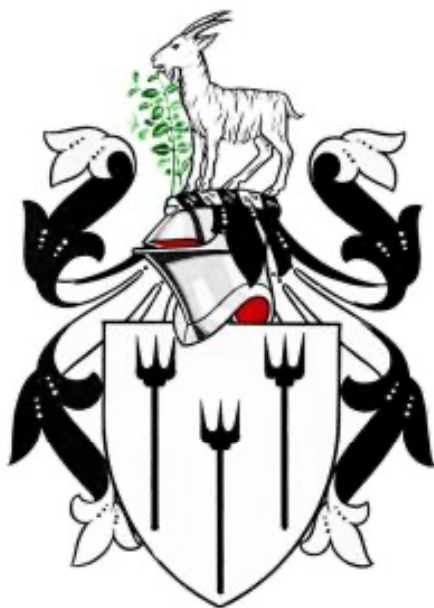


Worthington Family History Society Newsletter



November 2024

Worthington Family History Society

Newsletter

Contents

Page 3	Letter from the President
Page 5	William C and Suzanne Worthington
Page 6	Nigel Kennedy Worthington
Page 8	In the Papers...
Page 9	Looking Back

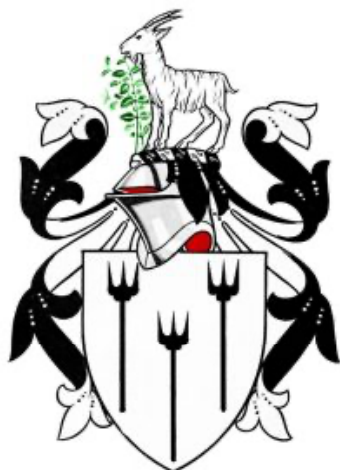
Remember to visit our website at

www.worthingtonfhs.org

Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

These are tough times for many Family History Societies. I am a member of a couple of the big ones and they are struggling to maintain their membership base. At the same time they are trying to increase the number of younger genealogists who will hopefully carry on the remarkable work and research of their parents, grandparents and great grandparents. The Worthington Family History Society is much smaller and is in a similar position.



We have sadly lost several members over the last 4 to 5 years as age has caught up on them. This has included brothers Philip and Stuart Worthington, both founder members and prolific contributors to the work and direction of the Society. On a more positive note, we have had three new members over the past year- one in the US and two in the UK. A warm welcome to them: Linda Zuzik, Daniel Worthington and Alan Bowden.

To rectify our membership problem, we need young blood especially to be able to manage and develop our presence on social media and the internet, so please have a word with your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces and encourage them to join us.

Council News

William (Bill) Worthington has stepped down as council member for the Americas. While we seek a US citizen to take over his role, Heather Lawrence, who has recently joined the council, has kindly agreed to act as interim counsellor. If American members need to feed in any information or pose questions to council, please send them to Heather by way of the generic Society address: wfhs.contact@gmail.com. Bill's wife Sue has also stepped down as our longtime membership secretary. While we wait to fill this slot again, Hannah Horton and I will, between us, manage any membership enquiries or issues. An appreciation of the sterling work and contribution made by both Bill and Sue to the Society appears in this edition of the Newsletter.

Council met over the northern summer to take stock of where we are as a Society and assess progress on current projects. It also considered the future of the Society given the low membership numbers and current level of engagement. We

agreed to keep the Society going for the time being, but decided to scrap (at least for the foreseeable future) the annual membership subscription in an attempt to attract new members who may apply to join via the website or by writing to the secretary. Those of you already members will remain so until you formally resign.

With regard to projects, we agreed to continue the work on the second and third volumes of the Worthington Families of the 17th Century, but not to take on any new projects after these have been completed. This position can be revisited should there be a renewed interest and rising membership numbers in the future.

Volume two is almost finished and will be published firstly on our website. We also intend to publish a limited run paper copy (but not as a hardback book) early next year. Any member wishing to obtain a paper copy, please register that interest by writing a letter or sending an email to the Society secretary at the address mentioned above.

The content of volume three has been agreed and will include all of the Cheshire pedigrees plus one for London and those Home Counties not already covered in other volumes. We also intend in this final volume to try to summarise the 17th Century Project as a whole and draw some general conclusions. This would include such matters as the migration patterns and connections between all Worthington families present in England, Wales and parts of the United States during the 17th century. This volume will also be published on the website as well as a limited publication paper copy. Given that volume three is essentially being worked on only by me with grateful assistance from Heather Lawrence, it may be sometime before it is finished, but there is a target of the end of 2025.

I wish you a pleasant Autumn in Europe, Fall in the United States and Spring in Australasia. Until the next time.

Ian

Ian A Worthington
President, WFHS
November 2024

William C and Suzanne Worthington

“Bill” and “Sue”, as they are better known, have been members of the Society and its predecessor, the 17th Century Project, since its inception in 2005. With roots in rural Leicestershire (Bill recalled it was the research conducted by his grandfather on his travels in England, left to Bill as a pile of papers by his father, which got him interested in family history) he and Sue have been resident in California since 1975.

Bill has been one of the major contributors to our databases, principally responsible for the indexing of all eleven volumes of the *Register of Worthington References*. In this, he worked closely with the late Stuart G Worthington.

As a member of Council and responsible for the Americas, Bill as such has acted as the contact point for members across the continent, feeding that input into Council. He has also helped sell and distribute copies of Volume 1 of *The Worthington Families of the 17th Century*. Alas after many years of service, he has recently decided to step down from this position.

Throughout his time as a Councillor, Bill has been ably supported by his wife Sue. But she didn't rest on her laurels, and, in her role as our long serving Membership Secretary, has been the WFHS point of contact for worldwide enquiries, as well as keeping Council up to date on all membership comings and goings.

Now both in WFHS retirement, we wish them well and record our heartfelt gratitude for all they have done for the Society over many years.

WFHS Council



of

Nigel Kennedy Worthington

Nigel Kennedy Worthington was born on 22 Jan 1885, the middle of the three sons of Henry Hugo Worthington of Sale Hall, Manchester and his wife Amelia Maud (nee Kennedy). He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and later entered the Army. He was a keen and accomplished horseman and in 1908 was commissioned into the 3rd Dragoon Guards, a cavalry regiment. He briefly resigned his commission in early 1914 only to be recalled on the outbreak of war and within days was in France.

On the 11th of May 1915 his detachment were ordered to inspect the trenches near Ypres prior to the regiment taking them over. Almost as soon as they had settled in they came under intense artillery bombardment and then infantry attack. There were many casualties. The next day he was gazetted for the Military Cross. The citation reads:

“Capt Nigel Kennedy Worthington 3rd Dragoon Guards
Near Ypres on 12th May 1915, showed great courage and daring. He took over a new line of trenches just before dark and to get round this line in daylight he had to cross several open and fire-swept zones.
On May 13th, at great risk, he came back several times to report”

His next reported action of note took place on 4th March 1918 when, following an enemy push, the infantry had come under heavy attack near the village Villeselve. The 6th Cavalry Brigade were ordered to make a mounted attack on some enemy infantry and machine guns who were in action in front of two copses on the rising ground just west of Villeselve, with the 3rd Dragoon Guards leading. Wasting no time, the squadron passed through the British infantry and began to gallop towards the two copses with troops in line: the 3rd Dragoon Guards against the right hand copse. They started “knee to knee”, across 600 yards of ground, of which the last 200 were ploughed. They came under heavy machine-gun fire and this caused them to open out, so that when the charge was sounded they were fairly well extended. The moment the swords came down to the “sword in line”, the enemy either put their hands up or else bolted into the copses. This did not save them and they were ridden down and 100 sabred, while the 3rd Dragoon Guards troop, dismounted and chased them through the trees bringing back 12 alive.

In this attack, besides the 100 sabred, 107 Germans were captured as well as four machine guns. The infantry captured many more having followed up closely.

In early October 1918 the Germans were in retreat and the brigade was in hot pursuit. The village of Honnechy, which lies 22Km ESE of Cambrai and 32Km S of Valenciennes was chosen as a target for the 3rd Dragoons, with the Inniskilling Dragoons in support, who were to attack from the south west on the 9th October.

At 14.10 the regiment moved forward. The 3rd Dragoons came under heavy enfilade fire. A large number of enemy aircraft also suddenly appeared and, coming down to a low altitude, followed the attacking troops with bombs and machine gun fire. "A" squadron led by Capt N K Worthington formed the advanced guard. The ground was fairly suitable for cavalry and the Regiment galloped for about two miles in squadron column extended, before coming to a brook at the bottom of the hill. Despite a bad take-off not a single horse refused. As the cavalry passed through, the infantry rose with a cheer and followed in support. Having passed through a narrow bridge where a number of casualties occurred, the squadrons opened out and made the final gallop to Honnechy, which was taken at about 14.30. For his part in this attack Capt Nigel Kennedy was awarded a bar to his Military Cross. The citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in command of the advanced squadron of his regiment during the attack on Honnechy, October 9th 1918. By his dash, the regiment gained its objective under very heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, with comparatively slight loss. Later in the day he took command of two squadrons, and then of the regiment when his commanding officer was wounded. Throughout the operations his courage and leading were beyond praise."

Notes by Sidney Worthington. I am indebted to my fourth cousin once removed, Michael Kennedy Worthington, the grandson of Nigel Kennedy Worthington who allowed me to use the autobiographical notes made by his father David Kennedy Worthington.

The Military Cross is awarded for acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land. During World War 1 a total of 37,081 were awarded but only 2,992 officers were awarded a bar.

In The Papers

Sidney Worthington recently came across this article which appeared in the Liverpool Evening Express dated 7 May 1906. Charles James Worthington was his second cousin twice removed. We suspect that modern burglars might be put off their crimes if they were to be punished similarly today.

PENAL SERVITUDE FOR A HOUSEBREAKER

To Keep Him Out of Mischief.

At Liverpool Assizes, to-day, before Mr. Justice Bigham,

James Johnson (62), carpenter, was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Charles James Worthington, Lancaster-road, Birkdale, on the 14th April, and stealing a picture and clock and other articles. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he would not have committed the crime had he not given way to drink. He promised to reform when the sentence which would be imposed was finished.

His Lordship, in sentencing prisoner to three years' penal servitude, said he was a confirmed criminal, and had been convicted time and again on similar charges to this. Apparently punishment did prisoner no good, but it did society a little good, as it kept him out of mischief. In giving this sentence he took into consideration another case of stealing tools at Salford. There were other charges against the prisoner, but these had not yet been considered by the Grand Jury.

Looking Back...

WORTHINGTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Incorporating the Worthington 17th Century Project for the Year 2010

By Janet R Worthington

After our last successful Worthington Family History Society AGM Gathering in Leesburg, USA in October 2009 it was 'look out' Wilmslow, in East Cheshire England, 'here we come!' Members Rosalie Courage, nee Worthington, Robert Worthington and Stephen Read were the team organising the *2010 Worthington Gathering* in East Cheshire and preparations began for this event assisted by Rosalie's contact in Cheshire, Nick Payne.

As President, I sent a letter on 27 January 2010 to all 35 members, to advise the annual general meeting, the annual dinner and visits to interesting sites relevant to Worthington history would take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 15, 16 and 17 October. It was accompanied by a questionnaire to help with planning. Members were reminded that guests were always welcome and an invitation was sent to Jim and Kate Leher who kindly allowed us to visit Piedmont and old Quarry Bank House in 2009; and expressed an interest in meeting us again in Cheshire. Unfortunately, they were unable to join us and sent their regrets.



Quarry Bank Mill & the Bolin River; a Textile Factory¹

¹ Photos taken by Sidney Worthington

It was proposed that the first day would commence at 10.00 am on Friday with a visit to Quarry Bank Mills, now owned by The National Trust, a Grade II listed building. The factory is open to the public and run as a world-class exhibition of cotton manufacture from medieval times to the mid twentieth century. Historical equipment is still being operated to this day. The mill was built about 1740 on land which had been farmed by the Worthington's of *Quarry Bank* right through the seventeenth century. The land includes a steep valley between 'the banks' where the River Bollin races downhill 100 feet, thus providing water power for the mill. It is said that the water wheel there is the most powerful in Europe. It was on this farm that Robert Worthington the Quaker may have been born. He later settled in America and built his home in Virginia which he named *Quarry Bank*.



Quarry Bank Mill today

Other suggestions were visits to old historic homes once owned by Worthington's and a letter to the owners of *Hill House*, Nursery Lane, Nether Alderley, Macclesfield, Cheshire was sent by the secretary Philip M Worthington. One of the ten lines of 17th Century Cheshire Worthington's lived in Mobberley at *Hill House*² Roger Worthington (Pedigree ZB) was of "Heald Mill and Hill House"; and churches to which Worthington's belonged or were ministers of; and Cheshire buildings, e.g. *Gorse Brow*, Church Lane, Mobberley, Kuntsford, a new build in 1926 by architect Sir Percy Scott Worthington for his own use. *Gorse Brow* was originally designed and supervised by the famous firm of Manchester architects, founded and run by Thomas Worthington and his descendants for three generations. Dr Sidney Worthington, one of our councillors, has a connection to Thomas Worthington, the architect, who is his first cousin three times removed. One of Thomas Worthington's works includes the Albert Memorial in Manchester. There were plenty of places of interest to choose from for the Gathering!

² See Pedigrees ZB and Z.

A half day of seminars was another suggestion, on subjects such as the evolution of Worthington ancestral lines in Cheshire, the three generations of Worthington architects and the early Quakers of Cheshire. A reception was planned to be held on the Friday evening at Stanneylands Hotel. This hotel was chosen as the base for the Gathering as it was close to Manchester International Airport and only three miles away from Wilmslow. All events would finish by 3.00 pm on the Sunday.

Meanwhile, work continued on *The Worthington 17th Century Project* pedigrees for Volume 1 and 2 of *Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century*; ten of which had been completed, seven were in the process of being examined, 15 were being compiled and another five were being planned. Philip Michael Worthington distributed his latest progress report on 1 June 2010 calling for more volunteers to assist with this important project which had become much bigger than anyone expected. Stuart Gibson Worthington, who was living in Spain, had compiled most of the pedigrees and Heather Anne Lawrence, Ian Alan Worthington and Muriel Rutherford were the main examiners to date. On 1 July 2010 Membership Secretary, Suzanne M Worthington sent an updated *List of Members* to 41 recipients.

At the beginning of June 2010 Rosalie Courage and her husband Michael from Hampshire, accompanied by Philip Michael Worthington and his wife Judy; Donald and Rachel Worthington from Florida, USA; and Robert Paul Worthington of Stockport, Cheshire spent a weekend exploring Quarry Bank, old Worthington houses and Wilmslow Church. On the following Monday, the group were invited to dinner with Nick Payne, Rosalie's friend, who agreed to show a house designed by the Worthington architects and present a seminar on the architectural firm at the October Gathering. The following day Philip and Judy made a short visit on their way home to Dean Row Chapel, a Unitarian church, and St Peters Church at Prestbury. According to a notice outside Prestbury church it is one of the oldest churches in Cheshire and has a Norman chapel dating back to 1100 within its grounds. Two Worthington graves dated 1699 and 1723 were found in front of the main entrance to the church.



The Norman Chapel in the grounds of St Peter's Prestbury has a Saxon Cross located inside

Planning for the AGM Gathering continued. A visit to *Gorsey Brow*, the home of Sir Percy Worthington was considered to be not worthwhile and the proposed visit to *Hill House* in Nether Audley was not getting a response from the owners. Some of organising committee felt that the heritage listed house had lost its charm in the move for its survival, due to an extension of the runway of Manchester airport. It was dropped from the Gathering programme planning.

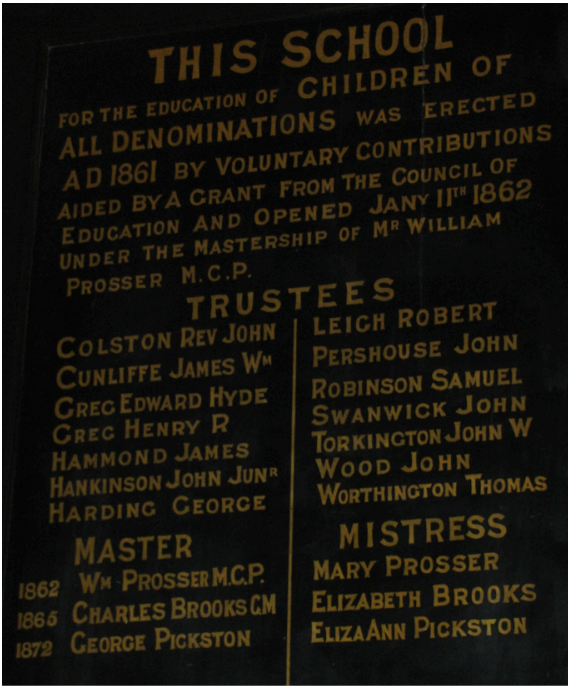
Stephen Read made inquiries about an inspection of a Worthington tomb in the grounds of Dean Row Chapel. Enthusiasm regarding the internal inspection of a tomb varied amongst the organisers! Chrissie Wilkie, Dean Row Chapel secretary responded to say that it was opened a few years ago. She spoke to the church warden who said, "There are no photographs as there was nothing to see. They opened it up they found that it had been bricked up and that it was flooded, so there was nothing to see except a brick wall and water!" Philip Worthington decided that "The complications and costs of opening up the tomb are likely to be too great". He said, "I doubt that the tomb as a whole is bricked up, but it would give that impression. The normal procedure is to place the first coffin in the corner at the far end, brick up the two exposed sides and slab over. The second coffin is placed next to it and bricked and slabbed, and so on until the full height of the tomb is used up. Then the process is repeated, but nearer to the entrance. Thus, at any stage there would be an appearance that part of the tomb is bricked off. Crispin Worthington would be the member of the family to give permission for the tomb to be opened. He lives in the Isle of Orkney."



Dean Row Unitarian Chapel, Wilmslow Postcard³

³ Drawing by J Brayne ©I.W. Harrison.

However, Robert Worthington found the graves of Thomas Worthington and Sir Percy Scott Worthington in the burial ground at Dean Row Chapel, as both were Unitarian. He said, "The grave we saw at Mobberley being purely a monument to Percy's memory." Sir Percy's old home, which he designed is nearby. The Reverend Dr. Vernon Marshall, the incumbent at Dean Row agreed to talk to us about the development of Unitarianism at the Gathering.



Thomas Worthington is listed on the School Board above as a Trustee

By the 23 September, 18 members had replied to say they would attend the Gathering. They were Rosalie and Michael Courage; Heather and Paul Lawrence; Stephen and Ruth Read plus two guests for dinner only, Trish Ward, Ian Worthington, Jan Worthington and Don Clark plus three principal guests for dinner; Judith, Philip M and Miranda Worthington plus Nicholas Worthington for dinner only; Sidney Worthington, Stuart Worthington and Bill Worthington of Penwortham.



Quarry Bank Mill sluice gates on the River Bolin ⁴

The WFHS Gathering in East Cheshire began on Friday, 15 October 2010 at 9.30 am at Stanneylands Hotel. A convoy of vehicles equipped with directions to Quarry Bank headed off for a walk led by Rosalie Courage to see the Quarry Bank Estate. This included land farmed by the Worthington's through the 17th century and the race in the River Bollin which provides water power for the textile mill. This was followed by a tour of the National Trust exhibition at Quarry Bank Mill, where we saw the spinning mule in action; after which we had lunch in the restaurant.

⁴Photo taken by Sidney Worthington



Spinning Mules in action⁵

In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the Apprentice House with Garden in the grounds of Quarry Bank Estate.



The Apprentice House today⁵

⁵Photos taken by Sidney Worthington

Quarry Bank Mill (also known as Stylal Mill) was established by Samuel Greg. He and his wife, Hannah Lightbody had a paternalistic attitude towards their workers. He provided medical treatment for all and was notable for innovations in machinery as well as his approach to labour relations.

Between 1790 and the 1830s approximately one third of Samuel Greg's workforce at the Mill were pauper and orphaned children. They were not paid for their work but were indentured, housed, clothed and fed by the Gregs; and received a basic education in writing and maths.⁶ They lived in the Apprentice House and worked at the Mill until they completed their contract at eighteen years of age. During that time they could do overtime and earn 1 penny per hour. If they made a mistake rather than be whipped or beaten they were fined. What they earned was kept for them by the Mill so they could earn a lot of money when they finished as apprentices to start another life.



The Apprentice House in the 1860s

After leaving Quarry Bank we drove half a mile to St Bartholomew's Church at Wilmslow where we were met by Donald Hood, a church member, for a guided tour of the church and yard. He showed us some newly cleaned Worthington graves.

The day ended with a reception in the Oak Room at Stanneylands Hotel where there was a display on two tables of historical Worthington items provided by members. The exhibition was organised by Stephen Read, councillor and treasurer.

After breakfast on Saturday, 16 October we did not have to go far to hear a talk given by Sidney Worthington in the Oak Room at Stanneylands Hotel. The topic

⁶To find out more about the Apprentice House google *Quarry Bank Revealed*, apprentice life at Quarry Bank.

was *The Genealogy of the family of Worthington Architects*. Sidney is related to this family which can be traced back to a 17th century Sherrif of Nottingham. This was followed with a talk by Nick Payne on *The Architectural Firm of Thomas Worthington & Sons and their Cheshire Buildings*, which they designed and built.



Radbroke Hall Entrance Way

Later that morning it was back in the car with our directions to *Radbroke Hall*, a French chateau style country house named after the Red Brook stream that runs through the grounds. Built of Portland stone brought by train from Weymouth between 1914 and 1917 it features a grand white marble staircase, a music room and an oval dining room.



Radbroke Hall Side Garden

The tour of the Hall which is set in twenty acres of grounds including rose and rhododendron gardens, was arranged and led by Nick Payne who obtained the kind permission of Barclays Bank PLC, who use it as their Cheshire headquarters. The Hall was designed by Sir Percy Worthington of Thomas Worthington & Sons. Passports or other identification documents were required to visit the property.



Radbroke Hall from the rear gardens

At 1.00 pm we were due for a sandwich lunch at Dean Row Chapel Hall so out with the map for a drive back through Knutsford to Wilmslow. This was followed by a seminar on The Early Development of Unitarianism in Cheshire, led by the Reverend Dr Vernon Marshall who arrived on his motor bike; and members of the East Cheshire Family History Society who very kindly provided our lunch. One of the members who joined us was a Worthington descendant.



Worthington Plaques in Dean Row Chapel

A guided tour of Dean Row Chapel and yard was led by Mrs Chrissie Wilkie. Two generations of Worthington's were ministers of this chapel in the 18th century and there were many Worthington graves and monuments found.



Dean Row Chapel tombstones & Robert Worthington (in black)
standing by one of the tombs

The Reverend Dr Vernon Marshall, MA, MPhil. BTh, BD, DMin. became minister of Dean Row Chapel in 2008 after ministries in Scarborough and Whitby, Birmingham, Croydon, Dukinfield and Denton. He was also serving the congregations in Wilmslow and Hall Chapel in Hale Barns, Altrincham.



Reverend Dr Vernon Marshall

Unitarianism is a faith arising out of Liberal Christianity that is inspired by all the world's great religions and encourages everyone to find their own spiritual path through life. There is no dogma or orthodoxy. A unitarian rejects the selective fundamentalist doctrine of people being chosen or pre-destined and believes that righteous acts as well as Christian faith are necessary for redemption.

When I thanked Dr Marshall for his talk during a dinner speech to which he and his wife Martine attended as special guests that evening, I remarked how fortunate we were to have this very interesting man with us. "He had a difficult childhood, a speckled early career, has five degrees and is the author of several books. We are most grateful to Dr Marshall for extending his ministry to the genealogists and their supporters here this evening. The all-inclusive view of unitarians fits well with the genealogist's combination of reason and research. Dr Marshall's practice of holistic healing has similarities to genealogical research as it also taps into the unseen and can also be therapeutic for many people. Genealogical study answers the question 'Who am I'? Not 'Who do you Think You Are!' and can solve many personal issues. On behalf of future genealogists and family historians please include as much detail as you can in your parish registers!!" That evening the Annual Dinner for members and their guests was held at The Wizard Restaurant, Macclesfield Road, Nether Alderley. Nick Payne was also our special guest.

TOASTS

The Society

by
The Reverend Dr. Vernon Marshall
(United Kingdom)

Response

by the president
Janet Worthington
(Australia)

The Guests

by
Ian Worthington
(France)

Response

by
Don Clark
(Australia)

* * *

Toastmaster: Miranda Worthington
(United Kingdom)



WORTHINGTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

*Worldwide Society researching and publishing
information on the lives and genealogies of
Worthingtons throughout history*

ANNUAL DINNER

The Wizard Restaurant
Nether Alderley, Cheshire, SK10 4UB
United Kingdom
16 October 2010

Toast List for the WFHS Annual Diner 2009

On Sunday, 17 October the annual general meeting of the Worthington Family History Society was held at Stanneylands Hotel, Wilmslow Cheshire. Those present were Janet R Worthington (president in the chair), Rosalie F Courage (membership secretary – Europe), Heather A Lawrence, Stephen Read (councillor and treasurer), Ian A Worthington, Judith S M Worthington, Miranda E Worthington, Robert P Worthington, Dr Sidney Worthington, Stuart G Worthington (councillor), William Worthington and Philip M Worthington (councillor, secretary and archivist). Others in attendance were Donald Clark and Paul Lawrence.

Apologies for their absence were received from S Rosemary Douglass, Amanda J Mackevicius (membership secretary – Australasia), Muriel Rutherford, Patricia G Ward (treasurer – USA), Lt, Commander Peter W Ward, A Crispin Worthington, Constance Worthington, Donald J Worthington, Suzanne M Worthington (membership secretary – Americas), T Simon Worthington and William C Worthington (councillor).

Voting papers were received from Amanda J Mackevicius, Patricia G Ward, Patricia A Worthington, Suzanne M Worthington and William C Worthington. These papers were placed on the table for reference during the meeting.

The secretary reported there were 43 members of the Society compared with 36 at the previous annual general meeting. It was resolved that Sara R S Bradbury of USA, Cynthia R Franklin of USA, Peter W Ward of UK, Susan P Weber of USA,

Harriotte W Wilson of USA, Constance Worthington of USA and A Crispin Worthington of UK be welcomed as members of the Society. It was noted that Cynthia Franklin had also joined the 17th Century Project which now has 34 members including seven sponsors.

Financial statements were presented by Stephen Read and accepted. The Society's rate of exchange was amended. The annual subscription was discussed and slightly increased. Expenditure on the 17th Century Project was approved.

It was resolved that a new independent website be established and the Society offer their sincere thanks to Donald Gradeless for his past contributions to the Worthington 17th Century Project and the Worthington Family History Society as web master. The President offered to pay the costs involved in designing and setting up a new website. It was agreed that there should be a website committee consisting of five councillors plus Amanda Mackevicius and Robert Worthington. The prime objectives were to inform and attract potential members, to sell the Society's publications and to expand the Society's DNA database. The website name "WorthingtonFHS" was chosen.

The agenda paper entitled Progress of the 17th Century Project was discussed. A view was put by William Worthington that the number of pedigrees would turn out to be much greater than 40. Stuart Worthington reported that it would not be possible to complete the pedigrees by 31 March 2011. Nevertheless, it was agreed that completion of the pedigrees is now the highest priority (subject only to printing and distributing the Register 18C, Volume 2). One of the main reasons for concentrating on pedigrees is that the writing of biographies cannot begin until the whole structure of pedigrees is known; pedigrees can then be arranged in chapter order and renumbered. The special biographers' index can then be compiled. It was also resolved that the work of Phase 4 – Biographies shall commence soon as Phase 2 – Pedigrees, is sufficiently complete.

Sidney Worthington's report on the Worthington DNA Project was discussed. Particular attention was given to the need for more members to be tested so that more conclusions can be drawn about relationships between family lines which have not been connected by documentary evidence. The main interest will be links within the past 800 years – the time since hereditary surnames became usual. To accomplish that, living Worthington descendants of old lines would need to be found as targets for yDNA testing. Also, genealogical work would be required to convert "claimed ancestors" into "proven ancestors". Because of other priorities in the year ahead it was decided consideration be given to this subject at the next annual general meeting.

All officers stood down at the end of the meeting but could stand for re-election. It was resolved unanimously that Janet R Worthington be re-elected president of the Society. It was resolved that four councillors, Stephen Read, Philip M Worthington, Stuart Worthington and William C Worthington be re-elected.

Officers of the Society were elected as follows: Philip M Worthington as secretary and archivist, Stephen Read as treasurer, Patricia G Ward as treasurer USA, Janet R Worthington and Amanda J Mackevicius as joint webmasters, Suzanne M Worthington as membership secretary Americas, Rosalie F Courage as membership secretary Europe and Amanda J Mackevicius as membership secretary Australasia. It was resolved that the present officers of the Worthington 17th Century Project be re-elected en block namely: Janet R Worthington as chairman, Philip M Worthington as co-ordinator, Stuart G Worthington as editor, William C Worthington as indexer and William Worthington as transcriber. The present officers of the Worthington DNA Project were re-elected en block namely: Sidney Worthington as co-ordinator and David Palmer as deputy co-ordinator.

The comprehensive memorandum entitled *Some Thoughts about 2011 New England Gathering in the Footsteps of Nicholas Worthington* kindly submitted by Connie Worthington was discussed. Connie's proposal covered visits to Boston, Old Saybrook, Connecticut and another to Brimfield and Hatfield, Massachusetts. A proposal that a future Gathering in USA could be held in Ohio was also considered. Consideration was given to the difficulties which USA and European members face in crossing the Atlantic for Gatherings at two yearly intervals and the difficulties which members living in other continents face each year. It was resolved that future Gatherings would be held with eighteen months intervals, while annual general meetings would continue to be held yearly using electronic communications and postal voting as appropriate.

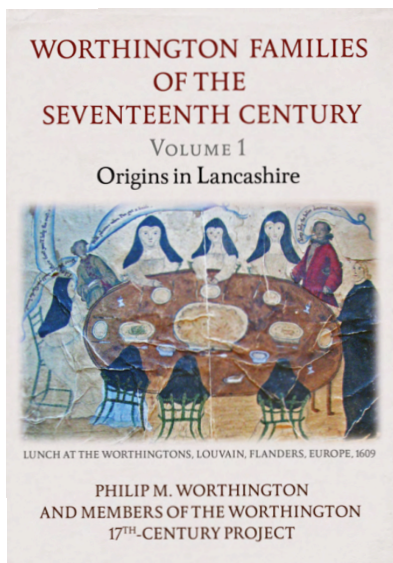
It was recognised that Gatherings provide a great stimulus to the Society's work and enable knowledge of Worthington history to be shared amongst members. On the other hand, organising Gatherings draws effort away from normal work of the Society, and hence contributes to delays in meeting agreed deadlines. A year later, In October 2011, Philip M Worthington was making plans for a future Gathering in Ohio.

26 August 2024

Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century, Volume 1

Bursting with Worthington's after more than ten years of research this very worthy, comprehensive and academic reference book, ***Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century*** is now available directly from the Society.

Members of the 17th Century Project, now the Worthington Family History Society, combed through thousands of original written documents, microfilms, microfiche and online databases to accumulate over 2,000 references to Worthington's from 1560-1730. In addition to the 32 pedigrees there are 76 illustrations.



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The focus of Volume 1 is mainly on Lancashire and anywhere else in the world where the Worthington ancestry goes back to Lancashire: three lines in Lincolnshire, one in Warwickshire, one in Middlesex and one in Maryland, America. Volume 2 is in progress and will cover the remaining Worthington families. For further information visit the Worthington Family History Society website: www.worthingtonfhs.org

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