a boarding party of seventy five men and officers who had rowed five longboats for eight hours.

The corvette 'Le Lynx' was armed with:

14 cannons, 24 pounders

4 carronades

2 long pounders

Chasers

She was pierced for eighteen guns.

Commanded by Monsieur Jean M. Tarquest with dispatches from Guadaloupe for the Caraccas. She was two years old and was later added to His Majesty's fleet.

Thomas Wheteridge ??? (please read below)

List of the crew wounded from the Galatea:

Severely wounded:-

|                  |                  |                 |              |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| William Coombes  | First Lieutenant | Harry Sarsfield | Masters Mate |
| Robert Jobbin    | Petty Officer    | William Cock    | Seaman       |
| John Fox         | Seaman           | William West    | “            |
| Robert Hayes     | “                | William Mills   | “            |
| Richard Bartlein | Pt. Marine       | Harry Thompson  | Pt. Marine   |

Minor Injuries:-

|                  |              |                 |               |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| John Green       | Masters Mate | R. Berry        | Petty Officer |
| Robert Bailey    | Seaman       | Thomas Whitakei | Seaman        |
| George Griffiths | “            | Thomas Jones    | “             |
| James Bog        | “            | John Chapman    | “             |
| John Norris      | “            | John Lewis      | “             |
| Thomas Gordon    | Pt. Marine   |                 |               |

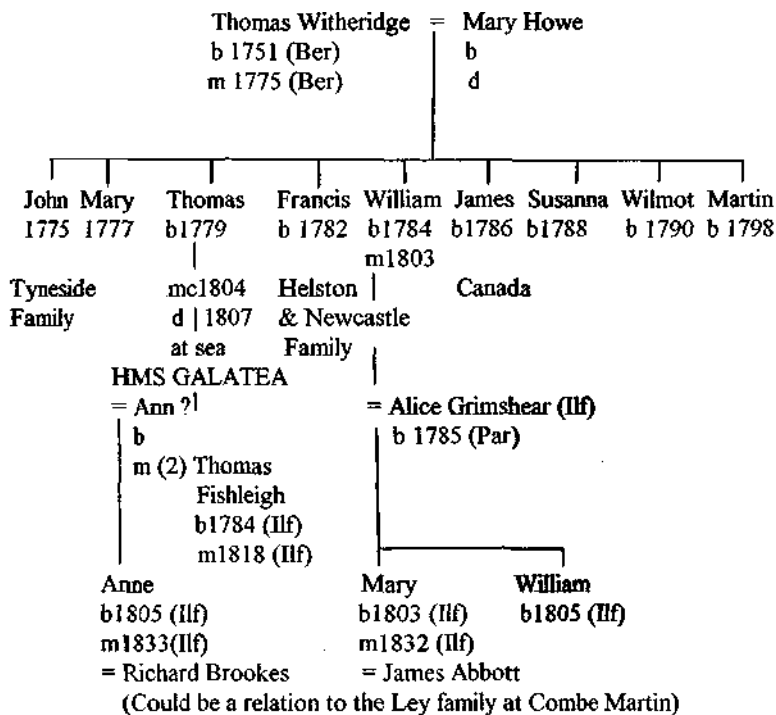
Killed:-

|                |                            |                          |             |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Harry Walker   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant | George Vincent           | Seaman      |
| John Moldron   | Seaman                     | <u>Thomas Wheteridge</u> | “           |
| Robert M'Cann  | “                          | Frederick Plank          | “           |
| James Mason    | Sgt. Marines               | William Cooper           | Pt. Marines |
| David Nicholls | Pt. Marines                |                          |             |

9 dead 22 wounded

This courageous attack and the men who carried it out were listed with honours to the Lords Commissioners at the Admiralty via Richard Marden Esq., on board HMS Northumberland.

Let me place before you a tree as a branch from the Combe Martin and Berryarbor Witheridge family.



Although I have not been able to spend the time that I would wish to on this subject, I have satisfied myself to a reasonable degree that my assumptions are 90% correct. Please tell me if I presume too much.

I will, of course, be carrying out further research into this subject, for I do concede that in some areas the proof of Thomas Witheridge's identity is a little weak. The James born 1786 (Canada) is being researched by Kathy and myself and is to be the subject of another article.

## NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 154 Mr. Paul Wayne Freed  
155 Mr. Robert Bruce Freed  
156 Mrs. Marcia Taylor

Contact Address:- 14 Sidney Place S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414. USA.

(1) Paul Freed 1927- (2) Palmer O. Freed 1899-1949. (3) Marjorie Maude Patty Oke 1903-1949. (4) Oscar Freed (Frid) 1868-1934. (5) Matilda Olson 1872-1957. Marwood Oke 1866-1934. (7) Ida Witheridge 1866-1962. (14) John Witheridge 1839-1929. (15) Miriam Moore 1842-1924. (28) George Witheridge 1808-1884. (29) Mary Saunders ?1815-1902. (56) John Witheridge 1788-1859. (57) Martha Saunders 1761-1828.(112) George Witheridge 1761-1801. (113) Jane Oke 1761-1828. (224) Thomas Witheridge 1723-1807 (225) Mary Mountjoy 1723-1794. (448) Thomas Witheridge 1699-17--.(449) Sapience Tremear 1695-??-- (896) Thomas Witheridge 1673-??. (897) Mary Osborn 1674-1715. (898) John Tremear c 1665- ?? .(1792) Nathaniel Witheridge 1632-?? .(1793) Emma Eastaway ??-? . (1794) Thomas Osborn 1613-?? .(1795) Thomazin Bishop c.1640's (third wife) (3584) James Witheridge 1604-?? .(3585) Joan Moule ??-?? .(3588) Thomas Osobrne 1575-?? . (3589) Johane Bradden c.1590-?? .(7168) James Witheridge 1587-?? . (7189) Joan ?? . (7176) Robert Osborne ??-?? .(7177) Elizabeth Tucker??. (14336) James Witheridge ?? .(14337) Joan?? .

Barnstaple 1550s - 1603. Fremington, Ilfracombe 1604-1698. Bradworthy 1698-1850s. Darlington, Edam, Bowmanville (Canada) Everett, Parkers Prairie (USA) 1850s until present day.

Member No. 157 Mrs. Sharon Brydges  
158 Ted Brydges

Contact address:- 8902 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada

(1) Sharon Brydges (2) Vivian I. Ayre 1918- .(3) Clarence Anson (4) Sarah Maude Witheridge 1880-1905. (5) Thomas Ayre then names as from (14) for Paul Freed.

Bradworthy 1600s. Ontario 1840s/50s. Saskatchewan to present day.

I would like to welcome these our most recent members to the Witheridge Society. Marcia, Paul, Robert and Sharon are all members of the Bradworthy family, but strangely, the Bradworthy family is not quite as it used to be, or as many of our members would remember. Its earliest ancestor is now thought to be James Witheridge of Barnstaple,

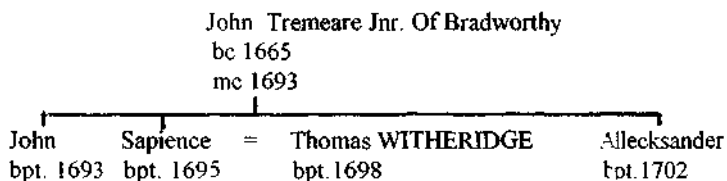
circa 1540s, and we know him only as the father of another James born in Barnstaple on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1587. The family, through marriage, moved via Fremington and Ilfracombe to Bradworthy. In this town the family multiplied and spread to many far flung areas of the empire. People travelled to Tavistock and Cornwall, Birmingham and London, New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America, and last but not least, Canada and Essex, England. This family now rivals the Combe Martin family line for growth and migration.

My interest in this family is through its close links with the South and Western Australian families descending from Polly Witheridge, and also the Pennsylvania families which in recent years have become a source of great interest. The Reverend David Witheridge and myself have been swapping information in the hope that some time in the near future we will be submitting a joint article.

The Bradworthy family itself is of equal interest to Kathy Witheridge and myself. We both have full copies of the Bradworthy registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. This you will see is very evident in some of the obscure notations in the detailed family line above - probably the longest listing that I have produced so far. I can just imagine Kathy at this moment, checking up on some of the details enclosed! At some time in the future, we will no doubt furnish you all with a more recent family tree and an article outlining the history of this great family and its multitude of more recent branches.

Our new members have many relations within the Society. The nearest - The Freeds, Paul and Kathy Witheridge, Barbara DiMambro (Ex-members Ruby Jackman, Mildred Creech and John Douglas Witheridge. Australian members - Alice and Percy Witheridge, Flo Streatfield, Mavis Witheridge, Carmel and Barry Wiseman are the nearest relations, and believe me, they are just the tip of a gigantic iceberg.

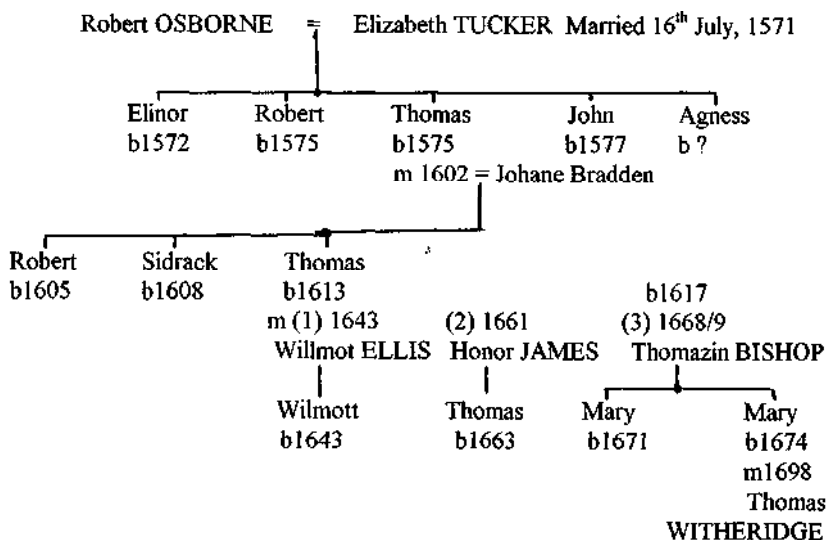
Many of the great Devonshire family names are connected by marriage: the Moore family which I think has three connecting marriages, the Saunders with three or four connections, the Grills family, the Oke family, the Mountjoy family and many others. Here are three trees which you may find interesting.



There are earlier generations of Tremeares in this parish, but no direct link can be made to John at the head of this small tree, so we could assume that he was born in another parish, or perhaps during the Civil War period when registrations were not always kept properly.

By the nature of his being termed "Junior" his father would bear that same name. If he was born to the family to which I credit him, he would have been part of quite a large family unit. There are other children listed in the registers of Bradworthy to John senior.

There is also a puzzle concerning the family shown below:-



One strange occurrence does happen within this family. John born 1577 also married a Johane Bradden, and in the same year as his brother Thomas, and no - it cannot be accounted for by the death of Thomas born 1575, as no entry for the death of Thomas exists. But of course, the Bradworthy register for baptisms only commences in the year 1592, too late to verify the birth of the two Johane Braddens.

I hope that this information will give you an insight into your distant relatives and give you an incentive to search more. Drop me a line if you require more information.

John Witheridge



FAMILY PORTRAITS



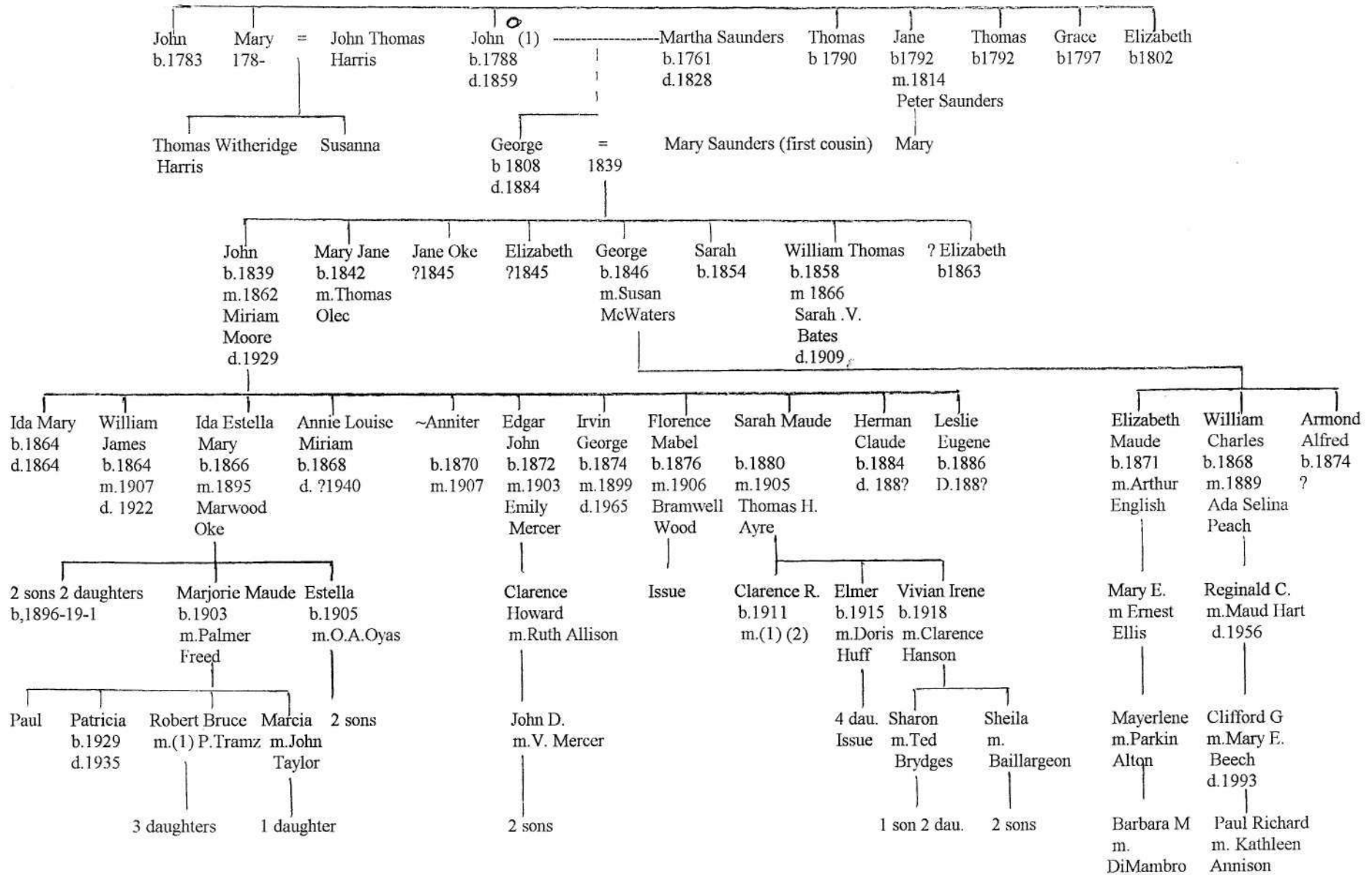
Left:  
Bruce Freed  
& wife, Ann  
of Embro,  
Ontario.

Below: L to R.  
Distant Cousins  
Bruce Freed  
Sharon Brydges  
Paul Witheridge

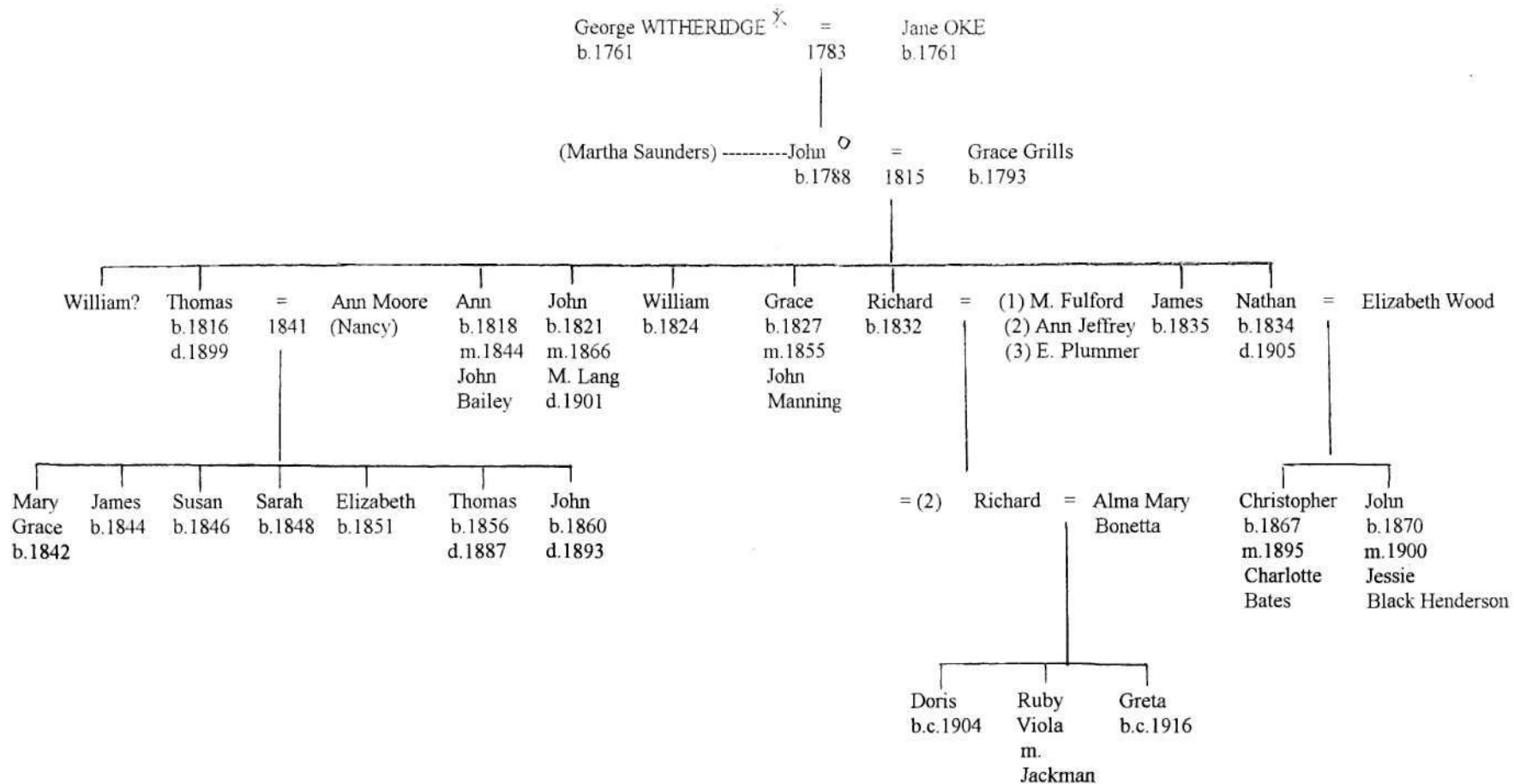


SECTION OF THE BRADWORTHY FAMILY TREE

George WITHERIDGE\* = Jane OKE  
 B.1761(M) 1783 (Br) B.1761



SECTION TWO OF THE GEORGE WITHERIDGE = JANE OKE FAMILY TREE - BRADWORTHY



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PAID TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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