



# WORTHINGTON 17th-CENTURY PROJECT

## PROSPECTUS

August 2005

**F**rank A. Brimlow of Gate City, USA, Lloyd Worthington of Chester, UK, Janet R. Worthington of Sydney, Australia and Philip M. Worthington of Leicestershire, UK, united in the Summer of 2004 as a Steering Group with the purpose of forming a society devoted to continuing research in Worthington genealogy and biography. Their preparations are complete; they propose that the first and immediate step should be to set in motion a 5-year project to research Worthingtons of the 17th Century world wide, to put together and prove their pedigrees, to link, as far as possible, those pedigrees with the more ancient Worthington lines, and to publish a book on the subject.

### Background

Four books have already been published on Worthington genealogy, namely:

- *Genealogy of the Worthington Family*, by George Worthington (1894), dealing with the descendants of Nicholas Worthington who sailed to America early in the seventeenth century;
- *The Worthington Families of Medieval England*, by Philip M. Worthington (1985), dealing with all known Worthington lines from 1200 to 1600;
- *Coopers and Customs Cutters - Worthingtons of Dover and Related Families*, by Janet R. Worthington (1997);
- *The Worthington of Failsworth and their Descendants*, by Philip M. Worthington (2005), covering the period 1550 to 2000.

Much other research into Worthington history has been, and is continuing to be, undertaken by individual genealogists, but there is usually difficulty in tracing lineages right through the 17th century, or linking them with the well known earlier lines.

The Steering Group is already a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, London, which has been helpful. It is noteworthy that the Guild has a large membership, and that some 4,500 one-name studies are being pursued by its members. Information kept at thousands of record offices and libraries is becoming increasingly accessible as they develop indexes by surnames and place names. However, it is unrealistic to expect that each individual genealogist could examine all appropriate sources. He or she must usually rest content with examining sources selected as being likely to be relevant to the particular line being studied. Thus, a corporate effort to search for all references to a name within a given time band is more efficient and much more effective in producing both genealogical and biographical material.



## Resources required

The first need is for volunteer researchers to search for and extract references at many record offices. Examples of major sources are the Lancashire Record Office at Preston, other record offices and libraries in Manchester, the Cheshire Record Office, the British Library in London, the Public Record Office at Kew and the New England Record Office at Annapolis, USA, but there are many other record offices throughout Great Britain, Ireland, Europe and the USA where research will be required.

The second need is for funds. A provisional estimate of cost is £15,000 to £20,000, including:

- (a) College of Arms fees for extracting relevant material from their own records and for validating and registering pedigrees;
- (b) Record office fees and copying costs;
- (c) Fees of professional researchers;
- (d) Subscriptions to associations;
- (e) Contribution to publishing costs;
- (f) Administration, postage etc.

The third need will be for genealogists and authors; this will become important from the second year onwards, when research is well advanced.

## Organisation

It is proposed that a society be formed for the duration of the project with three kinds of member, namely:

- Sponsors, each contributing £100 a year for five years;
- Supporters, each contributing £25 a year for five years;
- Researchers, each contributing significant research.

Members may join in more than one category if they wish. The participation of all three kinds of member will be fully recognised in the book, as with contributing authors.

It is proposed that there should be five officers, namely: chairman, editor, secretary, treasurer and archivist. All should retire each year, but may stand for re-election. The Annual General Meeting should be held in a location chosen by the retiring chairman, but should take into account written submissions by members unable to attend and electronic submissions prior to and during the meeting.

The editor should keep members informed of Project news, and compile the calendar and indexes, and make them available for members. The secretary should be responsible for preparing for and minuting annual and other meetings, for communications with members. The treasurer should be responsible for controlling the society's funds and preparing annual accounts and briefer interim reports. The archivist should hold a central repository of copies of documents, books etc. and make those available to members as required.

Towards the end of the project members will be able to decide whether the society should be wound up or continue with a further project or be converted into an ongoing historical society.

## Enrolment

Those wishing to enrol in the society are asked to complete an application form and send it to the address shown below. There is no need to send a subscription immediately; subscriptions will only be called when it is known that the society has enough support to proceed. When this point is reached papers will be despatched ready for the inaugural meeting.

Worthington 17th-Century Project  
The Knoll House, Knossington, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8LT, United Kingdom

## APPENDIX - THE STEERING GROUP

The four members of the Steering Group of the pilot society are:

- Frank A. Brimelow, MS(Chem), PhD: Route 1, Box 100, Gate City, Virginia 24251, USA. Telephone: (276) 452-1275. E-mail: [brim@mounet.com](mailto:brim@mounet.com)  
Retired college professor, currently researching the seventeenth century Worthingtons of Snydale and Overhulton in Lancashire, and their descendants, 1600 to 2000.
- Lloyd Worthington: 2 Rectory Close, Church Lane, Farndon, Chester CH3 5PS, United Kingdom. Telephone: 44 (0)1829 270665.  
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Retired Banker who has researched the Worthingtons of Montgomeryshire and their descendants, 1550 to 2000.
- Janet R. Worthington, NZRN, DipFHS, FSAG: Worthington Clark Pty Ltd, PO Box 1710, North Sydney, New South Wales 2059, Australia. Telephone: (612) 9460 3922. E-mail: [jan@worthingtonclark.com](mailto:jan@worthingtonclark.com) Web site: [www.worthingtonclark.com](http://www.worthingtonclark.com)  
Professional genealogist and author of book *Coopers & Customs Cutters - Worthingtons of Dover and Related Families 1560 - 1906* (1997).
- Philip M. Worthington, BSc(Eng), CEng, FICE: The Knoll House, Knossington, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8LT, United Kingdom. Telephone: 44 (0)1664 454315.  
E-mail: [worthington\\_philip@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:worthington_philip@hotmail.co.uk)  
Retired consulting engineer. Author of books *The Worthington Families of Medieval England* (1985) and *The Worthingtons of Failsworth and their Descendants* (2005).

The Steering Group has been supported by three honorary officers, namely:

- Lesley Munroe: 4 Sanderson Close, Roe Green, Worsley, Manchester M28 2DB, United Kingdom. Telephone: 44 (0)161 794 6862.  
Treasurer of the pilot society and currently giving a tour of lectures on the World War II diary of Mrs Maggie Brimelow, born Worthington.
- Judith S.M. Worthington, BSc, JP: The Knoll House, Knossington, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8LT, United Kingdom. Telephone: 44 (0)1664 454315.  
E-mail: [judy\\_worthington@hotmail.com](mailto:judy_worthington@hotmail.com)  
Vice-chairman of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Secretary of the pilot society.
- Stuart Gibson Worthington: Casa Orquidea, Guadalmina Alta 605, 29678 San Pedro de Alcantera, Malaga, Spain. Telephone: (34) 952884032.  
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Former textile manufacturer and justice of the peace. Researcher of the pilot society. Author of paper: *The Life of an Elizabethan Recusant - Dr. Thomas Worthington, SJ, DD, BA*, (1965).