



WORTHINGTON 17th-CENTURY PROJECT
and
WORTHINGTON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

18 October 2009

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

The fourth annual general meeting of the Worthington 17th-Century Project and the inaugural meeting of the Worthington Family History Society were jointly held at The Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia, USA, on 18 October 2009. The members present were:

Members of the Project and Society

Brigadier-General M. Hall Worthington (*in the chair*)
S. Rosemary Douglas
Dr. Donald E. Gradeless (*webmaster*)
Heather A. Lawrence
Amanda J. Mackevicius
W. Peter Pearre
Patricia G. Ward (*treasurer - USA*)
Addison Worthington
Judith S. M. Worthington
Miranda E. Worthington
Dr. Sidney Worthington (*coordinator – DNA Project*)
Stuart G. Worthington (*editor – Phase 1*)
Suzanne M. Worthington
William C. Worthington (*indexer*)
Philip M. Worthington (*secretary and archivist*)

Other member of the Society

Rosalie F. Courage

Those in attendance were:

Michael R. Courage
Paul Lawrence
Teena Clark
Mary Carroll Worthington
Geraldine J. Worthington
Connie Worthington

Apologies for absence were received from Craig Metz and Janet R. Worthington. In the absence of Janet Worthington, chairman of the 17th-Century Project, the secretary proposed and it was unanimously agreed that M. Hall Worthington should be chairman of the meeting. The chairman then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Voting papers had been received from Stephen Read, Sir John Shearer, Ian A. Worthington, Janet R. Worthington and William Worthington of Penwortham. These papers were placed on the table for reference during the meeting.

The United Kingdom pre-meeting

The secretary reported that a previous meeting for United Kingdom members had been held in the Vestry, Dean Row Chapel, Cheshire, at 10.30am on Wednesday 16 September 2009. The members present were:

Stephen Read (in the chair)
Robert P. Worthington
William Worthington (of Penwortham)
Philip M. Worthington (*secretary and archivist*)

The views of this meeting were relayed to the annual general meeting as appropriate during the course of the meeting.

Minutes of the 2008 annual general meeting

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting held on 4 October 2008 were approved.

Constitution of the Worthington Family History Society

The draft constitution of the Worthington Family History Society was considered.

Referring to Clause 4.1, the chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the members in General Meeting may elect a vice president, being one of the councillors.

Referring to Clause 4.3, a proposal was made, and it was agreed, that the officers appointed shall include the registrar and the archivist, but a member may hold more than one office.

Referring to Clause 10.6, a proposal was made, and it was agreed, that the financial year of the Society shall end on 30 June instead of 30 September each year.

On a motion by Donald Gradeless seconded by Judy Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that, subject to the three modifications aforesaid, the draft Constitution of the Worthington Family History Society be approved and adopted.

Inauguration of the Society and incorporation of the Projects

On a motion by Amanda Mackevicius seconded by Donald Gradeless,

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that the Worthington Family History Society be hereby inaugurated.

On a motion by Stuart Worthington seconded by Heather Lawrence,

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED unanimously, first by a vote of the members of the Society and secondly by a vote of the members of the Worthington 17th-Century Project, that the Worthington 17th-Century Project and the Worthington DNA Project shall be incorporated in the Worthington Family History Society, as separate entities, and that all the financial and other assets of these two Projects shall become the property of the society.

Membership

The secretary reported that there are now 36 members of the new Society, compared with 32 at the previous annual general meeting. On a motion by Heather Lawrence seconded by Miranda Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that David T. Townsend of Hong Kong, Rosalie F. Courage of the United Kingdom, Craig H. Metz of the United States and Thomas S. Worthington of the United Kingdom be elected members of the Society.

They were welcomed.

It was noted that David T. Townsend had also joined the 17th-Century Project, which now has 33 members.

A view was expressed, and it was agreed, that election of new members should henceforth be the responsibility of the Council of the Society.

Sponsorship

In response to a question by Stuart Worthington, the secretary said that sponsors of the 17th-Century Project had agreed to subscribe £100 a year for 5 years – that is a total of £500 for the 5-year period ending 30 September 2010. Stuart Worthington then noted that without sponsorship thereafter, the income of the Society would fall substantially. He noted an absence of incentives for sponsors to continue their donations. On a motion by Donald Gradeless seconded by Judy Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the subject of sponsorship be considered during the coming year and be placed on the agenda for the next annual general meeting.

It was agreed that there should be a recruitment drive for more members. A suggestion by Amanda Mackevicius that she should draft forms of communication to potential members was welcomed. A proposal was also made that there should be regional registrars or membership secretaries for Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Amanda Mackevicius volunteered to fill the role for Australia and New Zealand.

Financial reporting

Patricia Ward presented the agenda note on “Future Financial Reporting” prepared jointly by her and Stephen Read. On a motion by Miranda Worthington seconded by Sidney Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the present Project accounting practice be discontinued as from 30 September 2009 and that annual income and expenditure accounting on an ongoing basis be commenced for the Worthington Family History Society as from 1 October 2009.

It was noted that the financial years have so far been to 30 September each year. Allowing the treasurers reasonable time to prepare the accounts, have them examined, if required, and distribute them to members before the annual general meeting, it would no longer be possible to hold the annual gathering in October or the first half of November. This problem was discussed. On a motion by Judy Worthington seconded by Patricia Ward,

IT WAS RESOLVED that henceforth, the financial year end shall be 30 June, and accordingly the 2009-2010 period shall be short at 9 months; however, the subscription year shall remain, as at present, ending on 30 September.

Finance and subscriptions

Patricia Ward presented the agenda note on “Finance and Subscriptions” prepared jointly by her and Stephen Read. It was noted that, on 16 September 2009, the free-market rate of exchange between USA currency and sterling stood at US\$1.65 to £1, compared with the current Project rate of exchange of US\$1.80 to £1. On a motion by Patricia Ward seconded by Stuart Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Society’s rate of exchange between USA and UK currencies be amended to US\$1.70 to £1 as from 1 October 2009, and that, accordingly, subscriptions paid in US\$ on or after 1 October 2009 shall be reduced to US\$42.50 a year for members and US\$170.00 a year for sponsors of the Worthington 17th-Century Project.

Discussion took place on the income expected in the coming 9-month period and budgeted expenditure over the same period. On a motion by Sidney Worthington seconded by Donald Gradeless,

IT WAS RESOLVED that a budgeted expenditure of £2,050 be approved for the financial period ending on 30 June 2009, consisting of £1,200 for research and £850 for printing, binding and administration.

It was noted that most of the budgeted expenditure would need to be in £ sterling as most research and all of the printing and binding will be in the United Kingdom. There may, therefore, be a need to transfer funds from the Middleburg Bank, USA, to the Cooperative Bank, UK. On a motion by Patricia Ward seconded by William C. Worthington,

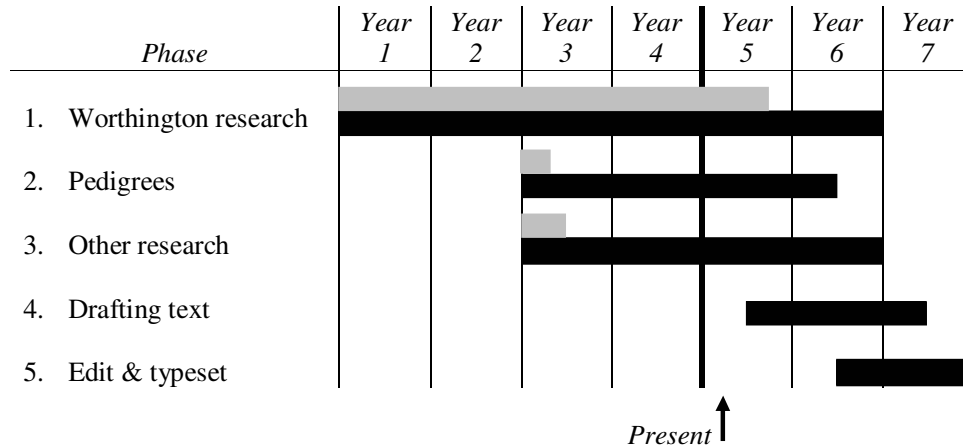
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council may approve the transfer of up to US\$1,000 from the Middleburg Bank, USA, to the Cooperative Bank, UK, during the 9-month financial period, if and when it appears desirable to do so.

The secretary announced that Janet Worthington, chairman of the 17th-Century Project, had made a donation of £500 to the Society, following a similar donation the previous year. Suzanne Worthington moved that thanks be sent to Janet Worthington, the motion being seconded simultaneously by those present.

Progress and programme of the 17th-Century Project

The secretary presented his agenda paper on “Progress of the 17th-Century Project”. He explained how Phases 2 and 3 of the Project are about 19 months behind the original 5-year Project programme (which is still in force). The lateness is due almost entirely to the great success of Phase 1 (Worthington Research) in which far more material has been gathered than had been expected. Five volumes of the indexed Register of Worthington References have been distributed to members; another volume has been indexed and will be distributed in November, and 3 more volumes are in course of being built up. It was noted that a proposal to extend the programme to a total of 7 years, to be completed by 30 September 2012, had been discussed at the previous annual general meeting, but that a decision on the matter had been postponed. On a motion by William C. Worthington seconded by Amanda Mackevicius,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the 17th-Century Project programme be extended to 7 years duration, ending on 30 September 2012, as shown in the following chart.



It was agreed that the members of the Project should be responsible for completing the edited and typeset work on disk, leaving the Society to deal with publication afterwards.

It was also agreed that, as had been planned at the outset, subscriptions to membership and sponsorship of the Project should be regarded as complete after 5 yearly payments (namely a total of £125 for members and £500 for sponsors). During that 5-year period, subscriptions to the Society would count as subscriptions to the Project.

Compiling and examination of pedigrees

Stuart Worthington presented his agenda papers on “Project Phase 2 – Pedigrees”. He emphasised the importance of compiling and examining some 20 pedigrees during Project Year 5 ending on 30 September 2010 in order to maintain the new 7-year programme. It was agreed that Phase 2 should have the highest priority throughout the year.

However, Stuart Worthington asked that members who could continue with Worthington research should do so to enable further volumes of the Register of Worthington References to be built up. A reasonable target for completion and indexing of volumes could be one a year in future, compared with an average of 2 a year recently.

A budget is now available to commission local genealogists to undertake research focused on finding evidence for pedigrees. Members compiling pedigrees were asked to contact the Project Office when such research is required.

The DNA Project

Sidney Worthington gave an address on the progress and results of the DNA Project, supported by 19 illustrations shown by an overhead projector. He first described the cell, its nucleus, and within the nucleus the DNA and chromosomes. He then outlined the 23 homo sapiens chromosomes, including X and Y. The Y-chromosome is unique in that it only exists in males and passes from father to all sons. It is therefore of great use in genealogical male-line studies. There is a short length of DNA in the cell, separate from the 23 chromosomes, called mitochondrial DNA (mt DNA). This descends only from the mother and can therefore be used in female-line genealogical studies. Tests on the Y-chromosome is the sole criterion in this DNA Project.

Sidney proceeded to discuss mutations, saying that there are 3 types: (a) rare one-off major changes which may have caused new haplogroups, (b) occasional small changes, and (c) frequent but minor changes. It is (b) which is important to genealogists, and (c) to forensic

scientists. Mutations provide the evidence in estimating how far back in time one family line emerged from another. A scenario was given of the migration of homo sapiens through the world since it emerged from East Africa 60,000 years ago.

He said that there are now 14 members of the DNA Project, and that the results show members falling into 4 out of the 20 haplogroups as follows:

| <i>Haplogroup</i> | <i>Number of members</i> | <i>Links within 1,000 years</i> | <i>Years within which linked</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| E | 2 | None | - |
| I | 5 | 2 members only | 720 |
| J | 2 | The 2 members | 840 |
| R | <u>5</u> | 2 members only | 390 |
| | 14 | | |

Members who are in different haplogroups have no male-line links within the genealogical timeframe – say, 1,000 years. The results of 3 pairs of members have shown linkages within the genealogical timeframe as shown in the third column of the display. The years back within which the new lines emerged are shown in the fourth column. The stated years correspond to 95 percent probability that the link is within that time.

Sidney said that, according to the ancestries submitted by members, the haplogroups of the 17th-century families may have been: Haplogroup E, of Cheshire, England; Haplogroup I, of Worthington and Much Hoole, Lancashire, England; Haplogroup J, of Manchester, England, and Maryland, USA; and Haplogroup R, of Failsworth, Lancashire, England.

Lastly, Sidney explained the importance of increasing the number of DNA Project members with test results. A very clear picture can only be obtained with a large number of results. He suggested 5 potential sources of new members, namely: (a) the new Society, (b) Internet chat rooms, (c) family history societies, (d) record offices, local newspapers, etc, and (e) ‘cold calling’ from telephone directories.

Sidney was applauded for his interesting and clear presentation, and the subject was then discussed.

A current issue is the matter of confidentiality in respect of living persons. The custom in the DNA testing industry – to which the Worthington DNA Project has so far adhered – is that results of a living member may not be disclosed while the results may be attached to his deceased male-line ancestors. The secretary expressed the view that this rule decreases the usefulness of the Project and obscures known facts (laboratory results of members) while attaching results to ancestors who can only be regarded as probable. The declared ancestry could not be endorsed by the Society until examined and proved, and there could have been a succession fault where the legal father was not the genetic father. The secretary proposed, and it was agreed, that existing members of the DNA Project be asked for their permissions to disclose their names in respect of links found, and that disclosure should become a condition for future members.

The website

The secretary reported that the Project website had been discussed at length at the United Kingdom pre-meeting, and that submissions had since been received on the subject from Robert Worthington and Philip G. Worthington. Donald Gradeless (the webmaster) gave an account of the present Project website, which is part of his own website and has been provided at no cost to the Project. He said that the website had been accessed by the public

27,000 times since it was established. However, he felt restricted in what he could mount on the site, and in recent years had only mounted material provided by the Project Office.

The question was asked: "What purpose does the website now fill?". It appears that it is not consulted much by members, and an opinion was expressed that it may not have led more than one or 2 people to enrol as members over the past 3 years. After discussion, it was agreed that, for the coming year, the prime purpose of the website should be to attract new members. Beyond the coming year a second purpose could be the sale to non-members of access to the volumes of the Register of Worthington References and proven pedigrees in return for fees.

It was thus agreed that: (a) members of the public searching the Internet with key words such as Worthington, History, Family and Genealogy should find the website easily and quickly; (b) the material on the website should be attractive to potential members; (c) it should then be easy and efficient to join the Society; and (d) the website should be updated frequently to attract regular re-sittings.

A suggestion was made that a committee consisting of Donald Gradeless, Robert Worthington and Philip G. Worthington should be formed to consider and advise the Council on beneficial changes. In response to a request, Donald Gradeless offered to take part in that work, and to continue as webmaster for so long as the Society's website is part of his personal website.

Election of officers and councillors

The secretary presented his agenda paper "Officers for 2009-10". On a motion by the secretary seconded by the chairman,

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that Janet R. Worthington be elected president of the Society.

On a motion by the chairman seconded by William C. Worthington,

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that Philip M. Worthington be elected secretary, registrar and archivist, that Stephen Read be elected treasurer, and that Patricia G. Ward be elected assistant treasurer – USA.

Additional officers should be appointed in due course by the Council. The chairman advised, and it was agreed, that volunteers should be sought for the offices of registrar and archivist to leave the secretary freer to concentrate on his roles as secretary of the Society and coordinator of the 17th-Century Project.

It was noted that, under the Constitution, the president, secretary and treasurer are ex-officio members of the Council. On a motion by the chairman seconded by the secretary,

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that Stuart G. Worthington and William C. Worthington be elected members of the Council.

Plans for the 2010 annual general meeting

A suggestion that the 2010 Annual Gathering and general meeting should be held in north-east Cheshire, United Kingdom, was welcomed. It was also agreed that one of the main sites to be visited should be Quarry Bank and The National Trust exhibition at Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate. On a motion by Rosalie Courage seconded by Patricia Ward,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the 2010 annual general meeting be held in north-east Cheshire, United Kingdom, in September, October or November 2010.

The chairman proposed that plans for annual gatherings should in future start to be formulated 2 years ahead to give plenty of time to find local contacts and prepare well for events. One suggestion for the 2011 Gathering is Massachusetts or Connecticut, where Nicholas Worthington migrated in the first half of the seventeenth century and begot a family. The chairman said that the next time the Society elect to gather at Annapolis, he and Mary Carroll Worthington would be pleased to receive members and guests at their home. He considered that there were more good sites now to be visited in the area.