



Hello "Witheridge family",

I am starting this task with a feeling of considerable trepidation and have deliberated for many hours about the format of this Newsletter; how much or how little I should include. I have decided not to attempt to make each Newsletter follow the same outline, and therefore this, the first of my attempts, will concentrate on outlining recent family news and events, as well as hoping to encourage the whole family to help me with future newsletter items.

Until a new editor and publisher is found, I will do my best to keep every family member linked to the whole. Let's first of all assure you that each one of the Officers of the Society will continue to fulfil their role as before, (God willing). The only exception will be that Kim will now be concentrating on her role as Research Co-ordinator, and future newsletters will occasionally include articles written by her.

With the temporary loss of TWT, some members may be concerned about the fact that no mention is being made as to whether we are getting value for our annual subscription. We will again be considering the question of subscriptions at the AGM in 2015. In the next issue of the Newsletter, Barbara Finemore, our Membership Secretary, will bring us up-to-date with some important points regarding our subscriptions.

U.K. members (with the exception of officers), will receive their Newsletter by post, so please do not forget to let me know if you move home!! The Regional Representatives will try to ensure that the members in their countries receive their copies immediately they are available. Unfortunately, we still have no representative for America and Canada, so if you live in those areas, maybe you can consider helping out?? Until someone comes along, I will e-mail the copies to members in America and Canada - so again, do let me know if you change your e-mail address!!

I am hoping that all family members will think about contributing to the Newsletter. Overseas members, please send contributions to the Newsletter to your Regional Rep., so that they will be able to collate all their members' items and send them on to me.

Hope you find something of interest in this Newsletter No.1

Take care of yourselves, and each other.

Love from Beth (Neilly)

U.K. Reunion - Devizes - 31st May, 2014.



Rob Staples, Barbara & Terry Finemore, Jason, Beth, Kim & Roy Cook, Liz and Chris. Davey, Rowena & Neil Witheridge. (Sorry Neil - almost out of the picture!!)

The Reunion part of the day was prior to the AGM in view of the fact that Rowena and Neil Witheridge, and Rob. Staples, (all Australian members) were going to be able to join us in the morning, but would need to be away before the AGM. Rowena and Neil very kindly broke into their UK holiday and Rob travelled all the way from Newton Abbot in Devon on the Saturday morning and had to get back there in time for an evening engagement with the rest of the Australian team who were in the UK for the fly-fishing championships. We don't yet know how the team got on, but I am asking Rob to let us have a bit of a write-up on their time in the U.K. I am hoping that Rowena and Neil will be happy to give us an outline of their trips around the Witheridge haunts.

The Saturday morning was very "laid-back". Kim had brought her massive collection of Witheridge memorabilia and was able to provide and receive information to add to other folks' collections. Kim was saying that she would love members to ask her for help with gaps in their knowledge. In future newsletters I hope to be able to re-present articles and information from earlier TWT journals. Now that we have been able to relieve Kim of some of the burden of responsibility, she may well be able to let us have details of what information she has available. Perhaps we can look towards producing some discs which can contain some of the

materials that are in the possession of members. If you have ideas of how we can extend the materials available, do please let me have them and the committee can consider the ideas further.

Sorry, I digress!! Back to the UK reunion! Rob used the Museum's large Screen to show us documents and photographs from the Phileman Witheridge collection. The majority of the Australian members are descended from Phileman and Mary Corveth. On one of the following pages of this Newsletter, I have given the brief outline of how Phileman and Mary settled in Australia.

Following the time spent exchanging information, we had a beautiful buffet lunch together, which was brought into the venue by a local provider. The Witheridge cake, provided by a non-family member, was cut by Rowena and Jason, and then enjoyed by all.

After the AGM everything was packed away in the car boots and nine of us met up in the evening for our reunion meal at the Raven Inn, just outside Devizes. Although it was disappointing that our Australian cousins were not able to stay for the meal, having the company of our auditor, Derek Nixon and his wife Sheila, was a real bonus. Kim and Roy have been friends with Derek and Sheila for many years. Because Kim and Roy were able to stay at their home for a few days, it really was a golden opportunity for Kim especially to re-charge her batteries.

We all chose to do our own thing on the Sunday, Liz and Chris were going off on holiday; and Barbara and Terry staying an extra few days to enjoy this lovely old town and surrounding district. I took the opportunity to catch up with some friends in Trowbridge, just a few miles from Devizes. Feedback after the day was very positive and we would certainly recommend the venue for such events in the future.

Beth.

Next year's AGM and U.K. Reunion.

In the next edition of the Newsletter, we hope to bring some suggestions as to possible dates and venues for this event. There is a strong possibility that Jennifer and Richard Woolcott, and Angela Rundle (Beth's sister) will be with us from Australia, and also Steve Karnes and his wife Becky from Michigan. It would be super if some more of our family members can add to the number.

Note: *Bill will be placing more photographs of both the Australian and the UK reunion days in the gallery section of the web-site.*

Witheridge Family Reunion
Greenwell Point, New South Wales, Australia. 30th March, 2014

It was a glorious day at Greenwell Point: still and warm, sunny blue sky reflecting in the calm waters of the Crookhaven River. On this beautiful day members of our Witheridge Family came together for our annual reunion.

We gathered at the Bowling Club in our designated area chatting over a cuppa whilst sharing photos old and new and exchanging family news. This year we rearranged the smaller tables to form one large communal table enabling us to share conversations more readily.

After assembling in the sunshine for a group photo (see attached) we enjoyed a delicious lunch before gathering for a more formal meeting. We had sixteen attendees and acknowledged twenty two apologies. The following is a summary of our meeting:

- It was with some sadness mixed with pride and pleasure that my first duty as new organiser for our reunion, was to thank my Aunt Judith and Uncle Allan (Witheridge) for the wonderful job they have done over many years in arranging for us to get together on a yearly basis. Their dedication to this task has meant that this event continues to appear with anticipation on our yearly calendars.
- Congratulations were expressed to Toby and Bev Witheridge who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary today and to Dave Gordon-Smith who turned 90 since our last reunion.
- A letter from Witheridge Family History Society (WFHS) Secretary, Beth Neilly was tabled and shared. She expressed her disappointment that she was unable to attend this year and we too are sorry that you were too far away to join us, Beth. Paying tribute to Judith and Allan who have been Australian Representatives for the WFHS for many years, Beth wrote about the hard work they had put in over a number of years. Beth also extended her best wishes to Richard and me for taking on “the reins of responsibility” this year. We are proud to accept the challenge but know we have big shoes to fill!
- Beth also noted that the UK AGM will be on 31st May / 1st June which will coincide with a visit to England by Rob Staples, whose mother, Mary (nee Witheridge), hailed from Greenwell Point. Rob is the Australian Team Manager for the XI Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships being held in Devon, England. He is planning to attend the AGM bearing a card carrying best wishes and signatures from family members present at today’s reunion. Good luck, Rob, and we look forward to a report from you for next year’s reunion!
- A reminder was given for us to continue our efforts in updating our records of the descendants of Philemon and Mary Witheridge. We have some copies of lovely old wedding photos of their children and thought it might be a nice idea to continue in a similar vein where possible. It is fascinating to note the changes of fashions over the years – even in our lifetimes.
- “Lost - And Found”, an account by Beth Neilly and Angela Rundle along with copies of related newspaper articles from 1940’s chronicles their separation as youngsters London and their ultimate reunion 58 years later in Australia. Permission was sought to retain a copy in our files. If you haven’t read it, it’s certainly worthwhile doing so.
- Mention was made of Richard’s (Woolcott) very recent discovery of a book called “The Forgotten Flotilla” which recalls a situation during World War II, where coastal fishing boats

were bought or confiscated for use in providing supplies to troops in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Ken Witheridge, Rob's uncle, was mentioned as a volunteer who served time on one of these boats. Allan remembered hearing about his voyages. We have acquired a copy of the book and hope, with Rob's assistance, to have more details next year.

- Discussion ensued regarding ways in which we might encourage younger members of our families to become curious about their heritage, enable their participation and get to know members of their wider family. We acknowledged the difficulties involved such as travelling long distances with young children, weekend sporting commitments, lack of a suitable venue to suit their interests etc. It was realised that there is a sentimental attachment for our generations to continue to meet in Greenwell Point. Late March or early April was thought to be ideal weather-wise. An idea broached, was the feasibility of a river cruise from Nowra, down the Shoalhaven River, through the Canal to the Crookhaven River and Greenwell Point. This would give a purpose, an activity to share, a magnificent moving location and take half an hour off the car trip both ways. Thanks to Toby and Bev who have volunteered to investigate this possibility.
- A vote of thanks was given to Alma Templeman (nee Witheridge) who once again had provided a beautifully decorated fruit cake for the occasion. This year she was asked to do the honour of cutting the cake.

Following our fond farewells we went our separate ways taking with us enough warm-hearted memories to tide us over until next year.

Report by Jennifer Woolcott (nee Witheridge) Australian Representative WFHS



Back row: (L to R) Rowena Witheridge, Philemon (Toby) & Bev Witheridge, Greig Witheridge, John Witheridge, John Templeman, Neil Witheridge, Allan & Judith Witheridge, Tanh (good friend & kind driver for John & Hansa). **Front row:** Ileen Gordon-Smith, Margaret Witheridge, Hansa Witheridge, Angela Rundle, Alma Templeman (nee Witheridge), Jennifer Woolcott (nee Witheridge), Dave Gordon-Smith.

Philemon WITHERIDGE and Mary CORVETH

Porthleven harbour itself was constructed in 1825, and was extremely problematical, to say the least, to access. Even though a large fishing fleet for Mackerel & Pilchards soon started fishing off the coast, Porthleven remained a dangerous and difficult harbour to access. The port was taken over in the 1850's by Harvey & Co, a Hayle based firm, and they made major improvements to the harbour, leaving the massively-built harbour that we can see today.

Philemon was born in Watchet, Somerset to parents Thomas a Coastguard from Ilfracombe in Devon and Jane Thomas from Gunwalloe, Cornwall. He was one of six boys Robert, Edmund, William, Philemon, John and Jacob and two girls Jane and Ann.

In 1831 the family are living in Ilfracombe but by 1861 had moved to Sithney in Cornwall where Philamon is listed as a fisherman. In 1871 he has become a sailor and his father is a superannuated retired coastguard.

Mary Corveth was born in St. Columb in 1852, her parents were Joseph Corveth an agricultural labourer from St Breock in Cornwall and Martha Broad from Helston. In 1861 the family are living in Porthleven in the parish of Sithney enumerated as TREVATH.

Joseph Head M 44 Farm Labourer Cornwall Wadebridge – 1817-1870 – Helston.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Martha Wife | F aged 44 Cornwall – |
| William Son – | M aged 11 Scholar Cornwall – |
| Mary Dau – | F aged 9 Scholar Cornwall – |
| Martha Dau – | F aged 7 Scholar Cornwall – |
| Robert Son – | M aged 4 Scholar Cornwall – |
| BROAD William | Father-in-Law W M 75 Cornwall. |

Philemon and Mary Corveth were married on the 9th November 1871 and migrated to Queensland Australia in 1875 aboard the ship 'Ophelia'.

Their first two children Jane and Thomas were born in Queensland, sadly Thomas died when he was just four months old. The young family then moved to NSW, their next daughter being born in Newcastle, from there they moved to Sydney where Mary, Martha, Annie and Philemon were born. Annie also died when only a few months old.

Philemon and Mary finally settled in the Shoalhaven about 1844 when their next child, Thomas was born, followed by Robert, Ann, Joseph, William, Esther, Elizabeth, Maud and Jacob.

Two of Philemon and Mary's sons both listed as fishermen enlisted in the World War 1.

Thomas lost his life in France and Robert was severely injured losing his left leg and right arm. During his convalescence in England he met and married Jean Elizabeth Byles.

MEMBER PROFILES
JULIA CROCKER – Member # 193

Julia Crocker born in 1948 was educated at Shaftesbury High School in Dorset and then Bath following a family move.

After six years in the Civil Service she gave up full time work in 1974 to look after her children, four sons, all born in the 1970s and during this time she embarked upon an Open University degree. Many part time jobs followed while juggling family and study: social work with the RNID, secretary to a surgical appliance fitter, lollipop lady, cinema usherette, market researcher, spot welder - all true! BA degree accomplished, she then enrolled as a full time student at Bath College of Higher Education and gained a B Ed. Teaching jobs in the area were few and far between so after a period of supply teaching she started work as a staff trainer for Homebase in 1986 and later managed a Barnardos charity shop.

With children all at secondary schools, full time work was possible and the Ministry of Defence were recruiting so Julia returned to the Civil Service in 1989. During the next 16 years she had a successful career starting in the Pay and Personnel Agency. CIPD qualifications gained later as a training manager. Promotion to training and development advisor followed and finally she moved into business improvement consultancy and performance assessment for the Defence Procurement Agency in Bristol, also gaining IMC consultancy qualifications.

Julia also did further Open University studies and gained a BA Honours in 2001. Julia took early retirement in 2005 in order to move to Orkney which she had loved since her first visit in 1994.

She has run an Arts and Crafts shop in Stronsay and has served on Stronsay Development Trust since Feb 2007 being chair from May 2009 to November 2011.

Julia says that she is now beginning to think about retiring AGAIN, and perhaps re-locating South.

Julia is descended from the Bideford Witheridges. William Witheridge b 1797 m Fanny Cawsey b 1797, their daughter Fanny Elizabeth Witheridge b 1827 m James Henry Crocker b 1828 then the family continued in London; St Pancras, Willesden and then Croydon . Her g.grandfather, William Crocker b 1853 then grandfather, William G Crocker b 1880 and her father Horace George Crocker b 1915.

Note from Beth:

Thank you Julia for letting me use your profile. I would be very pleased to receive profiles from many more family members - that way we can all get to know each other better!! Don't be shy - photograph as well would be super!!

RECENT FAMILY NEWS

Many of you may have heard of the passing of EVE WITHERIDGE who died peacefully on 7 June 2014 in Christchurch New Zealand aged 92. Eve was the mother of Sue Witheridge (# 209 - U.K.) and Aunt, by marriage to Kim Cook, (#1- Honorary Life President) Eve's late husband, David Witheridge passed away in 1979.

For many years, Eve was a member of WFHS. Members who were able to attend the 10th Anniversary of the Society will have met Eve. In recent years, Sue took over her mother's membership.

David and Eve had three children, Brian, sue and Tony, and 2 grandchildren.

Members who have access to the Witheridge website might like to have a look at Volume 16 No. 2 (Summer 2002) of TWT. In that edition there is a most interesting article written by Eve, about "The Ninety Niners".

The sad news has also reached us of the death of JOHN JAMES (#108). John, with his wife, Pat, belonged to the Canadian branch of the Witheridge family. I hope to be able to have a profile on John for a future Newsletter.

In the meantime, I know that all Society members will join me in sending our sincere condolences to the families, especially to Sue and Pat.



Eve Witheridge

N.B. Note from Beth: *Do please let me have a note, either by e-mail, or via your regional representative, of family news, both joyous and sad. (beth.neilly40@gmail.com)*

Signing off now – plan to have next issue for you early in October. Until then, do of KEEP IN TOUCH!!

Beth (Neilly) #253