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Spring 2000

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EDITORIAL

Britain has been swept into the year 2000 on a tidal wave of sickness. Health authorities now admit that there is an epidemic of 'flu-like' illnesses, and hospitals are in crisis. One nasty 'bug' circulating is a true influenza virus Type A - named the Sydney virus as it was first isolated in Australia. It has been suggested that it was brought to England by supporters of the Australian rugby team, and whilst we do hope that our friends in Australia have not been suffering, we feel somewhat aggrieved that we have massive Millennium hangovers without having had the celebrations!

To add to the Millenium misery many parts of the country were flooded, particularly Somerset and the West Country.

Nevertheless the weather is now mild and sunny, spring bulbs are poking their heads through the soil, and flowering shrubs look ready to burst into what seems like an early spring.

Devonshire is a lovely place to be in spring and early summer, and on our coach trips out from Tiverton in 1997 we saw wild flowers in abundance. We hope to repeat this experience this year on trips during our Tiverton 2000 week end.

The programme for this week end, and the booking forms, are in this magazine and we hope that you will give these your earnest attention. The inclusion of one of the trips, that to Morwellham Quay, will depend on the numbers interested as it is felt that the cost would be prohibitive if the number participating falls below 30.

There are many other places of interest to visit, and if it is not possible to include the Morwellham trip, another trip will be arranged, possibly to the CombeMartin area. If you are not able to come for the whole week end, consider coming to meet us for a day.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the conference room at the Tiverton Hotel on Saturday, 29th April at 10.0 a.m., and visitors are asked to bring their family trees, arts and crafts, and any items of interest for display. Friends are welcome.

Once again in this year 2000, we appeal to readers to send us articles, letters, and items for publication in the magazine. They need not be masterpieces of English prose, and we are interested in the lives of anyone with Witheridge connections, past or present, and in the areas in which they lived and worked, also in any research being done.

I look forward to meeting many friends in Devon for Tiverton 2000 - do come and join us!



E-MAIL ADDRESS

CORRECTION

The e-mail address of John and Pat James of Burnaby, Canada is now:-

jjames@telus.net



FAMILY NEWS

Our first family news of the year is a mixture of happy and sad, and I suppose that reflects all family happenings. We have heard of the passing of Mrs. Joan Payne of the Fulham and earlier CombeMartin and Berrynarbor family. Joan died in hospital on the 7th January, 2000, after a short illness. She and her husband, Harry, were living at Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and the funeral service will be held on the 21st January at Prestbury, near Cheltenham. Philip Witheridge, who also lives near Cheltenham hopes to attend and convey our sympathy to Harry and the family.

From Ontario, Kathy Witheridge sends us news that the mother of member Bruce Aldrich, of Lansing, Michigan, died on the 13th November, 1999. She had reached the age of 94, and suffered only a brief illness before passing away peacefully. Although we accept the inevitable, such events cause sadness to the nearest relatives and we send our condolences to Bruce and family.



Happier news comes from our Treasurer Richard, and his wife Maureen, that their daughter Sue Witheridge married Andrew Dymond on the 9th October, 1999. Sue and Andrew were married at the Oldfield Baptist Church in Bath, and there were 70 guests at the reception. Some of the guests came from as far away as Cornwall, Kent and Scotland, and the celebrations continued into the evening.



THE KOO CLOCK

by John Witheridge

Some weeks ago, Mayda and I visited our daughter Cheryl, although I suspect the main reason was to see our grandchildren. Halfway through our visit I noticed that hanging on the wall in the conservatory was a cuckoo clock. This prompted childhood memories, and I recounted to those present the story of the KOO clock. (Perhaps Philip and Barbara may also recall this episode).

I suppose I would be about eleven or twelve years old, Mother, on spying a clock advertised in the Sunday paper, posted off a reply and the purchase price. In due course the time piece arrived and was hung on the wall. It was a Swiss action and was wound up by two weighted chains hanging from its base. For many years it kept perfect time, and indeed it did for the rest of its working life, but slowly other areas of this clock began to show wear.

Every night from the first evening that the clock arrived I would be awakened at midnight to hear the hour of twelve come and go. After a while it became one of those familiar reassuring sounds of night, which was hardly audible as one dozed in the small hours.

Time went by, then one night I awoke as usual to hear the mechanism whirring and clanking as it drew itself up to deliver its nightly toll, and as for many nights before I mused 'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven ...' Something was wrong - something was amiss! It was as though the clock downstairs had reverted to its infancy and instead of pronouncing a robust CUCKOO, CUCKOO, CUCKOO it issued forth an apologetic KOO, KOO, KOO!

I covered my head with the sheets in adolescent embarrassment and amusement as I speculated on the expression which would be found on the cuckoo's face as it burst through the upper doors pronouncing its silly KOO!

For years the clock was allowed to behave in this ridiculous manner, and it haunted me day and night, hoping that none of my friends would ever be visiting and be accosted by this strange and very, to me, audibly masculine cock cuckoo as it wound its hourly manhood up to finally pop through its door and issue its deafening "KOO"!

FINDERS SEEKERS

Once again, a little 'find' has caused us to do some searching. Sheila sent us this item she came across in the West Devon Record Office:-

Reference 149/58

"Particulars of the Manor of South Milton, Devon, 1789"

Mr. Andrews, Attorney at Law, Modbury. 'A Survey of the Manor of South Milton' (a schedule of all property and rents)

<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Tenements</u>	<u>Lives</u>	<u>Apes</u>
Ann Witheridge	Cottage and Garden	Ann Witheridge John Witheridge	54 50
<u>Conventiounary Rent</u>	<u>Herriotts</u>	<u>Customary Acres</u>	<u>Gross Yearly Value</u>
8s.0d.	1s.0d.		£1.10.0d.
<u>Church Rate</u>	<u>Poor Rate</u>	<u>Repairs</u>	<u>Net Yearly Value</u>
Not rated	-	0.8s.0d	£1.2s.0d.

(Rent low, but not the lowest on list)

Chief Rents payable to the Manor - George Baker

A 'conventiounary tenant' was the lease holder. Early leases were made for a specific number of years, but by the eighteenth century the custom was in use to make a lease for 99 years or 3 lives - which ever period was the shorter.

The principal tenant could name him or herself and two other living persons. Thus a tenant could name himself and his wife and his son, or his brother, or, as has been known, a nephew. He could not name children as yet unborn.

The 'Fine' or 'Herriott' had to be paid on the death of one of the named tenants, in order that the legal documents could be altered. In earlier times it was often paid in kind, and the landlord had the right to select the best beast of a farmer's herd as payment.

Sometimes, a heavy price was paid when the lease was originally entered into, and the yearly rent was correspondingly small, but this was usually when the area of land in question was large.

In the case of Ann and John Witheridge and their cottage and garden, it might be that they were the two later lives of a lease, and one life had already passed. Also it does not necessarily mean that they were both living in the cottage - it could be that Ann was living there, and John would take over the lease at her death.

Who were they? The ages shown should give us a clue.

The parish registers of South Milton record baptisms:-

27. 12. 1737 ??ne (Illegible) of John and Anne (could this be Ann(e)??

04.05.1740 John, son of John and Anne

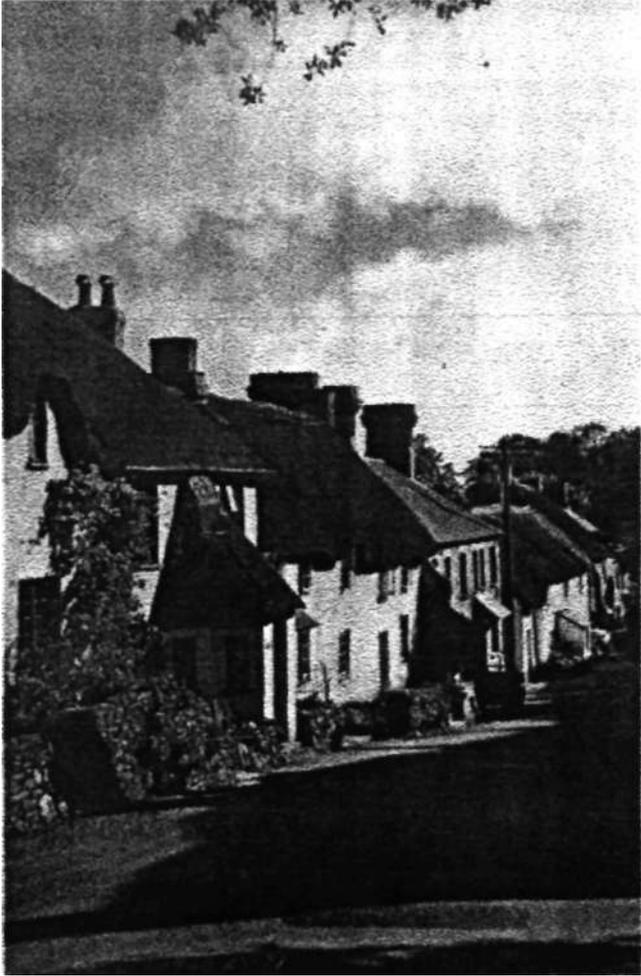
These two, brother and sister, appear to be the only two with the right ages to be the tenants mentioned in the survey. They were the children of John Witheridge, born c.1700 and Anne (surname unknown). We had thought that the illegible name (??ne) might be 'Jane', but I now think that it is much more likely to have been 'Anne' or 'Ann'. There is no record of this Anne ever having married, but John married Mary Cawse at Thurlestone on the 7th July, 1766.

The survey shows us that the principal tenant of the cottage and garden was Ann, with John as the last 'life'. This seems to indicate that they were not husband and wife, and they could not have been mother and son, so I feel that they were the two I have mentioned.

The parish registers of South Milton record a burial of a John Witheridge on the 27th January, 1748, and this could have been the father of Ann and John, originator of the lease. There is a record of a burial of an Ann Witheridge on the 15th November 1779, and this was probably his wife,

John could have lived at the cottage in South Milton in his childhood, but it appears that he and Mary Cawse lived at Thurlestone after their marriage, as all their children were born there. The Thurlestone burial records show the burial of a John Witheridge in 1805, and that of a Mary in 1792.

John and Mary Cawse were the ancestors of several of our member families - their children being John, born 1774, Andrew born 1777 and Mary born 1782.



TLTN 20

THURLESTON VILLAGE

A TUCK CARD

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THIS!

Here are a few items you might be interested to know - amid a few I wish I didn't! For instance - it is depressing to know that in the period 1841-1850 as many as 6% of births went unrecorded.

In the early years of registration the clergy were required to send to the local Registrar lists of marriages for each quarter. Some failed to do so, some sent them in early, and sometimes these were set aside and lost, or struck through as not being in the correct time period, and were never re-indexed.

As time went on it seems that there was not much improvement. It is estimated that some 50,000 marriages are missing from local and central records prior to 1900. It makes the heart of any family historian sink!

How do I know this? The Magazine 'Family Tree' published a review by Anthony J. Camp which makes sombre reading - he calls it 'terrifying'. The book he reviewed is "A Comedy of Errors" or The Marriage Records of England and Wales 1837-1899, by Michael Whitfield foster. Published by the author and available from him at 19 Khouri Avenue, Karori, Wellington 6005, New Zealand, or the Society of Genealogists, priced at £10.0 including postage, or from Family Tree Magazine.

The Family Records Centre at 1, Myddelton Street, London issues a Newsletter from time to time. In the last one was the following information:-

In the Public Search Room there are currently 8,000 indexes

Each index weighs about 5 kg making a current total of about 40,000 kg which is nearly 40 tonnes

Each index contains about 300 pages, so this means a total of 2,800,000 pages. As most pages are double sided, this equates to around 5,600,000 pages of entries.

About 50 new indexes come into use each year.

I have not checked the arithmetic, but I do know that to get the most from a visit to the Family Records Centre (formerly St. Catherine's House) one needs good strong arm muscles to lift the indexes off the shelves, and plenty of staying power!



TAVISTOCK

Tavistock, Devon

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WITHERIDGE SOCIETY TO BE HELD AT THE TIVERTON HOTEL,
TIVERTON, DEVON, ON THE 29TH APRIL, 2000, AT 10.00 A.M.**

I hereby give notice of the above meeting and would urge all members to attend. If this is not possible, perhaps you will let me know if you would like to put forward any names for election as officers - having first obtained their consent. If there is any matter that you would like considered under 'any other business' I shall be happy to raise this.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Society at Winchcombe on 3rd May, 1999, as published in the Witheridge Times, Summer 1999
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Officers' Reports (as published prior to the meeting)

Chairman's Report
Secretary and Membership Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Research -Co-ordinator's Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Any other business (including arrangements for the meeting year 2001 at Singleton, near Chichester, and suggestions for the venue for the year 2002)

It would be appreciated if officers would send me their reports on completion, in order that they may be printed and circulated prior to the meeting.



GRAHAM BROWNE
Chairman

WITHERIDGE DAY 2000

Witheridge day 2000 will be held at the Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton, Devon, and will be a three day event, with trips to Plymouth and Morwellham.

This latter trip will only take place if there is sufficient interest, ie., 30 or more people. If there is insufficient interest then another trip will be arranged, possibly to Combe Martin.

The intended programme is as follows:-

Saturday, April 29th. 2000

10. 0 a.m. Annual General Meeting in the conference room, followed by discussion
- 12.15p.m. Buffet lunch in the conference room
1. 30 p.m. approx. Activities in the conference room:- a talk, viewing of displays, general meeting and getting to know each other.
- 3.30 p.m. Tea/coffee in the conference room
5. 0 p.m. Close of meeting

The Tiverton Hotel has a pleasant lounge where members can meet and converse.

7. 30 p.m. Evening Dinner

Sunday, April 30th, 2000

9. 00 a.m. Leave by coach for Plymouth (It would be advisable to take a packed lunch, which can be obtained from the hotel)
- 10.30 a.m. Arrive at the Barbican, Plymouth, where the places to visit include:-

The Mayflower Steps -the place where the Pilgrim Fathers finally set sail for America.

Plymouth Hoe - where Sir Francis Drake played bowls as the Spanish Armada came up the channel in 1588.

***Elizabethan House** - a rare survival of a Tudor Sea Captain's timber framed dwelling house.

***Smeaton's Tower** - the lighthouse originally built on the Eddystone rock in 1759, and rebuilt on Plymouth Hoe in 1884

***The Aquarium** - and other attractions.

* Entrance fee would be the responsibility of visitors

2.15 p.m. Depart by coach from the Barbican for Devonport Dockyard.
The Dockyard has many old buildings associated with the Napoleonic prisoners of war and the maritime history of Plymouth.
This Dockyard is not normally open to the public.

4. 45 p.m. approx - leave for Tiverton
6. - 6.30 p.m. Arrive Tiverton
7. 30 p.m. Evening Dinner

Monday, May 1st, 2000

9. 00 a.m. Leave Tiverton by coach for Morwellham Quay, which is situated just over the Devon/Cornwall border. (Packed lunches can be obtained from the hotel, or there are facilities for refreshments at Morwellham.) The coach will travel via Dartmoor, stopping to see the ancient clapper bridge and on through Tavistock. Morwellham Quay is a restoration of an old tin loading quay, with re-creation of its activities, and giving an insight into the lives of our ancestors, with a trolley trip into an old mine.

NOTE The entrance fee to Morwellham will be the responsibility of visitors.

4. 30 p.m. approx. - leave Morwellham for Tiverton
7. 00 - 7. 30 p.m. arrive back at Tiverton
8. 00 p.m. Evening Dinner

The cost of the coach trips will be dependant upon the numbers of people attending.

40 members - Plymouth trip will be £6.00 per person (includes donation to Dockyard based on £2.0 per person attending)

Morwellham trip will be £7.0 per person (Does not cover entrance fee to Morwellham)

20 members - Plymouth trip will be £8.00 per person

Morwellham trip will be £14.00 per person (see paragraph 1)

PLEASE NOTE THE SEPARATE BOOKING FORM INCLUDED IN THIS MAGAZINE

A DEVONSHIRE COUPLE

by Joyce Browne

Everyone who has heard of the county of Devon has heard of Dartmoor, that wild and dangerous area which occupies some 23 miles from north to south, and from 11 to 17 miles east to west. Not everyone who has heard of Dartmoor has heard of a man who spent most of his life walking its lonely places, exploring, observing and recording its streams, fields, rocks, ancient memorials and stone crosses. He is now known as the greatest authority on the Moor. His name was **William Crossing** and his wife's name was **Emma Witheridge**.

William and Emma were both born into families of trade - Emma the daughter of Richard Witheridge "Butcher", "Draper", "Gentleman", and William the son of Joseph Crossing "Grocer, "Sailcloth manufacturer", "Com Merchant". (These descriptions taken from Census returns).

From the picture of William - would you have thought that this staid looking Victorian gentleman once had his own 'minstrel troupe', could play the banjo, the 'bones' and the tin whistle - was an amateur artist and a poet? There was much more to William than meets our eye!

William was born in Plymouth on the 14th November, 1847, to Joseph Crossing and his wife Elizabeth. The Census of 1851 records father Joseph as a Grocer. At that time William had an older brother, Joseph aged 8, who became a corn merchant, and a younger brother, Sam aged one, who became a commercial traveller.

Joseph Crossing was well known in Plymouth as a Town Councillor, and a founder of the Free Methodist movement. The Western Morning News, on reporting son William's death, said that the Crossings were an ancient family who had been prominent in Exeter, with Sheriffs and Mayors among them.

Emma too, was of an ancient line. She was descended from a family originating in Berrynarbor and CombeMartin, who went to Bradworthy then further south to the Tavistock area, and they included Yeoman farmers, Innkeepers, shopkeepers and prison officers.

William spent his boyhood in Plymouth, but his family owned a cottage on the then unspoilt and beautiful Roborough Down, north of the city, and summers were spent there. (What would he say if he could see it now - covered in houses, congested with cars, and crowned by a huge supermarket?)

PHOTOGRAPH OF WILLIAM CROSSING
DATE UNKNOWN



William Crossing.

Elizabeth Crossing often took her son William to visit friends who lived close to Buckland Abbey, home of Sir Francis Drake, and a place guaranteed to evoke feelings of romance and adventure.

From an early age William was interested in antiquities, and all aspects of the Moor. Not only nature but literature, poetry and the theatre appealed to him and called him away from the prosperous but prosaic life intended for him.

His father apprenticed him to a sail cloth manufacturer. Joseph Crossing himself ran a canvas making mill at South Brent, but this life did not suit William, and Mr. Brian Le Messurier, who has written about him, tells us that the boy William ran away to sea. One can readily imagine that life at sea did not suit William either, and although he reached Canada, by the time he was twenty he was back in England.

Emma too, was born in Plymouth in 1847. Her father, Richard Witheridge, had married Jane Ryder of Ermington in 1843. In 1844 Emma's older sister, Cordelia, was born at Tavistock, and on her birth certificate Richard's occupation was given as 'butcher'. By 1871 Richard was keeping a shop in Ermington and had become a draper. His wife Jane was living with him, and the two girls, Cordelia and Emma, aged 26 and 24, were living there. No occupation is shown for the girls, but one suspects that they were helping in the shop.

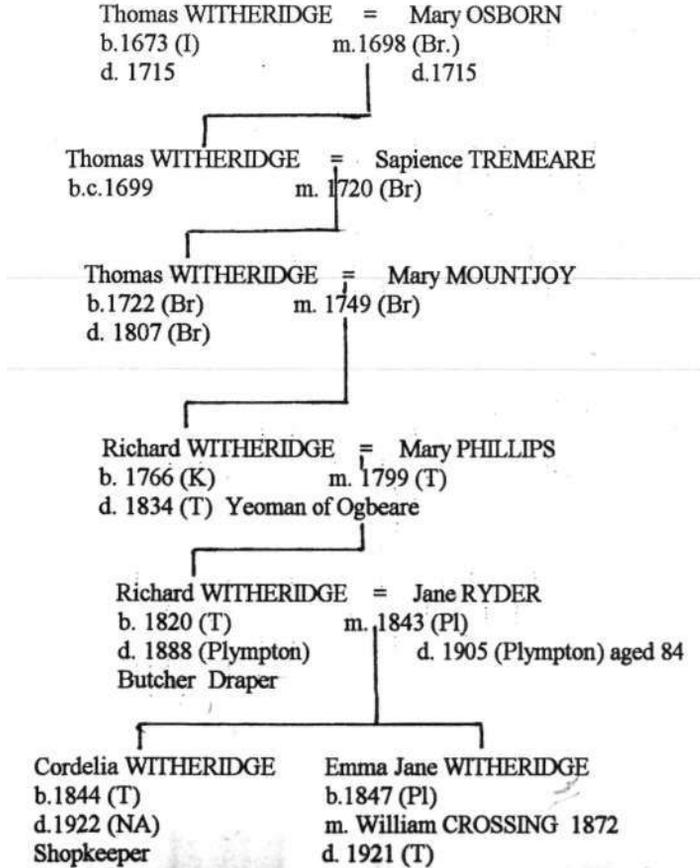
One query has emerged about the Witheridge family. The Census for Devon, 1851, shows Cordelia Witheridge, aged 6, in the house of her Ryder grandparents at Shute Lane, Ermington. Her parents Richard and Jane and her sister Emma are not to be found in Ermington, nor have I found them anywhere else in Devon. Where were they in April, 1851?

William Crossing, meanwhile, was working for his father in the family canvas mill at South Brent, but his heart wasn't in it. He enlivened his life by writing poems and plays, formed a drama company, and continued to walk over Dartmoor. At one time he went on tour with the drama company, but it failed and he had to return to the mill.

How William and Emma met we do not know, but obviously the opportunities were many - his travelling and touring - or may be a trade association of the parents. We don't know Emma's interests, but we do know that at one time she and Cordelia kept a haberdashery shop in Ivybridge.

SECTION OF THE BRADWORTHY/TAVISTOCK FAMILY TREE

Compiled by Joyce Browne from parish registers and data available Jan. 2000



- (Br) Bradworthy
- (I) Ilfracombe
- (K) Kilkhampton, Cornwall
- (NA) Newton Abbott
- (Pl) Plymouth
- (T) Tavistock

William and Emma married in Plymouth in 1872. For some time they lived at South Brent and seem to have been comfortably off. The Census for 1881 records William, aged 33, as a sail cloth manufacturer, employing 15 men, 2 boys, 8 women and 4 girls. Perhaps because of the decline in the demand for sail cloth, or perhaps because of William's lack of business sense, his primary interest being in other spheres, the mill began to fail.

He and Emma moved, eventually settling in the tiny village of Mary Tavy. Mary Tavy is on the edge of Dartmoor, hidden down a steep slope from the main road between Tavistock and Okehampton.

It was before they left South Brent that William began to make detailed and serious notes of his explorations of Dartmoor. Always walking, riding, getting to know the people of the Moor, joining them at their work, listening to their stories, William became an authority on the customs and the folk lore of the region. He was acquainted with the Welsh and Gaelic tongues, and could make comparison with the dialects of Devon.

Constantly writing, on subjects such as 'The Streams and Tors of Dartmoor', 'Folklore and Legends of Dartmoor', 'A Hundred Years on Dartmoor', William attempted to make his living with these articles. At that time they were not always in book form, but were published as series for various journals (often unpaid). From about 1900 he wrote for 'The Western Morning News', but before this his health began to fail, and he had to curtail his expeditions over the Moor.

He became tutor to the three sons of a Mr. W.P. Collins, who became much more than an employer to him.

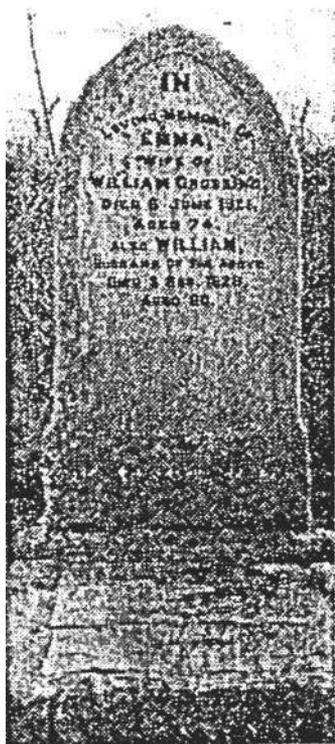
In Emma's early days she and her sister Cordelia kept the haberdashery shop in Ivybridge, and later Cordelia kept the shop on her own. An aunt of Sheila Jewell's lived next door to this shop, and she remembered running errands for Cordelia. Cordelia did not marry, and lived until the age of 78. (Unfortunately for us, Sheila's aunt has now died, so we cannot ask her the questions we would like.)

William Crossing's famous 'Guide to Dartmoor' was first published in 1909, and ran to two more editions, 1912 and 1914. It was unobtainable for many years, but has since been re-printed, and is still acknowledged to be the most definitive and authoritative guide yet written.



Looking up Fore Street from Glanvilles Mill entrance. On the right is the Kings Arms which later became the Fighting Cocks and is now the Exchange. Henry Fice Lee, Chair of Council, used to hold emergency meetings near this entrance under the oak tree (not visible in the photograph). Also, on the right was the home of William Crossing the Dartmoor writer.

By about 1917, Emma's health had deteriorated to the extent that she and William had to move to Ivybridge so that they could be near to relatives. William was still well known, and in demand as a lecturer, but had difficulty in making ends meet. When Emma required nursing care she had to be moved to the Tavistock Institution, where on the 6th June, 1921, she died, aged 74.



The grave in Mary Tavy Churchyard of William and Emma Crossing.

Throughout their life together, Emma seems to have lived in William's shadow. Sometimes he mentions her as his companion on one of his walks, but one gets the impression that she stayed in the background.

William moved back to Mary Tavy, and one can imagine that his heart, bruised from the loss of his wife of 50 years, was finally broken by the loss of all his books and papers. He was preparing to write another book, but one day whilst he was out of the house, a woman who help look after him, seeing the mass of tattered papers, damaged by mice, burned them all!

In 1925 William was admitted to the Tavistock Institution (really the Workhouse). There he would have died but for the generosity of his friend Mr. Collins who paid for him to be cared for at the Cross Park Nursing Home, Plymouth. William died on the 3rd September 1928, and was buried with Emma in the quiet Churchyard of Mary Tavy.

The Western Morning News and local journals all covered the story and eulogised about his talents and his writings, but it is due to the interest of a Mr. Brian Le Messurier that we know as much about William as we do today. I am indebted to Mr. Le Messurier for much of the information here.

Brian Le Messurier has collected several series of William's articles and has been instrumental in getting these reprinted in book form. He has remained a great admirer of William's work and says that the debt we owe to him is enormous. Although William Crossing wrote so long ago, his words and works have stood the test of time.

William and Emma died childless, and so there is no descendant we may trace to see if the talent lived on, but we can quote William's own words:-

"... as certain as the rivers will ever roll down from the hills of the old Moor, so sure it is that men will continue to add to its records... man has striven, still strives to make the desert break its silence and to unlock its secrets."

" And little by little the light is being let in, and as a fact is gathered here, and another there, so are they written down and men prize the record. The poet, the local historian, the archaeologist and the writer who turns his gaze towards the realms of fancy have found work for their hands to do on Dartmoor, and shall continue to be its Chroniclers, that those who love it shall read something of its story."



TAVISTOCK FAMILY RESEARCH

by Kathy Witheridge and Joyce Browne

In our researches into the Tavistock family we discovered early on their connection with the Australian families, but it took us quite a time to discover that the Tavistock families originated in Bradworthy. Now Kathy Witheridge, whose husband Paul is of the Bradworthy family, has found another link - this time the link goes from Bradworthy to Tavistock, then to America.

Kathy, who made contact with a Mrs. Peggy Weldy, has discovered that Peggy's ancestor, Richard Witheridge, born 1766, who married Jane Phillips, was brother to George Witheridge born 1761, 5 x great grandfather of Paul, Kathy's husband.

George and Richard were two of the six sons of Thomas Witheridge, born 1722, and Mary Mountjoy.

Thomas Witheridge = Mary Mountjoy

John	b 1749 - nothing more known
Thomas	b. 1753)
James	b. 1757) Went to Tavistock
William	b. 1759)
Richard	b. 1766)
George	b. 1761 Married Jane Oke in Bradworthy

It was George's grandson, another George, who emigrated to Canada and founded the Ontario family line.

The boys who went to Tavistock appear to have been quite prosperous, and they branched out into various localities in and around Tavistock and followed various occupations - farmers, butchers and Innkeepers.

We have found little about Thomas, born 1753, except a note of a burial at Tavistock of the Thomas Witheridge on the 16th January, 1785. Thomas would then have been aged 32. We can find no record of a marriage for him either at Bradworthy or Tavistock.

James Witheridge born 1757 at Bradworthy married Mary May at Tavistock on 8th April 1788. Subsequently James is described as an 'Innholder' at Tavistock, and he died and was buried there in 1801. His wife Mary lived on to the age of 78 - this we know from the parish register.

On the burial record the address is given as West Street, which is one of the principal shopping streets of the town.

As you can see from the family tree, we know little about George Witheridge, born 1788. He is not named on the census for Devon, 1851, but so far we have not found a death or a marriage record for him.

William Witheridge, born 1756, the fifth son of Thomas Witheridge and Mary Mountjoy also went to Tavistock, and seems to have been prosperous. He is described as an "Innholder", and a Yeoman, and on Land Tax Assessments from 1799 to 1832 his name appears as paying tax on a house and garden and several meadows.

On the 25th February, 1786, he married Ann Moore, and they had eight children, not all of whom survived into adulthood. From the parish register we have their names, and happily for us, in 1836 William made a Will, in which he named all his children individually, and gave the married names of his daughters.

The family of William and Ann's oldest son, Thomas, who was a Customs and Excise Officer, spread to London, Birmingham, New Zealand and back again.

Samuel Witheridge, born 1796, the third son of William and Ann Moore, married Mary Atwill in 1823, and he too seems to have been prosperous. He was a farmer and a butcher, and there are indications that he had more than one shop. Two of Samuel's sons, Thomas and Richard, became warders at Dartmoor Prison, Princetown, and three of Samuel's grandchildren, Edwin Harold Witheridge, William Atwill Witheridge, and Henry Chown Witheridge lie buried in the graveyard of the bleak church in that windswept place.

Richard, born 1767, the last son of Thomas Witheridge and Mary Mountjoy, also seems to have made a good living at Tavistock. He is described as "Yeoman of Ogbeare" on Land Tax Assessments - paying for several meadows, and is also described as "Yeoman" in the parish registers, where we found the record of his marriage to Mary Phillips on the 30th March, 1799.

Richard and Mary's youngest son Richard married Jane Ryder, and they had two children, Cordelia baptised 1844, and Emma Jane baptised 1846. There is a story about Emma which we tell in another report.

Richard and Mary's first son, John Phillips Witheridge, a butcher by trade, married Jane Percy in Tavistock in 1822, and several of their children emigrated to Australia to found family lines there which are quite well documented. Our member Mavis Witheridge is of this branch of the family.

Less well documented, until Kathy began her investigations, is the line of John Phillips Witheridge the second, who emigrated to America in or about 1869. John Phillips Witheridge (2) married Emma Northcott in 1862. Kathy has found that three children

Mary	born 1882	
George James	born 1864	
George Edwin	born 1865	- were all born in Tavistock, but
John	born 1872	
Thomas North	born 1873	
Jane	born 1875	
Emma	born 1877	and
William	born 1879	were all born in America

(See Witheridge Times Spring 1995)

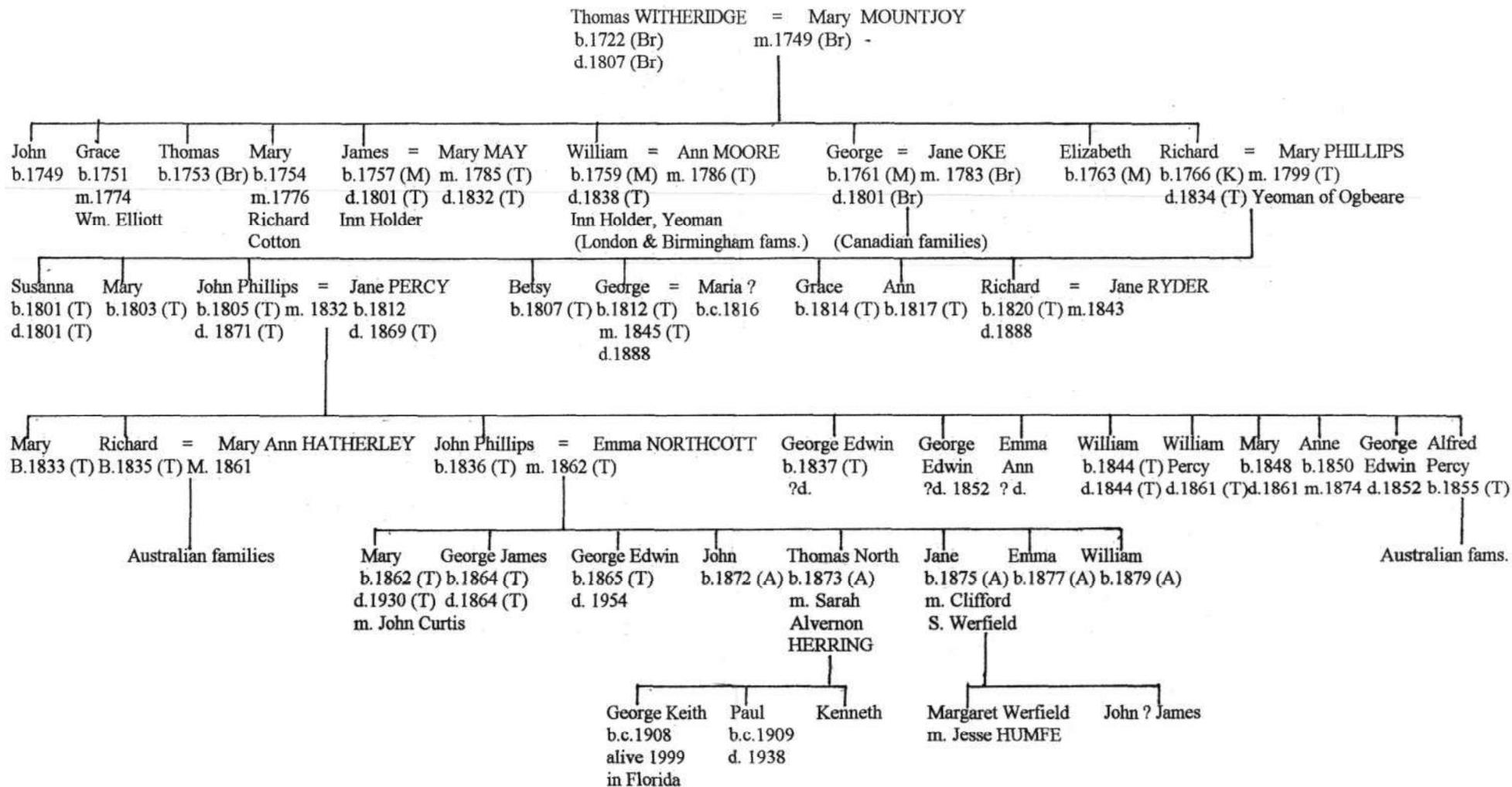
Kathy has made contact with George Keith Witheridge, one of the children of Thomas North Witheridge and Sarah Alverton Herring. He is now 88 years old, in good health and living in Florida.

Kathy is still on the trail - so watch this space!



SECTION OF THE BRADWORTH/TAVISTOCK FAMILY TREE SHOWING CONNECTION WITH AMERICA

Compiled by Joyce Browne from parish registers and data available January, 2000



(A) = America (Br) = Bradworthy
 (K) = Kilkhampton, Cornwall (M) = Morwenstow, Cornwall

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please note the following changes of address:-

Mem. No. 128 **David Davis:-** 14, Oakwood Park,
Penley,
Wrexham,
Wales LL13 ONE

Mem. No. 123 **Amanda Witheridge :-**

20, Normanby Terrace,
Mt. Martha,
Victoria, 3934
Australia

Mem No. 153 Doreen Mary Witheridge: -

2/2 Gordon Street,
Wonthaggi 3995
Victoria,
Australia



NEW MEMBERS

News, information and details from John Witheridge

Mem. Nos. 173 **Mrs. Jennifer S. Smith**
174 **Mr. David E. Smith**

PO Box 34150
Birkenhead,
North Shore City,
Auckland,
New Zealand 1310

E-mail **david.jennie@xtra.co.nz.**

(1) Jennifer Anne Smith nee Turner 1954 - and David E Smith
 (2) Ian Gordon Turner 1930 - (3) Thelma Elsie Chapman 1931 -
 (4) Edward William Turner, 1894-1951 (5) Janie McBeth Forbes 1894-1970
 (6) Reginald Edga Witheridge Chapman 1898-1984 (7) Ruby Lightbourne
 Oliver 1898-1986 (8) Edward Turner - (9) Mary Elizabeth Claridge -
 (10) George McKay Forbes c 1861 (11) Catherine McBeth Adamson c 1867
 (12) John Richard Chapman 1862-1929 (13) Florence Witheridge 1871 -
 (14) ?? Lightbourne - (15) Emma Budge - (20) John Forbes - (21) Helen
 Mackay- (24) John Chapman 1831-1905 (25) Eliza Brimacom c 1836 -
 (26) George Witheridge 1840-1913 (27) Dorcas M Hammett c1841-c1905
 (48) John Chapman- (49) Elizabeth ?? - (50) Henry Brimacom c 1788
 (51) Susan ??? c 1800 (52) William Witheridge 1800-1870 (53) Mary
 Ralph/Rolph c 1800-1871 (104) John Witheridge c 1774-1850 (105)
 Catherine Lamble c 1768-1818 (208) John Witheridge c 1740-1805
 (209) Mary Cawse c1792 (416) John Witheridge c 1700-1748 (417) Anne ??
 c1779 (432) John Witheridge c 1748 (433) Mary Hobey c 1745
 South Milton, Thurleston, Kingsbridge, Stoke Damerel in Devon until approx
 1898 Lower Hut, Nelson, Wellington in New Zealand until present

Welcome Jennifer and David We hope that your membership with the
 Witheridge Society will be long and fruitful, helping to raise the awareness of
 your family line, and filling in many gaps both for you and for the society

To give this some momentum, and as our members will recognise, this is quite
 normal for me at this stage in your membership I have scanned through my
 personal computer records and have found that you have relationships to the
 New Jersey family line who also descend from John Witheridge, died 1748 and
 Mary, to John b. 1700 and Anne - on to John bap. 1740, South Milton and Mary
 Cawse The New Jersey family continued through Andrew Witheridge, b. 1777
 (Thurlestone) and Abigail Tabb, and their youngest child William, b. 1815 and
 Mary Hannaford. William and Mary had a son Andrew Hannaford Witheridge
 b. 1842 (Kingsbridge) who took his family to New Jersey Andrew married
 another Hannaford - Elizabeth Our English records show that they had four
 children born in the Kingsbridge area before they emigrated - Andrew, b. 1864,
 William Henry b. 1865, Francis George, b. 1868, and Charles b. 1870. Then
 they had a further three children in New Jersey - Ethel, b. 1877, Ernest b. 1883,
 and Creighton Grey b. 1886.

From the last three I have coverage of a further two generations - possibly three
 This came from research I was making some three years ago with great
 assistance from the Rev David Witheridge (when time was more plentiful)
 Now that I have again found time to spare I will continue this research and
 perhaps very shortly submit an article on this family subject

I would like to remind you that we have, over the years, made quite a lot of headway into the research of this family line. Much of this you will have received from Kathy and Velma. Again, some of it you may find somewhat conflicting. The Society has made many sorties of research into this family. Several times we have had to re-group and start again¹ (Indeed the family in general did not wish to give us - the researchers- an easy time) I think I can safely say that it is the most difficult of families to research and come terms with. (Not least because there are so many children with the same names)

If you wish to follow the past attempts of our research, it has been published in the magazine which can be purchased as back copies I can supply a list of these issues, two of which are Vol 11. No 4 (Winter 1997) and Vol 13 No. 4 (Winter 1999).

We wish you all success and hope that your association with the Witheridge Society will be very rewarding.

Mem No 175 **Mrs. Peggy L. Warfield Weldy**

1532 W Sunset Ridge Place,
Tucson,
AZ 85737-2372
USA

Welcome Peggy! We hope that you also will gain information concerning your ancestors from your association with the Society, and in the same spirit of co-operation, be passing on any information to us which we have not yet secured

As yet we have not received all the data concerning Peggy's family tree, but we do have a welcome letter from her telling us that her paternal grandmother was a Jane Witheridge, and I hope to be in a position to include more information in the next magazine. Meanwhile, there are two articles in this edition of the magazine covering aspects of the Bradworthy/Tavistock family from which I believe Peggy descends.

We all look forward to learning more, and to find out if we are related in any way. For me this is the best part of our existence as a society - to be able to unite, re-unite or introduce members to each other, to find relationships, kinships and friendships, for in most cases it was "SHIPS" that separated the families in the first place (Please pardon my pun). Peggy, we all await more information.

John Witheridge

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, Sarma 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 40 th Street, New York NY10016 USA	Mr Mark Witheridge 163 Weoley Avenue, Selly Oak, Birmingham Warw B29 6PV
Mrs Joyce Stephens 95, Phelipps Road Corfe Mullen Wimbome Dorset BH21 3NL	Mr Jason Cook 2 Rusthall Close, Addiscombe, Croydon Surrey CRO 7YH (Responsibility for liaison on Youth Projects)

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Devon Record Office Castle Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3PQ Tel 01392 53509	The Devon Family History Society Membership Secretary, Miss Valene Bluett, 64, Old Laira Road, Plymouth, Devon PL3 6BL Tel 01752 662985
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The Devon Family History Society, Publication Sales Mrs Joan Bennett,
334, St Peter's Road, Manaton, Plymouth, Devon PL5 3DR

