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EDITORIAL

It is strange to be writing the Autumn editorial in so much heat that Britain now qualifies to be hotter than the south of France. This August has been the second hottest since records began in 1659. Something odd is happening to our climate. Shakespeare's "gentle rain from heaven" is now either non-existent or pouring down in torrents.

Velma Metcalfe in New Zealand reports that the volcano Mt. Ruapehu is quiet. We wonder if some unsuspected volcanic activity is now taking place under Britain!

What do we have to offer you to read while this activity is going on?

A timely article from Kim reminds us of our obligations. There are two poems, written 180 years apart, one by a member and another by a man who I am sure would have been a member had he had the opportunity. Another contribution is from a member who can navigate a ship but is not yet master of a smaller piece of modern technology, and our tailpiece is a warning which we would like to have voiced some time ago.

My best wishes to everyone, especially our new members



~~~~~

## FAMILY NEWS

We are pleased to hear that Irene Birdsall, who was unable to attend the Witheridge Weekend because of illness, has undergone an operation and is now making progress. We send our best wishes, Irene.

Less happy news has reached us of the death, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1997, of Gwendoline Witheridge, wife of George Witheridge, and stepmother of member Anthony Witheridge, and mother-in-law to his wife, Francoise. We send our condolences to all the family.



## TRANSATLANTIC NEWS

via Kim Cook

Roy and I first met Dennis Tomlinson, his mother Jean Tomlinson and sister Pat Johnston, at David's presentation in Minneapolis in May 1996, and we were delighted that six members of the Tomlinson family, including Dennis and Darlene, were able to join us for the Witheridge weekend in Tiverton in May. In fact, all six were on the same flight from Minneapolis to Gatwick as David Witheridge and Paul Freed, and when I arrived to meet David, we joked that we could have had a Witheridge Society meeting in the arrivals hall at Gatwick!

In July I received a beautiful thank-you card from Dennis and Darlene, from their home at 18110 Geary Lake Court, Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372, USA. As the thanks go to everyone involved in making the weekend such a success, the message is printed here in full.

"Dear Kim,

We would like to extend to you and the society a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful and memorable time we spent in England, from the wonderful accommodations in Tiverton to the excellent and informative bus tour. We appreciate all the time and effort everyone put in to make such a successful reunion.

We brought home so many good memories of the friendly people, gorgeous country (Devon in particular) and wonderful hospitality. We were able to visit Bath and London also. The history we saw and heard of was so overwhelming. Our experience driving on the 'correct' side of the road was very harrowing, and a story in itself!

We've had a chance now to share our pictures with one another and again remember the wonderful time we spent in England. Thank you all again so much! We also would like to enquire about joining the society. If you could forward that information to us we would appreciate it. Thank you. Denny and Darlene Tomlinson"

In August I received another and much longer transatlantic letter, this time from John James of 17-5221 Oakmount Crescent, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4R4, from which the following extracts are taken:

"Dear Kim,

I am now trying to get my feet back on to land, so to speak, for what with the Anniversary meeting, subsequent Cornish travels, Scandinavian travel, home and then off six weeks later for another three weeks in Scotland, Pat and I are slightly travel weary. However, we will survive and before long be off again... Turkey calls!"

"I did so enjoy the Witheridge meeting. It was all one could have wished, and what a happy band we were! Being able to put faces to names is a real plus in corresponding. There was such enthusiasm at the meetings, and then at dinner one had a chance to talk in a leisurely fashion, and the warmth of people in the initial meetings was confirmed.

In the initial advertising of the event I had thought something would have been planned for the Monday. I, along with some others I expect, went off on their own to explore the countryside, which was a picture. All in all it was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Following the meeting I went off to Cornwall to visit relatives and experience something of the Cornish charm. It was displayed to full effect both in the people and the landscape. What a goodly heritage...to be poetical."

(John's letter then continues with details of his later return to the UK for a 'Spiritual Heritage' tour which started in Glasgow and included Iona, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford and other cathedral cities - 'another wonderful experience in this red letter year 1997' and goes on to raise a research query which I hope I can solve for him.)

"Once again, what a wonderful meeting the Anniversary meeting was. I am sure there was much planning involved, and all those involved are to be congratulated for a wonderful job well done. I always knew of the warmth of the Witheridge family, but now have tangible evidence.

With warm best wishes,                      John"



## **STILL LOOKING FOR JOHN**

by Joyce Browne

We first became aware of John when Sheila Jewell found a record of his conviction at the Exeter Assizes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1809. He was found guilty of bigamy in that on the 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1802, in Halwell, he married Jane Emmett when his first wife Mary Atkins, whom he married in North Tawton on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1798, was still alive. Tantalising glimpses of John have come to us since (see Magazines Summer 1996 and Winter 1996) and have spurred us on with the search.

John was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour, plus a fine. Harsh treatment? Perhaps the sentencing magistrates were aware of the inaccuracies in his previous sworn statement made to the Justices of the Peace in 1802 when he applied for a settlement in Halwell. When John made this statement, having recently married Jane Emmet, he had a compelling reason to hide his presence in North Tawton four years previously. What could be more convincing than to say that he was in the Navy for seven years and five months just prior to arriving in Halwell?

John said that he was born in Bideford, lived with his parents until he was about 13 years old when he was apprenticed to a farmer, whom he served for seven years. Then, leaving by mutual consent, found employment for eighteen months in Exeter, then eighteen months in Crediton before arriving in Halwell, where he hoped to settle. All this leads back to a probable birth date of c 1771, but as I wrote in my last article, we have failed to find such a birth in Bideford or adjacent parishes.

Failing to find his birth, we have concentrated on trying to find some record of his life after release from prison, but yet again we were thwarted in attempts to find the date of his discharge. He was in prison in 1810, but after that there is a gap of sixteen years in the prison records!

Reasoning that, if born c1771 he could be alive in 1841, the date of the first census, I searched censuses of 1841 and 1851 for Bideford and district, including the Poor House and the gaol, and the censuses for Halwell and likely south Devon areas, but no John.

I think John was telling the truth when he said that he was born in Bideford, there would be no reason to lie about that, and his son William, born in North Tawton, was in 1841 living in Northam, near Bideford, with his wife, Fanny Causey and their family. It may have been that William and his mother went to relatives in the Bideford area when John left them.

In 1841, John's son, another William born 1806 in Halwell, was living in the Poor House at Harberton with his wife, Susan Brimmicombe, and their family - but no sign of John.

It was more than likely that he had died, but when and where? A search of the Bideford and district registers, and registers of other likely places, revealed nothing. Then Sheila (when looking for something else) came across a reference to a Burial:-

Micro Fiche 21 Plymouth Charles JOHN WETHERIDGE 25<sup>th</sup> October 1812

At first it did not occur to me that this could be 'our' John. I looked for a connection with one of the south Devon families, but could not find one. Now I have come to think that this is the John we are seeking. Why do I think that we have found him?

After serving a two year sentence, and presumably paying the fine, John would be released in 1811. Did he then make his way to Plymouth, some 44 miles from Exeter? It would not be too difficult to get lifts, or walk along the main highway, doing casual work as he went along. According to his statement, he had been an hostler at an Inn. Perhaps Plymouth promised anonymity, or because of his previous connection with the Navy, he had old shipmates there. As we have failed to find any other trace of John after 1810, I can accept that the John who was buried in Plymouth in 1812 was our John. We may have found him in death - but what of his life?

1771 Born Bideford, from 13 years served apprenticeship = 20 years old = 1791  
1791 Eighteen months service in Exeter, plus eighteen months in Crediton = 3 years =  
1794 Seven years five months in the Navy = 1801/2  
1802 Arrives in Halwell, marries Jane Emmet

There are some significant dates shown here. I believe that in his statement John transposed the time periods of his service in the Navy (assuming that he was actually in the Navy) and his work in Exeter and Crediton. The time periods would then be:-

1771 Born Bideford, lived and served apprenticeship seven years = 20 years =  
1791 Joined Navy - served seven years five months = 1798  
1798 Appeared in North Tawton (register states that he was a 'sojourner'), where he married Mary Atkins, and son William was born 1799  
1798/9 Went to Exeter for approximately eighteen months = 1800  
1800/1 Went to Crediton for eighteen months.  
1802 Arrived in Halwell.

Note the date 1791. In the Bideford parish register there is a record of a marriage between John Wetheridge and Ann Lee on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1791, and the record of the baptism, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1791, of a son born to them. Could John have been married three times?

We always caution against letting imagination run riot, but my imagination is influenced by some facts: -

1. Record of a John Witheridge baptised Bideford 1760 - this could have been 'our' John or his father.
2. Record of a marriage of John Wetheridge and Ann Lee 1791
3. Record of a baptism of William Witheridge 1791 (No further records found)
4. Record of a burial of an Ann Witheridge, 10<sup>th</sup> March 1793 - marked P presumable for 'Pauper' ? Was this John's wife, or his mother. There is no death record for a William or a John.

If the John who married Ann Lee is our John, why did he leave his wife?

Did he join the Navy OR WAS HE PRESS GANGED INTO IT!?

In 1791 there was an acute shortage of man power in the Navy. The years 1790 to 1800 was a decade in which some of our greatest sea battles were fought - Cape St. Vincent,



Copenhagen, the Nile etc. Press gangs, with the authority of the Government, operated in all seaports and some inland towns. The press gangs were brutal and ruthless, sometimes breaking into houses, as well as abducting men from the taverns and streets. The men taken were not all suitable as seamen, many of them being old and feeble, and so the man power shortage was not solved. At one stage the sheriffs of all counties were ordered to produce a 'quota' of men every month. Some thought this a good idea as it enabled them to dispose of a few undesirables, but it did not please the Navy. This system still did not produce enough men, so a 'bounty' was offered to men who would volunteer.

It enraged regular seamen who had been at sea for years to think that landsmen could be paid more than they. Their wages were 22s.6d per month, not paid until they were paid off from a ship, and they complained that their wives and families were starving. (Was this what happened to Ann Witheridge?)

There was no shore leave (this is one fact which makes me think that if John was in the Navy when he said he was then he could not have married in North Tawton in 1798) Working and living conditions in the Service were appalling, and punishments brutal and barbaric. It was all this which led to serious mutiny in 1797. There was a shake up on some ship's companies, and some men were discharged, and some were hanged.

Could it be that John was discharged, or that he deserted? Maybe he could not go back to Bideford. He appeared in North Tawton, an inland village, in 1798, described as a 'sojourner' when the banns were called for his marriage.

If his three year period as an hostler and a servant is to be fitted in, then he cannot have stayed long with his wife Mary Atkins. Was there some compelling reason which made him leave? Was he wanted by the Navy?

It seems that he did wish to settle down somewhere. He was in Halwell eight months before he married Jane Emmet. He was working, and he applied to be considered as settled in Halwell where he had children, and presumably was still living there when arrested in 1809. Someone had found him at last!

I do not dignify these thoughts with the term "theory" - thoughts they are, and I write them in the hope that some reader will also think and give me an opinion, and some guidance on where to look next.

My aim in trying to find John is not to expose him as a trickster, but to reveal his story, which given the terrible privations of the time, I now suspect may be a very sad one.

The bright aspect is that his descendants have become brilliant assets to society.

## NEW MEMBERS

Member No. 161 Mrs. Doreen Heaton of the Northmore One Name Research Group

Contact address: "Carswell", 4, South Crescent, Garlieston, Wigtownshire,  
Scotland DG8 8BQ

As far as I know Doreen has no personal family connection to the Witheridge family lines, but I know that Doreen and many of her subscribing correspondents have researched sections of our family where marriages from their personal family lines have bonded the two families together. Doreen and I have researched these lines together for many years now, as you will have read in past magazines.

Recently Doreen has developed an older variant to the Northmore family name - "Naramore". In this we are quite happy to share at least one marriage.

Mary Ann Naramore (or Nerramore) and John Witheridge were married on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1831 at St. Andrew's Plymouth. I believe John to be JOHN BENTLEY Witheridge, son of John Witheridge and Susannah Bentley. A witness to the marriage was a Susan Witheridge, who could have been John's mother, Susannah. If I am correct in my thoughts on John then this links him to the South Huish/South Milton/ Yealmpton family. I look forward to future research into the origins of John - wishing Doreen happy hunting, and giving her the best wishes of our members. Welcome to the Witheridge Society!

Member No. 162 Miss Vida Wonnacott

Contact Address: 33, Mill Street, Torrington, North Devon, EX38 8AL

(1) Vida Wonnacott 1931- (2) Frederick George Wonnacott 1886-1933 (3) Gertrude May S. Chugg 1893-1985 (4) Thomas Wonnacott 1848-1915 (5) Mary Grace Osborne 1853-1920 (6) James Gammon Chugg 1870-1948 (7) Barbara Slee 1867-1930 (8) Thomas Wonnacott 1813-? (9) Susannah Jeffery née Jewell ?? (11) Ann Osborne 1829-1909 (12) George Chugg 1825-1891 (13) Betsy Bament 1831-1891 (14) John Slee 1838-1895 (15) Louisa Shapland nee Bament ?-1894 (16) John Wonnacott ? - 1840 (17) Ann Jones ?? Thomas Jewell ?? (22) William Osborne ?? (23) Grace Horn ?? James Chugg 1796-1832 Mary Gammon 1799-? (27) William Bament 1807-1852 Mary Chugg 1806-? (28) Richard Slee 1811-1888 (29) Mary Cowman ?? (30) William Bament 1802-? (31) Mary Chugg.

Combe Martin, Marwood, West Down are the areas covered in the years 1619- 1891.

From 1891 to the present day. West Down, Braunton, Bishop's Tawton, Barnstaple and High Bickington.

For the uninitiated researcher this family line appears not to have Witheridge connections, but I can assure you that it has. Its twists and turns over the years will enrapture all members of the Combe Martin and Berrynarbor family lines. The first sighting is of the marriage of Thomas Witheridge to a Mary Parminter in Ilfracombe. Thomas was born in Berrynarbor in 1622, son of John Witheridge and Mary Norman who married in 1617. (A little note here for the Reverend David Witheridge - who will know what I mean when I say that Thomas was the third holder of the silver jug which was passed down through the family as an heirloom).

Vida has posted to me some incredible information concerning the child of Thomas and Mary and also the children from his first wife, Margaret, whose first son Thomas, born 1650, married Mary Sherman. Much of this information links in to the Thomas who Joyce was researching for her article concerning the mourning rings. Needless to say, I feel that many more stories will come from this family.

Welcome Vida - I am sincerely glad that you were able to find us. I hope that you enjoy your membership, that we will be able to fill in many of the gaps in your extended family tree, and also follow up those interesting names that are linked to both families.

Member No. 163 Miss Gina Couch

Contact address: Rose Villa, Hadlow Road, Willaston, South Wirral, Cheshire. L64 20W

As yet, I have not received Gina's genealogical chart. Sometimes these are hard to formulate but Gina did post on a short family tree showing her connections to our family and I filled in some gaps.

To the researching members of our society - all of you will know the surname 'Ralph' (or 'Rolph'. If you will look at Gina's post code you will see a clue: L64 20W - L64 = Liverpool 64. Have you twigged which branch I mean? Please pardon the pun!

|                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| William Witheridge | =                  | Mary Ralph (Rolph) |
| B 1800 Thurlestone | }                  | B 1800 Liverpool   |
| M 1825 LIVERPOOL   |                    | D 1871 Kingsbridge |
| D 1870 Kingsbridge |                    | aged 71            |
| aged 69            |                    |                    |
| Master Mariner     | Issue - 8 children |                    |

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ellen 1827          | Isabella 1834     |
| William George 1829 | Robert Ralph 1835 |
| John 1831           | Catherine 1837    |
| Susan Lamble 1832   | George 1840       |

Gina is related to the Witheridge Thurlestone branch via the marriage of Catherine, born 1837, and William Edward Wyatt Couch, Master Mariner, married 1863 at West Alvington.

This couple, as far as I know, had two sons, George Henry Couch and John William Couch. I think that John was the older. Perhaps John William also became a mariner for most certainly he married the girl of his dreams in Liverpool - Maggie Sowell Dottie.

They had seven children, the last two being Gina's father George Witheridge Couch, born 1897 and her Aunt Catherine Witheridge Couch, born 1899.

Gina is the youngest of three children: Grace Halsall Couch  
Gerrard Witheridge Couch  
Georgina Montserrat Couch

I know that Gina will be related to members of the New Jersey Witheridge lines, with possible links to some of the Pennsylvania Witheridges. Gina - we are pleased to have you as a member, and we hope that your stay with us will be long and fruitful. Welcome!

Member No. 164 Allan Witheridge  
165 Judith Isobel Witheridge née Rolfe

(1) Allan Witheridge 1926 - spouse Judith Isobel Rolfe (2) William Witheridge 1890-1962 (3) Rosie Innes 1906-1990 (4) Philemon Witheridge 1846-1937 (5) Mary Carvarth 1852-1926 (6) Charles Innes ?-? (7) Gertrude Zeigler ?-? (8) Thomas Witheridge 1808-1871 (9) Jane Thomas 1811-1893 (16) Francis Witheridge 1782-? (17) Ann Eastaway ?-? (18) Philemon Thomas 1770-? (19) Ann née Thomas ?-? (32) Thomas Witheridge 1751 -? (33) Mary Howe ?-? (64) John Witheridge 1714-? (65) Mary Witheridge ?-? (128) John Witheridge 1678-1725 (129) Jennet Lewis ?-? (256) Thomas Witheridge 1650-? (257) Mary Sherman 1657-? (512) Thomas Witheridge 1622-1695. (Margaret Witheridge 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Mary Parminter 2<sup>nd</sup> wife)

1530s - 1808 Combe Martin, Berrynarbor, 1820s - 1850s Cornwall, 150s to present date - Australia.

Those of you who were able to attend the Witheridge reunion this year will remember Allan and Judith who travelled all the way from Australia to be with us, even though at that time they were not members of our society. To this I say "What dedication!" Their travels and interests were no doubt stimulated by my very good friend and colleague , Dorothy Witheridge, our Australian representative, and also I hope in some small way by the attention that we have given to this family over the recent years.

In front of me at this moment is the most neat handwritten letter that I have ever seen-almost copperplate. Just what you might expect from a retired teacher, and the contents are wonderful - the icing on the cake - the minute details that one can only obtain from those who are in the midst of history being made. I promise that this will enable me to expand on the rather lengthy article "Berrynarbor to Berry". How I wish that I had read this material before sending the article to print.

You will by now have gathered that Allan and Judith are descendants of the Berrynarbor and Combe Martin family. They will come to realise that this group of Witheridges are the most prolific in our history. In the true tradition of their ancestors they are adding to the continuation of the Witheridge name. For you see, Allan and Judith have four sons:-

- |       |                                               |                     |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Greig | - married to Karen, they have two boys        | Dean born 1984      |
|       |                                               | Joel born 1985      |
| Neil  | - married to Rowena, they have three children | Katherine born 1991 |
|       |                                               | Timothy born 1993   |
|       |                                               | Philip born 1995    |
| Ian   | - married to Silvana, they have two children  | Matt born 1993      |
|       |                                               | Giverny born 1995   |
| Paul  | - married to Sonia                            |                     |

So you will understand what I mean. In two generations this family will have grown from one to ten permanent name bearing family members. What is happening to the rest of us????\*\*\*

Welcome Allan and Welcome Judith! It was great to meet you at Tiverton. It was even better to receive your correspondence. Thank you for the local and family history. Shortly you will see it added to the latest family tree and history.

John Witheridge



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS: -

Mrs. Mavis Witheridge,  
has removed to:-

UNIT 2/2 WESTRALIA GARDENS  
ROCKINGHAM,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6168  
AUSTRALIA

Mr. John Witheridge, our Secretary  
has removed to:-

6 PRESTBURY AVENUE,  
CLAYTON  
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME  
STAFFS.  
ST5 4QY

We hope that Mavis, and Mayda and John will be happy in their new homes.

## COMPUTER ILLITERATE

by Fenwick Witheridge

My old word processor was undeniably old fashioned - reliable, but old fashioned. What I wanted was something that would enable me to see a whole page at a time instead of only eighteen lines. Something that would print more than one page at a time and with different sized words.

Enter the Devil, "Get wired mate, get on the Net, browse the Web." In the dulcet tones, whispered by other people, lay the trigger that fired my imagination, accordingly I acquired a Computer. "That was a silly move," my common sense informed me. "Get lost!", said I, switching the thing on and commencing my masterpiece.

Somewhere later I went through the procedure to store away my pearls of wisdom. Wonderful things these computers I thought.

Early next morning I switched the beast on only to discover that it had eaten my manuscript and refused to disgorge it. No problem, all I had to do was to go to HELP. That was the rock on which I perished. HELP will do anything but that which its name implies. It will do anything but help, unless of course you possess a degree in computer science.

I don't want to do things like embedding with the copy command, or linking with the insert object command, macro, customise, or convert text to table. I do not want to find a system file, though hold on maybe; but stay - in that way lies lunacy.

In fact the only sane way out is to wait for a visit from my twelve year old granddaughter. I wouldn't mind so much but it just sits there with its myriad Icons, Tools, Tools Fonts and Options. All that I want is to be enabled to write something that can be sent off to the Publisher in order to collect yet another rejection slip. There has to be a solution to this dilemma, somewhere in this world of the computer there is someone or something that can give me the magic word. The talisman that will enable me to tell the thing to save something until tomorrow, and it will do just that; willingly, completely without guile, even slavishly. Ah! What bliss!

But I dream, for I know for a fact that the moment I turn my back it will swiftly swallow and digest every word, thus leaving me as usual frustrated, bewildered and wishing that I had never divorced my dear old processor.

Yet strangely, in the recesses of my mind there lurks a suspicion that I have had this moment before and it had some connection with a pen.

FINDERS.....SEEKERS

The following information has been sent to us by Sheila Jewell, and may help to tie a few loose ends:

Woodleigh Parish Registers:

Baptisms

13. 12. 1868 Sarah Jane, daughter of John and Sarah Witheridge  
(P.R.O. Registration Dec. 1868 Kingsbridge 5b 203)
19. 03. 1871 William, son of John and Sarah Witheridge  
(P.R.O. Registration Mar. 1871 Wetheridge Kingsbridge 5b 231)
11. 04. 1873 Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sarah Witheridge  
(P.R.O. Registration June 1873 Kingsbridge 5b 207)
- (There is a P.R.O. Registration for June 1873 for DEATH of an Elizabeth Witheridge,  
aged (0) Kingsbridge 5b 207)
22. 11. 1874 Elizabeth Ann Witheridge, Tolsham Bridge Of This Parish  
(P.R.O. Registration Dec. 1874 Kingsbridge 5b 212)
28. 05. 1876 Susan Witheridge, Tolsham Bridge Of This Parish  
(P.R.O. Registration June 1876 Kingsbridge 5b 216)
24. 11. 1878 Emma Witheridge Tolsham Bridge Of This Parish  
(P.R.O. Registration Dec. 1878 Kingsbridge 5b 227)
12. 12. 1880 Maryann daughter of John and Sarah Witheridge of Loddiswell  
(P.R.O. Registration Dec. 1880 Kingsbridge 5b 209)

The mother of all these children was Sarah Steer. We are trying to finalise long time research into what we have been calling the 'Totnes' and 'Thurlestone and South Milton' families, and hope to amend our family trees.

Dodbrook Parish Register

Baptism

- 06.11.1862 Ernest Albert, son of William and Mary Witheridge, father a gardener.  
(P.R.O. Registration Dec. 1861 Kingsbridge 5b 193)

Ipplepen Parish Register

Burial

- 26.03.1781 Mary Witheridge buried

## MEMORIES OF THE OVER SIXTIES

Who can look back over the past sixty years  
Without some nostalgia and so many tears?  
Then you must have lived before nineteen forty  
When seaside cards were considered naughty!

Before the Forties we made our own fun,  
But sad to say it was swapped for the gun.  
Now in this age with drugs most prevalent  
What base is there for a child's development?

We had on Sundays full Chapels and Churches,  
And everyone joined in the Sunday school marches.  
So what has become of those built in our town -  
Most lacked support and therefore pulled down.

Rock music were lullabies which sent us to sleep  
Aids - walking sticks if hill were too steep  
Crack was in ceilings which need repairing,  
Pot, a utensil used by mother for cooking.

Grass was in fields which in summer was mowed,  
The Bill was a list of the monies we owed.  
We all were around before televisions,  
Accepting that parents made the decisions.

We thought that the lessons of War had been learned,  
And our new caring nation would never be spurned  
But the law of the gun and the nuclear bomb remain  
And the makers of these huge riches attain.

So we have to enlist voluntary organisations,  
To combat the poverty which afflicts all nations  
Oxfam, Bandid, Sportsaid and so many others  
All are needed, as well as foster mothers.

But surely in those generations gone before  
Both males and females must have known the score  
Were we all really so dumb as to think, ladies,  
That you needed a husband before having babies?



## MEMORIES OF THE OVER SIXTIES

So much in our nation is considered disposable,  
The ditching of partners is quite acceptable  
What sad commentary on home life and society  
Which forgets fidelity, all morals and loyalty!

All over sixty should celebrate, and sure we will  
For most of we married ones are together still.  
The difficulties we have are all part of life  
Which we cannot expect will be devoid of strife.

H. A. PAYNE



### A POEM WRITTEN BY WILLIAM WITHERIDGE OF CHATHAM. 1815

Discovered by John Witheridge

During the course of research into the house of Witheridge in Chatham I have unearthed many happenings that concerned local government. Many were funny, many were very painful. Many showed success, others a demise, but the following poem shows a little of all these points. Most of all it reiterates the one characteristic that we all know about ourselves and other Witheridges - we fight for what we feel to be our rights and also for the rights of those less fortunate than ourselves. In fact it sometimes proves what others have said about some of our ancestors in the past. (WE HAVE BIG MOUTHS)

In the year 1815 a new law was proposed whereby an extra tax would be levied on the trades people and the gentry of England. This was known as the property tax, but was commonly known by many as 'the poor rate'.

William and Henry Witheridge both sat on a committee to try to change this proposed law. This poem was William's humorous view of the local response. The words were to have been sung to the tune "Dizzy Down", a popular song of the day, and were dedicated as follows:-

"This song is dedicated to the committee appointed by the parish of Chatham to oppose the Poor Bill, by their friends and well wishers".

"Ye Blockheads of Chatham, why make such a stir,  
To oppose the wise measures of Jefferies and Gunn,  
They laugh at your folly, you rant and you rail  
While they'r swigging a tankard of Stout, poor house Ale"

"The Comptroller of Customs, make no little rout,  
Says 'The bells hacked at by Smugglers, they now are found out.  
The Bill never can pass on to be law of the land,  
And is worse than seen liqueur on good contraband'.

The Clerks in the Dock Yard this Bill do oppose  
'No Jeffery shall take and lead us by the nose.  
Though of some of the Guardians he makes a cat's paw,  
They'll see how he'll rule, if his Bill become Law'.

Says the Wheelwright who makes his wheels firm strong and sound,  
'I admire that Clause, which relates to the Pound  
Of stray cattle, sheep, horses, his sight to take care,  
And the ( ) Guardians may find a place there'  
Says the host of the chest, 'this is far from a joke  
Such a Bill down the throats of the people to poke,  
When the Bill was preparing partitioning, believe  
The Lawyer's old Friend was not far from his sleeve'

The Coal merchant says 'A deep scheme has been laid  
By some of the Guardians who follow my trade'  
While the Water Mill Lawyer says 'Many a flaw  
Can be found in this Bill, which will not become Law'

The bricklayer comes next, says 'What! Six months to frame  
A Bill for to govern the Halt, Blind and Lame?  
In less than that time, I would build a new gaol  
to lock up the Guardians, who drink Poor House Ale'

Says the Brewer 'I'm sure tis no crime to drink ale,  
I brews it myself, but I brews it for sale'  
'No' says the Lawyer, 'Your ale you may keep  
I brew at the Poorhouse and brew my ale cheap'

But the bold Valiant says 'Shot can never be withstood'  
He'd fight up to his knees, not in boots but in blood  
Says 'the Bill at the Standard, the scale will not turn  
And is worse than the Cog Mag, which I used to burn'

Says that bald headed Doctor 'No one of my tribe,  
Such a dose for a Parish would ever prescribe.  
While the Clover Street Doctor says he has great hope  
That all rogues who deserve it will dance the slack rope."

"The Cordwainer says we should soon have the proof,  
And so says another, I think his name's "Roofe",  
'If the Bill becomes Law Gunn and Jefferies wont fail  
To knock us all down, like a lot at a sale'.

So now Lawyer Jefferies, Pray take my advice,  
Twill not cost six and eight pence, nor any such price,  
Let the Bill which for six months has bothered your brain  
Be put to the fire, consigned to the flame"

William Witheridge

William Witheridge and his brother Henry , five years later, in 1820, risked their lives in the second fire of Chatham. It seems that they were well liked in the west and north wards of Chatham, giving money and time to assist the not so well off members of the community. So it seems that they would give money willingly, but did not care for anyone to extract the coin of the realm from their pockets by force.

A hundred and seventy odd years later we react in the same way! What changes????



## VALUING RESEARCH

by Kim Cook

One of the good things about being involved in family history is that you meet so many lovely people. Whether they are fellow researchers, clergy or record office staff, most people are friendly, kind and helpful, and it would be very easy to presume on the good will of so many kind folk. But it is important to remember that, while record office staff are paid to assist us, this is not true of others, and particularly of the clergy. Many have to run their parishes on very slim budgets, and in rural areas one minister may have to run two, three or even more parishes. Few have the resources to employ paid secretarial or administrative help, and most have to rely on the good will of local volunteers.

It is easy to forget, too, that some parishes get enquiries from many researchers, often asking for the same or similar information. For this reason, it is most important that members of a Family Society such as ours, should consult their research co-ordinator before embarking on research. It may well be that another member has already asked the same questions of the same overworked clergyman (or woman) before.

In an ideal world, we would all have access to each other's research, and maybe, one day, with the help of the internet, that will be possible. But at the moment, we all have far too much information to distribute it all to every member.

To give you some idea of the information we hold, I have, in my own records, information on something like 6,000 Witheridges and Witheridge descendants. Other members have some of that information, plus information of their own which I don't yet have. For instance, Joyce Browne and Richard Witheridge have a tremendous amount of information on the history and geography of the Ermington branch, our secretary, John Witheridge has made a specialist study of Witheridge mariners, families connected with Witheridges, and Australian Witheridges. Philip Witheridge and Joyce Browne have information on Plymouth and Halwell families. David Witheridge in Minneapolis has the most amazingly well organised files on the Combe Martin and other branches of the family worldwide, and Kathy Witheridge in Ontario has masses of information on the Bradworthy branch.

These are just some of the specialisations we have, but there is a wonderful wealth of information on all sorts of aspects of Witheridge history. Distributing it all would be a mammoth, expensive and time-consuming task.

But we do all want to help our fellow researchers, and all you have to do is contact our co-ordinator, Richard Witheridge, with details of what you wish to know. He can then contact those who hold the most information on the aspect of research that you are following to see who can help you. Only if you can't get what you want from a fellow member, should you contact the parish clergy.

Remember, the clergy aren't paid for any help they give researchers, and any research they do on your behalf will cost them time and money, so be prepared to pay up. Enclose a nominal sum (say £5.0d for a simple UK enquiry, £10.0 for a more involved UK enquiry, or an enquiry from overseas), and ask the minister to let you know if there are any further costs involved. Even if an individual minister chooses not to make an official charge, he will be grateful to accept the sum as a donation to church funds.

Over the years, the parishes of Combe Martin and Berrynarbor have received dozens, if not hundreds of enquiries from Witheridge descendants and others, and all have been given generous and helpful replies, often without payment. The volume of this generosity became evident when I saw the very fat correspondence file held by Rev. Keith Wyer, the minister currently caring for both parishes. Unless we acknowledge this generosity, and ensure that people are not out of pocket on our behalf, we shall gain the unenviable reputation of being 'users', and rightly lose the good will we have enjoyed in the past.

Those who were at the Witheridge weekend were also very impressed by the wonderful

welcome we received at Combe Martin. Keith Wyer gave us such an informative and humorous talk about the church and the parish, and a team of local people very kindly gave up their time on a Bank Holiday Sunday to serve us a superb buffet lunch, and to wash up and clear away after us. There was even a beautiful 'Welcome' sign with lovely water colour pictures of scenes of Combe Martin, painted specially for us by Una Parsons. The generosity and hospitality of these lovely people was superb.

On behalf of the Society, I have already written a thank-you letter to the village news magazine, and I also had the opportunity to convey our thanks on a television news interview, but it would be nice if we could make some practical gesture in recognition, both of this hospitality, and of all the help and kindness we have received over the years.

Those of us who visited the church saw the beautiful rood (cross) screen with its rare and historic paintings of saints. These paintings have, in the course of over 300 years, become dulled and need expensive professional cleaning and restoration. The face of one saint has had a test cleaning done, and the result was remarkable. Sadly, the church does not have the funds needed to have the work done.

It has been suggested that, as individuals and as a Society, we make a contribution towards the cost of cleaning and restoring the rood screen. A small donation from Society funds has already been made, but it would be good if we could increase this. I am therefore sending a cheque for £10.0 to Richard to start the fund off. Members who would like to join me in saying 'thank-you' in this way should send their cheques, made payable to the Witheridge Society, but marked on the back 'Combe Martin gift' to our Treasurer, Richard Witheridge. The Society will then forward a cheque for the total to the Rector, Rev. Keith Wyer, with an appropriate letter of thanks.

Please remember, even if you yourself have never written off for information from the parish records, you will have benefited from the work of others who have. Without their research, and the help of the parish clergy, many of us would never have known of each other, and we certainly wouldn't have a Witheridge Society!

So let's value that research, and be ready to express our very genuine gratitude!



THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY AT THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING IN THE TOPAZ ROOM, TIVERTON HOTEL, TIVERTON, NORTH DEVON, ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 1997 AT 10.0 AM

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all visiting members, in particular all those members travelling from overseas. He made a special welcome to the Reverend David Witheridge, our new Vice President, and to the old friend of the society, Mr. Ernest Hamley.

He voiced his hopes that all present would enjoy the complete weekend, with the day's talks, exhibitions, discussions, and the weekend visits to areas of interest to our families, which were so well organised by our treasurer Richard Witheridge.

The Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence: Mrs. Irene Birdsall, Mr. Philip Witheridge, Brenda and Ron Dixon, Rod and Sue Witheridge, Adam and Mrs. Cook, Velma Metcalfe, Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Popplestone, Miss Jane Witheridge, Mrs. Mayda Witheridge, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith, Mrs. Pat James, Mrs. Doreen Pedersen.

The meeting wished to extend good wishes and hopes for speedy recoveries to all those who were ill and were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1996: The Chairman reminded members that these had been published in the magazine following the meeting, and asked for a proposer that they be taken as read

Proposed: Joyce Stephens

Seconded: David Witheridge

3. Matters arising from those Minutes: The Minutes were accepted without any matters arising.

4. Reports: Chairman )  
Secretary )  
Membership Secretary ) :- as separate items  
Treasurer )  
Research Co-ordinator)

All officers' reports were printed in a leaflet distributed to all members present. The Chairman, Graham Browne, proposed that these should be accepted as read in order to save time, and this was seconded by John Witheridge. The proposal and reports were accepted.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1997

5. Election of Officers

|                               |                                      |                                                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman                      | Graham Browne                        | Proposed John Witheridge<br>Seconded Richard Witheridge |
| Vice Chairman                 | June Witheridge                      | Proposed Graham Browne<br>Seconded John Witheridge      |
| Secretary                     | John Witheridge                      | Proposed Graham Browne<br>Seconded Joyce Browne         |
| Membership Secretary          | John Witheridge                      | Proposed Kathy Witheridge<br>Seconded Graham Browne     |
| Treasurer                     | Richard Witheridge                   | Proposed Kim Cook<br>Seconded Graham Browne             |
| Assistant Treasurer           | Susan Witheridge                     | Proposed Richard Witheridge<br>Seconded John Witheridge |
| Editor                        | Joyce Browne                         | Proposed Kim Cook<br>Seconded Kathy Witheridge          |
| Research Co-ordinator         | Richard Witheridge                   | Proposed John Witheridge<br>Seconded Kim Cook           |
| North American Representative | Kathy Witheridge                     | Proposed Graham Browne<br>Seconded John Witheridge      |
| Publications Officer          | Philip Witheridge                    | Proposed Joyce Browne<br>Seconded John Witheridge       |
| Australian Representative     | Dorothy Witheridge                   | Proposed Graham Browne<br>Seconded John Witheridge      |
| New Zealand Representative    | Velma Metcalfe                       | Proposed Richard Witheridge<br>Seconded Joyce Browne    |
| Committee members:            | Annette Witheridge<br>Joyce Stephens | Mark Witheridge<br>Philip Witheridge                    |

6. Any Other Business: Kim Cook asked if she could propose a vote of thanks to all members who spent time, effort and money keeping our society working.

John Witheridge asked that these thanks be extended to all members, for without their membership the society would founder. It is their society and for this we thanked them all.

7. Date and Time of the next Meeting: It was proposed that the next meeting be at Alderton. Also it was suggested that we look into the possibility of holding a two day event at Alderton. If however, should a single day meeting be arranged, then it was agreed that a Saturday would be a better choice. The need of some research into this situation was suggested, the final consensus of opinion being in favour of a two day event on the dates 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1998 (Sunday and Monday), holding the AGM on the Monday so that there could be no religious objection.

The meeting was brought to an end at 11.0 a.m.





## THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT. MAY 1997

My report, you will be glad to hear, will be brief, because as you know, we have a very full programme to get through this morning.

During 1996 our Officers have once again been working overtime to publicise the Society and its aims, particularly Kathy, Velma, Dorothy, John, Joyce and Philip. Richard's efforts have resulted in publicity in unexpected ways.

The Society's finances are, as last year, in a healthy state, as you can see from the Treasurer's Report.

We had hoped to present a new handbook this year, but although much work has been done, it is not yet complete. However, we are nearer to completion than we were.

During 1996 there has been increased activity throughout the Society, and as a result of the efforts of Kim and Roy Cook, who travelled to America, the Rev. David Witheridge, and others, the first American Witheridge Day was held. This was a great success, and the report on this was in our magazine.

The tenth anniversary meeting would not have been possible without Richard. He began work on this project early last summer, and without his hard work, careful planning and attention to detail, it would not have come to fruition. We owe him our gratitude.

The Society is thriving, and thanks to John, of course, our membership has increased during 1996.

My thanks to you and to all the committee members for their support.

SIGNED: GRAHAM BROWNE Chairman

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Secretary & Membership Secretary. Report for year ending Dec.31 1996.

This last year has been one of those years, when I have not know if I am standing on my head or heels. With correspondence ranging from the Royal Library in Sweden to the Royal Library in Portugal. From members of our Society, to members of other organisations making enquiries into our family's history. With many new members and covering new and old areas of research.

One new item of research that presented itself this week involving the marriage of a Mary Ann Narramore to a John Witheridge, a builder, in Plymouth St. Andrew. Narramore being a variation of the Northmore family name.

Another involved two brothers. One, who harassed a Royal Prince in every corner of the world. The other who escorted the body home to Plymouth of the greatest Admiral that this country ever produced. Who was decorated by a foreign King, gave up his state-room to the future Queen of England, and resigned his commission to her husband the King. Who was on first name terms with Sir William Penn who founded Pennsylvania. Both he and his wife were quakers. It is believed that his son Edward was also a quaker.

Also of a poet, Henry Witheridge.

Also, Dorothy Witheridge has found a relative, in Australia, fo Annette in New York.

Fenwick Witheridge has found at long last that he has relations within the Society, Velma, Carol, and John Roberts, and many more.

These are the contents of the 700 odd letters that I write and receive for our Society.

Last year I asked for permission to advertise our Society in the Family Tree Magazine. Due to other interests we didn,t discuss this matter. With your permission I would like to commence advertising this June.

We have contacted the London Society, with reference to the marriage in the Kent, Birmingham, and London Family. In a separate search we have found that one of this family was a Clerk with the Dockyard. Thats nothing much I hear you say. A Clerk was a head of a department, ie, a clerk of ordinance or a clerk of the cheque, etc. I wonder what!

This year we advertised our A.G.M. and Gathering in th Western Morning News. As yet we have received but one letter which gave details of Witheridges in Naval Surveys in 1619 and 1626. I hope more letters will come.

Yours Respectfully,

John Witheridge.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR'S REPORT FOR 1996

Once again our researchers have been very busy, sometimes leading to successful conclusions and sometimes not, very often ending up with more questions than answers. Below is a list of just some of the lines of research being carried out, some of which is ongoing:-

Connections between Witheridges and Thomas families (See mag. Vol. 10. No.1)

Kent Witheridges

Bigamist JOHN WITHERIDGE known in North Tawton and Halwell. He was convicted of bigamy in 1809. A little information has been found and will be published later. (Mag. Vol 10 No. 2)

Witheridge Seamen. (Mag. Vol 10 No. 3)

Witheridge connections with seamen in Cornwall. (Mag. Vol 10 No. 4)

Following the above which were printed in Vol 10 of the magazine we continue with:-

Further search to trace Daniel and Ann Thomas, ancestors of a Witheridge member.

Check on Bristol census shows no trace to date.

Combe Martin/Australia families

Wembury/New Zealand families

Chatham Witheridges

Newport family of Witheridges

Search for Thomas and Susanna Witheridge born Devon, died Ontario 1843 and 1859.

Search to establish true identity of John Pengelly Bussell also known as John Witheridge, who died in New Zealand in 1916 but no success to date.

Check of Wills and certificates to find relationship between Thomas and George Witheridge who went to New Zealand. This was successful and helps to conclude investigation started by our New Zealand researcher/

Finding more information on Philip Witheridge, brother of John Northmore Witheridge.

Some additional information now held.

Establishing a Plymouth family tree.

Continuing research on Captain Edward Witheridge (Captain in Cromwell's Navy) to try to trace his sons through Wills and other records.

Also continuing checks on census records and visits to churchyards for information.

Searches of Land registers and Tithe Maps for Ermington. This revealed some names but little other information to date.

As you can see the searches cover a wide range and will no doubt in time give us some satisfaction in our thirst for knowledge.

I think the Society as a whole owes a debt of gratitude to the excellent work being undertaken by the researchers.

Signed: **RICHARD WITHERIDGE** Research Co-ordinator, May 1997

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR SOCIETY UP TO 30TH APRIL 1997

This year our funds have been boosted by increase in membership, although again it has not been possible to show where some members may have paid for years in advance, and therefore will not reflect the true income for the year 1996.

It can be seen that certain expenses are increased and this is due to paper and postage increases that have taken place. Despite this, and certain other payments made, we appear to be keeping a reasonable amount in our final balance.

This year we have made a payment for the help/cleaning in the hall on Witheridge Day, which previously was covered by donations.

We have also made a payment to the Inaugural American Witheridge Day as a "one-off" good will gestures, as agreed at the last AGM in 1996.

We should recognise that our researchers and printer do not claim all their actual expenses which they lay out on our behalf, and deserve our thanks for that, which has helped to keep our membership subscription static over the years.

Again, our funds in the bank are about the right amount for a Society of our size.

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

SIGNED: R. WITHERIDGE
(Richard Witheridge)
Treasurer
May 1997

Income and Expenditure for the year to 30th April, 1997

1996	<u>INCOME</u>	
£761.62	Brought forward from 1995/96	£731.94
£356.00	Membership subscriptions	£526.00
£ 34.50	Donation to Society	£ 18.00
£ 0.00	Printing on Witheridge Day	£ 0.00
£ 11.00	Sales of back copies of magazine	£ 16.00
£ 1.06	Interest in Membership Sec. Account	£ 1.63
	3 off certificates for Mrs. Pedersen	£ 16.50
	Research for Barbara Popplestone	£ <u>2.45</u>
£408.56	TOTAL INCOME	£580.58
1164.56	GRAND TOTAL	<u>£1312.52</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
£42.00	Payment for hire of hall	£42.00
£ 0.00	Help in hall on Witheridge Day	£25.00
£180.00	Payment re P.H. Witheridge claim for printing 4 vols, and dispatch plus Witheridge Day invitations	£244.81
£146.84.	Membership Secretary account for correspondence etc.	£121.05
£ 8.00	Subscription to Guild of one Name Studies	£ 8.00
£25.00	Subscription to Federation of Family History, year 1996. paid Dec. 1995	£ 25.00
	Payment to Joyce Browne for certificates	£ 19.50
£ 30.00	Miscellaneous payment. Scroll for David Witheridge, Vice President of Society	£ 0.00
	One off payment towards American meeting	<u>£ 60.00</u>
£432.24	TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO APRIL 30 th 1997	£545.36
£761.62	FINAL BALANCE	<u>£767.16</u>
	Payments into bank for coach trip	£130.07
	Balance shown on statement dated April 1997 will be	<u>£897.23</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, 1997.

SIGNED: R. WITHERIDGE	S. WITHERIDGE
R.H. Witheridge	S.L. Witheridge
Treasurer dated 8/4/97	Assistant Treasurer dated 10/4/97

SIGNED: G. BROWNE
Auditor dated 15/4/97

BROUGHT TO BOOK!

reported by Joyce Browne

The Daily Telegraph of the 20th August, 1997, featured a report of a complaint made to the Advertising Standards Authority by a Mr. Peter Knee against Burke's Peerage. Mr Knee had received mail from Burke's Peerage offering him 'The Burke's Peerage World Book of Knees' containing what purported to be the coat of arms of the Knee family. It so happened that Mr. Knee had traced his family history back to the sixteenth century and was convinced that the Knee family was not entitled to and had never had a coat of arms.

Mr. Knee applied to the College of Arms in London for confirmation of this and was told that no 'Knee' had ever been granted a coat of arms, nor was there any evidence that anyone of that name had made unofficial use of a coat of arms. Mr. Knee asked Burke's Peerage for further information, but none was forthcoming, and Mr. Knee declined to buy the book and made a complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Burke's Peerage said that the coat of arms offered was a variant of that of the Neville family, from which surname the name 'Knee' was derived. The Authority found that the derivation was not proved. The College of Arms said that a coat of arms was granted to a specific family and did not have an application to others who shared the same name.

The Advertising Standards Authority upheld the complaint and told Burke's Peerage to remove the claim from future mailings and to seek advice about its mailing strategy.

It appears that other complaints have been received, and people who have bought books supposedly giving their family origins have been dissatisfied.

The ancestral directory, 'Burke's Peerage and Baronetcy' which dates from the 1820's is distinct from 'Burkes Peerage' which is a title held by the Numa Corporation in Ohio who market the 'World book of.....' Series.

We, who know how easy it is to find a name, but how hard to find the right one, can only say :- THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU PART WITH ANY MONEY!



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:-

Miss Annette Witheridge
28A, 300 East 40th Street,
New York NY10016
USA

Mr. Mark Witheridge,
163, Wesley Avenue,
Selly Oak,
Birmingham Warw. B296PV

Mrs. Joyce Stephens,
95, Phelipps Road,
Corfe Mullen,
Wimbome, Dorset
BH21 3NL

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Devon Record Office, (Tel. 01392- 53509)
Castle Street
Devon EX4 3PQ

Devon Family History Society
Membership Secretary
Miss Valerie Bluett
63, Old Laira Road
Plymouth, Devon
Tel No. 01752-662985

Society of Genealogists
14, Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road,
London EC1M7BA
Tel No 0171-251 8799

