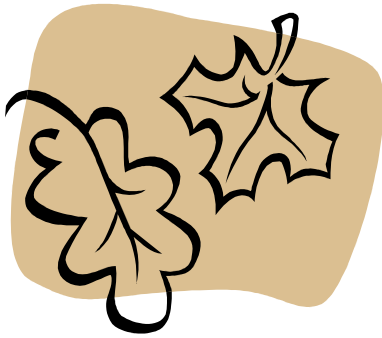


**March 2007**



**Issue One**

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Cover picture: St John the Baptist Church, Wittersham, Kent 1894

Editor: Nathan Dylan Goodwin BA (Hons)

1 Ivydene Cottages

Westenhanger

Hythe, Kent

CT21 4HS

Email: [dengate@one-name.org](mailto:dengate@one-name.org)

[www.dengates.com](http://www.dengates.com)

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## Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first Dengate Journal! As many of you know, I have been researching the Dengate family tree for several years and I now have an entire bookcase groaning under the weight of box files filled with photographs, wills, certificates, stories, newspaper articles, records, family trees, etc, etc, which I am pleased to share with everyone finally! I should note here that my research is very much still ongoing with many avenues still left to explore and families to connect. The monies raised from this Journal will be directed into two main areas of research: attempting to connect further family trees together via the purchase of birth, marriage and death certificates and wills; attempting to push the family tree back in time and to attempt to link the various branches of the tree together.

From my research so far I have identified that there are at least four major Dengate branches, all of which have living descendants and any number of minor sub-branches. I am certain these four branches link up at some

stage, but I have yet to establish that connection. It is my intention to print a short family tree in each issue of the Journal, but owing to space it will only be an excerpt each time. These four branches are:

Wittersham Tree 1 1637+

Ticehurst Tree c.1703+

Wittersham Tree 2 1740+

Rye Tree c.1755+

The subscribers to this Journal are spread across these four branches, so to *try* and help everyone understand where they fit in I have allotted a colour for each of the four trees and you will have been told to which tree you belong with this Journal.

Every quarter issue I will undertake a lead article on a particular aspect of the Dengate family tree, which I hope will be of interest and also a village profile, which helps tie the family to their surroundings. In this Journal the article deals with the history of the Dengate name and the village of Wittersham. Future editions of the Journal will feature such villages as Ticehurst, Rye, Sedlescombe,

Peasmarsh, Northiam, Newenden, Rolvenden, Crowhurst...the list goes on!

I would be happy to receive any correspondence or comments regarding the Dengate Journal or any particular enquires you may have about your own branch of the tree. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in future editions of the Journal.

I would like to appeal for any of your own stories, memories or photographs. These can be on any interesting aspects of your own life or that of a Dengate relative. For example, I would like to run an article on 'Dengates at War' and would very much like to include as many war memories as possible.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the Journal!



# The history of the Dengate name

## Introduction

In early 2006 DNA tests were carried out on three male Dengates ([Wittersham Tree 1](#)), where a relationship had been established back five generations—the common ancestor being [James Dengate](#) (1764-1851).

These results were then compared with three Dungate males, the result being that all six shared the same DNA link. This pointed to the name splitting into Dengate and Dungate around the year 1600. Prior to this approximate date, the name is exclusively found to be Dungate. These results point to there being a single Dengate /

Dungate family, although more research is needed, in particular in proving if [Wittersham Tree 2](#), [Ticehurst Tree](#) and [Rye Tree](#) are connected to [Wittersham Tree 1](#).

## Pre-history

Much scientific research has been carried out around the world on DNA family groups and the results from the Dengate / Dungate tests showed that this

family belong to the haplogroup E3b (marker M35), which only has a frequency in Britain of 1-5%. To take the family line back as far as is currently known, it first appeared 20,000 years ago in the Middle East. Descendants of this family were among the first farmers and helped spread agriculture from the Middle East into the Mediterranean region. According to the National Geographic, *“At the end of the last ice age around 10,000 years ago, the climate changed and became more conducive to plant production. This probably helped spur the Neolithic Revolution, the point at which the human way of living changed from nomadic hunter-gathers to settled agriculturists.”*

## History

Due to high levels of illiteracy in the seventeenth century and mispronunciation in the heavy rural Sussex accent, it is very difficult to establish exactly when the name Dengate was deliberately spelt Dengate rather than Dungate. In fact the name is spelt in both ways throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and perhaps only chance gives a modern day Dengate their current spelling.

The first recorded wills made by a Dungate were Stephen Dungate and John Dungate in 1652 (re-printed on pages 15 and 16). Conversely, the first Dengate will recorded was that of [William Dengate](#) (1760-1827), proved in 1828.

The oldest of the four main Dengate branches is [Wittersham Tree 1](#), which commences so far around the year 1637 with [Thomas Dengate](#) who was buried in St John's Church, Wittersham on 13 March 1670. It was Thomas and his wife, Anne who established the Dengate family there. Wittersham has without doubt the highest number of Dengate baptisms, marriages and burials. There are still members of the Dengate family living in the small village today and evidence of the family exists

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Each *eJournal* is 20 pages filled with news, information, stories and photographs about the various Dengate branches

“To take the family line back as far as is currently known, it first appeared