



**Vol.13.No.2.**

**Summer 1999**

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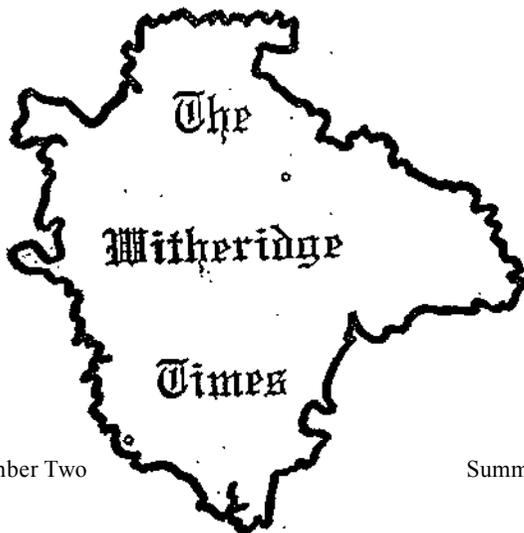
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Continued on back cover



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## EDITORIAL

Once again Witheridge Day has come and gone - good food, good weather, good company. What more could we have wished? Only more of the good company!

We began the day with a remembrance of those who could not be with us, and Kim read her poem 'Resurrection'.

The AGM was lively, and the Minutes and the Officer's Reports are published in this magazine.

The chatter did not stop for lunch, but business was suspended while we ate in the conference room. We rounded off the meal with the ceremonial cutting of Zoe's appropriately decorated 'Witheridge Millenium' cake.

In the afternoon, Kim, with her usual enthusiasm, gave us examples of how she believes we should all keep individual profiles and histories of our family members and make them available for a Witheridge archive - also keeping an archive of the Society itself. One member of Kim's family who came alive for us as Kim spoke was her Aunt Olive, and as Kim read the profile she had composed, Olive became more than a name on the family tree.

Philip Witheridge was very informative and helpful. He had brought his microfiche reader, and showed what information can be obtained in fiche form - censuses, local information, and much more.

Kim presented a quiz, and generously gave one of her paintings of South Devon as a prize, and we made a little money for the Society by holding a raffle.

When our meeting closed we felt that we had had a productive and happy day, but that we need much more input from members, especially on what is likely to be their level of interest for our event for the year 2000. Communicate with us - we cannot do without you!

In this edition there is a profile of the grandparents of David Witheridge, of Minneapolis (William Witheridge and Mary Jane Allen), and a stirring story from John Witheridge about John and Edward Witheridge, the Cromwellian sea captains, and an introduction to Kim's 'Remembering' project.

I wish you all happy summer reading - or winter reading as is the case for those 'down under'! Keep sending in your reminiscences and articles!

## WILLIAM WITHERIDGE AND MARY JANE ALLEN

### A Life Profile

by David E. Witheridge

William Witheridge, my grandfather, was born on September 23, 1856, in the North Devon seacoast town of Combe Martin. He was the son of John Witheridge and Clara Blackmore, both of whose families had lived in that area for many generations. They were members of the Church of England.

One of the industries of Combe Martin was the mining of a lead ore containing a small percentage of silver. William's father John worked as a miner, but the operation of the mines was not very profitable, so they were closed from time to time. Because of the uncertainty of work in the mines, John Witheridge took his family across the Bristol Channel to Swansea, Wales, about 1871 (when William was about 15) in search of steady employment in the coal mines there.

After moving to Wales, William also became a miner, and he worked in various Rhondda Valley mines. On September 25, 1880, he married Mary Jane Allen in Sardis Chapel (Independent) in Pontypridd. Both were listed as residents of Waunyr Eirw, Llantrissant.

Mary Jane Allen was born in Swansea in January 13, 1857. She was the daughter of William Allen and Christiana Richards. Her father was a coal miner, who had moved to Wales from Cornwall. He became a machine man, a stock taker, and an iron furnace manager in various Welsh towns before becoming weighmaster for a coal mine in Aberaman. There he was killed in a mine accident in 1869, when Mary Jane was twelve years old.

Mary Jane's mother was a tailoress. After her husband's death, she moved a few miles away to Hirwain, where two of her sons were miners, taking her younger children with her. At that time they were members of the Church of England. Later the family moved to Porth in the Rhondda Vale, where the sons continued mining, and Mary Jane probably learned dressmaking with her mother.

When Mary Jane and William were married, she already had a two-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Jane Allen, born June 11 1878 in Maesydd Landore, Glamorgan. It is not clear whether or not William Witheridge was the father, but Elizabeth was always known as Elizabeth Jane Witheridge thereafter.

Four more children were born while they were living in Wales. William Allen, my father, was born January 23, 1881; Clara May was born May 25, 1883, and died December 23, 1883; and John Allen was born April 23, 1885. These three were born in Brittainia, a small section of Porth. George Allen was born March 4, 1887, in Tylorstown, Glamorgan, also in the Rhondda Valley.

In 1888, when William was 32, he and Mary Jane were all packed to move their family to Australia, when they were persuaded by Mary Jane's brother, George Allen, to go instead to Sherrodsville, Ohio, in the U.S.A. George and his family had moved there in 1886, probably at the suggestion of Richard Jenkins, a mining superintendent, who had gone to America from Wales. George had written to the Witheridges and had said there would be good jobs and lots of work in Ohio.

Sherrodsville was a mining town. William Witheridge worked in a mine, but lived with his family on a farm a few miles out of town. At first they lived in a house in Sherrodsville. The owner of the farm, Mr. Toots, had just built a house at another location so he was glad to have the Witheridges rent the farm and take care of it. They raised crops and animals, such as cows and pigs, so they had their own milk and other food. William was used to such an arrangement, as he had grown up in Combe Martin, where most miners had their own little farming areas.

William and Mary Jane had three other children in Sherrodsville. Christina was born August 16, 1888; Edward Allen was born September 6, 1891; and Clara Mae was born May 18, 1894. All the children except Clara Mae, attended school in Sherrodsville. They probably attended the Methodist Church and Sunday School, as it was the only church in town.

About 1898 the Witheridges moved to St. Charles, Michigan, where a new coal mine had been opened. Friends in Sherrodsville wanted to go there, and they asked the Witheridges to go with them. They first moved in with the Adams family in a big house on a farm not far from town. Later they moved to a house downtown in St. Charles. They attended the First Baptist Church, and several of the children were baptized there.

In 1903 or 1903 the mine in which William was working went on strike, and he took advantage of the opportunity to take his wife and their youngest daughter, Clara Mae, on a visit back to England and Wales. While there, they urged George Chivers to return with them to America on a vacation. He was William's nephew, the son of William's sister Elizabeth (Betsy) Chivers. At first George refused; but Richard Jenkins, superintendent of the St. Charles mine, also arrived in Wales on a

visit, and he convinced George to come and work in the mine. Later George's parents and his brother Edgar and sister Elizabeth also came to America.

About 1904, when William was 48, the Witheridges moved to Saginaw, Michigan. William worked in a mine there, and he became treasurer of a coal company owned by the miners, called the Caledonia Coal Company, Ltd. He held this position at least from 1907 to 1913. While he was working at the mine, someone set off an explosion early, and a piece of coal hit William in the head. It knocked him out and nearly killed him. From then on he never worked down in the mine again, but he worked at tipples (loading cars) and had other responsibilities at the mine. In Saginaw the Witheridges were active members of the First Baptist Church. For seven or eight years, probably after he no longer went down into the mine, William served as a janitor of the church.. In 1917 Rev. Elijah R. Allen, Mary Jane's brother, became the minister of the First Baptist Church and served in that capacity for four years.

About 1908 their son John began travelling around the country singing with a vocal group, perhaps a sextet. By 1910 he had settled in California. Then in 1920 their son Edward went west, settling first in Portland, Oregon, and seven years later in Port Townsend, Washington.. In 1921 their son George, a florist in Saginaw, decided to move his family to California; and William who was 65, and Mary Jane, who was 64, accompanied them. They all settled in the Los Angeles area, and George set up his florist shop in San Fernando. My father, William, was the only one of the children of William and Mary Jane who remained in Saginaw with his family.

Mary and Mary Jane lived in Inglewood, a suburb of Los Angeles, until William died August 9, 1935, at the age of 79, and Mary Jane died December 8, 1942, at the age of 85.



## **FOR THE RECORD**

by Kim Cook

### An introduction to the Witheridge 'Remembering' Project

Members of the Witheridge Society have spent many years (some even before the Society was founded), researching and recording the various branches of the Witheridge family. It's been fun, fascinating, and sometimes very frustrating!

There have been some questions we just haven't been able to answer. How did someone come to be living in a particular place? What was a certain family member really like? What kind of life did he or she lead? We want to know about skills and talents, character and temperament, relationships and interests. After all, these people are family probably sharing much of our own genetic make-up.

Such details can rarely be found in any official historical documents. Occasionally they are handed down in family folk lore, gradually becoming distorted in the repeated telling, and probably eventually being forgotten. But these are the details that really bring people to life, and add so much to our understanding of them, and perhaps also to our understanding of ourselves and our own families. 'So that's where he gets his artistic talent from' or ; 'no wonder she's so meticulous', we say when we unexpectedly discover that someone today has something in common with an earlier member of the family.

And meanwhile the family grows. New generations are added to the family tree. They'll have all the information we've discovered about the more distant past. But what will they know about the Witheridges of this century? Unless we leave a record of the characters and personalities of the Witheridges we have known, our descendants will have no more information about us, than we have about our 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> century ancestors.

As we prepare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it seems to be an appropriate time to remember the Witheridges (and Witheridge descendants) who lived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and to record what they were really like.

What is needed is for each person to write something about the Witheridge descendants closest to them - parents, grandparents, brother, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins.

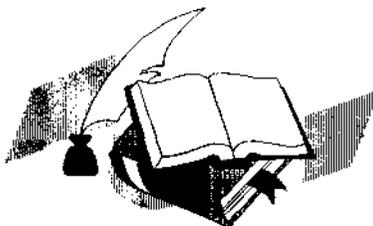
I've already made a start, writing about some of my aunts, and I've asked other members of my family to write about their parents. I'm hoping that other Witheridge Society members all over the world will contribute to this file, which I have called 'Remembering Witheridges we have known'.

To achieve some kind of conformity, I've limited each 'memory' to two sides of an A4 sheet of paper. The first side is headed with the person's birth name and, underneath, any alternative or married name by which they were known. Married names are shown as Mrs., followed by the husband's first name and surname. Below this is the date of birth (ranged left), date of marriage(s) (centred), and date of death, (ranged right). This ensures that future readers will not be confused about different people who share the same name. There is also space for a small (passport sized) photo, perhaps taken in their younger days, at the top right corner.

The remembrance of the person then includes personal details from their lives - details that show their character and personality, how world events (such as war) affected them, their schooling and work, their talents, hobbies, tastes and attitudes. We're not looking for plaster saints, but honest character sketches that reflect the lives of these people, their hopes, joys and sorrows.

It would also be good to include a larger and later photo, perhaps a family group, across the bottom of the second page of the write-up. This means that (in 11 point type) there would be room for about 1200 words, plus a photo at the end, or about 1400 words without the final photo.

If, in the next six or seven months, enough people contribute to the 'Remembering Witheridges' project, I would like to produce a commemorative volume in time for our Witheridge Day 2000 gathering in Devon. So, if you would like to see your loved ones commemorated in this way, please send me your memories, and photos. Even if the memories are just jotted notes and anecdotes, I'll be happy to put them together for you and let you see the results before we go into print.



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
WITHERIDGE SOCIETY, HELD AT WINCHCOMBE, GLOS. ON THE  
3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 1999**

The Chairman, Graham Browne, opened the meeting at 10.30 a.m., with family news and expressed sympathy for families in bereavement, namely the families of Col Anthony Witheridge and Terry Stephens, who had died since the last meeting. He asked Kim Cook to read her poem "Resurrection".

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and messages of goodwill were received from:-

Kathy and Paul Witheridge, Ontario	Dorothy Witheridge, Australia
Velma Metcalfe, New Zealand	The Rev. David Witheridge and his older son, John, Minneapolis
Joyce Stephens	Rod and Sue Witheridge,
Brenda and Ron Dixon	Joan and Harry Payne
John Witheridge	

2. Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at Winchcombe on 4<sup>th</sup> May,  
1998. as published in the Witheridge Times

These Minutes were taken as read, (including the proposal that the Committee had the power to change the stated venue of the next meeting should the need arise), and on the proposal of Philip Witheridge, seconded by Richard Witheridge, were adopted.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Officers' Reports (as published prior to the Meeting)

Chairman's Report  
Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Research Co-ordinator's Report

These were accepted and adopted although the Treasurer's Report could not be finalised. The final statement will be published in the magazine. Proposer to adopt the Reports: Philip Witheridge, seconder: Kim Cook.

## 5. Election of Officers

Chairman	Graham Browne
Secretary	John Witheridge
Membership Secretary	John Witheridge
Treasurer	Richard Witheridge
Assistant Treasurer	Maureen Witheridge
Editor	Joyce Browne
Research Co-ordinator	Richard Witheridge
Publisher	Philip Witheridge

The members present expressed their gratitude to the overseas representatives who have given us their unstinting help in the past. Each of them had said that they were willing to continue to represent the Society, and so we are very pleased to give their names again.

Dorothy Witheridge	Australia
Velma Metcalfe	New Zealand
Kathy Witheridge	Canada and North America

Committee members:-	Annette Witheridge
	Joyce Stephens
	John Witheridge
	Richard Witheridge
	Maureen Witheridge
	Joyce Browne
	Mark Witheridge
	Jason Cook
	Philip Witheridge

## 6. Any Other Business

There was lively discussion on the venue and programme for the year 2000. It was decided to hold a three day event at Tiverton, Devon, on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, unless the Bank Holiday date was changed officially, in which case the event dates would change to follow in line with the first Bank Holiday in May.

A provisional programme was discussed, and it was decided to keep options open until the level and direction of interest from members became clearer. It would then be at the Committee's discretion to make the final decisions.

Publicity for this event should be given in the next magazine, with an urgent request to members to indicate if they would like to attend.

### Venue for the year 2001

It was thought that a two day event centred on the Open Air Museum at Singleton, near Chichester, would provide a different emphasis of interest to members, whilst giving an insight into houses of the past. This idea was adopted.

### Web Site Project

After discussion, Jason Cook agreed to explore the costs of various options, and it was agreed, that provided the cost was no more than £50.00 the Society would set up a web page for an experimental period. Provided this cost was not exceeded, this could be set up without waiting for the next AGM., with the approval of two members of the Committee, one of whom must be the Treasurer. There was still some reluctance to proceed with this venture, and Kim Cook agreed to make further enquiries as to who might agree to operate the site on behalf of the Society.

### Handbook

Richard Witheridge has worked hard on this project, and exhibited specimen booklets which could be bound into one volume or present separately. Philip agreed to make up some specimens and prepare costings. It was proposed, that, after approval by the Committee, some booklets should be ready in time for the year 2000 event, and that they should be advertised in the magazine.

### The Witheridge Times

It was decided to offer a complete set of the Witheridge Times to the Devon Family History Society, to be placed in their archives. Philip agreed to contact the Devon Family History Society regarding this.

### Family Archives

Kim Cook spoke of the necessity of making 'profiles' of members of our Witheridge families, so that they can be in permanent remembrance. She presented an example of what the format for such a profile might be, and will write an article for the Witheridge Times on the subject.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the members of the Committee for their work during the year.

## **THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 1999**

During the year which has elapsed since my last report, our individual officers have been carrying out their functions as enthusiastically as ever. They have promoted as much research as possible, and have kept the Society on a sound financial basis. I would like to offer my thanks to each of them.

Richard is still working on the handbook, but this is a very time consuming task, and he needs all the help and support he can get.

I hope that members will agree with me that the standard of our magazine has been maintained, and I know that the Editor is always seeking means not only to maintain, but to improve our publication. Again, we have kept to an optimum of 28 pages in order to contain production costs and postal charges.

Our overseas representatives, Dorothy Witheridge for Australia, Velma Metcalfe for New Zealand, and Kathy Witheridge for North America have helped us in every way they could, and without their assistance the Society would be the poorer, in research, in new membership, and the knowledge that we have friends overseas. On your behalf, I thank them for their efforts, and hope that they will continue to represent us.

The Committee has remained in touch, and during the year subjects which have been discussed have included ideas for the venue and events for our special effort for the year 2000, and the possibility of the Society having a Web Site on the Internet. Both these topics will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

Considering the geographical separation of our membership, I think that the Society has done well to maintain the interest and co-operation which it enjoys. I would like to thank all those concerned, and wish the Society a bright and progressive future.

SIGNED:                   GRAHAM BROWNE   Chairman

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Several names of possible new Witheridge Society members have arrived on my desk. Each of these I have contacted and some are considering membership of the society. These names were acquired after long searches to find the descendants of lines connected by marriage, and indeed some that we thought extinct. One of great interest - the descendants of Captain Edward Witheridge and his children. This item came to note via John James in Canada.

Another name is from three Triste marriages in the early years as shown in the magazine. Also just received is a line connected to the Yealmpton line, which I am following at this very moment.

General research is captivating - with so many avenues to follow that I could do with ten days in every week. There is a discovery of Captain Edward Witheridge's Bible dating from the 1660s. Perhaps at some time we may be able to see this valuable antiquity at one of our meetings.

As always in recent years I have not been able to keep abreast with Society correspondence. To rectify this I have relinquished some of my duties outside our society with the intention to spend more time writing to our membership. Life is very hectic. I travel some 850 to 1200 miles per week and this is restricting time on my computer. This should ease as the year passes.

SIGNED: JOHN WITHERIDGE Secretary and Membership Secretary

### **RESEARCH REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, 1999**

John reports that he is still researching the Lancashire and Cumbria Witheridges and is extending the family trees between the counties. Newer information coming in supports a definite link between them. John now appears to have a Sir Witheridge in his sights!

Regarding Captains John and Edward Witheridge, John continues to build up information and has established links to the Quakers and possible links to Sir William Penn. Research continues into the death of Captain John Witheridge, where international political questions were asked about his death on the Bonaventure. Two death certificates in the same year in different parts of the world lead to the conclusion that there may have been two Captain Johns.

Article on Tavistock/Australian family now being prepared for publication soon.

Nearing completion of Combe Martin/Melbourne history.

Another twist in the Bidefore/Australian family. More information about Edward and the Mermaid!

New Witheridge families in the Stafford area. Link to Barnstaple family i.e. Captains Edward and John

North Wales connection, town of MOLD

North Devon heirloom and mansion house may lead to a change in our preconceptions of the family.

Plus many small areas yet to be connected.

Joyce's research has included trying to trace a Nicholas and a Francis Witheridge, who, it is thought, belong to the Berrynarbor family, but appear to have a connection with Bristol. Search in Bristol unfortunately did not discover anything.

She is still trying to discover the family identity of James Witheridge who died in Newport in 1915. The identity of George Witheridge who was killed in action on the Somme on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, has now been established and will be reported on in the magazine.

New information on bigamist John Witheridge has been found by Sheila Jewell and will be reported on later.

Ongoing research into the Witheridge/Baker/Brooking line in Newton Ferrers.

Help is being given to John James in Canada with his research of his Porthleven /Helston family.

We are still trying to establish the identity of Emma Witheridge, born Kingsbridge, December, 1878

Kim, as we can see in the magazine articles, has been busy with her research into Samuel Witheridge who was killed in South Africa.

Kathy, again we can see in the magazine, is still trying to find what happened to the elusive Maria Tall Sandover Witheridge, and appears to be making some headway, having found her in Plymouth and found a later birth of a child to her!

Thank you all for your efforts.

SIGNED: RICHARD WITHERIDGE Research Coordinator



## THE WITHERIDGE SOCIETY

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1999

#### INCOME

Brought forward from 1997/98		<b>£817.85</b>
Membership Subscriptions transferred from Membership Secretary's account	£268.09	
Donations to Society	26.00	
Printing on Witheridge Day	00.00	
Sales of copies of Magazine for Witheridge Day 1997 at Tiverton	11.00	
Sale of needlecraft	15.00	
Raffle	10.00	
	TOTAL	£330.09
		£330.09
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£1147.94</u></b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Payment for hire of hall + Buffet meals for 20	£110.00	
Payment re Philip Witheridge claim for printing 4 vols, of magazine and despatch, plus printing Witheridge Day invitations	£313.88*	* Cheque not yet cashed
Membership Secretary's account for all correspondence, etc.	£48.91	
Subscription to Guild of One Name Studies	£12.00	
Subscription to Federation of Family History Societies	£25.00	
Donation to Combe Martin Church from members' donations (Donations shown on last report)	£50.00	
Donation to Macmillan Cancer Trust in memory of Terry Stephens	£15.00*	* Cheque not yet cashed
	TOTAL	£245.91
		£245.91
	<b>FINAL BALANCE</b>	<b><u>£902.03</u></b>

NB Final balance shown does not include the two uncashed cheques, which will eventually reduce the final balance to £573.15

The Bank statement for April 1999 should read £902.03. unless the two cheques are cashed in the meantime. No further expenses are envisaged before April 1999.

We the undersigned believe the above to be an accurate statement of the current financial standing for the Witheridge Society for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1999.

SIGNED: R. WITHERIDGE  
Treasurer Dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1999

S.L. WITHERIDGE  
Assistant Treasurer Dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1999

G. BROWNE  
Auditor Dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1999

The bank balance still appears to be reasonable, but in future we may not be able to cover the buffet meals from our funds. I see no reason to increase the subscription rates at this time.

R. WITHERIDGE Treasurer May 1999

## FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!

The lives of John and Edward Witheridge  
God Bless Them Both!

by John Witheridge - a fervent admirer!

I have hinted many times in the past few years, that I would be writing an article concerning these two Witheridge brothers. As always I find great difficulty in collating all the relevant information into one such article. As the areas of research fall into place for one section of the story line, then other items emerge to disrupt the flow. Here in this article I have given you almost a precis version of the accounts which I have researched in general. It may be that at some time in the future I will be able to recount areas of the lives of these brothers as single stories with updates. So here are the facts

Aspinwall, Notarial Records 218, (HCA 13/62 20 Dec 1648) and (HCA 13/64 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1651) (Depositions and Proceedings).

These very early Admiralty records give us, the reader/researcher, an insight into the lives of two of our ancestral sea-faring men. These men were descendants from the North Devon families of the Barnstaple area.

BERNARD CAPP (whom I wish to acknowledge for the information and sources noted) - in his book "Cromwell's Navy", refers to many American and British sea traders who in time formed the backbone of Cromwell's Navy - a Navy that many of us never knew existed. History tells us much about other periods of naval history, but very little on this specific period. I seem to have cornered a little part of history here, giving talks and lectures about our ancestors and the men whom they knew. For those of you who have interests in history, but in a wider view than family history, I list the following names to show the roll of honour to which our family name and ancestors were linked. Indeed, showing that from an early date, our families were an integral part of world wide history.

*Nehemiah and John Bourne... William Goodson...Thomas Graves...Mark Harrison...John Littlejohn...John and Edward WITHERIDGE Robert Dennis... Nicholas Foster... Charles Saltonstall... and before them... Maurice Thomson... Gregory Clement MP... Peter Strong... Nicholas Reed (an early commander of "The Sovereign) Lawson... Haddock... Samsun. Myngs... Whetstone... and many many others.*

Bernard Capp goes on to relate that the Witheridge brothers (Note\*) had been active and well established in the NEWFOUNDLAND fisheries, as was John Witheridge their father in his ship "The Eagle", a generation before them. (See the Witheridge Times, Vol 6 No. 4 Winter 1992, pages 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.)

John and Edward Witheridge, in their turn, also plied the high seas, carrying fish to Spain from the prolific waters of the New England coastline, then importing to England the wares of the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic continental ports of Spain, France and Portugal, returning on the third leg of their sea trading trip, back to New England. From England they probably sailed from the Devon ports, but possibly from London and Southampton.

I suspect that Barnstaple was their main port here in England as they would still be very close to their relations who were living in and near Barnstaple. These journeys imply that 'home' was in Boston, New England. These triangular routes were being sailed before the year 1648, probably even before 1640. Certainly John would be 37 years of age and Edward 24 years. Just think that at 24 Edward was part owner in his own ship - the ship which he also commanded as captain.

A few years later, in 1650, they are recorded in (HCA 13/64 as above) to have changed their routes to a Lisbon-Brazil course, sailing south/south west and calling in at Barbados en route.

Trade must have been good, and records can be found for their activities in the book "New England Merchants in the Seventeenth Century" found at Cambridge Massachusetts. (Does anyone know of this book's whereabouts? Perhaps one or more of our members in the Americas might be able to locate it?)

Nearer to home we might find access to (PRO RG 4/4414). (fo B Baylyn) Help Please!

Note \*\*

London PRO should cover this research.

Now look at the tree based on Joyce Browne's article of 1992. This has a few alterations and additions as research since 1992 has led us to believe that, in 1630, Judith Beere married the John Witheridge born in 1603, (the subject of this article) and not the John Witheridge born in 1604 as shown on the 1992 tree.

**BARNSTAPLE AND EAST LONDON FAMILY**

Roger Wetheryg

- 1. Richard B.c. 1520 (Had issue including a son John b. 1551 (B))
- 2. John b.c.1542. d. 1580
  - = m. 1564 (B) Elizabeth Stephens or Loder (d. 1380)
  - 1. Elizabeth b. 1564 (B)
  - 2. Roger b. 1566 (B)
  - 3. Mary b. 1569 (B)
  - 4. Oliver b. 1659 (B)
  - 5. Richard b. 1570 (B) d. 1627 m. 1603 Mary Bennitt
  - 6. John b. 1572 (B) d.c.1657 = m. 1608 (F) Agnes Cockhill
  - 7. Lowell b. 1574 (B) d.1590
  - 8. Urite b. 1575 (B) d. 1575
  - 9. Agnes b. 1576 (B) d. 1580
  - 10. Thomas b. 1578 (B)
  - 11. Simon b. 1580 (B)
- 1. John b. 1603 (F) d. 1652 at sea = Judith Beere 1630 (BT)
  - 1. ?John b. c. 1631
  - 2. Judith b. 1635 (b) m. 1660 JohnFrancis
  - 3. Mary b. 1639 (B)
- 2. Johan b. 1606 (F) m. Richard Horwood
- 3. Roger b. 1609 (B)
- 4. William b. 1610 (B)
- 5. Elizabeth b. 1612 (B)
- 6. Mary b. 1612 (B)
- 7. Edwarde b. 1616 (B) m. c.1650 = Rachel
  - 1. Wilmot bc. 1652 = ? Terry
  - 2. Edward b. 1616 (St)
  - 3. John b. 1659 (St)
  - 4 Rachel b. 1661 (St)
  - ?-5. Susanna bc. 1662/3 = Edward Jordan m. 1685 St. K.
- 8. Agnes

(B) = Barnstaple (F) = Fremington (BT) = Bishop's Tawton (St) = Stepney  
St.K. = St. Katherine's by the Tower.

(HCA13/64 8<sup>th</sup> January 1651)... (HCA 13/66 9<sup>th</sup> November 1652)...  
(RAWL MS A 225 fos. 45, 47, 89, 138).. BodI: Dep; MS C 170, fos 224-5..  
Mercurius Politicus, 17-24 October 1650)

In this section of researches we can find confirmation that both John and Edward had ships... one each. We find that John died in 1652 and Edward lived through the 1650s. (In fact we do know that Edward lived well into the 1680s or beyond. We also know the exact date that one Captain John Witheridge died, and a possible two dates on which another Captain John died.)

On trading for some time on the Lisbon/Brazil routes, John and Edward found themselves loading and unloading in the port of Lisbon, Portugal. The records I have read are somewhat conflicting at this stage - dependent I am sure on the political stance of the authors. As there were many telling this tale/tail, and from many a different bias, I suspect some wagging went on. (Please excuse this pun!)

This is how I see the happenings as they unfolded:-

John and Edward both docked and unloaded their cargoes from Brazil. (I wonder, was the coffee trade in existence at this time??) Certainly there would be many other riches aboard on both ships.

When the cargoes were safely unloaded, it seems that the crews of both ships entered into fervent discussions with neighbouring ships along the dock, as to the rights and wrongs of the Civil War at home. This would under normal circumstances be quite acceptable, BUT the ships docked each side were those of the fleet commanded by Prince Rupert, the admiral of the English Royalist fleet.

I have it on very good authority that cannon fire came into this equation. Typical!! Yes, our Witheridges were for the Commonwealth and the Rump, as were their beliefs both religious and political. Being Devonshire to the core, they would never bow to the overwhelming odds of being two small eight gun traders against seventeen ships of the King's line, all docked around them. Not on your 'Charlie' they wouldn't.

You must consider that Prince Rupert was making it almost impossible for English traders to find safe port or haven, or to allow them to trade safely. He preyed on the traffic of English ships, especially those with leanings towards the Parliamentarians. He would sink them if they failed to hove to. When they did drop anchor he would board them and give them the opportunity to take sides in the

conflict. If they picked the wrong side the owner/captain would be tossed overboard and one of Rupert's officers would take command of the new acquisition.

(I suspect that John was the hot headed brother and Edward the shrewd, calculating and slow to act younger brother. Research into each of them had taught me very much about their characters. My point may be proved by the fact that John the 'Devil may care' sailor lost his life very early, while Edward 'the prudent warrior' died of old age.)

After some time during this exchange at Lisbon, King Philip of Portugal intervened. He confiscated the Witheridge ships, giving them to Rupert as a gesture of blue blooded solidarity. I wonder if this was an early show of nepotism?

This small conflict cost our two heroes dearly. John owned three quarters of his ship and the cargo. The ship was assessed to be worth £2,500. 0..0d. Quite a sum in those days. Now I am not really positive, but with some calculations, the reckoning in value lost by Edward was £1400. 0. 0d. I would think that, in retrospect, they came to realise that their headstrong escapade was, at the least, a little foolhardy. Though from the historical point of view, the results of their action caused a mammoth change, and had an influence on the course of history.

Their anger at being beaten, and the humiliation they suffered at the hands of the infamous Prince Rupert, and indirectly the Crown, was to become the force behind all the subsequent escapades that they entered into on behalf of their country, for the rest of their lives.

In fact, at this very moment, they were both ruined. At this time there is no way to know if they had any form of insurance to cover loss. I have made tentative enquiries into this subject, but whatever the outcome, I will prove, either in this article or in later episodes, Prince Rupert was made to rue his part in this small and insignificant little skirmish. On this day, the lives of all three men changed.

I have proof that John, with other captains, held Rupert's fleet at Barbados and took many prizes from him. I have proof that later Edward forced Rupert onto the rocks in an attempt to capture him. Between them John and Edward and the other members of the fleets to which they belonged, took twenty seven ships of the Royalist line as prizes from Rupert. They caused fourteen ships to hoist the white flag. They captured thirty one trading vessels occupied by Rupert's men which were being used as supply ships.

I can honestly state, from records and historic notations, that at least one

Witheridge was chasing Rupert at any given time. What is more, always in HOT PURSUIT. Truly, if Rupert did hold remorse about those Witheridges and their ships he must have regretted his actions time and time again. Many times he almost lost his life, and certainly he lost much wealth.

But here again, I race on too much, so back to the plot.

On returning to Britain - London. The Admiralty, Edward and John were both offered and accepted with much pleasure, commands in the New Commonwealth Navy. John, well known as an international captain, was given the Bonaventure, possibly the tenth largest ship in the Commonwealth Navy. This in itself was a great honour. Edward, somewhat younger and really less experienced, was given a ship just recently captured from the Dutch - "The Mary Prize". Not much of a vessel, but without doubt the making of Edward. (See the Witheridge Times, Vol 10 No. 3 Autumn 1996, pages 9 to 21). Here once again I will tempt you to read some future stories concerning Edward Witheridge - "This Ship - This Man", where Edward made his name as a captain, a strategist, and brave and honourable combatant, making many friends and many enemies.

As you have read, John died in 1652, but there remains quite a lot of mystery surrounding him. In that year we have two deaths of Captains John Witheridge - strangely both commanding a ship named 'Bonaventure'. I personally think that they were second cousins or even Uncle and Nephew, but at this time, prudently, I will refrain from stating which John I think was which! Although I will add this proviso - both died in action - both died a hero, both much loved by their crews, and both much respected by their comrades in arms.

One Captain JOHN died in a sea battle against the Dutch off Plymouth Sound and the Lizard, defending Plymouth and the dockyard against great odds. Quote: "This Captain was sore torn and wounded later dying of his wounds, but held the line even when accosted by eight Dutch, boarded and repelled six times. Top sail trailing, mizzen shattered and laying across beam, port to aft. Helm jammed to starboard." What a man!! - More - what men!! These by their honour made this Navy the best Navy in the world.

THE OTHER CAPTAIN JOHN (who I am sure was the brother to Edward) died defending the fleet at Leghorn. A very brave act, when you realise that he in the Bonaventure, a twenty gunner, defended the whole fleet as they were laid up for emergency repairs in a neutral port - this from the attacking Dutch fleet of twenty seven ships of the line.. John was honoured and given a sea burial, as one would expect for a ship's Captain, but also, as a mark or respect he was, as far as I am able to ascertain, given a memorial ceremony on land.

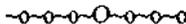
You will understand that John never actually became an Admiral, but the defence which he orchestrated and applied left him in sole charge. I have written evidence, which in time you will read, that the Admiral of the fleet at Leghorn would have willingly changed places with John Witheridge to take John's Glory! Even in death?

Sometime I will relate in detail this sea action, plus a full account of the Captain John Witheridge's life, up to the date of his death in defence of the fleet mentioned here, and this his last command of the ship which he loved. Indeed he was in command of two ships which I think would have given him promotion to rear admiral status. Even though his command was a resounding success, it was sadly doomed from the outset, as it was a rear guard battle. Perhaps it was John's bid to seek higher rank. Certainly through his seamanship and leadership he gave a greatly needed respite to the battered fleet. This you must understand is not to demean the commander of the other ship and his share in this battle.

John and his ship sea anchored outside (seaward) of the port boom on attack station, ready to manoeuvre on full sail, although there was very little latitude to manoeuvre, perhaps three or four nautical miles at the most. The boom closed to prevent the Dutch fire ships from being sailed into the port to set light to the drying hulls of the English ships in dry harbour. The battle was fought so hard and long by John in the Bonadventure and his companion ship that at the end both ships were badly holed and torn, though both sailed free to return to the Leghorn roads - THE VICTORS. Both greatly damaged, but enhancing the name of the Commonwealth Navy. Sadly, at the end of this battle, it was not John who steered for the home port. Alas, at the helm of the ship was Lieutenant Cox.

Note\*\*\* CSPV (Calendar of State Papers, Venetian)

The next day at noon, John was given his sea burial at the exact point where he found glory. . . . .repeated on land for the whole fleet, in respect! The reason that I believe that this battle can be attributed to John the brother of Edward?? Who else would you think of who would fight Rupert with two trading ships, and then do the same to De Witt's fleet? With just two ships? Yes, a flimsy reason, but I hope to tell John's FULL story at some time as more evidence becomes available. It will come to a temporary end here, but I promise you I will continue with it as the full extent and truth unfolds.



Edward Witheridge You know a great deal about Edward already. (See the Witheridge Times. Vol 10. No.3 Autumn 1996. For members who have joined us since this time we do have earlier volumes of the magazine if you require them.)

Going back to CAPPS' book - "Cromwell's Navy" - we find here reference to the "Stepney Church Book" fos. 1-4 192 193 PO RG 4/4414 fo 5

This is the Register of William Greenhills Church at Stepney. Here I quote CAPP:-

"Greenhills Church founded in 1644 comprised of many of the officer Corps. Vice Admiral Badiley and Captains Lyons, Strong, Earning, Thompson, Benjamin Blake the son of Robert Blake (who was elected deacon in 1658). Edward Witheridge, a member of the church in BOSTON, Massachusetts, also attached himself to the Stepney congregation....". I wonder if we can secure information from the Boston Church and from Greenhills Registers?

At this stage I would like to submit a short tree showing the family of Edward and his wife Rachel.

Captain EDWARD WITHERIDGE married to RACHELL (Surname unknown)  
b. 1616 Barnstaple c.1650.  
d 1697 (Will proved) d ? before 1697  
= Rachell

- 1. Wilmot  
d.o.b. unknown. Married "Terry". Mentioned in Edward's Will
- 2. Edward  
b.27.11.1656. Stepney, St. Dunstan's
- 3. John\*  
b.09.08.1659. Stepney, Bull Pond Lane Independent  
John\*  
b.31.03.1659. Stepney St. Dunstan's
- 4 Rachell  
b.10.11.1661 Stepney St. Dunstan's  
Married "Stacey". Mentioned in Edward's Will

\* It is likely that this is the same child. In 1659 the month of August would have occurred before March, and the first baptism, at an Independent church, could have been a Quaker service, and the March baptism the recognised Church service.

From these dates we have no further events to add to this family. But please also remember that most Quaker events went unmarked in the normal church registration. Non-conformist baptisms and marriages would be held in the church porch, and burials in a separate plot.

One further point which may have a bearing on Edward's family tree - we do have a reference to an Edward in the 1680's, and recently Sheila Jewell has posted to Joyce new evidence that an Edward was living in New England during those years. Perhaps this was Edward junior, b.1656.

In view of what I write in the later sections of this article, concerning links with the PENN family, I add the following:- (Not as a fact concerning our family, but as a possibility to prompt further research)

"Whitheridge, Susanna and Edward JORDAN (married) St. Katherine;s by the Tower, London, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1685.

The time would fit into Edward's tree and the name could be a gesture to a possible connection with the Penn family.....

You will understand why I need to view the Stepney Church Book. I am sure it will fill many of the gaps that I am sure are very obvious from the tree shown. Both Joyce and I have become members of the Quaker Family History Society in an attempt to be able to research these family lines further. For those of you who may not have accepted the implication raised here - the Stepney church in question was the foremost church with Quaker sympathies at that time. This opens many avenues of possible research and raises many suppositions to be investigated.

Let me digress - just for a fraction of time. Both John and Edward were comrades in arms and indeed great friends with Admiral William Penn. Personally, I am sure that we will find somewhere in the future that these three men had more fervent religious connection. To add credence to this statement I will point out that Admiral Penn paid for and obtained the release from prison in Ireland of his son, and also many friends of his son. These prisoners were incarcerated because of their Quaker beliefs. His son, the guiding star and in many ways, the leading light for the Quaker faith, refused his father's many attempts to secure his release.

William junior, later Sir William Penn of Pennsylvania, in later life obtained the permission of the Crown, and formed the State of Pennsylvania, to allow the freedom to worship, not just for the Quakers, but for all suppressed religions.

It is also a known fact that Admiral Penn attended many Quaker and radical independent meetings. Indeed, in 1650 Penn went ashore in Ireland to listen to Hugh Peter's lecture on the independent religions - Hugh Peter being the most radical lecturer in Quakerism of that day. This proves that Admiral Penn had more than a passing interest in this subject.

Back to the real plot!

It was at this time that Edward became something of a diplomat. I will not go into much detail here, just enough to tease your imaginations. In the year 1657/58 trouble was brewing in the North sea and the Scandinavian seas. The Danish Navy, backed by the Dutch, made war on Sweden. The British fleet, under Edward Montagu, intervened. Edward Witheridge in the 'Plymouth' and one other ship sailed between the warring factions, pointing to the horizon and indicating the large British fleet hove to, but in battle order and at the ready... This action was rewarded by the Swedish monarch, and Edward was presented with a gold chain and a medallion. You will read and see the evidence of this incident in a later story about this man's life.

We now pass by a great amount of history in the making, much of which I have already related in the Witheridge Times, Vol.10.No.3. We now embark into areas which to me, before now, were totally unknown and quite unexpected.

Throughout the years of the Commonwealth and Civil War period there were many sectors of the community that were trying to return the Monarch to the throne. Subterfuge was used and sacrifices were made to win power. One such group "The Junta" gained much power by playing off one section of the old guard against the other, by misrepresenting grievances, and making statements to suit their own ideals. They achieved some cohesion when they secured a meeting of representatives of the Scottish, English and Irish armies of the Commonwealth, and also the Navy. This was mid November, 1658, and the intention was to draw up a new constitution and summon a new Parliament, but the various factions could not agree.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December the Naval Officers in London decided to choose their own representatives for the constitutional talks. The names put forward were as follows:-

*Goodson... Bourne Stayner Stokes Robert Blake* (nephew to the late Admiral)...*Lawson...* and three other names, and "*Edward Montague*". This last was an indication of future procedures.

The names of the three others who were to be members of this new Parliament?

Robert C larke... John Harman... and... EDWARD WITHERIDGE

Many subjects which were dealt with at this time were, freedom of religious belief, payment of back pay to soldiers and seamen, work and assistance for the poor, etc. I can well believe that Edward would be in his element. Alas, the times were very turbulent. This Parliament lasted for but a brief spell, and with the help of military insurrection the Rump regained control of the country. Edward was once again out in the cold.

CAPP, a very fine researcher, found many references to Edward. Insignificant individually, combined they are fascinating and reveal the man himself and explain why Edward did not continue in the Navy after the restoration of the monarchy.

Many of the Officers selected by the Junta were never trusted by the Rump again, and were refused employment in the Army and Navy. To explain this we need look no further than a statement by an irate Cavalier when he addressed Edward and his companion Whitehorn as "zealous villains". It is true that Edward was a zealot. Pious and God fearing, moulded by the times and the beliefs of a puritan. These beliefs cast his life into rigid paths from which he could not and would not deviate. God ruled, not a King. But surely the Cavalier who named his thus, had he been in full knowledge of the facts (those which had forced Edward into the Commonwealth Navy) would have accepted the reasoning for his blinkered actions, even if he could not accept Edward's devotion to his religion?

King Charles II, on his return to England in the year 1660, sailed from the continent in "The Royal James", commanded by Edward Montagu. Edward's ship "The Plymouth" was one of the escorting vessels. I am reliably informed that Captain Witheridge offered the sword which signified command of "The Plymouth" to the King. Not that Edward offered his sword as a sign of support, but quite the contrary. Edward offered his sword as he resigned his commission. This I am sure came as a shock to those who were welcoming the King and his future Queen.

Again, I am told, that it was Edward Witheridge who transported the future Queen, Catherine of Braganza, to these shores, in his very own stateroom on board "The Plymouth". It is said that she was a terrible sailor and fared very badly in the crossing.

CAPP has one other item to give concerning Edward Witheridge. He refers to "Coventry MS2 98 fos. 58-83 Note\*\*\*\*

He states that Officers in the Navy were doomed if they wore the tag of a Quaker wife. He listed Edward in this group, In one respect he was quite correct, but in another, quite the opposite. It made no difference what religion his wife Rachell followed. EDWARD HIMSELF WAS A QUAKER, by his own choice, long before his entry into the Commonwealth Navy. It is undoubtedly true that his choice of a wife may have been from followers of the Quaker belief, but Edward was his own man. with high ideals and a high code in life. All real puritans were.

I have more to tell about our hero. He bought a house in Sandwich, Kent. The property backed on to the harbour. Five years after his retirement the Queen visited the town and stayed in "The Old House" - the adjacent property. It is written in the (Canteriera) that he was presented to her court. He must have mellowed with age!

Strange, but when you think about it not so strange. We have no burial detail for Edward, Rachell or any of his children. I have covered both burial, marriage and baptisms in the many churches of this old town of Sandwich.

We do have evidence of an Edward Witheridge being imprisoned for attending a Quaker meeting in London, and refusing to pay the fine for his release. Strange again - some one "unknown" paid his fine. I wonder if his name was PENN or MONTAGU?

My main reason for this surmise is that Sir William Penn (Admiral) was dead and buried by this date. He died on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1670 at Wanstead, London, and was buried at St. Mary's, Redcliffe, Bristol. I think after being wounded in the second Dutch War. His Will dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1669/70 was proved 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1670 P.C.C. His wife was Margaret Van der Schure (widow) daughter of Johann Jasper of Rotterdam. She died in 1682. Admiral Sir William was knighted on board "The Royal Charles" by King Charles II Edward Witheridge and the first Earl of Sandwich (Edward Montagu) were both there, Edward M., as commander of "The Royal Charles" and Edward W., as commander of "The Plymouth". This was when Edward resigned his commission.

I think perhaps that Edward Witheridge was not quite the ardent zealot he was named to be. He was a great friend of Edward Montagu, who was one of the architects of the King's return to England. As William Penn was also knighted this same day, to reflect his good works towards the Crown, I think this proves that Edward Witheridge was on equal terms and was great friends with both of these two great names, even if they held opposing ideals.

It may be of interest to state here that Admiral Penn's older sister was named Rachell, born 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1607. Records concerning the knighthoods given by Charles II show the notation "Will Penne, Quaker". Add these two unrelated items together with the facts that we already know. . . . that Edward Witheridge was married to a Rachell - that he was the same age as William Penn- that they were great friends. Rachell Penn and her brother William also had an Aunt Susanna???

I just wonder if there could be a family connection?

Admiral Penn's first son, Sir William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania (could it be he who paid the fine for Edward Witheridge) was born 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1644, and died 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1718, and was buried at JORDANS near Penn in Buckinghamshire, where I suspect our Captain Edward is also buried. But I have no proof!! As yet!

I am in the process of researching this matter.

Note\* For some time now both Joyce and I have been a little worried about CAPPS statement that Edward and John were brothers. Indeed his research is backed up by the early scripts written when this history was being made. We still feel that there is something not quite ringing true here. Certainly there were two Captain John Witheridges both living in the same generation or times. Perhaps they were cousins or even Uncle and Nephew. The truth is that there may have been three such persons.. It would account for the record of the deaths of two John Witheridges in areas of the world separated by perhaps 500 miles and fighting two distinctly separate Dutch fleets. To make the problem even harder to sort, both men captained ships named "The Bonadventure", of which there were three sailing at one time. (I know this seems strange, but it is true) To add a little colour to this tale concerning the Bonadventure - Captain Cox, who succeeded John after his death in the Mediterranean, was removed from his command after three weeks. His crew and the Admiral thought him too self opinionated. Reading between the lines he was no match for the crew of the vessel vacated on the death of JOHN WITHERIDGE.

Note\*\* This manuscript to be located at the PRO Kew. This would indeed be good reading and possibly fill many gaps.

RG 4/4414. The Register of William Greenhills Church at Stepney - could possibly give us the maiden name of Rachell, Edward's wife. This church was one of the first Quaker meeting places, which, by the accounts I have read, could furnish our research with an untold wealth of information.

Note\*\*\* CSPV. Calendar of State Papers. Venetian. William Salt Library.

Note \*\*\*\* Coventry MS. The Coventry Manuscripts i.e., the Bath Papers. Found at Longleat or British Library Paper 95-8 101 (Microfilm)

My thanks to you for reading this - John Witheridge

## **FOR GOD AND COUNTRY** - background to the story

**CHARLES I** (1600-1649) King of England, Scotland and Ireland. Acceded to the throne in 1625. He was in conflict with Parliament on constitutional matters and taxation. Parliament was suspicious of his religious beliefs as he had married a Roman Catholic Princess - Henrietta Maria of France. Civil War against him broke out in 1642. Eventually Charles' forces were defeated at the battle of Preston in 1648, and Charles was taken from his retreat in the Isle of Wight, brought to trial at Westminster, found guilty of being a tyrant and a traitor, and executed on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1649.

**PRINCE RUPERT** (1649-1682) Rupert was Charles I's nephew, the son of Frederick V, Elector of Palatine, and Charles' sister Elizabeth. He was a leading Royalist commander, leading daring cavalry charges. He fell from favour when, in 1645, he surrendered the city of Bristol to General Fairfax. He left England in 1646 and went into exile, but turned to piracy and marauding adventures at sea, preying on ships of the Commonwealth Navy.

**OLIVER CROMWELL** (1599-1658) Soldier, politician and Statesman. He was a brilliant cavalry tactician, and was appointed a General in the Parliamentary Army. After the defeat of the Royalist forces he became the most powerful man in England and took the title and office of 'Lord Protector of England'. At his death in 1658 he was succeeded by his son, Richard, who had no aptitude for government and was deposed within six months.

**COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND** Republican government of England during the period 1649-1660

**THE RUMP** The remnants of the 'Long Parliament' which sat in England, without proper elections from 1640-1660. It established the Commonwealth of England and sat until expelled by Cromwell in 1653. It was not recalled until 1659. In 1660 it dissolved itself to clear the way for a Parliament favourable to the restoration of the monarchy.

**PURITANS** An extreme Protestant movement which had begun in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Their beliefs covered a wide range of doctrines and attitudes, and never had a precise definition. Their emphasis was on preaching, strict observance of the Sabbath day, very strict moral codes, and a belief that they should refrain from pleasure. Extreme Puritan sects flourished during the Civil War.

QUAKERS (or Society of Friends) They renounced all formal creeds, paid ministers, dissented from the Church of England, and refused to take Oaths. The Protectorate tolerated them, but later they were persecuted.

GEORGE FOX (1624-1691) Founder of the Quaker movement. Began to preach in Leicestershire in 1647, and was frequently imprisoned for his beliefs.

WILLIAM PENN (1644-1718) One of the founders of the Quaker movement, having become a Quaker at the age of 21. In 1681 Charles II granted him a charter for a large tract of land in America - Pennsylvania - where he established a colony.

EDWARD MONTAGU (1625-1672) Admiral. 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Sandwich. He joined the Parliamentary Army in 1643 and fought at Marston Moor in 1644 and Naseby, 1645. He was a 'General at sea' in the Commonwealth Navy from 1656, but assisted in the restoration of the monarchy, bringing Charles II home from Holland in 1660. For these services he was granted the Earldom of Sandwich. He was killed in an explosion at sea in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dutch War.

CHARLES II (1630-1685) King of England, Scotland and Ireland. Son of Charles I. After the execution of his father he retreated to Scotland. He re-entered England at the head of a Scottish army in 1651, but was defeated at the battle of Worcester. He was pursued by the Parliamentary Army, but after a dramatic escape, made his way to the Continent, where he remained until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

## NEW MEMBERS

It is my pleasure, although as yet I do not have membership numbers, to welcome two new members to the Society. It is all the nicer as they are sisters, which emphasises our 'family' nature. They are:-

Mrs. Joyce Aldrich,  
6555 Coleman Road,  
East Lansing, MI  
48823 USA

e-mail address:           bjaldrich@juno.com

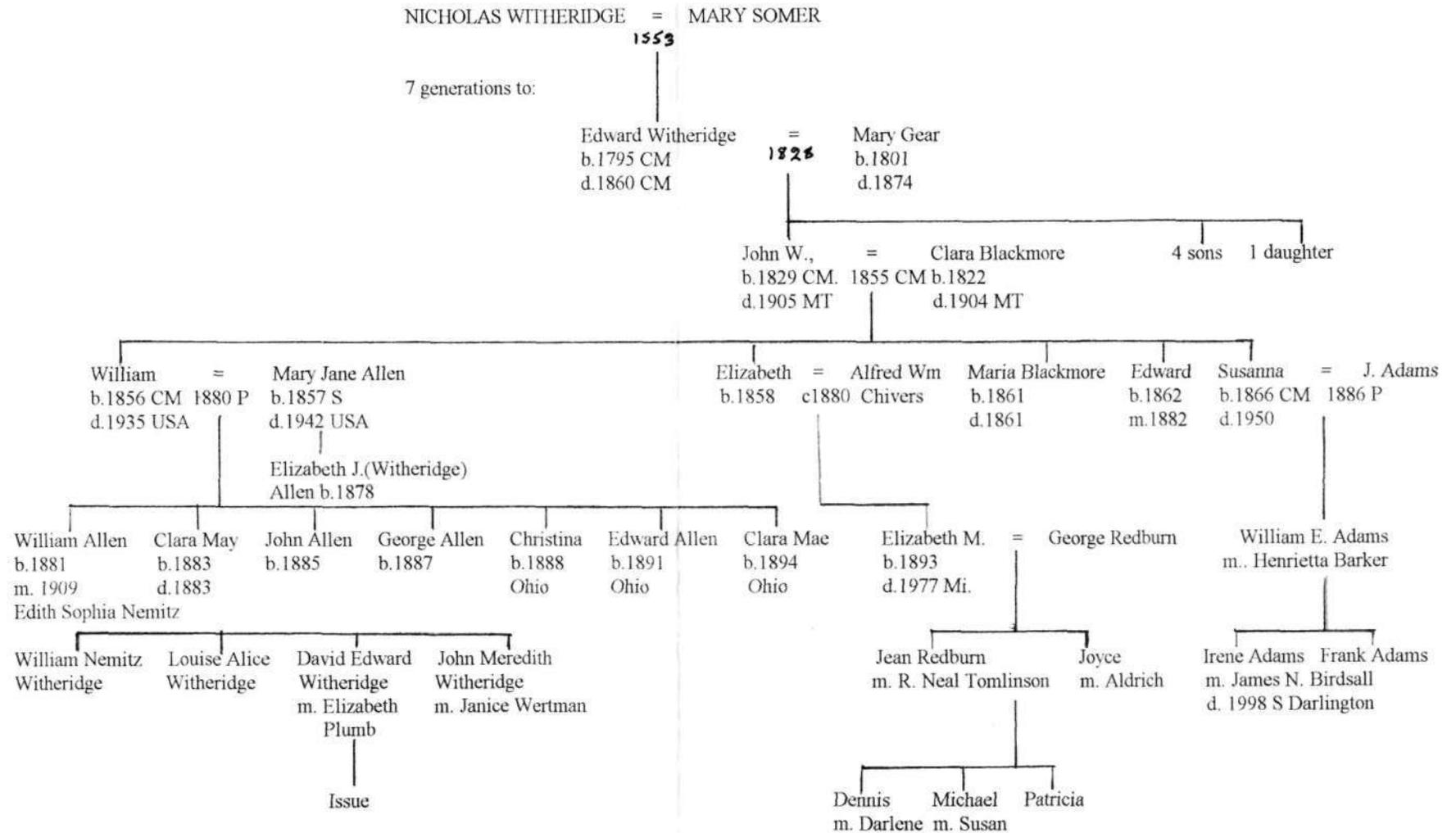
Mrs. Jean Tomlinson  
2, London Road,  
Bella Vista   AR72714-5804 USA

We had the pleasure of meeting Jean and her family at the Tiverton gathering in 1997, and I look forward to a day when we might all meet again. How about Tiverton 2000?

Jean and Joyce can trace their family back to Nicholas Witheridge of Berrynarbor, and Mary Somer who married in 1553, and the abridged tree given here shows their relationship to David Witheridge of Minneapolis. David has written a profile of his grandparents, William Witheridge and Mary Jane Allen for this magazine.

The Committee here send very best wishes for the success of the Witheridge Reunion in Lansing, Michigan, on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. We understand that Joyce has been co-operating with Kathy in arranging this gathering, and we can appreciate that this has entailed much hard work. We look forward to hearing all about it!

**BERRYNARBOR/COMBEMARTIN/USA FAMILIES**



Compiled by Joyce Browne from data available May 1999

CM = CombeMartin      MT = Merthyr Tydfil, Wales  
P = Pontypridd, Wales      Mi = Michigan USA

**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, Samia Ontario Canada N7T 465
Representative New Zealand	Mrs. Velma Metcalfe, 49, Chester Road, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand

**Committee Members:-**

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

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