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**THE WITHERIDGE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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(Continued on the inside of the back cover)



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VISIT THE WITHERIDGE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY'S WEB SITE !

<http://www.WitheridgeFHS.com>

EDITORIAL

Dear members

Summer has gone (phew!) and Winter is approaching. With the change in climate who knows, we may have an Australian type Christmas with turkey on the beach!. We really do need to start taking care of our environment or we shall never get back to the climate that we or our ancestors knew. Enough of my soapbox preaching.

I hope you all enjoyed the last magazine and noted that your contributions are always welcome; otherwise I may struggle to keep finding something of interest to put in it. So come on members lets have your stories, family memories and/or photographs of your ancestors so that we can put them on record.

Not long ago Kim asked that members produce written profiles about their ancestors so that they could be kept in a file. I have produced one for my Paternal Grandfather and one for my Paternal Grandmother.

I have included my Grandfathers in this magazine. My Grandmothers will come later, so come on members lets have your ancestor's profiles.

We also include in this magazine some of the information held by our researchers. The **Research Co-ordinator** Kim Cook holds a great deal of information and should be the first point of contact when searching for your family history. If she is unable to help she will direct you to the researcher who is most likely to be able to help you with your queries. Joyce Browne in the UK and Kathy Witheridge in Canada also hold a great deal of family history information and are always willing to help with your queries. Following this method will prevent the same research being carried out twice; (See Kim's article later in the magazine).

Maureen and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Witheridge.

NB.Please note that a typing error occurred in the last magazine. The Web site on page 1 should read <http://www.WitheridgeFHS.com> Thanks Kathy for pointing this out.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Remember your annual membership renewal subscriptions are due in January. As a reminder, the subscriptions are:-

Full Membership	£7.00. (One person)
Family Membership	£10.00. (All at one address sharing one magazine)
Economy membership	£5.00 (Student/OAP/Unemployed).
Overseas membership	£12.00 STERLING.

Cheque should be made payable to "The Witheridge Family History Society" and **must be in Pounds Sterling**. These should be sent to the Membership Secretary named inside the front cover of the magazine.

FAMILY NEWS

I hear from Joyce Stephens that her son Trevor and his wife Nicola have recently had twins, Charlotte and Harry. Congratulations to the family.

Congratulations are sent to Ron and Brenda Dixon and to their daughter and Son in law, Sarah and Martyn Chudley. They have had a baby son, Hayden Richard, born 19th October 2003.

(I understand that Martyn is from Devon and that Kim produced a Chudley Family tree for their wedding present. Chudley being a well known Devon name.) (In fact there were Chudleys in Ermington where I was born.)

Bob Thomas.

Robert Daniel - "Bob" Thomas

Bob was born in July 1917 in Chelsea, London and died at his home in the Isle of Man on the 11th September 2003. He was the son of Ada Witheridge and George Thomas. From his Witheridge side he inherited a talent for carpentry, building and for improvisation, and from his father skills of engineering and invention.

Bob's father, George, was a remarkable man with several inventions to his credit, and who drove and serviced the first motor car to be kept in Bournemouth. As a young child Bob experienced the thrill of riding in a car and riding in the sidecar or on the pillion of a motorbike. Motor bikes were to become the love of his life.

Bob's early days were spent in London, and on Sunday afternoons his father would take him to the Science Museum and explain and discuss the merits of various small engines and Bob developed his preference for Douglas and ABC bike engines.

After leaving school Bob served a six year apprenticeship with the Gas, Light and Coke Company - predecessors to British Gas (see the article 'Life in the 1930s' in the Witheridge Times, Spring 2003). He did not have to spend much time as a Gas Fitter as World War II broke out. All through the time of his apprenticeship Bob was riding bikes, buying wrecks when he had any money, and repairing and adapting them.

Of his War Service Bob said "I was in an odd unit - engaged in railway work and transport, often using my own motor bike". He gained a reputation for being able to make engines work which had been given up as hopeless, and it was at this time that he met Lieutenant Sir Clive Edwards, who had been referred to him for advice about a motor bike. Clive was a racing and vintage car enthusiast and the two men discovered that they had a mutual passion for things mechanical. In this they were joined by Bob's father, George, who in 1949 set up in business with Clive in Bicester, Oxon., doing general engineering work and motor cycle work, with a Douglas motor bike agency.

Unfortunately this partnership was not to last long as George died. Bob gave up his job and joined Clive in the business. Throughout the business years they seized opportunities to drive and ride - the London to Brighton Vintage Car run - sprints, hill climbs and rallies. Bob made a name for himself organising some events and riding in hill climbs and rallies.

Always looking out for the unusual, Bob found the parts of a Vauxhall motor bike,

and with great persistence tracked down other parts, had more parts made and re-built the bike. In the early 1920s Vauxhall Motors made three experimental motor bikes of which Bob's model is one. They decided that they were too expensive to be a commercial success. Two were lost and Bob re-claimed the remaining one. Thus he became the owner of the only Vauxhall motor bike in the world - and it is still running!

In 1963 Bob moved with the Edwards family to the Isle of Man. They found a dilapidated manor house - Milntown - Ramsey, which was once the home of the Christian family (Fletcher Christian, of 'Mutiny on the Bounty' fame) and set about restoring it and its beautiful gardens.

After Clive's death Bob continued to live at Milntown, which has now been bequeathed to the Manx nation. The gardens and the collection of cars and motor bikes are open to the public at certain times.

Bob was an exceptionally talented man, but was always modest and unassuming. He was one of nature's gentlemen who will be sorely missed.

He was uncle to member Dorothy Linter, but became a father figure when her own father died when she was a child. We send our condolences and sympathy to Dorothy.

From Kathy Witheridge, our North American Representative of the Witheridge Family History Society.

Clarence Avre.

"It is with great sadness that I let you all know of the passing of Clarence Ayre of Edam, Saskatchewan, Canada, early this morning (11th February, 2003). Clarence was the oldest Witheridge descendant in North America and would have celebrated his 92nd birthday this coming weekend.

"For those of you who attended the Witheridge Reunion in Bowmanville, probably had the opportunity of meeting with the sister and nieces and Clarence - Vivian Hanson, Sharon Bryges and Carol Alexander.

"We got to see uncle "B", as he was known to his family, last September. At that time he was extremely fit and well and still playing the 'stock markets'. In fact his mind was still very active up until this week when he slipped into a coma.

"He was a fantastic pianist and we listened to him playing the organ for many hours. I taped him playing the 91st waltz, which he composed for the occasion of his 91st birthday last year.

"Some of you might recall that his cousin, Jack Ayre, played with the Dumbells during WW1.

"Paul and I have many happy memories of this very dear man and his family in Saskatchewan".

Tom Jewel.

We understand from Sheila Jewel that Tom has recently had a pacemaker fitted and is making good progress. We all wish Tom well and a speedy full recovery.

In the last magazine we mentioned the death of John Meredith Witheridge news of which we received just before going to print. Below we now include a full Obituary

John Meredith Witheridge, 1922-2003

John Meredith Witheridge was the youngest of four children born to William Allan Witheridge (of the Berrynarbor and Combmartin family) and his wife Edith Sophia née Nemitz. All the children were born in Saginaw, Michigan where John, like his older brother David, graduated from Saginaw High School.

After completing an engineering degree at the state university, John served in the US Army from 1942-46. John and his wife Janice (née Wertman), who married in 1947, had a daughter Mary Kathryn (Kay) and a son John Jr (Jay). Although working as a heating and ventilating engineer in civilian life (originally as a partner in his father's company), John continued to serve in the Army Reserve.

Among his accomplishments for the Army was the development of special packaging systems to enable the safe drop of supplies to troops in Vietnam, and the design of a new fuelling system for Huey helicopters which cut refuelling time in half. By the time of his retirement from the Army in 1982, after 36 years with the Reserve, John had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

John's civilian expertise in the HVAC industry, in which he was a consultant for over fifty years, led to his appointment as a City Representative with the Saginaw County Board of Supervisors, and a member of the Board of Building Codes for the City of Saginaw. He was still in office in this appointment at the time of his death.

As a long-time member of the local First Baptist Church, and a keen musician, John had been the church's music director and organist, as well as being on the Board of Trustees. His continuing interest in the scout movement saw him progress from scout to scoutmaster and then council member, and he was awarded the Silver Beaver award by the local Scout Association. John was also a Rotarian and a keen bridge player.

For some years John had experienced heart problems, and when David was appointed Hon Vice President of the Witheridge Society, John was unable to travel from Saginaw with Janice and Jay to the Witheridge celebration in Minneapolis.

John died at home on 27 April 2003, just three weeks short of his 81st birthday. His funeral was conducted with full military honours accorded by the US Army Colour Guard and the local American Legion Post. Memorial tributes were sent to the Boy Scouts of America and the American Cancer Society.

We extend our sympathy to his widow Janice, to Kay, to Jay and wife Marcela and their son David, all in Michigan, and to David, Jim and Tom in Minneapolis.

Change of Address.

Gina Couch has informed me that she is now living at Sandycroft, 5 Snab Lane, Ness, Neston, Cheshire. CH64 4BB

Thankyou Gina for your note, trust you will enjoy living in your new home..

Change of e mail address.

Barbara and Terry Finemore e mail address is now:-

barbaraterry@eurobell.co.uk

RESEARCHERS HOLDINGS.

In order that members can ask questions of our researchers, it is intended to print a list of the type of information that is held by them.

CD ROMS held by Joyce Browne.

CENSUS 1851 Devonshire, Norfolk and Warwickshire only

1881 National Index and Census for England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Royal Navy

1891 London only

(For all years I have some pages which have been published by the Devon Family History Society for Devonshire)

S & N Genealogy: Norfolk Parish Registers Vols. 1-12 Marriages only

Family Tree Maker: Family Archives - Passenger and Immigrant Lists to America 1500s - 1900s

The Complete Book of Immigrants (America) 1607 -1776

Family History Resource File: British Vital Records - Births, Christenings and Marriages, 1538 -1888 (No burials)

Federation of Family History Societies: National Burial Index 1538 - 2000 (Not all counties recorded. Does not include Devon).

Between us we also hold copies of Births, Marriage and Deaths taken from the PRO records, (not complete) and certain other lists compiled from Parish records. Also lists showing the Registration and census districts applicable to the PRO records. Also Joyce holds a number of birth, marriage and death certificates, lists of these are again held in booklet form

I have all these in booklet form and they can be reproduced for a small fee payable to the Society. ED.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH CDs held by Kathy Witheridge

I have in my possession the following CDs and would be willing to do look-ups for members:

1881 British Census (25 CDs)
1881 Canadian Census (3 CDs)
1851 British Census - Devon, Norfolk & Warwick only
1851 British Census - 2% of population
1871 Ontario Census - heads of households only
National Burial Index for England and Wales (2 CDs)
Vital Records Index - British Isles (5 CDs)
World Family Tree - Volumes 1 and 2
US Social Security Death Index -1937 -1995
Generations World Name Index (8 CDs)
Canadian Genealogy Index - 1600s - 1900s
Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid - version 5
Family History Source Guide
Pigot & Co. Directory - Hampshire, 1830
Pigot & Co. Directory - Hampshire, 1842/44
Various CDs for Halifax, West Yorkshire

DATA HELD BY KIM COOK

CD ROMs

1881 census for all the UK (including RN), indexed by name - set of 24 CDs

1851 census - Devon, Norfolk and Warwicks, indexed by name - all on one CD

1851 census for London, with street indexes but not indexed by name - set of 31 CDs

These CDs are images of the original pages, and not always easy to read, and as there is no name index, a full address is needed for a search.

This is not the full area of the old London County Council, which did not come into being until 1888, but is more than the traditional central London area. The enumeration districts covered are:

Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Camberwell, Chelsea Clerkenwell, Greenwich, Hackney, Hampstead, Hanover Square, Holborn, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, London City, Marylebone, Newington, Poplar, Rotherhithe, St George in the East, St Giles, St Luke, St Martin in the Fields, St Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark, Southwark St George, Stepney, Strand, Wandsworth, Westminster, Whitechapel.

Plymouth Marriages from 1837 Volume 1, single CD which holds:

Devonport
Holy Trinity, 1902-1939
St Aubyn, 1883-1962
St Barnabas, 1904-1967
St Boniface, 1916-1980
St Budeaux 1837-1955
St James the Great, 1851-1941
St John, 1887-1942
St Mark, 1886-1968
St Mary, 1852-1957
St Michael, 1873-1960

St Paul, 1851-1937
St Philip, Weston Mill, 1925-1964
St Stephen, 1920-1941
St Thomas, Keyham, 1915-1959
Stoke Damerel, 1837-1940

Plymouth

All Saints, 1875-1979
Charles, 837-1955
Christ Church, 1847-1964
Egg Buckland, 1837-1984
Emmanuel, Compton Gifford, 1872-1941
Holy Trinity 1852-1938
St Andrew 1837-1997
St Augustine, 1905-1972
St Catherine, 1936-1941
St Francis, 1940-1988
St Gabriel, 1910-1980
St James the Less, 1941 only
St John, Sutton on Plym, 1855-1967
St Jude, 1877-1977
St Luke, 1874-1962
Ss Mary the Virgin and Magdalene, Cattdown, 1912-1954
St Matthias, 1890-1971
St Michael, West Hoe, 1948-1984
St Pancras, Pennycross, 1874-1973
St Peter, 1851-1980
St Saviour, 1874-1850
St Simon, 1908-1990
Tamerton Foliot, 1837-1948

Stonehouse

St George, 1852-1954
St Matthew, 1876-1964
St Paul, 1884-1963

Personal records on paper include:

GRO Births index: 1837-1992 (Witheridge and variants)
GRO Marriage index 1837-1994 (Witheridge and variants)
GRO Deaths index 1837-1994 (Witheridge and variants)

PPR Wills Index (including admcons) 1858-1963 (Witheridge and variants)

This has been annotated and cross-referenced with deaths etc to give information not in the original index (eg, age at death, and relationships where known)

Parish Registers: transcripts of Witheridge entries (some full, some partial) for many Devon parishes including Bantham, Berrynarbor, Combmartin, Ermington, Kingsbridge, Modbury, Newton Ferrers, Plymouth Charles, Plymouth St Andrew, Stoke Damerel, Tavistock, Thurlstone, Wembury and many others.

1901 census: complete list of Witheridge and all variants listed throughout the UK in 1901, annotated with additional details of families, and notes of people missing.

1881 census: complete list of all Witheridge and variants throughout the UK

1851 census: complete list of all Witheridge and variants in Devon, Norfolk and Warwicks.

Other census transcripts: details of Witheridge/Wetheridge families for various years and various places in Devon (not had time to check details)

Wills: copies of an assortment of Witheridge wills, some from Devon, some extracted from PRO in London. (Haven't yet made a complete list of these, but hope to do so shortly.)

All the above are UK records.

Australian records

New South Wales Births 1788-1905 (Witheridge, Wetheridge)

These have been cross-referenced with information I hold to give details not included in original index (eg mother's maiden surname).

New South Wales Marriages 1788-1945 (Witheridge, Wetheridge)

These have been cross-referenced with information I hold to give details not included in original index (eg father's Christian name).

New South Wales Deaths 1788-1945 (Witheridge, Wetheridge)

These have been cross-referenced with information I hold to give details not included in original index (eg age at death, mother's maiden name, father's middle name).

Card Index

This now holds approximately 5,000 names, drawn from GRO indexes, census returns, parish register transcripts, wills, apprenticeship records, etc, including details from overseas. Amount of information varies, but where complete includes the following details:

Surname, Christian name(s) and town/region

Birth/baptism date and place

Marriage date and place, with name of spouse (often for more than one marriage)

Death date and place (with dsp note if there are definitely no children)

Parents (including mother's maiden name)

Children, names and dates of birth/baptism

Occupation (s)

Miscellaneous information including census information, places of residence, witnesses of marriages, wills etc, probate value etc

Additional documentation, including maps, newspaper reports etc on

Aveton Gifford (history of church)

Wembury (including maps, history of church)

South Hams villages 1887

Naval Brigade in South Africa, 1878-1881

Books on

The Civil War
Sir Francis Drake
John Galsworthy
Monumental Inscriptions
Old Devon
Old country customs
Parish Law (first published 1859)
Scottish Research

AN AFTERNOON'S ENTERTAINMENT

by Joyce Browne

Recently I had occasion to search some Norfolk county marriage records, and, accustomed to the rich variety of Devonshire names (Legassicke, Tremear, Parminter etc..) did not expect to find much interest in the names themselves. Although I thought I was familiar with Norfolk family names I was surprised by the variety I found.

Some were ancient spellings of names we know - 'Wryt' was probably 'Wright', 'Nickless' our 'Nichols'. Some were obviously phonetic renderings of the Norfolk dialect, but others intrigued and baffled me. What would you make of 'Pung', 'Flewpot', 'Skitteminister', 'Slish', 'Pilsh', 'Slegg' and 'Arsondeike'?

Often names persisted for decades which would seem to indicate that there was no mistake in transcription. Some names appeared to connect with food:- 'Drinkmilk', 'Figge', 'Bun', 'Mussel', 'Alefleet', 'Allebread', others with animals and birds - 'Cowslope', 'Ferret', 'Mackerell', 'Bee', 'Pigman' (? An occupational description?) 'Sparrow', 'Duck', 'Crowfoot' and 'Dovetail'.

The family name of 'Discipline' persisted for generations in one parish, together with the Peegs, the Drawwaters, and the Throwwaters, both with two 'w's, and I wonder if Dorothy Righteous managed to live up to her name?

I found some unusual first names as well. Have you heard of 'Alburow' - a female? Also among the women were 'Algerine', 'Dill', 'Edenia', 'Effrances' 'Estabelle' 'Fineta', 'Intenta', 'Jocoso', 'Phinette', 'Tomlinson', 'Ura', 'Wyborow', - and the one which really rolled round the tongue - 'Buckingham Grunahay'!

Among the men I liked 'Barley Boning' and 'Christmas Plumb' (? was any pun intended) and 'Peach' - yes he was male - 'Peach Saunder'. 'Zadishaddai Girdlestone' sounds imposing and so do 'Goldspring Richardson', 'Woolstone Draper', 'Framingham Rice' and 'Inglebright Thomas', but I am not sure about 'Clackstone Fryett'.

I didn't find what I was looking for, but I did find what can happen when a Bubble meets a Thistle. In Great Massingham in 1801 John Bubble, evidently caught by her charms, married Ann Thistle.

My entertainment was complete when I read that in 1717 Miss Mary HERRING took the plunge and married Mr. Robert FISHPOOL.

MESSAGES FROM THE PAST

by Joyce Browne

I have just received a post card written a hundred years ago! Not, I hasten to add, addressed to me, but to a Miss Leeba Witherage, and posted in Helston Cornwall, at 4.15 p.m., on November 29th 1903.

The card was addressed to Leeba at 40, Leskinnick Terrace, Penzance, and it was signed 'Louisa'. It cost one ha'penny postage to send. Five years later another one ha'penny post card was sent to the same address - this time to a Miss May Witheridge, and was posted in Redruth on 2nd July, 1908 and signed 'Hilda'. I think that 'May ' was Mary Elizabeth Witheridge, born 1887, and Leeba's sister.

The card to Leeba was written in a somewhat childish hand, and I cannot trace at the moment who 'Louisa' might have been. It said that Louisa's father saw Leeba's father "up to Newlyn" - Cornish dialect that. Leeba's father was John (Jack) Witheridge, a fisherman, and so the two men were probably on a fishing trip.

John's father was Thomas Witheridge, the Coastguard who had moved around the coasts of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and at one time being based in Norfolk. John himself was born in Williton, Somerset, had married Esther Jennings in 1876 in Helston, Cornwall, and had moved to Penzance.

Leeba and her sister May were both born in Helston, or rather in nearby Sithney, Helston being the registration district. May married Walter Jukes in Penzance in 1913 and Leeba married Richard Harvey in Swansea in 1915.

Leeba is a most unusual name and the Leeba of Helston/Penzance must not be confused with the Leeba born in 1881 in Fulham - a cousin.

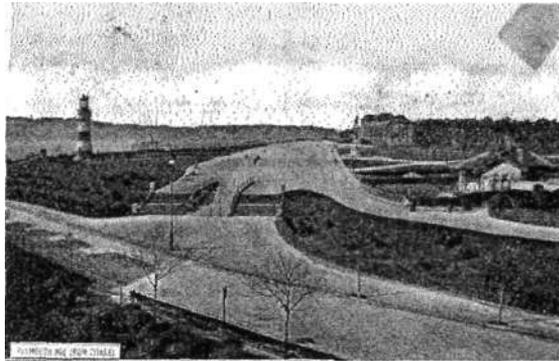
The card addressed to Miss May Witheridge is in a more sophisticated hand. 'Hilda' was probably Hilda Thomas Witheridge, the daughter of John Witheridge and Mary Ann Thomas. She was born in 1886, also in Helston, so the two children could have had childhood memories.

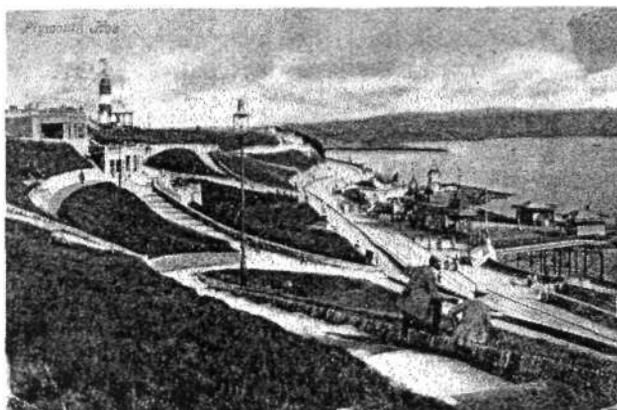
The messages on both cards are indicative of "hope to see you soon", friendly, loving relations.

Both cards are coloured pictures of Plymouth Hoe, taken from different vantage points. Both show the lighthouse, no longer functioning as such, called 'Smeaton's Tower'.

Some fifteen miles off the coast at Plymouth is the Eddystone Rock, a terrible hazard to shipping. In 1759 John Smeaton built a lighthouse on the Rock, not the first, two previous attempts had been swept away. It was a marvellous feat of engineering, and saved many lives. When, over a hundred years later, it was realised that although the lighthouse had withstood the pounding of the sea, the rock itself was being undermined a new lighthouse had to be built on firmer territory.

Such was the admiration for Smeaton's achievement that the tower was taken down, stone by stone, and in 1882 re-erected on Plymouth Hoe. There it has been visible for generations, an attraction for tourists. A mystery is - where have these two postcards been for generations? If anyone with connections to the Penzance/Helston family, or anyone with an interest in Plymouth Hoe would like to have these cards I will gladly pass them on.





This latter picture also shows the pier at Tinside which is no longer there. ED

A FEW MORE ITEMS FROM DEIDRE DEAKIN'S E MAIL - GENEALOGISTS NEVER DIE.

8. I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.
9. I'm searching for myself; have you seen me.
10. If only people came with pull down menus and online help.
11. Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!.
12. Its 2000...do you know where your Gr..Gr..Grandparents are?
13. A family reunion is an effective form of birth control. (Not sure about that one?) ED.
14. A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.
15. A new cousin a day keeps boredom away.
16. After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be adopted.
17. Am I the only person up my tree,,,,,sure seems like it.
18. Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts and a few bad apples.

Still more to come! These will be shown in the next magazine.

THE CHURCHWARDEN

by Joyce Browne

Those of our ancestors who were Churchwardens, as were those who were Overseers of the Poor, held very responsible positions in the community. Often you will find that the same man served in both capacities, although not at the same time.

The Office of Churchwarden is an ancient one, the Warden being elected in Easter week, and if on agreeing to be elected he failed to take up the post, he could be excommunicated from the Church, a very serious matter in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Churchwarden was responsible for the goods and appurtenances of the church, for its fabric and its repair. He was to ensure that the approaches to the churchyard were passable, and that the churchyard was fenced and that any stiles which had to be climbed to gain entrance were of such height that any one could negotiate them. Animals were to be kept out. It was his responsibility to see that any cortege or burial party had smooth access, and that the appropriate bell was rung. His was the duty to pay the Sexton, who dug the graves. He obtained the money for this by levying a tax on the parishioners.

The belfry, and the access to it, the bells and their ropes, all came under his surveillance. He had to ensure that the appropriate peals were rung at the proper times, and not allow the bells to be rung without good cause (There were to be no 'jam sessions' in the belfry!)

He was to repair the seats and pews and settle any arguments and apply the rules as to who sat where.

The Armorial Bearings of the King had to be displayed in the church, and it was the Warden's responsibility to see that they were set up and displayed. On his repair list was the font, a desk or pulpit for the reader, and the communion table or altar. He had to supply a Bible, a cushion for the pulpit, see that the vicar had a surplice, supply a cover or a tablecloth for the altar, and ensure that the textiles were washed. A host of small things must have claimed his attention - candles, snuffers, cushions, collecting plates, a box for Alms.

In the eighteenth century it was specified that the registers of births, marriages and deaths were to be kept in books of certain dimensions and quality (registers had been kept since the 16th century) but now rules were laid down as to the size and numbering of the pages, the ruling of lines and the width between them. The Churchwarden not only had to supply the books, he had to ensure that the ruling and numbering was correct. Unfortunately, as we enquirers into family history know, this was an area where the warden did not always fulfil his duties.

With the passing of Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act in 1753, further regulations came into the warden's orbit. This Act made void any marriage which had not taken place in a church or by special licence, or if proper banns had not been called or relationship banns had not been observed. Any person who performed or had knowledge of any such marriage, including the warden, upon conviction was liable to be transported for fourteen years.

Duties of a personal nature were among those assigned to the Churchwarden - some of which I would imagine were rather difficult to carry out. For instance, he had to ensure that all persons wishing to preach had a licence to do so, and it was his responsibility to see that the parson visited the sick and did not neglect his parochial duties. If anyone should interrupt the parson

while he was speaking, or in any way attempt to disrupt the service the warden should apprehend him or her and eject him from the church.

This seemed to me to be a rather difficult thing to do, especially as in another rule it was stated that, if assaulted, the warden must not return blows in his own defence, but he was allowed to chastise unruly boys. He was to prevent all quarrels and unseemly behaviour in the church and the churchyard, and on Sundays his duties extended beyond the church to visit absentees to find out why they were not in church. He was specifically instructed to visit ale-houses to see if anyone was in an ale-house instead of being in church - think of the temptation that may have provoked! ('Come on Arthur, I'll buy you a quick one')

If for any reason the church was without a vicar and the parsonage or vicarage was unoccupied he had to see that the glebe lands were looked after, harvests gathered, corn threshed etc. and the house kept in repair (another duty which was not always performed)

In spite of all the work and restrictions men did feel it their duty to take this office, and you will find that the same family names occur down the years as being Churchwardens, and we give thanks for all their faithful service!

New Member.

Member No 194

Mrs Valerie E M Wells

3, Third Avenue

Billacombe

Plymouth

PL9 8AN. E mail valwells@blueyonder.co.uk

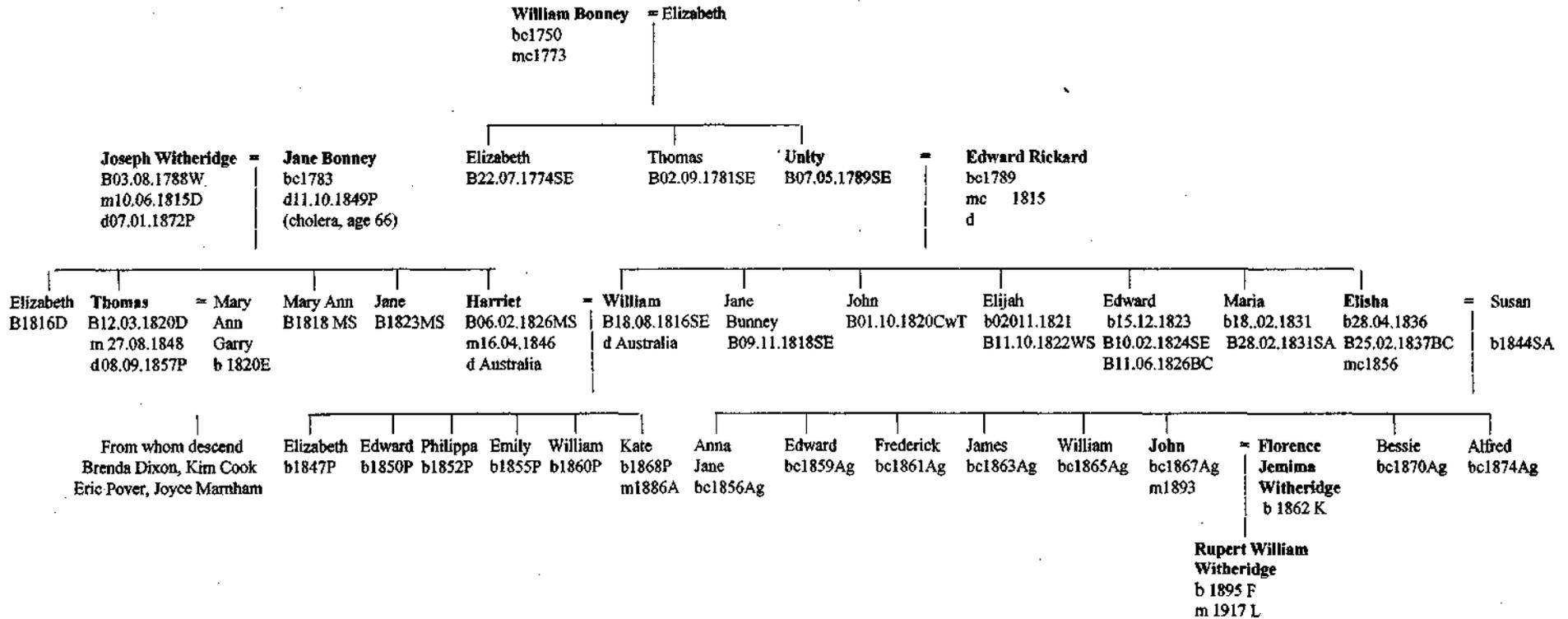
(1) Valerie Elsie Mary **Wells** (2) John **Northmore** 1910-1983 (3) Elsie Mary **White** 1915-2003. (4) John **Northmore** (5) Clarrisa **Streeter** (6) Albert Henry **White** -1953 (7) Emily Ellen **Witheridge** 1877- 1953 George Thomas **Wtheridge** 1840-1894? m Emily Ellen **Atrill** c 1849-1894/Philip Bowden **Witheridge** 1818-1873 m Jane Ann **Netherton** 1813-1887/William Bowden **Witheridge** 1789-1861 m Mary **Wills** 1790-1864/Arthur **Witheridge** 17581847 m Elizabeth **Bowden** 1765-1839? John **Witheridge** 1729-1763 m Alice **Tamlin** c 1730-1798 John **Witheridge** 1697-1761 m Margaret **Brooking** 1705-1758/ John **Witheridge** 1652-1721 m Elizabeth ? d 1723/ Arthur **Witheridge** 1624-1659 m Mary ? d 1658/ Arthure **Witheridge** c 1580-1640 m Johane **Edgcombe** c 1582-1666.

Welcome, Valerie to the Witheridge Family History Society. Valerie is related to the Ermington family through her grandmother, Emily Ellen Witheridge, and it may be that as Valerie was born Valerie Northmore she may have other connections. We know that in previous generations there was at least one Northmore/Witheridge marriage.

We see from Valerie's birth brief that she lost her mother earlier this year, and we sympathise with her in her loss. Sometimes it is the loss of a relative which sparks off the desire to learn more about our past history, and many of us wish that we had shown more interest in our family whilst relatives were still with us! We have found that society members are always ready to share the knowledge they have, and we hope Valerie will find her quest fruitful and interesting. JB.

An updated Family tree will be shown in the next magazine showing where Valerie fits into the Ermington tree.

RICKARD - WITHERIDGE - BONNEY FAMILY TREE



Key

A = Australia
E = Exeter
SA = St Austell

Ag = St Agnes
F = Fowey
P = Plymouth

BC = Bible Christian, Luxulyan Circuit
K = Kingsbridge
SE = St Ewe

CwT = Cuby with Tregony
L = Lambeth, London
W = Wembury

D = Devonport
MS = Morris Street Wesleyan, Devonport
WS = Wesleyan, St Austell

- Notes: 1) in 1881 a Jane Rickard, widow, 44, born St Breward, is at St Clether, with twin sons Elijah and Elisha (12) and daughter Elizabeth (5) all born Davidstow. In the next property is Richard Rickard, 52, born St Breward, his wife Grace and their four children
- 2) in 1881 a John Rickard, 39, born St Ewe, a clay labourer is with his wife and three children at St Stephen's in Brannell. The IGI shows John Rickard, son of John and Harriet, B 23 June 1840, St Ewe
- 3) in 1881 a n Elisha Rickard, 22, born St Agnes, a hairdresser, and his wife Charlotte are at 57 Bird in Bush Road, Camberwell. Elisha (b 1836), and his sons Alfred and John, were all hairdressers
- 4) In the Dec qr of 1866, a Unity Rickeard married in Thomas Mildren in Liskeard. In 1881 she was a widow with children Bertha (8) and Thomas S (6)

DESK-TOP DETECTIVE

Never Discount Coincidence.

Once again, Kim Cook goes into Poirot mode and uses those little grey cells (and her computer) to investigate the strange coincidences of the Witheridge, Bonney and Richard family links

Sometimes the number of coincidences you come across while researching family history seems unbelievable. Take for instance, the following experiences during my own research.

Many years ago, while transcribing the Witheridge and Wetheridge births marriages and deaths, I came across an entry in the marriage registers which intrigued me. In 1917, a Rupert Witheridge-Rickard married in Lambeth. The bride's surname was Ward.

I had found no other entry with this surname combination, so guessed that Witheridge had been given as a middle name, perhaps being the maiden name of either Rupert's mother or one of his grandmothers.

Could Rupert be one of my own family? It seemed possible, for in my family tree we have a Witheridge - Rickard marriage. Harriet Witheridge, born on 9 November 1825, was the daughter of Joseph Witheridge and Jane, née Bonney, my 3 x great-grandparents. Despite many efforts to trace Jane Bonney's birth, because she died before 1851, all my searches so far have been in vain.

On 16 April 1846 Harriet Witheridge married William Rickard in Plymouth, and I knew they they had five children - Elizabeth Ann (1847), Philippa (1852), Emily Jane (1855), William Henry (1860), and Kate Louisa (1861).

I wondered whether there had been another child between Elizabeth and Philippa. Sure enough, in the 1851 census, William and Harriet were at 3 Tavistock Street, Plymouth, with daughter Elizabeth (3) and son Edward (1). Harriet was 25, but William, who had been born in St Ewe, Cornwall, was nine years older. He was a mason.

While checking to see if any other family members were living very close by (they weren't), I came across a very familiar name. Living round the corner at 1 Tavistock Street, was Henry H Heydon - a name very familiar to anyone who has ordered a Plymouth registration certificate for the period. The lengthy details of his occupation record that he was a printer and stationer employing one man and three apprentices, and also Registrar of births, marriages and deaths. He was 50 years old, and he and his wife had four children.

Going back to William and Harriet, I was puzzled as to how Rupert might be connected to them, for 'my' Rickard family had emigrated. They went first to Australia, and at one time were in the Creswick area of Victoria, where William Henry married Annie Whiffin in 1883. This provided coincidence number one - and number two. On my paternal family tree, one of my 3 x great grandmothers is Emma Creswick! Not a common name - so did someone from her family found a settlement in Australia? And coincidence number two is that Emma Creswick married William Hayton and their daughter Emma married William Whiffin!

Also in Victoria, Elizabeth Ann Rickard married John Minahan, and Kate Louisa married Henry John Smith. From Kate and Henry Smith is descended Heather Smith in Tasmania, a former member of the Witheridge FHS.

Despite many searches, I could find no trace of any of the family coming back to England, although I did wonder if Rupert had been born overseas, perhaps in Australia, and was in England to fight during World War I.

Meanwhile, one of our favourite holiday areas was the South Hams area, with such lovely beaches, and easy access to Wembury (the ancestral home), and to the record office in

Plymouth, where I could disappear for one day of our holiday. Once I'd had my allowed day of research, the rest of the holiday was spent with the family enjoying the lovely beaches of Bantham and Bigbury, and the delights of Burgh Island. After a few years renting various cottages in the area, we discovered a charming small hotel at Bigbury. There we learned that the owner, Charles Beer, had been an old school-mate in Surrey of one of our closest friends - coincidence number three! Charles then told us about Mr & Mrs Porter, the owners of Burgh Island, with its lovely art deco hotel. As he spoke about the family, I soon realised that Mrs Bea Porter, was Beatrice, nee Hulanicki, sister of the famous Biba. All three Hulanicki sisters had been at school with me! Coincidence number four!

One day, while exploring Salcombe, came coincidence number five. We found a draper's shop with the name Leaman & Witheridge over the door. The shop was closed, but I made a note of the phone number and called them on the Monday. The lady who answered me was quite informative, although it later turned out that her information wasn't quite correct. She told me that the Witheridge named over the door was a lady called Caroline, who had died in 1964, aged 103 - and a half! The Leaman was her younger sister, Beatrice, who had married a Leaman, and was now well into her nineties and in a nursing home! The business was apparently being run by the Cranch family, descended from another sister.

At first I couldn't find any of these in the records, but some years later was able to confirm that Caroline was actually Catherine Emma, born in 1860, who died in 1964, aged 103. Beatrice was Annie Beatrice, born 1869, and a Sarah Mary Witheridge, born in 1858, had married a Mr Cranch. Although Sarah's marriage in 1882 is not, at the time of writing, on freebmd, I did have the GRO reference on my list, and inputting this found a listing for James Cranch. These were three of the five daughters born in Salcombe to William George Witheridge and Catherine (née Pepperell). The other two were Florence J (registered as Jemima Florence in 1862) and Harriet Annie (1865).

There the story, and the discovery of coincidences, rested, until one Christmas, many years later, my husband Roy gave me a complete set of CDs of the 1881 census, with index. Browsing through the many Witheridge and Wetheridge entries, I came across coincidence number six - a Witheridge family living on The Island (now Burgh Island) at Malborough! This was Catherine (née Pepperell) and her five daughters. William, a master mariner who lived until 1915, was not at home, so was presumably at sea.

Among Catherine's neighbours on the Island was an 80-year-old widow Elizabeth Pepperell, 43-year-old John Pepperell and his wife, and 40-year-old Mary Pepperell, also a widow, with two children. Across the causeway, in Chapel Street on the mainland, lived 53-year-old Eliza Pepperell and her family, so it seems that Catherine and her daughters would have had plenty of company from an extended family while William was away at sea.

Earlier this year, while browsing the 1901 census, I realised that Rupert Witheridge-Rickard must have been alive in 1901, and decided to look for him. I found two Rupert Rickards. One was a 17-year-old bricklayer in Wingrave, Bucks. However, he and all his family, had been born in Buckinghamshire, so there seemed no possible link with Devon. The other was a 5-year-old in Fowey, Cornwall. The younger one looked the most likely, so I ran a search for all the Rickards in Fowey. There were a dozen of them, ranging in age from 60-year-old Elizabeth to one-year-old Orpah. There were three men who could have been Rupert's father, Alfred, Harry and John.

Of the Rickards in Fowey, the only adult female not born in Cornwall was Florence, aged 32, born in Salcombe, Devon. Checking the freebmd website for a marriage, I found that Florence Witheridge had married John Rickard in St Austell in 1893. This had to be Florence Jemima, daughter of William and Catherine, and one-time resident of the Island! By now I was so staggered by the number of coincidences that I'd given up counting! In the 1901 census, John is a 33-year-old hairdresser and tobacconist born in St Agnes. It looks as though Florence,

who was really 37, brought her age down by a few years to make it seem she was younger than her husband!

Alfred Rickard, age 26, is also listed as a hairdresser, so I thought that John and Alfred might be brothers. A search of the 1881 census soon found both of them in their family home. With their father, Elisha Rickard, a 44-year-old hairdresser, was his wife Susan, and children Anna Jane (24, dressmaker), Edward (21, hairdresser), Frederick (19, iron miner), James (17, blacksmith), William H (15, scholar), John (13, hairdresser), Bessie, 10, and Alfred, 6 (both scholars). They were living in Town Hill, St Agnes, and visiting them was John Rickard, a 60-year-old iron miner.

This, then, is the Rickard family to which Rupert Witheridge-Rickard rightfully belongs. In fact, his full name is Rupert William Witheridge Rickard. But is there any link to the Rickard family to which Harriet Witheridge's husband, William Rickard, belongs? After all, St Ewe and St Agnes aren't that far apart.

I started by trying to trace Elisha Rickard and his parents. He was easy to find on the IGI, as there are only three Elishas listed, and they're all the same person. Elisha Rickard, son of Edward and Unity Boney was born on 26 April 1836, and baptised into the Bible Christian church, Luxulyan circuit, on 25 February 1837. Checking on the names of the parents to see if there were any children named after their parents, I didn't find a Unity, but I did find an Edward Rickard, son of Edward and Unity Boney, born 15 December 1823. This Edward seems to have been baptised twice, once on 10 February 1824 at St Ewe church, and then into the Bible Christian church, Luxulyan circuit, on 11 June 1826. I also checked out to see if John and Unity had a son John, who would have been 60 in 1881. The IGI shows a John Richards [*sic*], son of Edward and Unity (no maiden name), baptised on 1 October 1820 at Cuby with Tregony. Here came yet another coincidence, as I recalled childhood holidays spent on a farm in Tregony, a tiny village a few Cornish miles from St Austell!

I thought finding Harriet's husband William Rickard might pose more of a problem, as there were many more Williams than Elishas! However, there are only two listed for St Ewe in 1816, the year Harriet Witheridge's husband was born, and both give the same date, 18 August 1816. Born entries give William's parents as Edward and Unity Bonney!

Just to confirm the spelling of Unity's maiden name, I checked the IGI for other possible children, and found Jane Bunney Rickard, daughter of Edward and Unity (no maiden name given), and Elijah Rickard (they did like the prophets, didn't they?) son of Edward and Unity Bunney.

I couldn't find the marriage of Edward and Unity on the IGI, but I did find her baptism. Unite Bunny, daughter of William and Elizabeth, was baptised on 7 May 1789 at St Ewe. In a further search, I found two other children of this couple. Elizabeth, daughter of William and Elizabeth Bonney, was baptised on 22 July 1774 at St Ewe, and Thomas, son of William and Elizabeth Bonney, was baptised 2 September 1781 at St Ewe. There are probably others in between those gaps, but if so, I haven't yet found them, and they may not be on the IGI.

I tried to find Edward and Unity Rickard's other sons in the 1881 census. The John baptised in October 1820 in Cuby with Tregony is, I believe, the 60-year-old John lodging with Elisha, his nephew. There was no trace of Elijah, but I did find another Elijah Rickard, aged 10. He and his twin brother Elisha and their widowed mother Jane, were at St Clether, Cornwall. So could Jane have been Elijah's widow? So far I have found nothing that would either confirm or deny this theory.

My next step was to check the Richard Rickard living next door to this family. I couldn't find him on the IGI, but I did find a very interesting entry on the PAF (personal ancestry files) on the LDS website. This stated that Richard James Rickard, born 1818 in St Columb Major, Cornwall, farm labourer and later contractor, married on 4 February 1841 Christian Anderson Morris in the parish church of St Enoder in Cornwall. He died on 15 April 1898 in Kingston

Victoria, and was buried two days later in Creswick Cemetery, Victoria! So was there a connection between the two families Rickard who went to the Creswick area of Victoria, or was this just yet another coincidence?

There are a number of websites about Creswick, which was first settled in 1842 by John and Henry Creswick. As yet I have been unable to determine the place of birth of my 3 x great-grandmother Emma Creswick, so it is impossible to know if there is any link between her and John and Henry. The town of Creswick lies at the centre of what is known as the Golden Triangle of Victoria goldfields, and was a site of one of the Victorian gold-rushes. Did the Rickards all go out there in search of gold?

Most of this recent research has been through secondary sources - IGI (internet), freebmd (internet) 1851 census (on disk), 1881 census (on disk) and 1901 census (internet). Because of difficulties in getting to the primary sources, I haven't done the degree of checking that I've always done in the past. So there may be other William Rickards from St Ewe who aren't listed, or William's age in the census might be wrong. But with so many coincidences abounding in this story, I like to think that this final coincidence is correct, and that, in a very convoluted way, the Witheridges of Wembury and the Witheridges of Salcombe, although apparently not blood relations, are related through marriage.

But maybe this isn't even the final coincidence. Remember Joseph Witheridge, my 3 x great-grandfather, mentioned right at the beginning of this article? His wife was Jane Bonney! Her estimated date of birth is 1783, which would fit neatly between Thomas and Unity. Could she belong to this family? Or was she one of the many Bonneys from the St Budeaux area? How did Harriet meet William Rickard? Were they cousins? Did he come visiting his aunt in Plymouth? Or did they not know each other at all, and was the long arm of coincidence at work again, stretching even further than I imagined?

A family tree for this family is shown in the centre pages. However one for Rupert Rickard and his connection to the Witheridge family is shown on page 25.

FAMILY PROFILES No 1

PHILIP HENRY WITHERIDGE. (ERMINGTON FAMILY.)

Born 29th September 1873. Baptised 2nd November 1873

Married 17th February 1897 Died 14th January 1930.



Philip Henry was the fifth child and only son of Philip and Sarah Harding Ford Witheridge. He had 4 sisters, Jane, Sarah Ann Rogers, Emily Grace and Elizabeth.

His name is first mentioned in the 1902 Kelly's directory when the entry is shown as Philip Witheridge and son, Wheelwrights, in which trade he continued until he died.

He married Rhoda Adelaide Mumford, a girl who was "In Service" at Freehamlet, in Ermington Church on 17th February 1897 and they had six children, Sydney Philip (b1898), Evelyn Maud (b1900), Henry (b1902), Arthur John (b1904), Samuel Leslie Mumford (b1906) and William Bowden (b1908).

In 1914 he joined the Army Ordnance Corp and served in France, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Whilst there he sent home a number of silk woven cards which are still held today.

During his time in the army, his wife recalled that he was once asked by a friend to respond to a letter that the man's wife had sent, as he was unable to write. "What do you want me to write in it" Philip asked. "Oh you know, love and stuff and all that" the friend replied. So Philip wrote the whole letter which contained the words Love and stuff and all that, on each line. Bit of a wag this fellow.

On returning home Philip took up the wheelwright trade and photographs show him with helpers repairing a cart, also working on a bungalow with his sons Henry and William.

His son Samuel recalled that the last time he saw his father was just before going away to college. Philip was repairing the roof of No 4 Church Street Ermington, the house that they lived in. This was a terraced house with three floors. The ground floor with a living room and a small scullery with a sink and running water. The first floor had two bedrooms, one with a fireplace and the second floor two bedrooms, again one with a fireplace. The toilet was in a building outside. There was a small back garden but any vegetables would have been grown on an allotment which was situated above the village. Originally all the houses in Church Street would have obtained their water from the tap situated in a recess next to the War Memorial

A friend recalls seeing William, Philip's youngest son, turning a handle driving a pulley system whilst his father worked at a lathe. This was at a place near Flete called Pottagrove. (Spelling may not be correct). I have a photograph of the building taken in later years.

On the 11th January 1930, Philip, described as a Journeyman Carpenter, was working at Yealmpton near the quarry and was riding his bicycle home when he was in collision with a motor car at Yealm Bridge. His injuries were severe and he was taken to Hospital at Plymouth where he died on 14th January. He was buried in Ermington Churchyard.

The Western Morning Newspaper carried a report of his accident and later his death. At the age of 56 years.

My Cousin Beryl Chaffe recalls her mother, (Philip's daughter) saying that Philip brought home from France a grapevine and planted it in his greenhouse at the allotment. Apparently he gave cuttings to families that had lost relatives during the war.

Photographs are held showing him at various stages of his life.

He obviously liked his drink as I have a photograph of him with the Landlord of the First and Last public house in Ermington and they are both holding pints of beer in their hands.

Although I was brought up by my Grandmother I never knew my Grandfather as he died before I was born. So all the above is from family recollections.

Some of his work tools have found their way to me over the years. Three large wood chisels, two large wooden planes plus a brace and various wood drills. **Richard Witheridge ED.**

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

by Kim Cook

Ever since the Society was founded in 1987, we've had a Research Co-ordinator. Indeed, the wheel has come full circle as, back in 1987, I was the Society's very first Research Co-ordinator.

Although the job was explained at the early meetings, since then we've had many new members who weren't around in those days. In more recent years, with a shortage of committee members, the job has been rather swamped under the need for more pressing work. So what does the Society's Research Co-ordinator do?

Perhaps it's easier to start by saying what the job doesn't include. In many local family history societies, the research co-ordinator actually instigates and organises research. In our case that isn't so. This is partly because for us it's more difficult to organise research than it is for a geographically placed group, where it's easy to get people together on projects. But it's also partly because we're as much about family as about history, and our *Witheridge Times* includes information about present family members as well as about historical ones.

Instead, the co-ordinator is available to help anyone in the Society with research, and particularly to ensure that no-one wastes time and/or money on research that has already been done. Time and time again I've seen things published in *Witheridge Times*, with a comment to the effect that the information has just come from recent research, when I (or one of the other key researchers) have had the information on file for years.

Ideally, we'd like to make all the information held by members available to all other members, but in practical terms this just isn't feasible. Joyce in Luton, Richard in Dunster, Kathy in Ontario and David in Minneapolis, all have enormous funds of information, as do many other members. I too have masses of information here in Kent. Some of my information is in typed files, some on my card index, some in a specialised genealogy computer program, while articles and family trees are in computer word-processing files, more information and documents are kept in wallets in lever arch files, and of course I still have all my original research note books. To get all this information keyed in and collated into compatible forms would probably take about twenty years, and I guess the same is true to some degree with the varying amounts of information we all hold.

Nevertheless, the information is there, and is available to members. So before you start on any particular avenue of research, please contact me explaining what you're planning to look up. I've got a fairly shrewd idea (at least in general terms) of who has what information, particularly those who have specialised in research on one particular branch of the family. I can then email all those likely to have relevant information, to ask what they know about the person, place or even you want to research. I can then pass on any information already held. Even if what we hold is only part of the answer, we can save you at least some of the time and money that might otherwise be wasted, and point you in the right direction.

Even if you don't want to go chasing up a great deal of information, you may just want the answer to one or two queries about people in your own family. Don't just sit and wonder - ask the research co-ordinator! The chances are someone in the Society will be able to provide you with the answers you seek

My contact details including email address, are in the front of this magazine. Alternatively, you can email me via the Witheridge Society website. I look forward to hearing from you, and answering your queries.

WITHERIDGE FAMILY REUNION 2004.

It was originally intended to hold this at the Bedford Hotel in Tavistock, but with the number of members likely to attend the cost of hiring the conference room would have been unacceptable. We will now hold the reunion at the Tavistock Town Hall (Rundle Room) where we can also obtain a lunchtime buffet and Tea/coffee at much less. **Dates are 22nd to 24th May 2004.**

We invite members to bring along their family trees or other information and any photographs etc. These can be displayed on tables around the hall.

It is hoped that we can all visit Morwellham Quay on the Sunday, using our own cars and taking passengers where necessary.

List of accommodation around the area.

Bedford Hotel Tavistock. Tel. 01822 613221.

April Cottage Tavistock Tel. 01822 613280 yvonne.parkinson@virgin.net

Beera Farmhouse Milton Abbot. Tavistock Tel. -01822 870216 Hilary.Tucker@farming.co.uk

Colcharton Farm Tavistock Tel. 01822 616435 colchartonfarm@agriplus.net

Stoke Hill Farmhouse Yelverton. 01822 853791 gozzard@btopenworld.com

Lammergeier Yelverton 01822 855837 wonne.parkinson@virgin.net

Virginia House Tavistock 01822 610396 info@virginiahouse.co.uk

It would be appreciated if those intending to be present would inform Richard Witheridge at the earliest in order that arrangements can be made regarding lunchtime food and tea/coffee during the day.

Some Tavistock information

Around the year AD 961, Ordgar the Earl of Devon laid the foundations of a Benedictine Abbey where the centre of the Town now sits.

In AD 997 the town and abbey were looted and destroyed by a marauding band of Vikings.

However Ordgar's son Ordulf soon restored the abbey. At the time of the conquest in 1066, Tavistock was firmly established as an ecclesiastic and trading centre.

The abbey prospered and in 1116 Henry 1 gave a charter as a market town, followed in 1281 by Tavistock becoming a Stannary town entitled to weigh and stamp tin in the Monarch's cause. By then the locality was exporting large quantities of tin to Europe.

In 1295 Tavistock gained recognition as a Borough, and sent two members of parliament to London. The Parish Church of St Eustachius dates from 1318 and in 1467 cloth manufacture in the town was protected by statute.

In 1525 one of the first printing presses in England was established in the Abbey and Walton's translation of Boethius de Conolatione was imprinted by Thomas Rychard, a local monk.

In 1694 the Earl of Bedford was created Duke and the strong links with the Bedford Dynasty began. In 1803 a canal was cut to link the town with the river Tamar at Morwellam and business blossomed. The railway came in 1859 and the Bedfords commenced a massive rebuilding project and the present Town hall, Guildhall, Pannier market and many shops and houses date from this period.

WITHERIDGE ANCESTRY OF RUPERT RICKARD

John Witheridge = **Ann**
 bc1712 Put
 m10.01.1736M d15.11.1779SM

Sarah bc1736 m1759SM Nich Ball	Elizabeth bc1738 m1763 Wm Oldriff	John B04.05.1740SM m11.04.1763SM	= Mary Cawse bc 1743	Mary bc1743 m1763SM Ed Michamor	Andrew B1748SM
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John B30.01.1774 Th m15.10.1799EP d1850K	= Catherine Lamble bc1768 d1818	Andrew b1777Th m1801SM d1840SM	= Abigail Tabb b1772Th d1839	Mary b1782Th m1828	= Benjamin Edwards
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William B10.08.1800 T m03.01.1825 Lv d1871SM	= Mary Ralph B16.06.1805 b1799Lv issue	John = Mary Ann Susan Lambal B24.03.1811 = Thomas Easton
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Ellen b1827Lv m1844K John m1858K Bickford	William = George b1829Th d1915S	= Catherine Pepperall b1829 d1891	John b1831 Susan Lamble b1832 Isabella b1834 m1858 Taylor	Robert Ralph b1835 m1863P M A Osborn Couch a)	Catherine b1837 m1863 Ed Wyatt Dorcas	George b1840B m1861P Hamnett b)
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Sarah Mary b1858 m1882	= James Cranch	Catherine Emuna b1860 d1964 dsp	Florence Jemima b1863 m1893SA	= John Rickard b1867Ag Harriett Annie b1865	Lizzy Beatrice b1869 m1896	= William Henry Leaman bc1867S
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Rupert William Witheridge = **Ward**
 b1895F
 m1917L

Key

Ag = St Agnes B = Bantham EP = East Portlemouth F = Fowey K = Kingsbridge
 L = Lambeth Lv = Liverpool M = Malborough P = Plymouth S = Salcombe
 SA = St Austell SM = S Milton Th = Thurlestone
 a) from whom descends Gina Couch
 b) from whom descend Carolyn Green, Jennifer Smith and Philip Hookway

**LIST OF FAMILY TREES AND CHARTS PUBLISHED BY THE WITHERIDGE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY IN THE MAGAZINE "WITHERIDGE TIMES"**

<u>Place or Family</u>	<u>Magazine</u>
Bradworthy	Spring 1991
Bideford	Summer 1991
Bradworthy-Darlington-Ontario-Saskatchewan	Summer 1992
Barnstaple-East London	Winter 1992
Bideford-Australia	Summer 1995
Bradworthy (Section) George WITHERIDGE & Jane OKE	Spring 1997
BROOKING Connection	Spring 1998
Berrynarbor-Combe Martin-USA	Summer 1999
Bradworthy-Tavistock. Emma WITHERIDGE & William CROSSING	Spring 2000
Berrynarbor-Combe Martin (Section) Thomas WITHERIDGE & Mary SHERMAN. William WITHERIDGE & Rebecca LEY	Spring 2000
Barnstaple Revised	Spring 2003
Combe Martin-Berrynarbor	Handbook 1998
Combe Martin-Berrynarbor	Summer 1998
Combe Martin-Berrynarbor-Tyneside & New Zealand	Aut/Wint 1998
Combe Martin-Berrynarbor-Salisbury-Bristol- ROSSITERS	Spring 1992
Combe Martin-Berrynarbor-HelstoPenzance-AUSTRALIA	Spring 1993
Combe Martin-Antecedents-BLACKMORE, GEAR< LEY, SYMONS	Summer 1994
Cornwood-NORTHMORE Family	Winter 1996
Combe Martin-Extension to NEW SOUTH WALES	Summer 1997
Combe Martin-NEW ZEALAND	Winter 1997
Cumbria-Lancashire	Spring 1995
Ermington	Handbook 1988
Ermington (limited)	Spring 1988
Ermington-Plymouth-Walsall	Winter 1991/2
Ermington-CANADA	Winter 1998
GUBB, Thomas Witheridge (Chart)	Summer 2000
HAMMETT Family	Aut/Win 2001
High Bray Family	Summer 2002
Kent-London-Birmingham	Spring 1993
Kent-London-Birmingham (Section)	Spring 2002
Llanelli (Beauchamp Henry WITHERIDGE)	Summer 2001
Modbury	Autumn 1998
NORTHMORE connection	Winter 1994
Pennsylvania (Tavistock extension)	Spring 1995
Plymouth	Winter 1996

Plymouth corrected	Spring 1997
Penzance and Helston	Winter 1998
Plymouth and Newton Ferrers (BROOKING & BAKER Families)	Autumn 1999
Rochester-Kent-Midlands	Handbook 1988
South Huish-South Milton- Yealmpton	Winter 1995
South Milton-Thurlestone	Winter 1997
SANDOVER/WALKE? HEAD Families (outline)	
Winter 1999	
South Milton-Thurlestone (Section)	Winter 1999
Swansea and Bedwelty (Section)	Spring 2002
South Milton-Yealmpton (Section)	Summer 2002
Tavistock (Revised later)	Summer 1990
Tavistock	Summer 1991
Totnes-Newton Abbot	Winter 1993
THOMAS Name	Spring 1996
TRIST Family	Winter 1998
Totnes-Newton Abbot-Woodleigh (Section)	Winter 1999
Totnes-Newton Abbot-Woodleigh	Spring 2002
VELVIN/LAPTHORNE/WITHERIDGE Families	Spring 1995
Wembury	Handbook 1988
Wembury	Autumn 1988
Welcome-Bradworthy (Thomas WITHERIDGE & Ann MOOR)	Autumn 1995
Wembury-CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND	Winter 1996
Witheridge Farm (WOOD Family)	Spring 2001
Witheridge Farm (BRYANT & WOOD Family)	Aut/Win 2001
Wembury-Plymouth	Aut/Win 2002
WITHERIDGE?GARRY?PIKE Families	Aut/Win 2002
Yealmpton	Aut/Win 1987
Yealmpton (NORTHMORE?WITHERIDGE Erington link)	Winter 1993

THE WITHERIDGE CLANS by Joyce Browne

It was our founder member, and now President, Kim Cook and Vice President David Witheridge, who showed us that not only were there many branches of the Witheridge family tree, but many different trees growing in different forests.

They defined the families by the place of origin of the earliest known ancestor, and we still do this, but sometimes we do not find an early ancestor until we have 'labelled' a family - e.g., the Tavistock family.

Sometimes we find more than one family living in a particular area, as in the Bournemouth and Poole districts where members of the Ermington and Newton Abbot families are living, and the Birmingham area which has had more than one Witheridge family resident, but we still refer to them by their original designations.

The Berrynarbor/CombeMartin Family (North Devon)

Nicholas Witheridge married **Mary Somer** in Berrynarbor in 1553, and from this couple came a family whose branches spread far and wide. Some descendants still live in Devon, but there are branches in New Zealand - Velma Metcalfe and her family, Dorothy Witheridge and her family in Australia, and John James in Vancouver, Canada, the Rev. David Witheridge and Jim in Minnesota, and the Tomlinson and Aldrich families in USA., to name a few.

The High Bray Family

This is an off-shoot of the Berrynarbor/CombeMartin line. Their branch descends from **William Witheridge**, born in Combe Martin in 1840, who married **Elizabeth Gibbs** in High Bray, and the family still farms in North Devon.

Berrynarbor/CombeMartin/New Zealand

The 8 x great grandson of **Nicholas Witheridge** and **Mary Somer** was **John Witheridge** who was born in CombeMartin in 1838. He married **Elizabeth Delbridge** and they emigrated to New Zealand, and our member Velma Metcalfe and other New Zealand members can claim descent from this couple. (I hope that I have the correct number of 'greats')

Berrynarbor/CombeMartin/USA

This designation includes the family of The Rev. David Witheridge, whose forebears went to the United States via Wales, and includes the Tomlinson and Aldrich families. They can all claim descent from **Nicholas** and **Mary**. David's painstaking research has provided us with the knowledge of the CombeMartin family.

Berrynarbor/CombeMartin/ Salisbury and Bristol

These families descend from the marriage of **Edward Witheridge** and **Mary Gear**, as do the USA families mentioned. **Nicholas Witheridge** and **Mary Somer** are the first names on the family tree.

CombeMartin/Weymouth/Constantine (Cornwall)

Francis Witheridge b. 1782 and **Ann Eastaway** appear on this section of the CombeMartin tree. Francis was the 6 x great grandson of **Nicholas Witheridge** and **Mary Somer**. For a time a small branch of this family was resident in London.

CombeMartin/Penzance and Helston

Francis Witheridge and **Ann Eastaway** had a son named **Thomas** b.c. 1808.

Thomas was a boatman and a coastguard whose duties took him to divers areas of England, and his children were born in various locations (a headache for the researchers). His children seem to have had a wanderlust as not only do we find them in Penzance and Helston, but in East Anglia, Newcastle, Canada and in Australia, where members Allan and Judith Witheridge live.

CombeMartin/Tyneside

It is amazing how many families are traceable back to **Nicholas Witheridge** and **Mary Somer**, and this is another one. Through Nicholas's 5 x great grandson **John Witheridge**, born in Berrynarbor in 1775, and his wife **Elizabeth Harris** we have family lines whose members are in New Zealand, others who went to America, and others who founded family lines in Northumberland, whose descendants include our member Carol Goins, now living in America.

CombeMartin/Tyneside. London

Another family line with CombeMartin connections comes from **Thomas Witheridge** b. 1808 in Helston and his wife **Jane Thomas**. One of their children, **Jacob Thomas Witheridge**, was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, but his children with one exception who went to Australia, left the Tyneside area for London, where, as far as we know, they still are.

Bradworthy/Ontario and Saskatchewan

This is a large family group who also have connections with Ilfracombe (near to CombeMartin). Their earliest known ancestor was **James Witheridge**, b. Fremington in 1604. He married **Joan Moule** in Ilfracombe in 1627, and it was their grandson **Thomas Witheridge** who married **Sapience Tremear** in Bradworthy in 1720. Some of the family emigrated to Canada in the nineteenth century, and it is to Kathy Witheridge of Ontario that we are indebted for her research into the family, both for the origins of the Ontario groups and the American and Saskatchewan branches.

Ilfracombe/Bradworthy/Berkshire

Another offshoot of the Bradworthy/Ilfracombe family stems from **Thomas Witheridge** who was baptised in Bradworthy in 1816 and his wife **Ann (Nancy) Moore**. Their line is found in Berkshire and Leicestershire and one of their descendants is our member Alison Smith and her daughter Carol Shingler.

Tavistock Family

When we first became aware of this branch, who appear in the Tavistock records in the late eighteenth century, we did not realise that this family had their origins in Bradworthy, and further back still in Ilfracombe. It was a 'gut feeling' of Philip Witheridge which made us seek the help of Sheila Jewell, whose research led us back to **Thomas Witheridge**, b. 1722 in Bradworthy who married **Mary Mountjoy**. Three of their sons went to Tavistock, founding family lines who later emigrated to Australia, and America, including the ancestors of our member Peggy Weldy. A family line was established in the Birmingham area, and one 'Tavistock' Witheridge, Emma Jane, b. 1847, married the well known writer and authority on Dartmoor, William Crossing.

Bamstaple/Ilfracombe/Monmouth

Again, the origins of this family can be traced back to **Nicholas Witheridge** and **Mary Somer**. They descend through **Thomas Witheridge** (Nicholas's 5 x great grandson) who married **Mary Howe**. They migrated to Canada, and to Wales, in the Swansea and Newport areas, where some of our members live today.

Bideford Family

Our certain knowledge of this family begins with the marriage of **John Witheridge** to **Mary Atkins** in North Tawton in 1798. John said that he was born in Bideford, but his origins remain obscure. One branch of this family went to Australia, and another to London and Southern England. Among his descendants is our member Julia Crocker.

John Witheridge went on to have a second family by **Jane Emmet**, and we have designated them as the Totnes and Newton Abbot family.

Totnes/Newton Abbot and Woodleigh

We call the descendants of **William Witheridge** born 1804 by this name. **William** was the son of **John Witheridge** and **Jane Emmet**, and **William** married **Susan Brimmicombe** in Stoke Gabriel in 1829. Some of their descendants remained in the Totnes, Newton Abbot area, whilst others moved to East Anglia, Oxfordshire, and the Bournemouth area.

Plymouth Family

William James Witheridge, a fisherman, married **Mary Ann Walters** in 1874 in Plymouth, and the family we know descends from them. William James' mother, **Mary Ann Bounty**, stated that the father of her child was **William Witheridge**, a merchant seaman, who had died before the child was born. As we have been unable to find a birth, marriage or death of a likely William, we regard the origins of this line as one of our unsolved mysteries.

Bridgwater/Swansea/Bedwelty

This is another of our mystery families. The first recorded birth is that of **Charles William Witheridge** born in Bridgwater in 1856. He was the son of **William Witheridge** and **Harriet Jordan**, but where William and Harriet came from we have failed to discover. Charles Witheridge went to Wales and founded a family there. In this family we found one set of triplets and two sets of twins, all of whom died at birth or shortly after.

Ermington Family

This line can be traced back to a **Lion Witheridge** who was paying rent for Strode Manor Farm in Ermington, South Devon in 1580. His son **Arthur Witheridge** married **Johane Edgecomb** in 1607, and from this couple all the present known members of the family descend. The family almost died out in the eighteenth century when the male members died young, but there was a resurgence when **Arthur Witheridge**, born 1758, married **Elizabeth Bowden**. They had eight children whose offspring moved to Plymouth, London, Luton, Birmingham, Dorset, and to Canada, where Brenda Dwyne and her family live. Our Editor, Richard is a member of this family.

Kent/London/Birmingham

The progenitor of this family was **William Witheridge** who married **Mary Mills** in Hailing, Kent, in 1729. The second generation moved to London, and then to Birmingham and the Midlands. We know that family branches in the Birmingham area spring from the children of William's grandson, **Robert Inwood Witheridge** and his wife **Elizabeth Stokes**. A great grandson of William and Elizabeth - another **William**, born 1852, complicated matters by having two separate families by **Elizabeth Bedford** and **Henrietta Lapworth**, and we have members who descend from their children.

South Huish/ South Milton/ Yealmpton

These small South Devon villages were the birthplace of a family which began about 1665 with the birth of a **Walter Witheridge**. In this family the names 'Walter' and 'William' persist until the nineteenth century. The nineteenth century saw the migration of some of the family to the London area, where they still live.

South Milton/ Thurlestone

This is an extensive family, who, possibly because several of them were seaman and Master Mariners migrated into the Plymouth area, and into Wales, and further afield to America and New Zealand. They spring from a **John Witheridge** who died in South Milton in 1748, and present day members of this family include Jennifer Smith in New Zealand and member Gina Couch.

Wembury/New Zealand Family

South Devon is the birthplace for many of our families, and one with a South Devon origin and an early known ancestor is the Wembury family. The earliest name is that of **Robert Witheridge** b. c. 1570. His descendants stayed in Wembury until the eighteenth century, when some branched out to Plymouth. In the nineteenth century descendants went to London and Kent, and to Australia. From the London branch, in the twentieth century **David Witheridge** went to New Zealand, where his wife, our member Eve Witheridge, still lives. Our President, Kim Cook is of the Wembury family.

You may have noticed that not one of our families is known to come from the village of Witheridge in Devon, but we live in hope that one day we shall find at least one family who came from there.

This is not an exhaustive list of all the families we know. There are some 'mystery' families whose origins we have failed to discover, but we live in hope! I have not been able to mention the names of all our members, and give the origin of their families, but if you have a query - ask our research co-ordinator who has a mine of information, and may at least be able to point you in the right direction.

The Membership Secretary holds a number of back copies of the magazines in which the above trees appear and these are available at a cost of 50p per copy plus postage. Where not available copies can be reprinted.

BOOK REVIEW

The Orchard Dictionary and Handbook of Family History and Genealogy, by Kim Cook. Published by Orchard Research & Publishing, Tenterden. ISBN 0-9546053-1-4 Price £6.00 + 50p p&p (UK).

The aim of this 60-page A5 publication is to ease the path of those who are starting to research their family history, or who have been researching for some time and are beginning to encounter unfamiliar terms and expressions.

Subtitled 'A basic guide to the terms, abbreviations and acronyms encountered in family history research, with information on record repositories and websites', the book brings together a wealth of information available separately from other sources, but compiled (perhaps for the first time) in a handy and inexpensive format.

The dictionary includes many words no longer in current use and those that have come to have different meanings, as well as modern terms and abbreviations. Chapman codes and curtilage, GEDCOM and the Gregorian calendar, PROCAT and palaeography all have their place.

But the dictionary is more than just an explanation of words and abbreviations, as it includes additional details on documents and the organisations that hold them. Thus the entry relating to death duty registers explains not only what they are, but when the registers were established, where they are housed, and where one can consult the indexes, while the entry for parish registers gives dates: for the establishment of registers, together with subsequent Acts of Parliament that changed the format. For most key entries there is a reference to the place where documents are now housed, including the addresses and phone numbers of government departments, national family history organisations and other sources of information.

There are four appendixes. The first covers record office procedures, including readers' tickets, advance booking, security, lockers, and search room rules. This is followed by a list of record offices belonging to CARN, a network of record offices accepting each others' readers' tickets. The third appendix lists regnal years - essential for dating many documents even into the 19th century. The final appendix is on websites, pointing out the difference between data sites and community sites, covering methods of payment for downloading information, and listing a number of key data sites of use to the family historian.

The coverage relates mainly to family history in England and Wales, but there are references to Scottish and Irish records, as well as a few references to basic heraldry.

The author's name will, of course, be familiar to members of the Witheridge FHS, for Kim is our Hon Life President. Anyone who'd like a copy should write to Kim at the address inside the front cover of *Witheridge Times*, or email orchardresearch@aol.com

Reminder

Don't forget to let Richard know if you intend to be at the next annual reunion at Tavistock in May 2004.

Write or e mail me at richard@rwitheridge.fsnet.co.uk

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(Continued from inside front cover)

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