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**The Wetheridge
Family History Society**

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Please submit all items for publication in The Witheridge Times to the Editor and Publisher

continued on inside back cover

The logo shown on the front cover represents the boundaries of the County of Devon. The small black circles represent the Town of Witheridge and the Manor of Witheridge. Both are listed in the Domesday Book.

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Visit the Wetheridge Family History Society website:

<http://www.WetheridgeFHS.com>

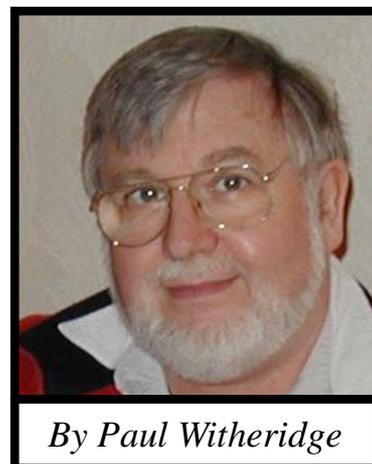
Remember that you can download a full-colour version of this magazine from the Members Only area of the website.

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Editorial

Chaos. Bedlam. Panic.

These have been the scenes here, as we have been trying to put together our contributions to the Anniversary Reunion. Beryl and I have been producing the recipe book (see page 51), scanning back issues of *The Witheridge Times* to create an archive on CDRom, as well as assembling this over-sized issue of the magazine and attending to other little side-issues. I have no doubt that other committee members have also been tearing their hair out.



The word *Bedlam* refers to the *Hospital of St Mary of Bethlehem*, an ancient asylum for the insane in London. It seems particularly apt at this moment!

As I mentioned above, this is an extra-big issue of the magazine. This is mainly due to the size of the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (see pages 5–14), which includes a rather substantial resolution to amend the Society's constitution. This also makes this a rather arid issue, which is why we have added more pages so that we can include some more interesting stuff. However, please do read the proposal to amend the constitution—it contains some important changes to the way the Society is run.

I have had to defer some articles to the next issue, but we have a lot of family news (see pages 18–25), some solid genealogical stuff and *The River*, a poem from Lorna Home, who has had a book of her poetry published. A prodigious set of thanks are due to all those who have contributed to this magazine—without you there would be no magazine. Thank you.

A funny thing (that is *funny peculiar* not *funny ha-ha*) happened to me last month. At the end of March, I turned sixty-five, which is the current standard retirement age for men in the United Kingdom. As I had taken early retirement from IBM a few years earlier, I really expected it to have no effect whatsoever. However, I was taken aback by a strange feeling of being 'over the hill'. Fortunately, it did not last long. I was just too busy.

Nevertheless, I would like to share, with you, the very kind, amusing and shamelessly untrue, words from a birthday card I received from a friend. It helped shatter my mood of melancholy:

The top ten things I don't understand

10. Hot dogs come in packages of 8, buns come in packages of 12
9. You have to connect to *Chicago* to fly from Denver to Dallas
8. A 'two-day' video rental is due back the *day after* you rent it
7. Woodstock happened in a place called *Bethel*
6. Nobody in China eats *fortune cookies*
5. Psychics *never* win the lottery
4. Yogurt is good for you because it's made with *live* bacteria
3. A round-trip ticket costs *less* than a one-way ticket
2. White chocolate has *no chocolate* in it

and the number one thing I don't understand

1. You're having another birthday, but don't look a day older!

Ah, were it but so!

Subscriptions—a Final Reminder

By the Membership Secretary

I should like to say a big ‘thank you’ to all those members who have already paid their 2007 subscriptions—that includes the great majority, including all our overseas members. It’s a real help when these subs come in promptly and makes my job a lot easier!

I should like to remind the very few, who have not yet sent in their membership dues, that these must be paid by the end of May, otherwise your membership will lapse. If you do not intend to renew your membership, I really would appreciate it if you would let me know. Likewise, if there is any other sort of problem, please do contact me. You can write to me at the address shown on the inside cover of the magazine, telephone me on 01628-484026 or e-mail me at Membership@WitheridgeFHS.com.

I am happy to say that the new PayPal option, for paying subscriptions, was used successfully by several overseas members. It’s a much less expensive way of paying in a currency other than pounds sterling.

Best wishes to all members and their families for 2007.

On the side: Grey Wethers

Many of us know that our surname, *Witheridge*, is derived from *wēðer*, the old Anglo-Saxon word for a castrated ram. It’s modern spelling is *wether*. However, how many of us know what a *Grey Wether* is? (And it’s not an elderly member of *The Witheridge Family History Society*!)

Grey Wethers is the name of a pair of prehistoric stone circles, situated on a grassy plateau to the north of Postbridge, on Dartmoor. The circles are each approximately thirty-three metres (108 feet) in diameter, and less than five metres apart. Their centre points are aligned almost exactly north to south. The northern circle has twenty stones remaining, while the southern has twenty-nine. All are relatively consistent size, mostly between 1.2 and 1.4 metres (4–4.5 feet) in height.

As with many ancient Dartmoor landmarks, *Grey Wethers* is the subject of local folklore, explaining the origin of the name. One story tells of a farmer who had recently moved to Dartmoor and was foolish enough to criticise the sheep on sale at Tavistock Market. He stopped for a drink at the Warren House Inn, and helped by several pints of cider, the locals persuaded him that there was an excellent flock of high quality sheep nearby which he would be welcome to buy. They all walked off in search of them, and through the mist the farmer saw what he took to be a fine flock. He agreed to the sale, and returned to the site the following morning to find that what he had taken to be sheep were actually the stones of Grey Wethers.

Witheridge FHS News

Highlights of the Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Society's committee was held on Saturday, 24 February 2006. Of course, most of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the status of the preparations for the Twentieth Anniversary Witheridge Reunion meeting, but we did manage to squeeze in a few other things!

The main points covered at the meeting were:

1. Final arrangements were agreed for the Anniversary Reunion meeting, including the Sunday trip to *Witheridge-related* places in North Devon (see the revised timetable of events, on page 15 of this issue, for more details).
2. Final changes were made to the resolution to amend the Society's constitution. This will be presented as a motion to the Annual General Meeting (see *Overhaul of the Society's Constitution*, on page 6 of this issue, for more details; the full text of the proposed constitution can also be downloaded from the *members-only* area of the Society's website at www.WitheridgeFHS.com).
3. The Chairman, Ron Dixon, confirmed his intent not to stand again for re-election. Richard Witheridge agreed to accept a nomination to stand as chairman at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.
4. Joyce and Graham Browne indicated that they did not wish to stand again for election to the committee.
5. All other officers and committee members confirmed that they were willing to stand again. In addition Roy Cook accepted a nomination for a seat on the committee. See facing page for a list of nominations received to-date, which will give us a committee size of eight. Any other member willing to serve on the committee should contact the Secretary as soon as possible—we *really* do need more people on the committee.
6. It was agreed to confer the title of *Honorary Life Vice-president* on Kathy Witheridge for all the work she has done for the Society over the past twenty years. Kathy has been our North American Representative and Webmaster for many years, as well as contributing much in research and articles for *The Witheridge Times*. She has recently stepped down as Webmaster.
7. The Secretary was directed to register the Society with the UK Data Protection Registrar to comply with UK legislation. It will cost £35 per annum.
8. The Treasurer reported that £144 in subscriptions had been paid via PayPal.
9. Arrangements were agreed for the Society's 2007 Christmas card.
10. Kent was chosen as the venue for the 2008 Reunion with a date of 17–18 May.

The full minutes of the meeting can be downloaded from the *members-only* area of the Society's website.



By the Secretary

Devon 2007: The Twentieth Anniversary Witheridge Reunion and AGM



Details of this upcoming anniversary reunion have been published over the last four issues of *The Witheridge Times*—Volume 19 Number 3 through to Volume 20 Number 3, giving details of the Coombe Cross Hotel (where the reunion is to be held) and a timetable of events.

This issue publishes the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), provides an updated timetable for the entire Reunion, including more details of the Sunday trip to North Devon, and gives directions for getting to the Coombe Cross Hotel at Bovey Tracey.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the hotel's function room and will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday 19 May 2007. This will be the last meeting chaired by Ron Dixon, who has indicated that he does not wish to stand again for the position of Chairman.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. Opening and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (2006 Annual General Meeting at Porlock, Somerset)
4. Any matters arising from these minutes
5. Any matters arising from the Officers' reports (copies of reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator, Editor and Webmaster will be provided to attendees for review before the meeting)
6. Any matters arising from the 2007 Coordinator's report (also to be provided for review before the meeting)
7. Any matters arising from Overseas Representatives' reports (again to be provided for review before the meeting)
- 8. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The following have been nominated, have accepted, and are (so far) unopposed:

<i>Chairman</i>	Richard Witheridge <i>proposed by Paul Witheridge (Canada), seconded by Joyce Browne</i>
<i>Vice-chairman</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK) <i>proposed by Kim Cook, seconded by Ron Dixon</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Beryl Witheridge <i>proposed by Roy Cook, seconded by Maureen Witheridge</i>

<i>Treasurer</i>	Beryl Witheridge <i>proposed by Richard Witheridge, seconded by Ron Dixon</i>
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK) <i>proposed by Maureen Witheridge, seconded by Kim Cook</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK) <i>proposed by Ron Dixon, seconded by Maureen Witheridge</i>
<i>Research Coordinator</i>	Kim Cook <i>proposed by Ron Dixon, seconded by Paul Witheridge (UK)</i>
<i>Editor</i>	Paul Witheridge (UK) <i>proposed by Richard Witheridge, seconded by Brenda Dixon</i>
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	Kim Cook <i>proposed by Richard Witheridge, seconded by Paul Witheridge (UK)</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	Paul Witheridge (Canada) <i>proposed by Kim Cook, seconded by Richard Witheridge</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	Roy Cook <i>proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK), seconded by Richard Witheridge</i> Pamela Glynn <i>proposed by Beryl Witheridge, seconded by Paul Witheridge (UK)</i> Maureen Witheridge <i>proposed by Beryl Witheridge, seconded by Kim Cook</i>

Please forward any additional nominations, with the names of the proposers and seconders, to the Society's secretary, either by e-mail (to Secretary@WitheridgeFHS.com) or by writing to the address shown on the inside cover of this magazine.

9. Overseas Representatives

The overseas representatives for Australia (Judith and Allan Witheridge), New Zealand (Velma Metcalfe) and North America (Kathy Witheridge) have agreed to continue in their roles.

10. Overhaul of the Society's constitution (proposed by Paul Witheridge (UK) and seconded by Beryl Witheridge)

The 2006 Annual General Meeting tasked the committee with preparing a resolution to amend the constitution and to bring that before the 2007 Annual General Meeting. The changes proposed by this motion seek to:

- (i) Eliminate the inequality between UK and overseas memberships by doing away with the multiple types of membership that apply only to the UK.
- (ii) Clarify the difference between an 'honorary member' (without voting rights) and an 'Honorary Life President' or 'Honorary Life Vice-president' (with full voting rights).
- (iii) Clarify exactly who has voting rights at committee meetings.
- (iv) Allow for a new type of committee meeting, in which members are not required to travel to a particular venue, but instead conduct the meeting over a longer

period of time by phone, e-mail, etc. This is essential, given that we have so few members who are both willing to serve on the committee and can actually travel to a physical meeting location.

- (v) Make 'last minute' elections of officers and other committee members legal, under the constitution, while encouraging longer lead-times for nominations so that we can properly inform all members in good time.
- (vi) Introducing longer lead-times for motions so that we can, again, inform members in good time.
- (vii) Establish practical rules for absentee voting via e-mail and the website, in addition to postal voting.

Note that if this motion is adopted it will affect subscription rates. It is proposed that overseas subscription rates remain unchanged, at £12 per year, while the new rate for UK subscriptions be set at £10 per year, which would constitute an increase for those currently paying £5 or £7. However, for the time being, the committee intends to exercise its powers under the proposed constitution and waive the increase for existing members. New members (and lapsed members who rejoin) will pay the full rate.

In detail, the proposed amendments to the Society's constitution are:

- (a) Section 4 (Membership) is to be replaced, in entirety, by the following:

Membership is, subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee, open to anyone bearing the name of Witheridge or Wetheridge, or a recognised variant thereof, and to anyone descended from someone of that name, and their partners. Members fall into three categories: full members, additional members and honorary members.

- 4.1 A full member is an individual who pays a membership subscription fee to the Society and to whom newsletters and other correspondence from the Society will be sent.*
- 4.2 Additional members are other family members living at the same address as a full member and sharing access to the single copy of each notice or publication sent to that full member. The subscription paid by the full member automatically covers all additional members at the same address.*
- 4.3 Honorary membership of the Society may be conferred at the discretion of the Executive Committee, in order to admit to the Society an individual who is not a Witheridge or a Witheridge descendant or partner, but has nevertheless rendered a significant service to the Society. Honorary members are not required to pay a membership subscription to the Society but will receive, gratis, copies of the Society's official journal.*

An 'honorary membership' should not be confused with the titles of 'Honorary Life President' or 'Honorary Life Vice-president', which may be awarded, under rule 6.16 below, to members of the Society in recognition of outstanding past services to the Society.

- (b) Section 5 (Subscriptions) paragraph 5.1 is to be amended as follows:
The words *Wetheridge Day* are to be replaced by *the Wetheridge Reunion* and the word *magazines* is to be replaced by *publications*.
- (c) Section 5 (Subscriptions) paragraph 5.2 is to be replaced entirely by the following:
5.2 *Advance payment of subscriptions will be allowed. Any number of individual yearly subscriptions may be paid by a single payment. Each yearly subscription is to be at the rate current at the time the payment is made. The payment will be deemed to consist of one current year's subscription, with the balance consisting of advance payments for succeeding years. The advance payments will be placed on the bank deposit until each year's subscription is due. The advance payments are not refundable in the event of the member leaving the Society or the dissolution of the Society.*
- (d) Section 5 (Subscriptions) is to be extended with two additional paragraphs, 5.4 and 5.5, as follows:
5.4 *There shall be two subscription rates:*
5.4.1 *A UK Rate for those members with UK postal addresses (including members of the British Armed Forces serving overseas).*
5.4.2 *An Overseas Rate for those members with a non-UK postal address. This rate will take into account the higher cost of mailing newsletters and other correspondence to non-UK addresses.*
5.5 *In exceptional circumstances, the Executive Committee may reduce or waive the membership subscription for any full member. That member would continue to receive a copy of the Society's journal and, together with any additional family members, be welcome at the Society's meetings. However, if the subscription is completely waived, that membership shall no longer enjoy any voting rights. At the committee's discretion, the journal may be provided to that member in electronic form.*
- (e) Section 6 (Management) is to be replaced, in entirety, by the following:
6.1 *The Society will be administered by an Executive Committee consisting of no fewer than eight and no more than twelve elected members referred to hereinafter as 'committee members'. Members of the Society who are not on the Executive Committee are referred to hereinafter as 'ordinary members'.*
6.2 *Any full or additional family member is entitled to stand in an election to any committee post, provided that their subscription is fully paid-up on the day of the election and their membership has not been suspended under rule 6.15 below. Honorary members are not allowed to take up committee posts.*
6.3 *The following nine officials will be elected for a term of one year at the Society's Annual General Meeting and will automatically be members of the committee: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant*

Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Research Coordinator, Editor and Webmaster.

- 6.4 *Additional ‘without portfolio’ committee members may be elected for a term of one year at the Society’s Annual General Meeting.*
- 6.5 *Where more than one official post, as defined in 6.3 above, is held by a single person, that individual may cast only a single vote on committee decisions. Where necessary, additional ‘without portfolio’ committee members will be elected at the Society’s Annual General Meeting in order to bring the number of voting committee members up to eight or more. These additional members will also serve a term of one year.*
- 6.6 *If a holder of one of the official posts defined in 6.3 above resigns, is removed by the committee under rule 6.15 below, or is otherwise unable to continue in office, the committee can appoint another member to perform that role until the next General Meeting of the Society. Unless the appointee is already a committee member, he or she, being unelected, does not become a member of the committee and may not vote on committee decisions. The committee seat will remain vacant until the next General Meeting.*
- 6.7 *If a committee member ‘without portfolio’, as defined in 6.4 and 6.5 above, resigns, is removed by the committee under rule 6.15 below, or is otherwise unable to continue as a committee member, that committee seat will remain vacant until the next General Meeting.*
- 6.8 *If the number of voting committee members should fall below five, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called to elect additional committee members.*
- 6.9 *Taking into account the wide geographical spread of Society members, a committee meeting may consist of one or more of the following: a physical meeting of committee members, a conference via telephone (including calls placed via the Internet) or an exchange of e-mails. The Chairman will set a time limit for completion of any such meeting and the Secretary will be responsible for collecting the votes submitted by committee members and submitting the results to the Chairman. After approval by the Chairman, the Secretary will then declare the results in writing to all committee members.*
- 6.10 *A summary of the results of the committee meeting will be published in the next available issue of the official journal of the Society and will made available via the Society’s website as soon as is reasonably possible.*
- 6.11 *A committee meeting will be deemed valid if a quorum of two-thirds of the voting members participate and submit their votes to the Secretary. A simple majority shall suffice to pass a motion. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast for and against the motion, the chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.*

- 6.12 *Overseas representatives are to be appointed at the Society's Annual General Meeting for a term of one year. They are an adjunct to the committee and are to be advised, in advance, about matters to be brought up at each committee meeting. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that any input from the overseas representatives is presented to the committee and that they are consulted about any decisions to be taken. However, they do not have a vote on committee decisions unless they also stand for and are elected to a committee position.*
- 6.13 *The committee shall have full power to authorise expenditure, and all cheques shall be countersigned by two elected committee members, normally the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Should the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer share a membership, their co-signing authority shall first be recognised and approved by the committee. No payments may be made from the Society's funds unless previously authorised by the committee, either in the form of a budget set aside for a specified group of expenses, or the approval of an individual payment.*
- 6.14 *Any ordinary member may attend a committee meeting, provided reasonable notice is given to the Secretary, and express opinions at the meeting, but will have no vote on committee decisions.*
- 6.15 *The Executive Committee of the Society may suspend the membership and/or recommend the termination of the membership of any member, who, in the opinion of the committee, is deemed culpable of any of the following:*
- 6.15.1 *behaving in a way likely to bring the Society into disrepute*
 - 6.15.2 *disclosing information of a personal or sensitive nature relating to any living member of the Society or their immediate family*
 - 6.15.3 *behaving in an unruly or unseemly way at any meeting or social gathering organised by the Society*
 - 6.15.4 *consistently failing to perform the duties of any committee or sub-committee post to which the member has been elected*
 - 6.15.5 *behaving in any way to the detriment of the Society and/or its members*
- Provided always:*
- 6.15.6 *that such member has been given the option of either appearing before the committee with a friend, if the member so wishes, or of presenting a written defence to the committee which shall have been read by all the committee members entitled to vote*
 - 6.15.7 *that, in the case of an ordinary member, 75% of the committee vote for the suspension, whether in person, by post or by e-mail*
 - 6.15.8 *that, in the case of a committee member, 75% of the remaining*

members of the committee vote for the suspension, whether in person, by post or e-mail

6.15.9 *that any suspension is considered and voted upon at the next Annual General Meeting, or the next Extraordinary General meeting, at which time the members may vote for the suspension to be ratified for a further year, to be set aside, or to be converted into a termination of membership and that any such motion requires a two thirds majority of the number casting votes*

6.15.10 *that, in the event of an unclear decision, the Chairman (or acting Chairman) will have the casting vote*

6.15.11 *that any member having been suspended or had their membership terminated will not be able to hold a committee post in future. They may or not be re-admitted to membership at the discretion of the committee.*

6.16 *The Executive Committee may award the title of 'Honorary Life President' or 'Honorary Life Vice-president' to a member of the Society in order to recognise extraordinary past services to the Society. These titles are intended only to honour the contribution made by the individual and shall confer no other privileges or obligations. Only one living member may be awarded the title of 'Honorary Life President'.*

(f) Section 7 (Meetings) is to be re-titled *General Meetings* and replaced, in entirety, by the following:

7.1 *General Meetings of the Society may be convened at any time by the Executive Committee by giving notice of not less than twenty-eight days, either in writing or in the official journal of the Society.*

7.2 *A full membership of the Society entitles the full member, and any additional family members covered by that membership, to vote on matters brought before a General Meeting, always provided that the membership is fully paid-up on the day of the meeting and has not been suspended under rule 6.15 above. However, voting rights are limited to those aged sixteen or over on the day the vote is taken. Honorary members are not eligible to vote. Members who are eligible to vote are hereinafter referred to as 'voting members'.*

7.3 *Any voting member who is unable to attend a General Meeting may register an absentee vote by mail, e-mail, or (at the discretion of the Executive Committee) by a secure transaction via the Society's Website. All absentee votes must be received no less than four days before the date of the meeting. Postal votes must be sent to the Secretary in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Postal Vote', and not opened until the votes of those present at the meeting have been cast. Votes registered via e-mail must be sent to a mailbox address maintained only for this purpose and votes received by this*

mailbox will be examined only after the votes of those present at the meeting have been cast. Absentee votes registered via the Society's Website will also be counted only after those present at the meeting have cast their vote. All absentee votes must be accompanied by the membership-number of the member whose voting right is being exercised, in order to eliminate any duplicate voting. Should more than one vote be received from a member, only the last received for that member will be counted. These membership numbers will not be disclosed to others by the officer appointed to count the absentee votes.

- 7.4 *A two-thirds majority of votes cast are necessary to pass any amendment to the constitution or any motion brought under rule 6.15.9 above, but other motions can be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an exactly equal number of votes being cast for and against any motion, with the exception of those amending the constitution or brought under rule 6.15.9, the chairman of the meeting has a casting vote.*
- 7.5 *A quorum of eight voting members is necessary to constitute a General meeting.*
- 7.6 *An Annual General Meeting will be held once in every calendar year at which a report of the Society's activities since the previous Annual General Meeting shall be presented as well as an audited financial report. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within fourteen months of the previous one.*
- 7.6.1 *The agenda for the Annual General meeting must be sent to all paid-up members of the Society in a timely fashion, such that they are able to review it and, if unable to attend the meeting in person, register absentee votes.*
- 7.6.2 *Officers and committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations should be received by the Secretary no less than six weeks before the announced date of the meeting and, if valid, be included on the agenda. A valid nomination is one that is proposed and seconded by voting members and has been accepted by the nominee who must be a fully paid-up member on the day of the election. A secret ballot shall be held if there is more than one nomination for any post.*
- 7.6.3 *In the event of no valid nomination being received for any given committee position six weeks before the date of the meeting, then, if a single valid nomination is subsequently received before or at the meeting, the person nominated shall be accepted as elected unopposed. However, if more than one valid nomination is received, then a secret ballot shall be held at the meeting, but the results will not be disclosed for a further period of twenty-eight days, during which*

voting members who did not attend the meeting must be advised by e-mail and may register absentee votes by e-mail or via the website. Members who cannot be contacted by e-mail will be treated as abstaining. During this twenty-eight day period, the Chairman shall appoint someone to fulfil any official role left temporarily vacant.

7.6.4 Motions for an Annual General Meeting must be received by the Secretary, together with the names of the proposer and seconder, who must both be voting members, not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting, and must appear on the agenda for the meeting.

7.6.5 Although a vote may be taken on matters not specified in the agenda, as an expression of opinion, such a vote will not have the force of a resolution, nor will it be binding on the committee.

7.6.6 The minutes of an Annual General Meeting shall appear in the next issue of the Society's official journal to be published after the date of the meeting.

7.7 If an Extraordinary General Meeting is to be convened, the agenda for that meeting must be included with the notice of that meeting. No later motions or nominations will be allowed. Motions and nominations must be received by the Secretary no less than six weeks before the date of the meeting. Motions must be accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder

(g) Section 8 (Indemnity to Officers) is to be amended with the following grammatical correction: the word *of* inserted between the words *respect* and *all*.

Note that copies of the current and proposed constitutions can be downloaded from the members-only area of the Society's website as PDF documents. In the copy of the proposed constitution, the changes are shown in blue.

11. Venue and date for 2008 Reunion and Annual General Meeting

It is proposed that the 2008 Reunion be held, on the weekend of 17–18 May 2008, in Kent at specific venue yet to be decided.

12. Any other business.

I will upload a copy of this agenda to the *Members Only* area of the Society's website, and will keep this online version up-to-date with any changes (such as further nominations for officers and committee members), as they are received. I will also append any comments received from members, which should help to give a voice in the proceedings to those members who are unable to attend the AGM.

Note that unless any additional nominations are received for officers and committee members, the only agenda items to be voted on are: item 3 (vote to accept/reject the minutes of the last AGM) and item 10 (vote to accept/reject the amendments to the constitution).

Members who are unable to attend the AGM, may register an absentee vote via the *Members Only* area. To do so, first sign in to the *Members Only* area, then click on the button for

absentee voting and follow the instructions at the top of the page displayed. Note that absentee voting via the website is anonymous—the votes will be tallied by a computerised process which will not show the identity of the voter.

If you have internet access, but prefer to register an absentee vote via e-mail, please send your e-mail to Voting@WitheridgeFHS.com listing your votes as ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘abstain’ for items 3 and 10. Please give your membership number which will be used to check only for duplicate voting. This is not as anonymous as voting via the website, but your membership number will not be disclosed to others.

If you do not have internet access, but still wish to register an absentee vote, please write to the Secretary (at the address shown inside the cover of this magazine), enclosing your voting preferences in an inner, sealed, envelope, marked *AGM Votes*. Please list your votes as ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘abstain’ for items 3 and 10. Again, please supply your membership number, which will be used to check only for duplicate voting.

Note 1: to access to the *Members Only* area of the Society’s website, you must sign in with your membership number and password. Passwords were issued in 2005 to those members whose e-mail addresses were known. If you have not received a password, or have forgotten it, you can request that the password be e-mailed to you by:

1. Pointing your web-browser at the Society’s website at www.WitheridgeFHS.com
2. Clicking on the ‘Members Only’ link (which is displayed when you move your mouse pointer over ‘Home’) to open the sign-in page for that area
3. Clicking on the *WFHS Password Administrator* link to send an e-mail request.

Please be sure to include your *name*, *membership number* and *address* in the e-mail text, for identification purposes.

Note 2: the check for duplicate voting is intended to handle situations such as when multiple copies of an e-mail are received due to technical problems, or when a member decides at the last minute to attend the meeting after previously registering an absentee vote. When absentee voting is performed via the website, the membership number is recorded but is processed anonymously. When performed by e-mail or by ordinary mail, human intervention is required, but the membership number is seen only by one person.

On the side: Spotted in *The Independent* in 2006

A postman was jailed for nine months yesterday after police found more than 34,000 items of unopened mail at his home. Sheffield Crown Court heard that when police turned up at 49-year-old Roger Parkinson’s home, near Barnsley, he said: ‘I’m glad in a way. It needs sorting.’

Timetable of Reunion Events

This is an update of the timetable that was published in the previous (winter) issue, Volume 20 Number 3, of *The Witheridge Times*.

Friday 18 May

A Welcome Pack will be provided for all attendees on arrival

7:00 p.m. Informal evening meal in hotel restaurant

Saturday 19 May

8:30 a.m. Breakfast in hotel restaurant

All following activities will be held in function room.

Photos of attendees will be taken as they arrive. These may be published in The Witheridge Times or on the Society's website. Please advise the Secretary if you do not want your photo to be published.

As usual, attendees will be asked to contribute towards the cost of the refreshments and buffet lunch.

9:30–11 a.m. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

11 a.m. Refreshments (coffee, tea, biscuits)

11 a.m.–1 p.m. Social (getting to meet people and chatting)

1–2 p.m. Buffet lunch

2–3 p.m. Talk by Sheila Jewell

3 p.m. Refreshments, cutting the anniversary cake and sale of raffle tickets

3–5 p.m. Exhibits and items for sale

5 p.m. Everyone exit function room (so hotel can set up for dinner)

Social activities will continue in the bar and lounges

7 p.m. Formal Reunion dinner. Please note that formal dress is required (for gentlemen, that means ordinary 'formal', not dinner jackets).
The drawing of the raffle will take place after the meal.

Sunday 20 May

Trip to North Devon, visiting Witheridge-related places. We intend to travel in a convoy of members' cars. Maps and directions will be provided. All times are approximate.

9 a.m. Leave Coombe Cross hotel

10 a.m. Arrive at the town of *Witheridge*. Optional visit to the church.

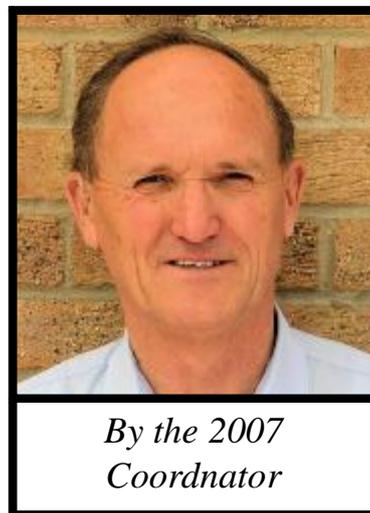
10:45 a.m. Depart town of *Witheridge*

11:45 a.m. Arrive at the town of *Combe Martin*. Lunch at the *Pack of Cards* public house (the history of the *Pack of Cards* can be purchased for £2). Visit to the church.

2 p.m. Depart town of *Combe Martin*

2:30 p.m. Arrive at the town of *Northam*. Optional visit to the church.

3 p.m. Depart town of *Northam*



*By the 2007
Coordinator*

- 3:30 p.m. Arrive at the town of *Bradworthy*. Visit to the church with tea and coffee available. The museum, with its Collacott room, will be open and is worth a visit. Cecil Collacott and others wrote the book *Bradworthy in the Twentieth Century*, which is on display. Parish records, plans of graves and memorial inscriptions are also held by the museum.
- 4:30 p.m. Depart town of Bradworthy
- 6 p.m. Back at hotel in time for a pre-dinner drink!
- 7 p.m. Informal evening meal in hotel restaurant

Monday 21 May

Members wishing to explore their own family regions can do so by car, teaming up with other members where transport is needed. It is proposed that those staying Monday night should all meet in the lounge for a pre-dinner drink followed by dinner in the hotel restaurant .

- 9 a.m. Meet in hotel lounge
- 6 p.m. Bar and lounges
- 7 p.m. Informal evening meal in hotel restaurant

Close of 2007 Reunion

Tuesday 22 May

- 8 a.m. Breakfast for those staying Monday night

How to get to the Coombe Cross Hotel

Coombe Cross Hotel is situated in Bovey Tracey, Devon on the edge of Dartmoor National Park. The phone number of the hotel is: 01626 832476. See the map of Bovey Tracey on the facing page.

By Car, from the East:

Follow the M5 past Exeter onto the A38 heading for Plymouth. Having skirted Chudleigh, take the next exit and go through Chudleigh Knighton following signs for Bovey Tracey. Just inside the town's 30 limit, turn right into Bradley Road. The Hotel is on the right at the top of the rise.

By Car, from the West:

From Plymouth heading East on the A38, pass Buckfastleigh and Ashburton. Continue on to the junction with the A382 to Bovey Tracey. Go into the centre of Bovey Tracey, over the river and up the high street keeping right. Pass the Church on your left and then we are a further 300 yds on the left at the next junction.

By Train:

After arriving at the town of Newton Abbot, take the A382 to Bovey Tracey. This is approximately a £12 taxi ride.

If you want to find directions on The Internet (using, for example, www.streemap.co.uk or www.multimap.com) enter a postcode of TQ13 9EV to locate the hotel.



Map of Bovey Tracey, showing the location of the hotel.

Dartmoor lies to the north. Newton Abbott and the A38 major route lie to the south.

Family News

Much of this news was received, collated and summarised by Joyce Browne. The rest came either directly or via other members. Thanks to Joyce and to everyone who sent in news. Please keep it coming.

Christmas and the New Year brought welcome news of our families—not always good news—but welcome nevertheless.

News from Australia

Our former representative, *Dorothy Witheridge*, sent greetings to all. Dorothy has had a hip replacement and at the time of writing was in rehabilitation. ‘Everything fine’ says Dorothy. Our very best wishes for a quick return to health and mobility, and our thanks for her service to us in the past.

Judith and Allan Witheridge of Figtree, New South Wales, our current representatives in Australia, sent loving greetings and news of their family. Most was really good news of solid career achievements, and academic and sporting success, at school and university, by their grandchildren.

However, on the down side, their son, *Paul*, tripped on the stairs, crashed into a blanket-box and sustained major nerve damage which only time can repair. He is improving gradually. Then his wife, *Sonia*, dislocated her shoulder, requiring an operation to put it back in place. It never rains but it pours! We do hope that Paul and Sonia are now having less difficulty.

During the year Allan celebrated his eightieth birthday in low-key manner—as he requested—just lunch with his sister, his brothers and their spouses, followed by a visit to the Wollongong Botanical Gardens with family and friends.

Both Judith and Allan have experienced health problems during the year, but Judith makes light of any difficulties and is full of thankfulness for the life they have.

Again, this Christmas, Judith and Allan sent a wonderful calendar, with scenes from Wollongong. One of these is reproduced at the top of the facing page.

In the New Year, they made a visit to Sydney with the intent of seeing both the Queen Elizabeth 2 and Queen Mary 2 cruise ships enter Sydney harbour, the largest natural harbour in the world, followed by a firework display. ‘It should be quite a sight’ they wrote, ‘Mary won’t fit under the SH bridge’. Unfortunately, authorities ‘down-under’ seem no more competent than they do in the northern hemisphere and they had to leave early to avoid chaos caused by some under-planned roadworks.

Recently, they have been off to the Gold Coast, in Queensland. They say that they were having some Autumn-perfect weather, but it was still far too dry and they will never, ever, complain about rain again. [*The news, just before going to press, was of a statement by the Australian prime-minister, Mr John Howard, warning that, unless May bring heavy rains, it would be necessary to ban the use of water for agricultural irrigation in order to ensure the supply of water for drinking. We hope that the drought problems in Australia soon ease. Ed*]



The Sea Cliff Bridge, Wollongong, seen from Bald Hill Lookout

Finally, Judith says that this year's Witheridge family picnic in Australia will take place on the same week-end as our re-union in the UK and that they will be thinking of us. We say 'thank you' to Judith and Allan for agreeing to be our representatives in Australia. It was lovely to hear from you, Judith, and we send every good wish to you and your family.

News from Canada

Brenda and Bill Dwyne in South Hamilton, Ontario, have had a better year—Bill seems to be recovered from his accident and most of his health problems. They have been able to travel and Bill has been busy with his DIY and home improvement activities. Brenda has joined two choirs and may be travelling to the UK in 2007. It would be lovely to see her again. Their children have been busy with their university courses and say that they can't wait to get working. Best wishes to all of them.

From British Columbia, *Pat and John James* sent more sombre news. John became seriously ill at Christmas 2005 with auto-immune hepatitis, and his year has been spent fighting this and a massive infection. This has entailed sojourns in hospital and 'nasty medications'.

Pat reports that he has made a steady recuperation. Pat herself has remained well and they have been able to follow their interest in genealogy. Their children and grandchildren all lead



Baby Patrick at few days (left) and at four months (above)

active lives, with keen interests in many varied activities. We send every good wish for better days for Pat and John in 2007.

Kathy and Paul Witheridge of Sarnia, Ontario, became great-grandparents when Patrick Ryan Witheridge made his appearance last December, weighing in at 8 lbs 13½ ozs. Mother and baby are doing well. You can see some pictures of Master Patrick Ryan Witheridge above.

Note that Patrick is yet another P R Witheridge. As his great-grandfather, Paul, said, 'We are taking over the world.' [He is Paul Richard Witheridge, our webmaster; your editor is Paul Raymond Witheridge. Ed]

Unfortunately Kathy has not been as well. She is having more difficulty controlling the diabetes, which has afflicted her for years, and a disturbance of the thyroid gland has made her feel very ill. Hopefully there is now some improvement. Kathy has always made light of her troubles and coped without any fuss, but we are sure that she will welcome our good wishes for her speedy recovery.

[Just before going to press, we heard from Kathy that she was feeling much better and looking forward to attending the Witheridge Reunion. Ed]

News from New Zealand

From the southern hemisphere we had greetings from *Velma and Rodney Metcalfe*.

Unlike the terrible drought being experienced in Australia, the area of New Zealand where Velma and Rodney live, has experienced some really bad, wet, weather and they 'seem to have skipped summer and gone straight to winter'. They found it necessary to escape to an

adjoining province to celebrate their wedding anniversary in a warm, wine-growing, region—sounds idyllic, especially considering the excellent reputation of New Zealand wine.

Velma and Rodney visited Velma's mother for her ninetieth birthday celebrations. This involved a short trip north, by air. On return, they were just leaving Wellington International Airport, when they narrowly missed being hit by a police car that skidded on a very wet road. Fortunately they were not hurt.

They are both well and working very hard. Velma reports that she has overcome the vocal disability she developed about six years ago, requiring injections of Botox. It was not very pleasant to lose her voice or to have the injections, and we are very pleased to hear her news.

Best wishes to Velma and Rodney for their continued good health and success.

We also have some news from *Sue and Rod Witheridge*, of Chiswick, London, UK, which pertains to events that took place in Christchurch, New Zealand. However, since Sue and Rod live in the UK, you will have to read that section to find out about it!

News from the UK

Joyce and Graham Browne have been going through some serious health problems.

Graham suffered a recurrence of the cancer, for which he was originally treated several years ago. Another operation and follow-up irradiation therapy was required. This involved daily visits to a specialist hospital, many miles distant, over a period of weeks. They were able to arrange, with the help of a friend, to be chauffeured to-and-from the hospital. This was a tremendous help, because, otherwise, Graham would have spent hours, every day for weeks, waiting for the hospital's own transport.

However, one day, on the way to the hospital, the chauffeur-driven car was involved in a major accident on the M25 motorway. Another car, in another lane, lost control and swerved in front of Graham's car, which was then caught in a concertina-style crash. Graham and the chauffeur walked away very shaken, but basically unscathed. The car was a write-off. Graham was taken away by ambulance, which conveniently agreed to deliver him to the hospital in time for his appointment.

On top of that, Graham's operation wound was infected with the MRSA hospital super-bug, making his recovery slower and more painful. He still finds that he tires very quickly.

Shortly after that, Joyce tripped in the street and ended up with her leg and foot in plaster, and hand bandaged. She was unable to ascend the stairs, at home, for many weeks.

Joyce, Graham, we hope most fervently that the remainder of 2007 will be a different, much kinder and more enjoyable time for you. Despite all the above, we have to thank you for two articles in this issue, in addition to much of this *Family News*. We also look forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

Julia Crocker, from Stronsay in the Orkney Islands, wrote to say that she is sorry she cannot make it to the Anniversary Reunion. She is still enjoying life on Stronsay, despite having to deal with storm damage. In 2007, she intends to convert her garage and some storerooms into a shop.

She is also up to her eyes in writing a history of Stronsay in the Twentieth Century. This has taken her deep into the 1861 and 1901 census data for the island, trying to discover where people came from and what they were doing. She mentioned encountering many, amusingly incorrect transcriptions of the data, such as farm hands who apparently lived in a ‘servauls bolly’, which was almost certainly should have read ‘servants bothy’.

She also wondered if other members could contribute amusing census mis-transcriptions for publication in the magazine. *[It certainly sounds worth a try—all contributions welcome. Ed.]*

Brenda and Ron Dixon, of Orpington, Kent, are delighted to have become grandparents, for the second time, with the arrival of *Maya Kathryn*, weighing in at 6lbs 10 ozs, on 3 February 2007—congratulations to Brenda and Ron, to their daughter, Sarah, and son-in-law, Martyn, plus Maya’s three-year-old brother, Hayden. You can see a picture of Maya, below.

From Plymouth, Devon, *Barbara Finemore* sent news of herself and her husband *Terry*. Terry still suffers from the memory loss which stems from a medical trauma a few years ago. He attends a centre for stimulation and training, and has improved in some ways; he still sings in the *Sir Joshua Reynolds Choir*.



Maya Kathryn at two months

Barbara and Terry were able to take several really enjoyable holidays in 2006. Terry had a great time, but, afterwards, did not remember it. Terry also had a very successful hernia-repair operation in mid December.

Barbara says that their grandchildren are a delight and family and friends are very helpful. In spite of her difficulties Barbara continues to be cheerful and takes part in some group activities whenever she can. She hopes to see us in Bovey Tracey this year. We look forward to that, Barbara, and send every good wish to you and Terry.

Pamela Glynn, of Tauton, Somerset, reports that she has recovered well from an operation for bowel cancer, which she underwent last December. Her doctors are very pleased with her progress and we look forward to seeing her at the Reunion.

Alison and Alan Smith, of Folkestone, Kent, sent good wishes and greetings, and said it had been a very busy year for them. They have had to give a lot of support to their daughter, Catherine, as her daughter, baby Hannah, became increasingly unwell. Hannah is seeing consultants in an effort to diagnose the source of her troubles. We send our good wishes to Alan and Alison, and to Catherine and Geoffrey Shingler and their daughter, Hannah, with hopes that 2007 will be a better year for them all.

Ray Witheridge, of Bournemouth, Hampshire, celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday, with family and friends, in February. Ray will be attending the Reunion in May—probably the oldest member to do so.



Ray Witheridge celebrating with grandson and great-grandchildren



Lily Grace Witheridge

Sue and Rod Witheridge, of Chiswick, London, are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandchild. Rod wrote that *Lily Grace Witheridge*, daughter of Lance and Miranda, arrived safely on 27 December 2006, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Rod added 'There were no complications, other than the odd whiff of gas-and-air for her dad, whose totally unbiased opinion is that she's the most beautiful girl in the world. So, thankfully, it would appear she takes after Miranda!'

With Miranda's family in Christchurch, and Lance's parents and brother in London, there will no doubt be even more travelling for Rod and Sue, who regret that they won't be able to get to the reunion in Bovey Tracey because they'll be in Florida.

Tara and Andrew Witheridge, of Langley, Berkshire, had some good news for us. After two operations to remove a thyroid cancer, followed by irradiation therapy and about a year of frequent adjustments to the thyroid-replacement medication, Tara is now enjoying a normal life again. She is now running a toddler-group for the local church and has discovered a fascination and talent for amateur skating. Andrew, after realising that people with two left feet could easily skate rings around him on the ice, wisely retired to the status of spectator.

Tara and Andrew have three young children. The thyroid cancer was diagnosed during her last pregnancy. Tara, Andrew, we are so glad that you are now past this difficult period of your life and are able to get on with the normal business of living, raising and enjoying your children.

News from the USA

Anne Geddes-Atwell wrote from Fly Creek, NY, with news of herself and her husband, Jim Atwell. She made a sad journey to Edmonton, Canada (the country of her birth) to attend the funeral of her brother-in-law, Art Elliot. However, she was able to spend some long-overdue time with her sister, Ruth, and with her grand-nieces and nephews.

Anne and Jim recently saw Al Gore's film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and were strongly affected. They have taken some aggressive actions and managed to reduce their electrical consumption to 40% of its previous level. That is an exceptional achievement. I am sure that many of us are trying hard to cut our consumption, but I do not expect many have achieved a 60% cut!

Jim's book, *From Fly Creek, Celebrating Life in Leatherstocking Country*, has been selling well and he has been asked to write a second book. Anne had illustrated the first book and is looking forward to more such work! See <http://www.jimatwell.com> if you want more information about the book and Anne's illustrations.

Anne, we are really looking forward to meeting you at the Reunion in Bovey Tracey.

We also have news from *Dennis and Darlene Tomlinson*, of Prior Lake, Minnesota. A very sad event, was that Dennis's brother, Mike, passed away on 4 January 2005, in Arkansas, after a long illness. Then, in 2006, Dennis's mother, *Jean Tomlinson*, after many years living in Arkansas, moved to live with Dennis and Darlene in Minnesota. This was not the only addition to the Tomlinson household—other arrivals included Darlene's mother, a fourteen-year-old dog and a six-year-old cat, all of which resulted from the marriage of Darlene's sister and her subsequent removal to Australia! The very latest news was that they were close to completing a remodelling of their house to accommodate the extra residents!

Dennis and Darlene, we wish your all the best with your expanded family, and, Jean, we hope that you are enjoying Minnesota and do not miss your old life in Arkansas too much.

Lastly, but never least, we had greetings from our Vice-president, the *Rev. David Witheridge* of Minneapolis. David is getting on well in his new apartment, although it was a wrench to give up his house. His general health is good, but because of a problem with his balance he has to walk carefully using a cane. He tells us that Jim and David, were aiming to visit us for the re-union in May 2007, but are now unable to do because they cannot arrange the necessary vacation time. However, they will try very hard to make it in 2008!

On the side: The tour bus driver

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus full of old aged pensioners when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about fifteen minutes, she taps him on the shoulder again and she hands the driver another handful of peanuts.

When she is about to hand him another batch again, he asks her 'Why don't you eat the peanuts?'

'We can't chew them because we have no teeth', she replied.

'We just love the chocolate around them.'

Down Memory Lane—The Age of Steam

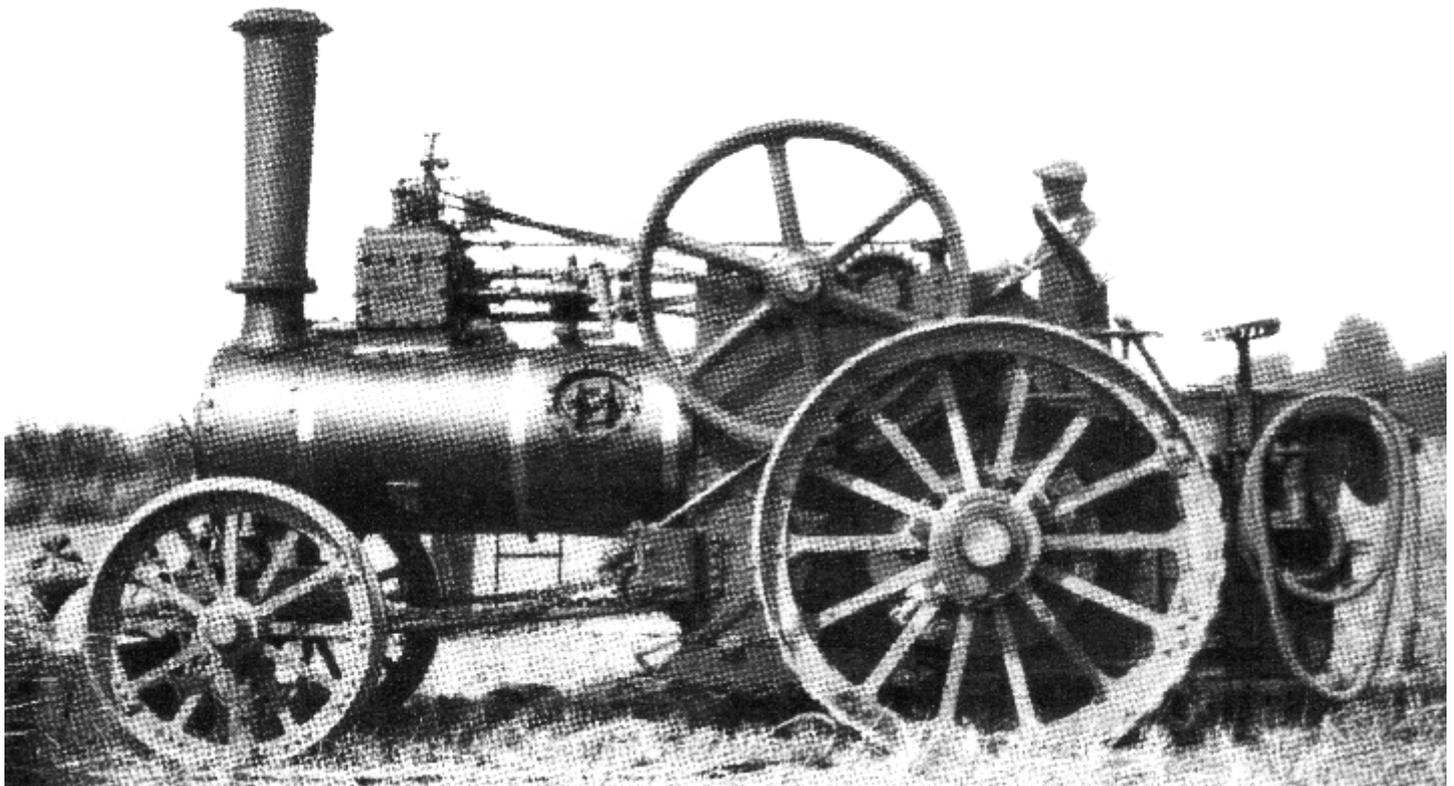
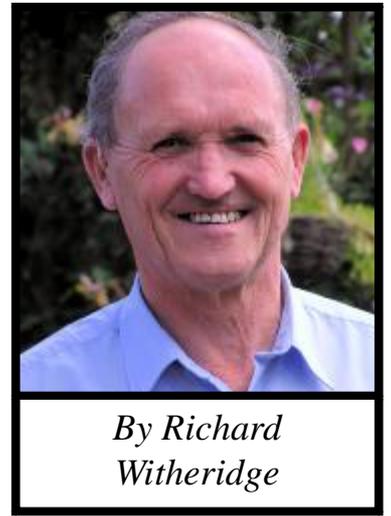
I wonder how many members can remember, from their childhood, seeing the old fashion *traction engine* working with a *threshing machine*, or seeing a *steamroller* in action?.

In Ermington, Devon, where I lived for the first twelve years of my life, I remember seeing a traction engine that came from Yealmpton, about seven miles away, and was set up behind a farm, belonging to Owen Barter, near the bottom of Town Hill.

The engine was placed some distance away from the thresher. A long belt was placed over the engine's flywheel and over a driving wheel on the thresher. A lever on the engine disconnected the drive to the wheels and allowed only the flywheel to rotate. The belt had one twist in it and I understand this was to keep the belt from sliding off sideways.

A man stood on the top of the thresher and, when bundles of corn were passed up to him, he cut the binding string and pushed the bundle into the thresher where it was beaten and sifted. The corn stalks were thrown out sideways. The grain continued through to the rear of the thresher, where it passed out, through shutters, into bags. These were then taken into the barn for storage. The man at the top had to be very careful not to slip. We were told stories about men losing a leg through slipping into the machinery.

The picture below is of a typical steam engine, similar to the one I remember. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a photograph of a thresher.





Then there was the *steam-roller*.

When the roads needed repairing, tar was tipped onto the road and loose chippings thrown onto the tar from the back of a lorry by men with shovels. The lorry reversed along the road so that the chippings were laid down before the lorry went over them.

A steam-roller came on scene, complete with a little green-painted, wooden, caravan in addition to pulling its own water container. Overnight, it was parked up in a lay-by, between Ermington and Ivybridge.

The steam-roller could also be used to rip up the road surface, by lowering spikes fitted at the rear of the machine.

I remember the driver very well. He had irons on one leg and used to ride a fixed-wheel bicycle which had one pedal permanently hanging down. It caused no problems for him, it seemed, as he rode into Ermington, on his bicycle, to buy whatever food he needed.

The picture above shows a steam-roller similar to the one I recall.

[Note for overseas readers: In the UK, a lay-by is an area alongside, or slightly off, a road, where vehicles can park. It's not as grandiose as a rest-area. In North America, it would be called a turn-out. The dictionary says that a lay-by is a widened area where vehicles can pass. Don't believe it. It may have been true once, but now they're called passing-places.]

Devon Family of Edwin Witheridge and Albertina Cummings

By Joy Allbrooke

Some months ago, as editor, I received this article, from Joy Allbrooke (pictured on the right, with her husband, Derek).

After joining the Society in 2005, Joy purchased some back-numbers of The Witheridge Times, including Volume 6 Number 1.

After some research into her particular branch of the Witheridge families, she was sure that the family tree of the Salisbury and Bristol branch of the Combe Martin and Berryarbor family was not entirely correct. This article presents the findings of her research.

She was also in communication with our Research Coordinator Kim Cook. Kim has also contributed an article with a detailed Enhanced Narrative Pedigree incorporating the corrections to the errors uncovered by Joy.

I think both articles deserve to be published, even though they overlap to some extent.

Edwin, born in 1839, was the fourth, known, child of Edward Witheridge and Mary Gear of Combe Martin, Devon. Albertina, born in 1846, was the ninth, known, child of Joseph Cummings and Elizabeth Perkins, of Tiverton Devon. Edwin and Albertina were married at the Holy Trinity Church, Bristol, in 1863.

Albertina does not appear as a member of the family in the 1851 census and does not appear anywhere else in 1851. However, a Mary J Cummings, born about 1846–7, is listed as the youngest child of the family, but does not appear on any found records until, possibly, on the army record of Albert George Witheridge, who listed his next-of-kin as his mother, Mrs M J Offer. Furthermore, Albertina's birth was registered, but Mary J's cannot be found.

The more I go back over my research, the more I become convinced that *Albertina* and *Mary J Cummings* are one and the same person. There were several bad transcriptions along the way.

In the 1871 census, PRO Ref RG10 Piece 1881 Folio 102 Page 15, at the bottom of the page there is an Edwin or Edward, aged 32, born in Combemartin, married to Mary J Witheridge, aged 25, born in Tiverton. At the top of the next page, you find Edwin Witheridge, aged 4, born in Bristol St Pauls. All these details tie in very closely with Albertina, Edwin and their son Joseph Edwin Witheridge—was *Mary J* the name Albertina was known as in the family?



Joy and Derek (and the Matterhorn)

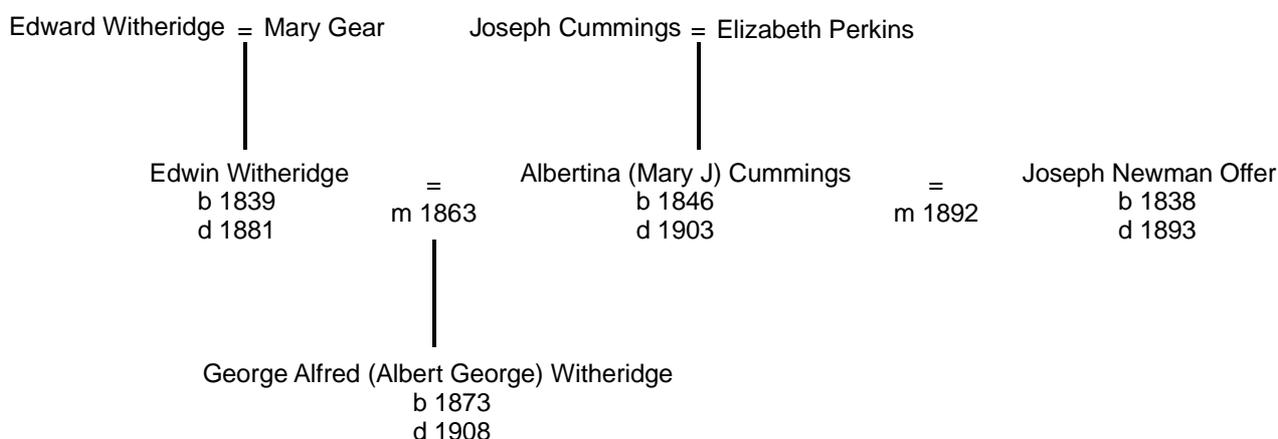
Albert George Witheridge, shown on the 1891 census (PRO Ref RG12 Piece 1681 Folio 84 Page 130) as a soldier in the Royal Artillery in Devon, is of a similar age to George Alfred Witheridge (born at Merthyr Tydfil in 1873, the son of Albertina and Edwin) but is recorded as being born in Scotland (perhaps a problem in recognising/understanding an accent by the officer filling in the census form).

Albert George's WO97/6282 military record (see page 7 of *The Witheridge Times* Volume 6 Number 1, the spring 1992 issue) lists him as being born in Aberdan, Wales, and gives his next-of-kin as his mother, Mrs M J Offer of 9 Wellington Street, Bristol. *Offer* was Albertina's surname from her second marriage to Joseph Newman Offer, on 5 June 1892. According to the census data, in 1891, Joseph Newman Offer was living at 9 Wellington Street, although his 1992 marriage details give his address as Crews Hole, and Albertina's as 12 Dean Terrace, Easton.

To add to the confusion, when George Alfred Witheridge married Mary Hepburn in 1905, he stated his father was Joseph Edwin Witheridge (deceased), rather than Edwin Witheridge, and gives his occupation a a miner. Further, when George Alfred died his death certificate says Alfred George! Also, Edwin Witheridge was never recorded as a miner, but Joseph Newman Offer was, in earlier days. Is this a mix-up with names of Joseph Newman Offer and Edwin Witheridge?

In previous research, Albertina (Betty) Rossiter was concerned that the family appeared to abandon Albertina, who was buried in a pauper's grave after dying at Bristol Workhouse. This leads me to conclude that this part of the family were either not sure of their parents' names or were not happy with Albertina's second marriage—hence the confused recording of names.

My research therefore points to the conclusion that Albertina Cummings and Mary J Cummings were one and the same person. Likewise, George Alfred Witheridge was the same person as Albert George Witheridge and was probably illiterate. He does appear to have signed the marriage register as George Alfred.



Suggested tree for Albertina Cummings

Albertina—Setting the Record Straight

Over the years, past and present members of the *Witheridge Family History Society* have researched many branches of the *Witheridge* and *Wetheridge* families. Inevitably, in the earlier days when records were not so easy to access, we often had to make educated guesses about some of our ancestors. When writing out family details it was, and still is, the practice to put unconfirmed details in italics—as in the *Enhanced Narrative Pedigree* (ENP) that follows. However, sometimes, when documents were passed around and copied, the italics slipped away. The effect was that some information about which we had been uncertain was presented as fact. It was easy to assume that the italics had been dropped because someone else had checked these details and confirmed them, but this was not necessarily the case.



By Kim Cook

We've long been aware of this problem and many of us, particularly Joyce Browne and I, have been beavering away, searching records now much more readily available. Over the years, we've updated most of the family trees and pedigrees and many of them have been published.

However, when Joy Allbrooke (a direct descendent of Edwin Witheridge and his wife, Albertina Cummings) wrote to comment on errors in the tree relating to her family, we realised that, although we had made a number of corrections to this tree, we had never published them. Joy has provided excellent evidence (census printouts and copies of certificates) to back up the corrections, of which some had already been made in my personal records, while others were quite new. Joy has also been able to give us a good deal of new information. As I was already preparing an ENP for this family, it seemed sensible to write something to put the record straight, and to publish the corrected ENP.

One of the problems has been that various family members could not be found in records where we expected to find them. After extensive research, we now know that some of them were known by names other than their registered birth or baptism names, while some clearly suffered at the hands of officials who recorded names inaccurately, as in these examples relating to Edwin and Albertina.

The birth of Albertina was definitely registered as Albertina Cummings (Dec qr 1846, Tiverton 10.277). However, searches of the 1851 and 1861 census returns could find no such Albertina born in Tiverton. In fact, Joy later discovered that the section of the 1851 census which includes this Cummings family has been completely omitted from most transcripts, and therefore cannot be found on Internet sites. As the Cummings family was no longer in Devon, it doesn't appear on my CD of the 1851 census for Devon. However, once Joy had obtained a copy of Albertina's birth certificate, clearly showing that Albertina's parents were Joseph Cummings, a cooper, and his wife Elizabeth, she was eventually, and with considerable persistence, able to track the family down, and discover that Albertina was repeatedly listed as Mary J.

Meanwhile I had, at last, located Edwin in the 1871 census. However, his name was written in such a way that it could be read as Edward, and has been transcribed as such. Also, he had reduced his age, and named his wife as Mary J (at this time, we had not yet found her prior to her marriage and did not have Joy's information). Anyone could be forgiven for thinking this was a different family, despite the presence of a four-year-old son called Edwin. These, and other discrepancies, are noted in the ENP.

Three of Edwin and Albertina's children died in infancy, and her miseries were increased early in 1881, when Edwin died at the age of 45, (the GRO indexes say 42). At just 35, Albertina was left a widow with five children to look after, four of them aged eight or under. How she coped in the following ten years is unclear. By 1891 she was living with widower Joseph Newman Offer, but it's quite possible that she had been living with him for some time before that. Although Albertina had already taken Joseph's surname, they didn't marry until 1892, despite the fact that there seems to have been no reason why they should not have married earlier.

This branch of the family had, and still has, strong non-conformist and Salvationist links, and it is likely that they disapproved very strongly of Albertina's decision to live with Joseph without first getting married. The fact that one of Joseph's daughters from his first marriage went to prison would not have helped Albertina's relationships with her family. It seems they no longer kept in contact with her, and were therefore probably unaware of Joseph's death, in 1893, and Albertina's subsequent poverty. I'd like to think that had they known they would perhaps have helped her, but, as it was, she went to the workhouse and then to a pauper's grave—a fact that was not discovered by her family until many years later.

Enhanced Narrative Pedigree

[Note: the enhanced narrative pedigree styles differs from the normal style of the magazine. So, genealogically significant names appear in bold, rather than being underlined—the standard magazine style reserves bold text for headings or exceptional emphasis. Ed.]

Edwin Witheridge and Matilda Thomas and Albertina Cumming

Edwin Witheridge, the fourth son of Edward Witheridge and Mary née Gear, was baptised on 11 December 1835 in Combmartin. In 1841 he was in the family home there with his parents and three surviving siblings—John, baptised 1828 (ancestor of our Vice President Rev David Witheridge), Susan, baptised 1838, and William John, baptised 1841. It must have been a very crowded cottage, for living with them were Edwin's cousin George Witheridge (son of John and Mary), born about 1836, and his maternal grandparents, William and Ann Gear.

By 1851 Edwin was working as a farm servant for Richard Turner, who farmed 108 acres, employing two labourers, at South Ley, Kentisbury. On 23 April 1859 (Jun qr 1859, Barnstaple 5b 833), Edwin married **Matilda Thomas**, born 21 March 1836, and baptised on 17 April 1836 in the Independent Chapel in Combmartin. She was the daughter of James Thomas, a lead miner born c 1802 in Berrynarbor, and his wife Mary née Harding, born c 1805 in Combmartin. Matilda died on 10 October 1860 (Dec qr 1860, Clifton 6a 71), probably during, or soon after, childbirth. Edwin and Matilda had

- 1 **William Thomas Witheridge**, born Dec qr 1860 (Clifton 6a 94). A William Witheridge died, Jun qr 1861 (Clifton 6a 94). Although William was alive at the time of the 1861 census, neither he nor his father has yet been found.

On 13 July 1863 in Holy Trinity Church, in the parish of St Philip, Bristol (Sep qr 1863, Clifton 6a 236), Edwin, a labourer, married **Albertina Cumming(s)**, a servant, born 20 November 1846 (Dec qr 1846 Tiverton 10.277), son of Joseph Cumming, a cooper. Edwin signed, but Albertina made her mark, and both were living in Gloucester Lane, Bristol. The witnesses were John Green and Henrietta Maria Wiltshire. Although registered at birth and marriage as Albertina, she was usually known in the family as Mary J, and reverted to the name Albertina only in later life. Although Albertina was born in Tiverton, her mother's home town, by 1851 she and the family were in John Street, Bristol, where her father Joseph was a cooper. In 1871, entered as Edward and Mary J, the Witheridges were living at 14 North Street, Swindon, where Edwin was working as a factory labourer. However, by 1873 they had moved to Aberavon, Wales, where they stayed for about three years, before moving back to Bristol by 1877. On 11 March 1881 Edwin, a haulier, died of inflammation of the lungs and pulmonary collapse at 3 Bailey's Folley, Bristol St Philip & St Jacob, (Mar qr 1881, Barton Regis 6a 109). His age was given as 42, although he was actually 45. In 1881, listed as Alberteena Witheredge, a 35-year-old widow born Tiverton, she was at 3 Bailey's Cottages, Bristol St Philip & St Jacob. Edwin and Albertina had

- 1 **Mary Elizabeth Witheridge**, born Jun qr 1864 (Bristol 6a 30). She died Dec qr 1865 (Clifton 6a 96)
- 2 **Joseph Edwin Witheridge**, born Sep qr 1866 (Bristol 6a 33). In 1871, listed as Edwin, he was with his parents at 14 North Street, Swindon. The family moved briefly to Wales, but had returned by 1877. His father died in 1881, when Joseph was just 14, and a few weeks later, still listed as Edwin, he was living with his widowed mother at 3 Bailey's Cottages, Bristol, and working as a domestic coachman. He married, Dec qr 1889 (Barton Regis 6a 334), **Mary Ellen Totterdell**. See page 34.
- 3 **William James Witheridge**, born Mar qr 1869 (Highworth 5a 11). He died, Dec qr 1870 (Highworth 5a 11), aged 1.
- 4 John William Witheridge, born Sep qr 1871 (Highworth 5a 22). He died, Mar qr 1872 (Highworth 5a 7), aged 0.
- 5 **George Alfred Witheridge**, born Mar qr 1873 in Aberavon, Wales (Merthyr Tydfil 11a 468), but by 1877 he had moved with the family to Bristol. His father died early in 1881, when he was just 8, and a few weeks later, with his place of birth given as Wells, Somerset (an error for Wales!), he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. As Albert George Witheridge, and with his place of birth stated as Aberban (an error for Aberavon) he joined the Royal Artillery, and was attested at Woolwich on 22 January 1891. His age was given as 18, height 5 ft 3¼ in, weight 126 lbs, chest 33-35 in, with fresh complexion, hazel eyes, and brown hair. His religious affiliation was Wesleyan. He named his next of kin as his mother, Mrs M J Offer of 9 Wellington Street, Bristol, also the address of Joseph Newman Offer, who in 1891 were said to be husband and wife. George Alfred was presumably unaware at that stage that his mother had not yet married

her second husband. By April 1891, still aged 18, he was serving at The Royal Artillery Heavitree Barracks, at Rewe, Devon, as a driver in the Royal Artillery, but his place of birth was wrongly given as Scotland. He married, on 25 June 1905 (Jun qr 1905, Bristol 6a 273), **Mary Hepburn**. At that time he named his father as Joseph Edwin Witheridge, miner, deceased. It's not surprising that he got the name wrong, as George had been just eight years old when his father died. He may have thought that his brother Joseph Edwin had been named after their father, and perhaps knew that his stepfather had been a miner, and attributed the same occupation to his birth father. George (listed as Alfred G), died Sep qr 1908 (Bristol 6a 59), aged 35, a few months after their only son was born. George and his wife had

1 **George Alfred Witheridge**, born Mar qr 1908 (Bristol 6a 175). He died, Dec qr 1917 (Bristol 6a 150), aged 9.

In Jun qr 1913 (Bristol 6a 332), George Alfred's widow, Mary Witheridge (née Hepburn), married Percy Smith. In Mar qr 1917, Mary O Smith, mother's maiden name Hepburn, was born (Reading 2c 616).

6 **Henry Albert Witheridge**, born Mar qr 1875, Aberavon, Wales (Merthyr Tydfil 11a 568), but by 1877 he had moved with the family to Bristol. His father died early in 1881, when he was just 6, and a few weeks later, with his place of birth given as Wells, Somerset (again, an error for Wales!), he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was living with his mother and stepfather at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol, and working as a lavant dresser. He married, Jun qr 1898 (Barton Regis 6a 234), **Lizzie Brodribb**. See page 35.

7 **Alfred Thomas Witheridge**, born Dec qr 1877, Bristol (6a 33). His father died early in 1881, when he was just 3, and a few weeks later he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was a dray boy for the Midland Railway, living with his mother and stepfather at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol. In 1901 Alfred (wrongly listed as Alfred T Offer), was working as a railway carter and living with his mother, who was again widowed, at 12 Dean Terrace, Bristol St Matthews. Visiting them was 22-year-old Mary Ann (Polly) Maggs, born Newton, Gloucestershire, a polisher at tin works. Alfred and **Mary Ann Maggs** were married, Dec qr 1902 (Bristol 6a 276). See page 36.

8 **Reuben William Witheridge**, born 23 April 1880, Bristol (Jun qr 1880, Bristol 6a 123). His father died early in 1881, when he was just a few months old and a few weeks later, listed as William, he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was a scholar, living with his mother and stepfather at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol. He married, on 4 August 1902 (Sep qr 1902, Bristol 6a 357), **Florence Lewis**. See page 37.

In 1891 **Albertina** (listed as Elbirtina Offer) was living with **Joseph Newman Offer**, born c 1838, Westerleigh, Glos, at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol St Philip & St Jacob, with three of her children and two boarders. Joseph was working as a mason's labourer. However, Albertina and Joseph didn't marry until 5 June 1892 (Jun qr 1892, Barton R 6a 302). Joseph died a few months after the wedding in Mar qr 1893 (Barton R 6a 71), aged 52. By 1901 Albertina, again a widow, was living at 12 Dean Terrace, Bristol St Matthews. She died, registered as Elbertina Offer, on 30 June 1903 (Jun qr 1903, Bristol 6a 11), in Bristol Workhouse, Stapleton, Bristol,

aged 57, and her death was registered the same day, by her eldest son, Joseph Edwin Witheridge, of 9 Avon Crescent, Hotwells, Bristol. The cause of death was given as locomotor ataxy, an extremely distressing condition which involves the gradual collapse of the nervous system, leading to muscle weakness, blindness and eventually death. Albertina was buried in a pauper's grave.

From the details given by her son George Alfred, it is clear that in 1891 he thought his mother was married to Joseph Newman Offer, and by the time of the 1891 census she was certainly living with Joseph. Given the family's staunch beliefs (some were non-conformist and many were Salvationists) it was probably Albertina's decision to live with someone without marrying him that led many of her family to decide not to maintain contact with Albertina. Her family were therefore probably unaware of Joseph's death in 1893, and Albertina's resultant poverty. Had they known, those very views which led them to stay away from her would probably have led them to support her in some way. As it was, Albertina had no support from her family, and the discovery that she had died in poverty and lay in a pauper's grave did not come until many years later.

Joseph Edwin Witheridge and Mary Ellen Totterdell

Joseph Edwin Witheridge was born Sep qr 1866 (Bristol 6a 33). In 1871, listed as Edwin, he was with his parents at 14 North Street, Swindon. The family moved briefly to Wales, but had returned by 1877. His father died in 1881, when Joseph was just 14, and a few weeks later, still listed as Edwin, he was living with his widowed mother at 3 Bailey's Cottages, Bristol, and working as a domestic coachman. He married, Dec qr 1889 (Barton Regis 6a 334), **Mary Ellen Totterdell**, born Mar qr 1870, Clifton (6a 61). However, in the 1891 census Mary E Totterdell, a 21-year-old dressmaker born in Clifton, and said to be single, was living with her family in Ellenborough Cottage, Hillside Road, Clifton, where her 47-year-old father, William Totterdell, was a police constable! There is no sign of Joseph Edwin Witheridge anywhere in England in 1891.

In 1901 Joseph and Mary Ellen were at 9 Avon Crescent, Clifton, where Joseph was a general labourer. Boarding with them was 18-year-old Frederick Tadgell, fireman on a laundry engine. They were still there in June 1903, when Joseph was the informant of his mother's death. By 1944 they were living at The Nest, Hewish, Somerset (near Crewkerne). Joseph died on 10 May 1944 at Crandon House, Temple Cloud, Somerset (north of Midsomer Norton), aged 77, and was buried in Weston-super-Mare. His effects were valued at £485 0s 0d, and admons were granted to Mary Ellen Witheridge, widow. Mary Ellen died on 8 September 1945 at 9 Osborne Road, Weston-super-Mare (Sep qr 1945, Weston 5c 399), aged 75. Her effects were valued at £418 12s 0d, and admons were granted to her daughter Ellen Catherine Goul(d)stone, wife of Walter John Goul(d)stone. Joseph and Mary had

- 1 **Edwin William Witheridge**, born Jun qr 1891 Clifton (Barton R 6a 50), who was in the family home in Clifton in 1901. He married, Mar qr 1916 (Bristol 6a 937), **Alicia E Caple**. Alice Ethel Caple was born Mar qr 1893 (Bedminster 5c 683). In 1901, aged 8 she was living with her mother, Celia, and seven siblings, in Long Ashton, north Somerset. Her father, a seaman, was not at home. Her parents, Samuel Capel and Celia Williams,

had married in Mar qr 1881 (Bedminster 5c 935). Edwin and Alicia had one child before separating.

1 **Albertina Ethel Witheridge** was born on 6 January 1918 (Mar qr 1918, Bristol 6a 7). She married, Mar qr 1940 (Bristol 6a 675) **Frank Charles Rossiter**, born 1916. Frank died in Jun 1981 (Weston 20. 1240). Albertina died, August 1999 (Glamorgan), aged 81. Frank and Albertina had

- 1 Son born 1943, who married and had two children
- 2 Son, born 1945 who married and had one child
- 3 Son born 1949, who married and had one child.
- 4 Daughter born 1952 who married and had three children.
- 5 Daughter, born 1957, married.

After the separation, both parties moved on. In Mar qr 1932 (Bristol 6a 339), Alicia E Witheridge or Caple married **William H Ball**, while **Edwin**'s new partner was **Elizabeth Beaven/Bevan**. Edwin and Elizabeth had

2 **Glyn Witheridge**, born 17 August 1927. He married, Mar qr 1950 (Salisbury 7c 991), **Joyce M Hull**. Glyn died, December 2000 (Salisbury, Wilts), aged 73. Glyn and Joyce had one son and two grandchildren.

3 Daughter, born 1929, married.

4 Daughter born 1932, married .

5 Son born Dec qr 1939. He married and had two sons and a daughter.

Edwin died, Mar qr 1966 (Salisbury 7c 635), aged 74.

2 **Ellen Catherine Witheridge**, born 11 July 1906 (Sep qr 1906, Bristol 6a 65). She married, Jun qr 1934 (Axbridge 5c 836) **Walter John Goulstone**. They were a staunch Salvation Army family. Ellen died in August 1990 (Colchester, Essex), aged 84.

Henry Albert Witheridge and Elizabeth Brodribb

Henry Albert Witheridge was born Mar qr 1875, Aberavon, Wales (Merthyr Tydfil 11a 568), but by 1877 he had moved with the family to Bristol. His father died early in 1881, when he was just 6, and a few weeks later, with his place of birth wrongly given as Wells, Somerset, he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was living with his mother and stepfather at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol, and working as a lavant dresser. He married, Jun qr 1898 (Barton Regis 6a 234), **Elizabeth Brodribb**, registered at birth as Lizzie (Jun qr 1877, Bristol 6a 7). It has been suggested that Elizabeth was related to John Henry Brodribb, later Sir Henry Irving, but as yet there is no proof of this. In March 1901 Henry and Lizzie were at 31 College Street, Bristol, where Henry was a labourer in the iron trade. A few weeks later when their daughter Violet was born at that address, his occupation was given as general porter. Henry, of 4 Wellington Terrace, Clifton, died on 17 April 1951 (Jun qr 1951, Bristol 7b 4), aged 76. His effects were valued at £400 0s 0d, and admns were granted to his widow, Elizabeth. Elizabeth, also of 4 Wellington Terrace, Clifton, died on 30 April 1958 at ManorPark Hospital, Bristol, aged 81. Her effects were valued at £615 1s 1d, and probate was

granted to George Pownall Atkinson, solicitor. Henry and Lizzie had

- 1 **Eva Elizabeth Witheridge**, born Jun qr 1900, Newtown, Bristol (Bristol 6a 111). Between 1919 and 1921, Eva is said to have had three children. However, the timings of these births are such that it is unlikely that all three were the children of Eva.
 - 1 *Son born 1919. He married, and had one son and three grandchildren, and later married again. He died in 1997.*
 - 2 *Son born 1920 who married and had two children.*
 - 3 *Daughter born Mar qr 1921.*Eva married, Jun qr 1926 (Bristol 6a 335), **Ernest P Caple**, who may have been related to the Alicia who married her cousin Edwin Witheridge. Two Ernest Caples were registered in Long Ashton within 5 years of 1900—Ernest Caple (Jun qr 1903, Long Ashton 5c 583) and Ernest Franklin Caple (Dec qr 1905, Long Ashton 5c 537).
- 2 **Violet Albertina Witheridge**, born 7 May 1901 at 31 College Street, Bristol (Jun qr 1901, Bristol 6a 83). She died, Jun qr 1902 (Bristol 6a 22) age 0.

Alfred Thomas Witheridge and Mary Ann Maggs

Alfred Thomas Witheridge was born Dec qr 1877, Bristol (6a 33). His father died early in 1881, when he was just 6, and a few weeks later he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was a dray boy, Midland Railway, living with his mother and stepfather Joseph Offer at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol. In 1901 Alfred (wrongly listed as Alfred T Offer), was working as a railway carter and living with his mother, who was again widowed, at 12 Dean Terrace, Bristol St Matthews. Visiting them was 22-year-old Mary Ann (Polly) Maggs, born Newton, Gloucestershire, a polisher at tin works. Alfred and **Mary Ann Maggs** were married, Dec qr 1902 (Bristol 6a 276). In 1907, when their son Arthur was born, they were living at 17 Brixton Road, Bristol St George, and Alfred was still a carter. On Monday 4 January 1943 the London Gazette published a notice from St James's Palace dated 1 January stating that the 'King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) to the undermentioned:' and the list included Alfred Thomas Witheridge, carter, Bristol, London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company. Alfred died, Jun qr 1962 (Bristol 7b 109), aged 84. Alfred and Mary Ann had

- 1 **Alfred George Witheridge**, born Dec qr 1903 (Bristol 6a 189). He died, Dec qr 1918 (Bristol 6a 259), aged 14.
- 2 **William Edwin Witheridge**, born 16 February 1906 (Mar qr 1906, Bristol 6a 200). He married, Jun qr 1925 (Bristol 6a 227) **Julia Lydia M Searle**, born 7 April 1904 (Jun qr 1904, Bristol 6a 183). William died in June 1993 (Bristol), aged 87. Julia died in July 1997 (Bristol), aged 93. William and Julia had
 - 1 **Son** born Dec qr 1925 (Bristol 6a 239). He married and had two children.
- 3 **Arthur Reuben Witheridge**, born 30 November 1907 at 17 Brixton Road, Bristol St George (registered Mar qr 1908, Bristol 6a 149). He married, Dec qr 1934 (Bristol 6a 252) **Gladys Violet Haymons**, born 20 January 1905. Arthur died, Mar qr 1982 (Bristol 22 0723), and Gladys died a few weeks later (Jun qr 1982, Bristol 22.0331). Arthur and

Gladys had a daughter, who married.

4 **Daughter**, born 1911, who married.

5 **Daughter** born 1914 who married.

6 **Henry E Witheridge**, born Dec qr 1916 (Bristol 6a 186). He died, Jun qr 1917 (Bristol 6d 139), aged 0.

Reuben William Witheridge and Florence Lewis

Reuben William Witheridge was born Jun qr 1880, Bristol (6a 123). In 1881, listed as William, he was living with his widowed mother in Bristol. In 1891 he was a scholar, living with his mother and stepfather at 9 Wellington Street, Bristol. He married, Sep qr 1902 (Bristol 6a 357), **Florence Lewis**. In 1957, when granted admons for the effects of his son William, Reuben was described as a retired foreman horsekeeper. Florence (Florrie) died Dec qr 1962 (Bristol 7b 211), aged 81, and Reuben died Mar qr 1963 (Bristol 7b 175), at 37 Stanbury Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol, aged 82. Reuben and Florence had

- 1 **William Thomas Witheridge**, born Sep qr 1903 (Bristol 6a 158). In 1956 he was living at 37 Stanbury Avenue, Fishponds, near Bristol. He died on 3 January 1957, at Barrow Hospital, Barrow Gurney, aged 53. No value was stated for his effects, and admons were granted to Reuben William Witheridge, retired foreman horsekeeper.
- 2 **Henry Witheridge**, born 19 July 1905 (Sep qr 1905, Bristol 6a 193), was usually known as Harry or Hank. He died on 11 January 1981 at 20 Blackberry Hill, Stapleton, Bristol.
- 3 **Florence Elizabeth Witheridge**, born Jun qr 1910 (Bristol 6a 169). She died, Jun qr 1911 (Bristol 6d 93) aged 0
- 4 **Elizabeth Lilian Witheridge**, born 20 March 1913, Bristol (Jun qr 1913, Bristol 6a 297). She married, on 30 July 1938 (Sep qr 1938, Bristol 6a 144) **Walter George Thomas**, born 9 October 1912. Elizabeth died on 12 February 1994, and Walter died on 19 May 2003, aged 90. Elizabeth and Walter had
 - 1 **Joy Witheridge Thomas**, born 22 May 1943. She married, 16 June 1964, **Maurice Allbrooke**, born 23 September 1935, Smethwick, Staffordshire. Maurice died on 25 January 1992 at Filton, Bristol (Bristol 22.920), aged 56. Joy and Maurice had one son.
 - 2 Son, born 1946, married.
- 5 **Alfred A Witheridge**, born Sep qr 1916 (Bristol 6a 281). He died, Jun qr 1918 (Bristol 6a 164), aged 1.
- 6 **Violet Doris Witheridge**, born 21 April 1920 (Bristol 6a 353). She married, Sep qr 1941 (Bristol 6a 241), Alec Arnold. Violet died Sep qr 1977 (Bristol 22.0981).
- 7 **Elsie Witheridge**, born 23 April 1922 (Jun qr 1922, Bristol 6a 318). She married, Sep qr 1949 (Bristol 7b 670), **Winston Jack Gould**, born 25 November 1912. Elsie died in November 1987 (Bristol 22.426), aged 65. Winston died in July 1990 (Bristol 22.644) aged 77.
- 8 Son, born Mar qr 1926, married, with one daughter, married.

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates Held by the Society as of Spring 2007

The Witheridge Family History Society holds a number of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates which have been donated by members. These are listed below. Please note that dates are in 'dd.mm.yyyy' format.



Joyce Browne keeps these certificates and will send information on request. Please send a stamped, self-addressed, envelope if requesting information by post.

The address is: Mrs J R Browne
5, Greenhill Avenue
Luton
Bedfordshire LU2 7DN
Telephone: 01582 729573
e-mail: Brownej392@aol.com

Birth certificates for surnames Witheridge or Wetheridge

<i>Christian Names</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Donated by Member No.</i>
Abel	18.01.1876	West Bromwich	081
Albert †	24.05.1884	Adelaide, Australia	107
Albert Edwin	20.08.1881	Christchurch	006
Albert Thomas	22.01.1889	St Pancras	023
Alfred Percy *	02.02.1855	Tavistock	008
Alfred Richard †	27.02.1886	Callington, S Australia	107
Alice Maud Mary	13.05.1867	Plymouth	006
Amy	19.02.1878	King's Norton	005
Ann	10.03.1853	Helston	108
Anne	21.01.1865	Helston	108
Annette Ruth	08.07.1960	Sutton Coldfield	005
Armond Alfred †	05.12.1874	Toronto, Canada	060
Arthur *	12.01.1887	Birmingham	005
Arthur Beer	12.10.1860	Plymouth	006
Arthur Ernest	20.12.1890	Birmingham	005
Arthur Harry	06.03.1892	Christchurch	006
Arthur John (Lapworth)	09.03.1884	Birmingham	006
Arthur Reuben	30.11.1907	Bristol	202
Beauchamp Henry	05.03.1884	Stoke Damerel	001
Bernard	24.09.1895	Falmouth	006
Catherine	10.09.1875	Helston	108
Cecil (Cyril) Frank	28.09.1893	Christchurch	006
Charles Roberts	01.06.1908	Tynemouth	001
Charles William	23.11.1856	Bridgwater	008

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
Charles William	20.06.1909	Bedwelty		008
Charles William J	12.09.1886	Swansea		006
Clara	30.08.1868	Bideford		183
Cordelia	27.04.1844	Tavistock		006
Dennis	01.07.1922	Birmingham		005
Dorcas Mary	30.09.1875	Stoke Damerel		022
Dorothy	19.12.1896	Fulham		001
Edmund	21.04.1839	Lymington		108
Edmund	21.04.1849	Plymouth		001
Edmund ‡	17.05.1861	Helston		108
Edmund ‡		Helston		044
Edward (Wetheridge)	14.08.1849	Totnes		008
Eileen	01.07.1922	Birmingham		005
Elizabeth	25.01.1838	Bideford		001
Elizabeth Jane ‡	26.12.1869	Helston		108
Emily	01.10.1846	Barnstaple		001
Emily	16.10.1867	Pancras		006
Emily	29.06.1871	Helston		108
Emily Alice	25.01.1868	Christchurch		006
Emily Louisa	26.02.1872	Newton Abbot		006
Emma	25.01.1878	Kingsbridge		006
Emma Jane	13.10.1844	Plymouth		006
Eva	16.11.1871	Barnstaple		001
Francis Robert *	29.05.1853	Plymouth		006
Frederick	09.02.1844	Birmingham		006
George	16.04.1840	Kingsbridge		008
George	23.01.1841	Barnstaple		001
George	28.09.1858	Newington		006
George †	09.12.1879	Adelaide, Australia		107
George	25.04.1892	Plymouth Charles		006
George *	25.02.1894	Aston		006
George Causey	11.05.1858	Marylebone		006
George Henry	06.05.1854	Poplar		006
Helen Rachel ‡	22.07.1971	Sutton Coldfield		005
Hilda Thomas	09.01.1886	Helston		044
Ian Arthur	26.05.1969	Birmingham		006
Isabella Annie	04.02.1881	Newport		006
Jacob	03.08.1850	Ilfracombe		001
James * ✕	27.04.1841	Barnstaple		001
James ✕		Combe Martin		065
James	04.01.1849	Barnstaple		001
James	08.06.1882	Aston		005
James Henry	04.01.1881	Birmingham		005
James Henry *	21.02.1907	Birmingham		006
Jane Thomas	22.05.1866	Helston		108
Jean	08.02.1935	East Stonehouse		064
John † ✕	18.11.1838	Combe Martin		074
John	22.12.1839	Bideford		060
John	24.03.1848	Williton		108
John *	06.11.1859	Weymouth		006

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
John	15.04.1865	Barnstaple		001
John	15.02.1870	Stratton		060
John †	11.06.1903	Perth, Australia		107
John F †	16.12.1869	Darlington, Canada		060
John Northmore	10.11.1872	Plympton St Mary		060
John Percy †	23.01.1899	Plantagenet, W Australia		107
John Roberts	14.02.1932	Tynemouth		001
John William	09.01.1862	Kingsbridge		006
Joseph Fred	21.06.1881	Plymouth		006
Julia Bernadette	26.04.1967	Birmingham		006
Lenna Beatrice	06.10.1870	Plymouth		001
Leslie Arthur	18.10.1914	Birmingham		005
Lilian	31.07.1903	Warrington		006
Lucy	22.04.1841	Stoke Damerel		006
Maria	23.05.1861	Barnstaple		001
Martha	21.12.1869	Helston		108
Mary (Blackmore)	12.06.1849	Barnstaple		001
Mary	20.09.1860	Poplar		006
Mary Ann (Wetheridge)	28.10.1844	St Pancras		006
Mary Ann ‡	23.04.1863	Helston		108
Mary Craven ‡	23.02.1893	Fulham		001
Mary Elizabeth	19.05.1880	Barnstaple		001
Mary Grace	17.04.1842	Bideford		183
Mary Jane Kitchen	30.07.1873	Helston		108
Mary Kitchen	18.10.1877	Helston		044
Michael	18.12.1949	Kidderminster		006
Michael	07.02.1952	Birmingham		006
Nellie	11.07.1921	Llanelli		181
Peter Richard	28.08.1943	Walsall		
Philemon *	01.06.1843	Walsingham, Norfolk		006
Philimon Thomas	27.09.1884	Falmouth		006
Philip	27.07.1870	Plympton St Mary		060
Philip Henry *	06.07.1934	Aylesbury		008
Philip Paul	30.04.1964	Lichfield		008
Polly *	05.07.1863	Tavistock		008
Reginald Charles * †	07.01.1890	Toronto, Canada		060
Richard	21.12.1867	Holsworthy		060
Richard †	11.07.1897	Toronto, Canada		060
Richard Charles ‡	11.02.1975			
Richard Henry	07.09.1935	Ermington		021
Robert	22.02.1880	Helston		006
Robert Herbert	12.10.1887	Pancras		023
Robert Matthew	06.12.1974	Birmingham		006
Sarah Jane	16.11.1868	Kingsbridge		006
Sarah Kate	30.05.1870	Kingsbridge		006
Sarah Mary	21.11.1858	Kingsbridge		006
Sidney Philip *	30.05.1898	Plympton St Mary		008
Simon Richard	05.04.1968	Cheltenham		008
Stanley Louis	24.07.1902	Devonport		006
Susan	26.09.1838	Barnstaple		001

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
Thomas	02.11.1872	Helston	044
Violet Albertina	07.03.1901	Bristol	202
Wallace Jacob ‡	23.02.1893	Fulham	001
William	15.12.1840	Barnstaple	001
William *	17.06.1852	Aston	006
William	23.09.1856	Barnstaple	001
William	21.10.1863	Holsworthy	060
William Charles †	25.08.1868	Toronto, Canada	060
William George	27.11.1901	Tavistock	008
William Henry	20.10.1870	Plymouth	006
William Henry †	10.12.1881	Adelaide S Australia	107
William Henry *	10.12.1917	Birmingham	005
William James	28.12.1856	Plymouth	006
William James	21.01.1905	Plymouth	006
William John	07.04.1873	Barnstaple	001
William John	23.11.1884	Barnstaple	006
William Leonard	17.10.1906	Christchurch	006
William Moses Bowden *	20.06.1838	Plymouth	006
Yvonne Dawn *	05.10.1963	Sutton Coldfield	005

* Denotes other certificates are held for the same person

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

‡ Denotes short birth certificate

✕ Denotes a baptismal certificate

Birth certificates for surnames other than Witheridge

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
AUSTIN, Arthur *	24.07.1876	Market Drayton	060
AUSTIN, Arthur Charles	21.10.1910	N. Shropshire	060
AUSTIN, Beatrice Mary	02.05.1909	Market Drayton	060
AUSTIN, Doris May	13.05.1902	Stroud	060
AUSTIN, Ronald	02.09.1907	N. Shropshire	060
BACKHOUSE, Frederick	12.06.1841	Huddersfield	060
BAKER, Lily ✕	01.04.1897	Christchurch	054
BANKS, Lilian Ray	01.08.1928	Bridgend	008
BEECH, Mary Elizabeth †	15.09.1914	Toronto, Canada	060
BOUNTY, Richard Matthew Penrose	27.09.1848	Plymouth	006
CORAM, William	30.10.1850	Stoke Damerel	006
COWELL, Emma Louise	19.07.1862	Plymouth	017
CROCKER, Elizabeth Ann	17.07.1858	Holborn	006
CROCKER, Elizabeth Ann	07.09.1865	Poole	006
CUMMINGS, Albertina	27.12.1846	Tiverton	102
JACKMAN, Mary Ann Collier	08.09.1907	Plympton St Mary	021
JAMES, Bertie	15.06.1894	Helston	108
JAMES, Bertie	15.08.1898	Helston	108
JAMES, John	02.10.1892	Helston	108
JAMES, William	08.11.1888	Helston	108
LAPWORTH, Benjamin Richard	21.12.1879	Birmingham	006
LUND, Winifred E F	16.07.1903	Devonport	008
MUMFORD, Rhoda Adelaide	10.09.1876	Plympton St Mary	021

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
MUNRO, David †	02.05.1880	Troon, Scotland	181
MUNRO, Elizabeth †	11.10.1906	Riccarton, Scotland	181
PAINTER, Mabel Kate	18.03.1862	Stroud	060
RICHARDSON, Frederick	18.04.1831	Chorlton	060
SANDOVER, Elsie May	02.04.1881	Plymouth Charles	060
SAUNDERS, Richard Morris	20.12.1846	Leeds	060
SKILLING, Wilhelmina †	25.10.1881	Old Cumnock, Scotland	181
SMITH, Alice Emily	21.10.1925	St Pancras	023
STREATFIELD, Cecil Joseph	13.03.1899	Lambeth	006
SYMES, Beatrice Sybil	01.03.1901	Wandsworth	006
TAYLOR, Stephen	31.01.1887	St Pancras	023
THOMAS, Alfred Daniel	06.10.1842	Bristol	054
WELCH, Ada Florence	18.07.1889	Birmingham	005
WELLS, Ellen ‡	26.06.1908	Tynemouth	001
WHITMEY, William Robert Witheridge	27.10.1879	Islington	006
WOOTTON, Jennifer Helen	03.07.1946	Smethwick	

* Denotes other certificates are held for the same person

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

‡ Denotes short birth certificate

✱ See reverse of marriage certificate of George Thomas

Births taken from the Ontario Index - no certificates

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location
WITHERIDGE, John F	16.12.1869	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Elizabeth M	30.06.1871	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Albert George	05.02.1873	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Armond Alfred *	05.12.1874	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Frederick L	22.01.1879	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Sarah Maud	04.09.1880	East Whitby Township
WITHERIDGE, Howard Noble	23.10.1882	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, George H	11.02.1885	Darlington Township
WITHERIDGE, Walter H	04.01.1896	Toronto Junction

* Denotes certificate is available

Marriage certificates for surnames Witheridge or Wetheridge

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
Abel	08.01.1838	East Stonehouse	006
Abel *	04.07.1908	Walsall	008
Albert	17.10.1908	Birmingham	008
Alfred Percy * † (see also Polly)	18.10.1879	Adelaide, S Australia	107
Alice	08.11.1846	Longfleet, Poole	006
Alice Emily	25.12.1913	Kentish Town	023
Ann Elizabeth	20.06.1857	Plymouth	006
Annie	12.08.1884	Cardiff	108
Annie	01.06.1903	Helston	108
Arthur	14.10.1851	Plymouth	006
Arthur	09.01.1866	Plympton St Mary	006
Arthur *	25.12.1913	Birmingham	005

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
Arthur	02.08.1947	Birmingham		005
Arthur Ernest *	06.06.1917	Chatham		006
Arthur George	13.04.1891	Christchurch		006
Arthur George *	05.03.1898	Christchurch		006
Arthur Harry *	01.09.1917	Mutford, Suffolk		006
Arthur John	03.06.1906	Aston Brook		006
Betsy	05.05.1847	Combe Martin		001
Caroline	01.05.1855	West Bromwich		006
Charles	01.04.1907	Swansea		006
Charles Roberts *	11.07.1931	Tynemouth		001
Charles William	23.05.1885	Swansea		006
Charlotte (Witteridge)	27.03.1838	Poole		006
Charlotte	03.12.1899	Helston		006
Christopher †	27.02.1895	Toronto, Canada		060
Clara	15.09.1893	Barnstaple		183
Clifford George †	08.10.1938	Toronto, Canada		060
Cyril (Cecil) Frank *	12.10.1940	Saffron Walden		006
Dennis *	25.06.1956	Smethwick		005
Dorcas Mary	06.02.1895	Stoke Damerel		181
Edmund	18.10.1870	Stoke Damerel		001
Edward	25.09.1870	Newton Abbot		008
Edward	18.09.1882	Merthyr Tydfil		060
Edwin	13.07.1863	Clifton		006
Edwin James Albert	13.10.1877	Christchurch		006
Eliza	10.06.1857	London City		001
Ellen	30.12.1853	Thurlestone		173
Emily	30.07.1868	Tavistock		008
Emily	24.05.1890	Chester-le-Street		065
Emma	25.05.1899	Loddiswell		006
Emma Jane *	28.06.1871	Poole		006
Frances	22.09.1891	Birmingham		006
Francis Robert *	28.04.1879	Christchurch		006
Frank *	22.07.1915	Dartford		006
Frank Lionel	11.10.1913	Christchurch		006
George	25.03.1839	Bradworthy		060
George	10.02.1860	Combe Martin		001
George	19.08.1861	Plymouth		022
George * †	21.07.1891	Invercargill, New Zealand		074
George Alfred	25.06.1905	Bristol		202
George 'Cassey' (Causey)	15.10.1882	Bideford		006
George Henry	25.12.1876	Holborn		006
George Henry	08.05.1899	Walsall		008
George Thomas	30.10.1864	Plymouth		006
Harry Arthur	27.07.1912	Bridgwater		008
Helen	14.07.1926	Camberwell		006
Henry	11.01.1841	King's Norton		060
Henry	24.06.1865	Plymouth		006
Henry	09.06.1945	Totnes		021
Ida †	21.10.1895	Bowmanville, Canada		060
Jacob Thomas	29.01.1876	Newcastle-on-Tyne		001

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
James *	14.08.1851	Newport		001
James	25.05.1856	Kingsbridge		006
James *	11.11.1871	Newport		008
James	12.11.1871	Paignton		006
James	15.06.1872	Barnstaple		001
James †	28.06.1877	Auckland, New Zealand		074
James *	19.05.1907	Birmingham		006
James Henry	15.09.1934	Smethwick		006
John (Wetheridge)	18.10.1868	Plymouth		006
John †	07.04.1801	Combe Martin		074
John †	25.11.1827	Combe Martin		074
John †	24.10.1831	Plymouth St Andrew		044
John	07.15.1859	Combe Martin		001
John	23.07.1864	Plymouth		065
John	09.10.1883	Falmouth		006
John †	09.04.1900	Toronto, Canada		060
John	10.02.1940	Truro		006
John Beer *	22.04.1840	Stoke Damerel		006
John Beer *	14.05.1882	Plymouth		006
John Edward	02.02.1895	Axbridge		008
John Northmore *	20.12.1867	Kingsbridge		017
John Northmore *	24.03.1903	Devonport		017
John Northmore	03.01.1905	Devonport		006
John Roberts	07.07.1979	N Tyneside East		001
Leah Maude	02.04.1919	Christchurch		006
Mahala	25.12.1871	Plymouth		001
Marjorie Hilda	28.07.1934	Fulham		001
Martha Pearse	25.11.1894	Helston		108
Mary Ann	22.02.1848	East Stonehouse		006
Mary Ann	15.07.1857	Plymouth, Holy Trinity		006
Mary Ann (Wetheridge)	25.12.1864	Marylebone		006
Mary Ann	01.11.1882	Helston		006
Mary Ann	12.06.1885	Holborn		006
Mary Craven	06.10.1919	Fulham		001
Mary Grace	11.07.1876	Cholsey, Wallingford		006
Mary Maria	19.12.1974	Tynemouth		065
Nellie	19.04.1947	Llanelly		181
Olive Prudence	22.06.1915	Kingston		001
Peter Richard	18.02.1967	Brownhills		066
Philemon	09.11.1871	Helston		
Philip	09.10.1857	Plympton St Mary		001
Philip Bowden	09.02.1840	East Stonehouse		006
Philip Henry *	02.09.1961	Stafford		008
Polly * † (see Alfred)				
Reginald Charles †	04.09.1912	Toronto, Canada		060
Richard *	26.03.1857	Bideford		060
Richard	15.09.1861	Tavistock		006
Richard	30.06.1863	Tavistock		006
Richard * †	29.04.1885	Bowmanville, Canada		060
Robert	05.03.1843	East Stonehouse		006

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
Robert *	10.05.1850	East Stonehouse		006
Robert	15.11.1859	Porthleven		108
Robert	03.02.1879	Birmingham		001
Robert	30.19.1918	Fulham		001
Robert	15.11.1919	Helston		006
Robert Ralph	17.07.1863	Plymouth		006
Samuel John	10.03.1878	Portsea Island		001
Sarah †	26.03.1891	Darlington, Canada		060
Sydney Philip *	29.12.1923	Plympton St Mary		008
Thomas	07.04.1841	Bradworthy		183
Thomas	27.08.1848	Plymouth		001
Thomas	08.11.1855	Weymouth		006
Thomas	11.07.1858	Plymouth		008
Thomas Henry	12.05.1942	Northumberland S		065
William	30.01.1842	Kingsbridge		008
William	08.03.1848	Plymouth		008
William	09.01.1851	Plympton		006
William	23.12.1853	Totnes		008
William	20.02.1854	Tavistock		008
William	21.01.1858	Kingsbridge		008
William	09.09.1872	Dudley		001
William	27.10.1872	Birmingham		001
William	29.03.1879	Barnstaple		001
William	25.03.1883	Cardiff		001
William (Withridge)	04.09.1870	Bridgwater		008
William Bowden	04.05.1935	Ermington		021
William Charles †	21.06.1889	Bowmanville, Canada		060
William George	20.07.1933	Plymouth		008
William Henry	17.03.1891	Weston Super Mare		006
William Henry	20.10.1894	Fulham		001
William Robert	???.03.1902	Poole		006
William Thomas * †	13.01.1886	Toronto, Canada		060
Yvonne Dawn *	23.11.1985	Smethwick		005

* Denotes other certificates are held for the same person

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

Marriage certificates for surnames other than Witheridge

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
AUSTIN, Arthur	03.03.1902	Hunslet		060
CURTIS, Mable †	17.12.1907	Bowmanville, Canada		060
MUNRO, David †	09.06.1906	Old Cumnock, Scotland		181
MUNRO, Elizabeth Wilson †	01.05.1929	Old Cumnock, Scotland		181
THOMAS, Daniel	08.08.1841	Bristol		054
THOMAS, George ✕	26.07.1939	Frome		054
WOOD, William	09.06.1866	Bradford		060

* Denotes other certificates are held for the same person

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

✕ See reverse of birth certificate for Lily Baker

Marriage certificates from Australia

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
WITHERIDGE, Annie	22.09.1974	Daly, S Australia	107
WITHERIDGE, Annie	26.12.1888	Adelaide, S Australia	107
WITHERIDGE, Edith	23.10.1897	Adelaide, S Australia	107
WITHERIDGE, Marian	16.11.1887	Adelaide, S Australia	107

Death certificates for surnames Witheridge or Wetheridge

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
Ada †	21.07.1946	Toronto, Canada	060
Ada Florence	17.02.1945	Birmingham	005
Alice	15.01.1842	Kingsbridge	001
Alice Eliza	10.01.1884	Christchurch	006
Andrew (Wetheridge)	31.12.1840	Kingsbridge	001
Ann	31.03.1877	Poole	006
Ann †	20.12.1884	Darlington, Canada	060
Arthur	29.12.1847	Plympton St Mary	006
Arthur	06.09.1855	Plymouth	006
Arthur *	13.03.1950	Birmingham	005
Arthur Harry	02.05.1970	Luton	006
Arthur Thomas	10.01.1860	Plymouth	006
Betsy	28.01.1838	Birmingham	001
Charles Roberts *	01.11.1974	Ashington	001
Charlotte Adel	17.08.1892	Newton Abbot	006
Charlotte Caroline	07.09.1936	Isleworth	001
Christopher †	04.03.1935	Toronto, Canada	060
Dennis *	31.12.1979	Birmingham	005
Edward	11.01.1860	Barnstaple	001
Edwin *	11.01.1860	Barton Regis	001
Eileen *	10.12.1967	Birmingham	005
Elizabeth	30.09.1837	Aston	001
Elizabeth	22.04.1859	Plymouth	006
Elizabeth †	25.09.1913	Cleveland, Ohio	060
Ellen *	20.11.1878	Daly, S. Australia	107
Emma	25.12.1859	Plympton St Mary	006
Emma	14.05.1908	Christchurch	006
Essma Daisy	09.06.1895	Newton Abbot	006
Fanny Elizabeth	14.07.1879	Bideford	001
George †	18.04.1884	Darlington, Canada	060
George	09.01.1893	Merthyr Tydfil	001
George *	17.09.1901	Pancras	001
George	04.06.1913	Devonport	001
George (killed in action)	01.07.1916	France	006
George †	11.02.1916	Toronto, Canada	060
George *	08.02.1929	Camberwell	001
George	29.06.1954	Exeter	006
George Coursey (Causey)	21.08.1931	Pancras	001
George Henry	22.01.1858	Stoke Damerel	006
George Verner †	02.02.1941	Toronto, Canada	060
Henry	10.02.1858	Plympton St Mary	006

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by	Member No.
Henry Light	11.01.1895	Poole		006
James * †	23.10.1911	Auckland, New Zealand		074
James	22.01.1915	Newport, Monmouthshire		006
Jane	11.10.1849	Plymouth		001
Jessie Mabel	29.01.1891	Bournemouth		006
Joan	11.09.1844	Barnstaple		001
John	25.05.1859	Bideford		001
John †	17.11.1915	Toronto, Canada		060
John †	???.09.1916	Dunedin New Zealand		074
John *	07.04.1945	Stoke Newington		006
Joseph	07.01.1872	Plymouth		001
Joseph William	02.04.1854	Plymouth		001
Leslie Arthur	08.05.1984	Birmingham		005
Martha	24.11.1895	Plymouth		006
Mary	04.01.1864	Plymouth		006
Mary	02.09.1868	Plympton St Mary		006
Mary	15.08.1874	Barnstaple		001
Mary †	18.04.1902	Toronto, Canada		060
Mary Ann	16.01.1840	Bristol		001
Mary Ann	13.06.1900	Plymouth		001
Mary Ann	10.10.1910	St Pancras		006
Mary Ann	25.11.1923	Hackney		006
Mary Elizabeth †	27.02.1985	Toronto, Canada		060
Matilda	17.04.1913	Toronto, Canada		060
Norman Albert	10.04.1976	Birmingham		005
Philemon *	27.07.1844	Walsingham, Norfolk		006
Philemon Thomas †	20.08.1937	New South Wales, Australia		084
Philip	11.05.1954	N Bucks		008
Philip Henry	14.01.1930	Plymouth		021
Rhoda Adelaide	11.12.1950	Plympton St Mary		021
Richard ✕	18.11.1845	Stoke Damerel		001
Richard	18.11.1961	Worth Valley		006
Robert	13.07.1851	Plymouth		006
Robert *	04.11.1897	Christchurch		006
Samuel John (killed in action)	27.02.1881	Majuba Hill S Africa		001
Sarah Grace * †	23.04.1905	Invercargill New Zealand		074
Sarah Jane *	09.07.1936	Luton		006
Sarah Victoria †	16.02.1900	Toronto, Canada		060
Sidney Philip *	08.01.1971	Cheltenham		008
Susan †	22.08.1934	Toronto, Canada		060
Susie A †	10.02.1909	Toronto, Canada		060
Thomas	21.11.1844	Kingsbridge		008
Thomas	08.09.1857	Plymouth		001
William (Wetheridge)	12.07.1838	Tavistock		001
William	28.12.1860	Barnstaple		065
William	13.12.1870	Bideford		006
William Bowden	07.11.1861	Plymouth		006
William Harry	08.02.1989	Birmingham		005
William John	27.12.1887	Pancras		006
William John	16.03.1938	Camelford		001

Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
William T †	10.05.1909	Palmerston, Canada	060
Winifred Emily F	28.07.1982	South Staffordshire	008

* Denotes other certificates are held for the same person

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

* Certificate held by Kim Cook

Death certificates for surnames other than Witheridge

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Donated by Member No.
AUSTIN, Mary	10.05.1910	Market Drayton	060
BEECH, Arthur John †	27.05.1957	Toronto, Canada	060
FOSTER, Elizabeth J †	19.03.1909	Bowmanville, Canada	060
FOSTER, John †	???.08.1902	Bowmanville, Canada	060
OFFER, Albertina	30.06.1903	Bristol	102
SANDOVER, Maria *	13.11.1901	East Stonehouse	060
SMITH, Alice Emily	30.10.1925	St Pancras	023
SMITH, Ellen F.	06.05.1972	Hampstead	023
SMITH, Henry G.	23.05.1976	Hampstead	023
WELCH, James	28.11.1917	Wallingford	183
WELCH, Mary Grace	25.12.1923	Nottingham	183

† Denotes certificates not available from the General Register Office (GRO), London

* Maria Sandover—found not to be Maria Tall Sandover Witheridge

Deaths Taken From Ontario Index

Surname and Christian Names	Date	Location	Index Number
WITHERIDGE, Ann	20.12.1884	Darlington Township	#011883-84
WITHERIDGE, George	20.12.1884	Darlington Township	#011850-84
WITHERIDGE, Herman L	10.09.1884	East Whitby Township	#012781-84
WITHERIDGE, Leslie Eugene	05.08.1887	Pickering Township	#012308-87
WITHERIDGE, Viola Rose A	31.12.1892	Toronto	#020711-92
WITHERIDGE, William	30.01.1892	Toronto Junction	#020430-92
WITHERIDGE, William F	03.11.1894	Bowmanville	#011939-94
WETHERIDGE Elizabeth I	21.03.1899	Toronto Junction	#029713-99
WETHERIDGE Sarah V	16.02.1900	Toronto	#001409-00
WITHERIDGE, Nettie M	02.09.1900	Darlington Township	#018740-00
WITHERIDGE, Mary	18.04.1902	Toronto	#002031-02
WITHERAGE, Linda	24.08.1904	Bowmanville	#019333-04
WETHERIDGE, Susan A	19.02.1909	Toronto	#001685-09
WITHERIDGE, William S	01.05.1909	Palmerston	#031285-09
WITHERIDGE, Richard	06.12.1910	Darlington Township	#022223-10
WITHERAGE ?? (Female)	15.10.1912	Bowmanville	#022775-12
WITHERIDGE, Matilda	17.04.1913	Toronto	#003186-13
WITHERIDGE, Eldon David C	03.01.1915	Toronto	#001085-15
WITHERIDGE, John	17.11.1915	Toronto	#006372-15



Strange Relations

We may think that we are familiar with reading wills, but sometimes terms which seem straightforward can be misleading and set us searching for persons who don't exist.

'Mother', for instance, can mean 'stepmother'. 'Son-in-law' can set us searching for a daughter's husband—puzzling if a marriage was not known to exist. However, 'son-in-law' frequently refers to one whom we would call a 'step son', meaning a child of a previous marriage of a husband or wife.

Similarly, 'father-in-law' can refer to a stepfather.

A reference to a 'brother' could include what we would call a stepbrother or a brother-in-law.

'Cousin german' was what we would term a first cousin, but the term 'cousin' was widely used and could be applied to relatives who were not cousins, unless they were as close as an uncle or aunt. 'Cousin german' is derived from the French *cousin germain*.

An 'own brother' is one having the same mother and father, but 'one of the half-blood' is one having only one parent in common.

'Heirs male' is more straightforward and means sons, grandsons and other males, while 'heirs of the body' means legitimate children, and 'heirs general' and 'right heirs' includes male and female heirs entitled to inherit.

I think that the least attractive term I have come across is that of 'relict'—meaning the widow of the deceased. For me, this conjures up a vision of someone who is left over, unwanted or discarded, but I am sure that, in your researches, you will find 'relicts' who re-married and became happy wives.

On the side: A cautionary tale of an e-mail that went astray

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon twenty years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and, without realising his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who had a heart attack and died. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife. Subject: I've Arrived Date: October 16, 2004. I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. P.S. Sure is hot down here!

The River

*Each drop a history of time
absorbed and energised, carried to the sea.
Evaporated haze of memory,
released, recycled.*

*Eternal hopes set free to soar
beyond the binding shores of living's dross.
Carried to virgin soils, endeavours cross
renewed, recycled.*

*Fragile the living in its depths,
a world we came from, save it from our need.
Our actions fuelled by ignorance and greed,
destructive, recycled.*

*Fecund imagination flows
from small beginnings to a leap of power.
Call back from childhood every precious shower,
awakening, recycled.*

*Rivers of life sweep us along,
fighting a straying will, great warriors
calling us from infinity, time's debtor to live,
recycled?*

Lorna Home

Lorna Home joined the Society in 2006. Asked for one of her poems to appear in The Witheridge Times, she chose this one because she thinks a river is like a family through the generations. The River won a Highly Commended award in the 1998 Shell Research Wirral Prize for literature.

Family Recipes



By Beryl Witheridge

Sorry, but there are no actual recipes, or any mouth-watering pictures of the resulting dishes, in this issue! Instead, I have decided to ‘advertise’ the newly-published *Witheridge Family History Society Twentieth Anniversary Recipe Book*. The *Family Recipes* series will revert to normal, with a new recipe, in the next issue.

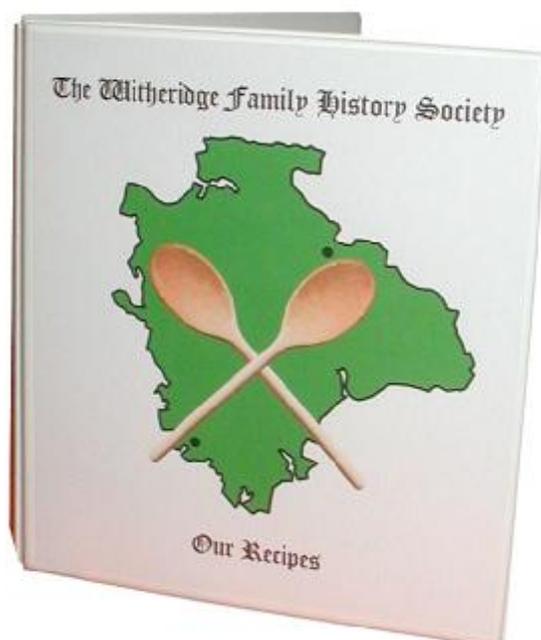
I have included a picture of the book, below.

You may recall that, when I published the first recipe, in the 2005 summer issue of *The Witheridge Times*, I said that I intended to collect all the recipes together into a book.

Well, that’s now done and it contains fifty-four recipes contributed by members. The pages of the book are laminated in clear plastic and held in an A5-sized, two-ring, binder. You can wipe the pages clean, if they attract a little too much food in the kitchen, and the ring binder opens flat, so it’s easy to refer to while both hands are busy in the kitchen. You can also take out an individual page, consult it while preparing the dish, and put it back later.

The ring-binder has another advantage. I have received more recipes after completing the book. So, instead of a one-off cookery-book, I now plan to provide updates, every year, in the form of laminated pages that you can add to the binder.

I shall be selling copies of the recipe book, at the upcoming Anniversary Reunion, for £5.00 each (all of which will go to the Society). For those of you who are unable to get to the Reunion, this year, but would like to buy a copy of the book, the price will be £5.00 plus postage and packaging. The book weighs about 600g and postage and packaging to send to a UK address should be no more than £2.50. If any overseas members wants a copy, contact me and I can give you an estimate of the cost of sending it. You can reach me by e-mail, to Beryl@Witheridge.net, or by post to the address shown for the secretary on the inside cover of this magazine.



Not Members e-mail Addresses

By the Editor

We have no e-mail address updates to publish in this issue. I thought that, as *Witheridges* are themselves something of a *rare* breed, a good substitute would be the following, sent in by Kim Cook.



One rare breed meets another!

Two-year-old Lauren Cook, daughter of Jason and Zoe and granddaughter of Kim, meeting a piglet at the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch, Kent.

Post scriptum: the next issue

The next issue will appear around the end of August and will largely be a commemorative issue with details and many photos of the Reunions.

However, I will also be publishing other articles, including some that have been deferred from this over-sized issue. One of these will be my own article in the series on searching back-copies of the magazine using your computer.

Until the next issue, may good fortune attend you. *The Editor.*

Continued from inside front cover

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