



WORTHINGTON 17th-CENTURY PROJECT

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

The second annual general meeting of the Worthington 17th-Century Project was held in Room 102, St. Anne's Church Parish Hall, 199 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, Maryland, USA, at 11.00am on Thursday 23 August 2007. The members present were:

Janet R. Worthington (chairman)
S. Rosemary Douglass
W. Peter Pearre
Patricia G. Ward (treasurer – USA)
Addison Worthington
Amanda J. Mackevicius
Judith S. M. Worthington
Brigadier-General M. Hall Worthington
Miranda E. Worthington
Stuart G. Worthington
William C. Worthington
Philip M. Worthington (secretary and archivist)

In attendance there was:

Sue Worthington

The voting papers received from members were presented to the meeting and placed on the table.

The United Kingdom pre-meeting

The chairman reported that a previous meeting had been held for United Kingdom members at The White Lion, Hampton in Arden, West Midlands, at 11.00am on Monday 20 August 2007. The members present were:

Janet R. Worthington (chairman)
Heather A. Lawrence
Stephen Read (treasurer – UK)
Dr. Sidney Worthington
William Worthington
Philip M. Worthington (secretary and archivist)

And those in attendance were:

Paul Lawrence
Amanda J. Mackevicius

The views of the United Kingdom pre-meeting were relayed to the annual general meeting as appropriate during the course of the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence at the meetings were also received from:

Dr. Donald E. Gradeless (webmaster)
Muriel Rutherford
Ian A. Worthington
Philip G. Worthington
Robert P. Worthington
T. H. Lloyd Worthington

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting held on 5 December 2006 were approved on a motion by William C. Worthington, seconded by Stuart Worthington. There was no business arising from the minutes.

Membership

The secretary reported that there were 28 members at 1 June 2007, compared with 22 members at 31 October 2006. The increase arose from 7 new members and one resignation, the new members being S. Rosemary Douglass, Heather A. Lawrence, Arlene B. Meservy, W. Peter Pearre, Muriel Rutherford, Ian A. Worthington and M. Hall Worthington. In addition, 3 of the guests present at the Project events of 22 August 2007 had applied for membership immediately prior to the meeting – namely Amanda J. Mackevicius, Miranda E. Worthington and Thomas Worthington. Thus, the present membership is 31. On a motion by Addison Worthington, seconded by Judith Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that each of the 10 applicants for membership of the Project who had joined since the first annual general meeting be elected as members.

These members were welcomed.

Finance and subscriptions

The treasurer – USA – presented the report “Accounts for the Quarter Ended 20 June 2007” which was discussed.

It was noted that the liquid assets of the Project then stood at £3,594 which, together with continuing subscriptions, would be adequate for the needs of the Project through Years 3 and 4. The secretary thought that a problem may arise in the fifth year when publication costs will arise. The possibility of raising subscription levels was then discussed, but it was agreed that they should remain as they are until later, when requirements would become clearer. It was also agreed that the Project rate of exchange of \$2 to £1 should remain unchanged.

It was noted that there has been difficulty in getting some members to pay their due subscriptions. It was agreed that, following an invoice and reminder letters, membership should be suspended not more than 12 months after a subscription became due.

Publications

The chairman thanked Stuart Worthington as editor – Phase 1 – for the considerable amount of work he had done in editing and producing the “Register of Worthington References” as well as taking his share of research work. She then asked him to present his paper on “Publications”.

Stuart noted that the first volume of 100 pages of the “Register of Worthington References” had been issued about 8 months ago, that a second volume of the same size had been completed and would be issued during September, and that a third volume was nearing completion and would be indexed and issued by the end of 2007. He estimated that a total of 6 or 7 such volumes of References would be forthcoming in due course.

He thanked the researchers who had contributed references through the second Project year, namely:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Field</i>
Frank A. Brimelow	Lancashire Record Office
Heather A. Lawrence	Staffordshire
Stephen Read	National Archives and libraries
Janet R. Worthington	Kent and London
Philip M. Worthington	16th century and libraries
Sidney Worthington	Nottinghamshire
Stuart G. Worthington	Internet and church records
William Worthington	Lancashire

He also thanked William C. Worthington for indexing the references.

It was noted that members are already studying historical information within the period and of value to the Project in the wider context, but outside the strict scope of the Register of Worthington References. To make such material available, it was proposed to introduce a series of Members’ Special Papers which can be placed in archives and, where appropriate, distributed to members. A draft resolution given in the agenda paper was then discussed. The chairman proposed an amendment that, whenever appropriate, such papers should be offered to genealogical journals for publication, quoting both the name of the author and the Project. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by Miranda Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that Members’ Special Papers, bearing the name of the author and quoting the sources and historical references, be deposited in the Project archives; also that the chairman may select such papers for distribution to members and agree the form in which they should be presented. Where appropriate, such papers may be offered to genealogical or historical journals for publication, bearing the name of the author and the Project.

Discussion took place on a budget for the cost of printing, binding and distributing volumes of the Register of Worthington References and Members’ Special Papers during Project Year 3. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by William C. Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that a budget of up to £600 be allocated to printing, binding and distributing publications during the third Project year.

Phase 1 – research for Year 3

The “Schedule of Sources to be Researched” dated 30 June 2007 was considered. It was noted that the list was much longer than the previous edition dated 20 August 2006 because information had been received on sources not yet researched. Stuart Worthington presented his agenda paper on “Phase 1 – Research”. It was agreed that researching, transcribing and summarising wills, admons and inventories is now one of the highest priorities, as they are essential material for Phase 2 – pedigrees. It was noted that William Worthington (of Penwortham) has already transcribed such documents for 103 17th and 18th-century Worthingtons in a document of 198 typed pages. He has offered to make compact discs of the

transcripts available to members. These transcripts are currently being summarised for the Register. It was accepted that wills in England, Wales, Ireland and USA should continue to be top priority for the first half of the Project Year 3.

Material is being discovered by the research members fast enough to justify avoiding the use of professional researchers for a further 6 months. However, it was recognised that local professional researchers will be needed to cover areas which cannot be reached by members. It was agreed that such work could be started in the second half of Year 3. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by Amanda Mackevicius,

IT WAS RESOLVED that a budget of up to £800 be allowed for expenditure during Project Year 3 on professional research, further compact discs and internet information.

Phase 2 – pedigrees

The secretary presented his agenda paper on “Phase 2 – Pedigrees”. It was agreed that Phase 2 of the Project should commence on 1 October 2007. However, Phase 1 should continue to be of higher priority throughout the Project Year 3 because the ultimate success of the Project will depend on the quantity of references researched and because Phase 2 (and later phases) will become easier to accomplish and more complete, the more that research information is available and indexed.

Offers by 8 members to take responsibilities for developing pedigrees of Worthington lines were welcomed, as follows:

<i>Worthingtons of:</i>	<i>Volunteer Member</i>
Blainscough, Lancashire	Stuart G. Worthington
Snydale, Lancashire	Frank A. Brimelow
Failsworth, Lancashire	Philip M. Worthington
Croston, Preston & Much Hoole, Lancashire	William Worthington
Ormskirk & Kirkham, Lancashire	Stephen Read
Nottinghamshire	Sidney Worthington
Kent	Janet Worthington
Maryland, USA	Addison Worthington

It was recognised that there were at least 21 Worthington lines in the 17th century. The secretary was asked to distribute to members about 3 times a year, a list of lines as it develops, together with the members who volunteer to take responsibility for them. Members were invited to volunteer at any time during Year 3.

Certain rules were then discussed to define the scope of pedigrees. Such rules were considered important, first to ensure equal treatment across all lines, and secondly to avoid incurring additional work by following lines into the 18th century. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by Rosemary Douglass,

IT WAS RESOLVED that each pedigree should cover the 17th century and as much of the 16th century as possible. The earliest Worthington shown shall be born in or after 1470. The latest generation of siblings shown fully shall be that in which the eldest of them was born before 1670, but the children of such Worthingtons should be included in the pedigree showing only their dates of birth and baptisms. It was also resolved that each pedigree be presented in a document having the following parts:

- (a) Title page giving emblem, name of pedigree, author and date;

- (b) Introduction, including methods, problems, acknowledgements, and the names of the 2 examiners;
- (c) The pedigree;
- (d) Evidence for the links in the pedigree, set out for each person named;
- (e) If relevant, discussion on probable origins of the line.

The procedure involving 2 examiners appointed by the chairman to verify accuracy had been resolved at the annual general meeting held on 5 December 2007.

Preparation of the document, signed by the author and examiners and lodged with the archivist, will be the responsibility of the author, while the secretary will be responsible for final typing, printing and distribution to members in uniform style.

On the recommendation of the chairman it was agreed that the Chapman Code (as specified in a British Standard) be used for abbreviations. It was also agreed that the principle place of residence of each person entered in a pedigree should be included along with dates of birth, marriage and death and any rank and honours.

Phase 3 – supplementary research

The secretary presented his agenda paper on “Supplementary Research”. It was agreed that Phase 3 should be opened on 1 October 2007, in accordance with the Prospectus of August 2005.

Referring to the agenda note, the chairman proposed that ‘genealogical information’ relating to a Worthington wife should not be part of the Project. To include study of the ancestry of Worthington wives would add a major amount of work to the Project and could thus cause delay. It was agreed that the extent of study should include only the whole life of the wife, the names of her parents and outline information only on the residence and roles of her parents. For that reason, pursuit of the wills of her parents would be justified. On a motion by Addison Worthington, seconded by Stuart Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the supplementary research in Phase 3 shall include: (a) events after 1730 which relate to a Worthington included in the study; (b) events before marriage relating to a Worthington wife; (c) Wills of the parents of a Worthington wife; (d) events after marriage relating to a Worthington daughter. It was also resolved that any supplementary research relating to a Worthington not already included in the Register of Worthington References should be entered in the Register if it is dated between 1730 and 1799.

Website

A discussion was held on the Project’s website – worthington17.gradeless.com – kindly provided, at no cost to the Project, by Donald Gradeless as an adjunct to his own website. There was general agreement that the site should be retained with the dual objects of enabling members to have quick access to information and attracting potential new members.

It was considered that the material on the website should be brought up-to-date. The introductory paragraphs are written as if the Project started recently, whereas they should reflect progress so far and plans for the future. Also, the list of members needs to be revised. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by Stuart Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the website be brought up-to-date at intervals no greater than 3 months. It was also resolved that members’ e-mail addresses be omitted from the website version of the list of members.

Election of officers for Year 3

The secretary presented his agenda paper "Election of Officers for Year 3". The chairman spoke about the large amount of work being done by Philip Worthington and Stuart Worthington. Philip is secretary, coordinator and archivist and he explained that while all archives are being safely stored, they have not yet been sorted, numbered and indexed in a form ready for efficient retrieval. He would welcome a volunteer to become the archivist. Stuart suggested that Philip should remain archivist because he already maintains archives from his 2 previous projects; but he could hand over his role as secretary. Judith Worthington suggested that the chairman should take a proactive approach in searching for someone to share the work. On a motion by Hall Worthington, seconded by Judith Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that, subject to a continuing attempt to spread the load of the secretary and archivist, the present officers be re-elected to serve for the Project Year 3, that is to say:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Office</i>
Janet R. Worthington	Chairman
Stephen Read	Treasurer – UK
Patricia G. Ward	Treasurer – USA
Stuart G. Worthington	Editor – Phase 1
William C. Worthington	Indexer
Donald E. Gradeless	Webmaster
Philip M. Worthington	Secretary and archivist

Plans for the 2008 annual general meeting

A proposal was made that the 2008 annual general meeting should be in the United Kingdom and thereafter the meetings should alternate between USA and UK. There was general agreement. The chairman then suggested that the 2008 meeting should be held at Dover, Kent, where a branch of Worthingtons lived from the sixteenth century until modern times and where there are several historical sites. Judith Worthington and Stuart Worthington proposed that a date be chosen in September or October as the cost of travel is then low and the weather is likely to be suitable.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the 2008 annual general meeting be held at Dover, Kent, at a date to be decided in September or October.

The chairman was asked to make arrangements for the gathering and for various events. It was suggested that the meeting should be over a weekend so that reduced hotel prices could be obtained. It was also agreed that a questionnaire should be sent to all members before final dates are fixed, but that the dates should be fixed and announced before Christmas 2007 to enable members to plan international travel well in advance.

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William C. Worthington proposed a vote of thanks to Addison and Frances Worthington for the wonderful way in which they had organised the events and social functions in Annapolis during the 3 days members' gathering. The vote was applauded. The chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting then closed at 1.30pm.