Feock Parish History Notes Word Search

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Chapter 1: Roads and Lanes - Feock in the 19th Century Part I

Roads now smooth and tarmaced to suit the tyres of modern transport are very different from their forerunners. In 1930 Tregye Road was still unsurfaced, dusty in summer and muddy in Winter. Some other roads in the parish were similar.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth I a law was passed making the parish responsible for the upkeep of its roads and two Waywardens were appointed each year to supervise this, themselves under the authority of local magistrates, as Well as public opinion. No Waywardens Accounts survive for Feock, but those of other parishes in 1780 and l790 show they received a portion of the general parish rate and employed "road men who cleared the ditches and applied loads of stone to the surface, but in wet weather roads often became impassible.

In the 1780's it was realised that this arrangement was inadequate to cope with the ‘main’ roads carrying more than local traffic and Turnpike Trusts came into being in Cornwall; i.e. groups of local gentry and merchants were incorporated by act of Parliament with power over defined stretches of road, with the right to levy tolls on the traffic using it, and with permission to borrow money, at 1% or 5% for capital expenditure. Ln fact, private enterprise made the users pay for the creation of the ‘trunk’ roads.

Martyn's l inch to l mile map of 1748 gives the earliest detailed study of the Feock roads. The main road from London through Truro to Penryn and Falmouth crossed Carnon Downs as an unfenced and probably unsurfaced track, went down to Higher Carnon Bridge and thence to Perranwell. Two other tracks joined with ferries; one from Truro to Penelewey then to Restronguet ferry, Mylor, Penryn and Falmouth; the other from King Harry Passage passed south of Trelissick to Come-to-Good, Carnon Downs, over the ford in the Carnon river to ‘Blow ye Cold Wind’ and west over the high land to Penzance. This road is also shown on Ogilby's strip map of l675 as part of the route from London to Land's End.

How extensively these roads were used is not known, but when the Truro Turnpike Trust was created in 1754 they named the route from Truro, through Calenick and over Higher Carnon to Penryn as being among those that Were ‘so ruinous and bad in winter that the same cannot by the ordinary course and methods appointed by the Statutes of the Realm, be effectively amended and kept in good repair, unless some provision be made for raising money for that purpose’. The other tracks in the parish, which served the farms, were left to the care of the Waywardens who kept them in repair to the best of their knowledge and ability with the limited means they had.

The next 'clue' is given by the first inch to the mile Ordnance Survey, made just over 50 year as later and shows considerable changes in pattern. It is also much more detailed. The Turnpike road is clearly defined but still unfenced. It had become an important link between London and Falmouth with Mail Coaches after l798. During the Napoleonic War Falmouth harbour was extensively used because of its strategic position at the Western end of the Channel, which made it an excellent base for the sailing ships of the Admiralty and of the Post Office.

The tracks shown by Martyn to the ferries are still clear and those to the farms seem to have been improved and extended to link them together, but the great change is the appearance of Quays at Roundwood, Pill, Harcourt, Point and Devoran, each with a road leading to it. The road to King Harry is now North of Mr. Lawrence's new mansion at Trelissick.

The very detailed large scale Tithe map of l842-5 shows that the parish had nearly 100 acres of roads and roadsides, 8 acres belonging to the Turnpike Trust and the rest the responsibility of the Waywardens; and the pattern of the roads has changed again. The Turnpike Road was realigned under the supervision of MacAdam. (The present main road.) A new bridhe was built at Lower Carnon, together with a new Turnpike House (demolished in 1966) and this gave better access both to Falmouth, to Perran Foundry and to Sir Wm. Lemon's estate at Carclew. Devoran Docks, served by the Devoran and Chasewater Railway, with an extension to Point Smelting Works had taken over the traffic from the mines and Devoran Village was growing. The other quays had almost ceased to be used although the tracks remain.

The Downs at Feock and Carnon had almost all been brought under cultivation as small holdings and a number of lanes are shown leading to the cottages. At Trelissick, R.A. Daniell had laid out the Park, obliterated two farm places and decreased the number of public roads within it.

The Parish roads remained in the care of the Waywardens who now had the advantage of the knowledge acquired from MacAdam and the other Turnpike surveyors who recommended that 2-inch stone be used to surface the roads; these would be rolled solid by the iron bound cart. Wheels, but Would also provide a grip for the horses. The local Magistrates Were Mr. J. D. Gilbert of Trelissick and the Rev. T. Phillpotts of Porthgwidden who were very conscious of their obligations and responsibilities and would see that resources were used to the best advantage to produce roads adequate for local needs.

In the l860's parishes were grouped together into Highway Districts. Feock was probably little affected as it had few 'through roads' shared with other parishes. Truro Turnpike Trust ceased in 1871 and the main road passed into the care of the County Council - a charge on the County - instead of the road users. The two parish roads to King Harry and Feock church acquired milestones, probably about 1890 When they were put in good condition by the parish and handed over to the County Council for upkeep.

Many new roads have recently been made to serve the new housing estates but the old road pattern still remains; mule tracks have been reduced to parish footpaths or farm lanes but the past roads are still visible to those who look.

Chapter 2: Population and Employment in Feock Parish (1800-36)- Feock in the 19th Century Part I

The Census Records show that Feock was a very sparsely populated parish in 1801, there were then 148 houses with a total of 696 inhabitants; by 1861 these figures had almost doubled and continued to rise by approximately 400 people in each decade to 1861. The age composition remained constant, approximately half the population being under 21 years old and 7% having reached the age of 60; today this latter count would be very much higher.

Housing kept pace with the increase in numbers, not until 186l is there a record of two families sharing a house, then in three cases a married Son. With young children shared with his parents and their children. Approximately 6 out of every l0 people had been born in Feock and 27% in parishes Within a lo mile radius. In l85l out of a total of over 1800 only 50 were not Cornish and these mostly came from Devon, by 1861 this figure had risen to 100 out of over 2200 including a few from various parts of Britain and a few children born in mining areas abroad who were living with grandparents, probably children of Sons who had emigrated. Most marriages were between people of the same parish, adjacent parishes on land or "over the Water" i.e. around the Falmouth estuary.

The increase in population was due to the rise in prosperity of the mines in the St. Day and Gwennap areas and under Restronguet river. Until the 1820's ore was carried by mules and horses from the mines to quays at Pill, Roundwood, Point and Devoran. Some carriers kept large numbers of livestock for this purpose. With the opening of the Redruth and Chacewater Railway in 1826 transport to Devoran and Point became easier; the trucks were horse drawn until after 1850, the horses being hired from farmers and carriers by the Railway until the first engines, Miner and Smelter Were bought. The stretch from Devoran to Point was always worked by horses.

As the mines deepened more coal was imported for them and for household use, also timber for mining and housebuilding, Wood, including Mahogany, for furniture with lime, guano, sand etc. The Smelting Works, Shipping, Railway and Foundry at Perranarworthal provided work for those people not engaged in agriculture, building or domestic trades such as shopkeepers, innkeepers and servants. One family of Lightermen has given its name to Tallack’s Creek.

Increased building required more tradesmen, carpenters, masons etc. In 1861 Devoran had a plumber. The better houses attracted more people who held responsible positions, mine agents, shipping agent S, and merchants; there was an increased demand for shops and servants. Now for the first time women call themselves char Women and girls go out as daily Servants instead of 'living in as they had done previously. In very few cases were boys employed under the age of 12 although a number of girls who were the eldest in large families left school early to help at home.

During this whole period there was no resident doctor; “a few nurses", probably midwives, as they were living in houses where there was a young baby. The total professional population in 1841 was the vicar and a woman teacher. By 1861 Devoran church had been built and the vicar had two curates. There were schools at Feock, Point and Devoran (2), besides ‘dame' schools. There were 22 teachers, including 3 men.

Agriculture was always a major occupation. Very few farms were over 100 acres, the average size was 10 Acres with many small holdings less than l0. Labour was supplied by the farmers’ sons and young men living in the farmhouse or in a nearby Cottage. Except for those people living in the new village of Devoran, most cottages had enough land to grow their own vegetables, keep hens and often a pig. Others rented small plots. Farms were usually let by tender at rack rents based on the expected price of corn, for periods up to 21 years. Following the drop in the price of corn and the potato famine in the 1840's many farmers received rebates of rent from the landlords; some ceased farming and sold up. Around 1850 owners had difficulty in letting farms. According to the names in the Census very few farm labourers stayed in the parish for as long as lo years. Small holdings and cottages were usually let on 99 year leases on three lives, when one of the named lives died the lease could be renewed and another name introduced on payment of a fine. There Was also a certain amount of common grazing land and rights of turbary. As the Smallholders often had a regular job a lot of the work must have been done by the women and children.

This period shows a tendency for families to move Within the parish to be nearer their work, smelters lived mainly at Point and Chycoose, sailors at Devoran and foundry workers around Carnon Gate. In l8l4l most of the N. & N.E. of Feock. "Quenchwell, Carnon Downs, Ringwell etc.) was occupied by miners, but after a mining slump in the early 1840's the young ones left and the older men either relied on their smallholdings or became labourers on the Wharves and railway. Each census shows a considerable number of labourers - exact occupation not specified - but most of these, like the agricultural labourers, did not stay for a long period. On the other hand, of the 292 families in the parish in 1811 218 of these were still in the parish in 1861, either the original couple, or their descendants.

This was a time of progress. Agriculture improved with the introduction of mechanical reapers, the introduction of better breeds of livestock, new varieties of corn - two farms showed corn at the Great Exhibition in 1851 - new manures, and a better understanding of the needs of the land. This went on side by side with the rapid industrial development and the tremendous increase in Shipping, the creation of a whole new village, better housing and furniture and more money in circulation.

Until well into the present century there was still a feeling of difference' between Devoran and the rest of the parish, Carnon Downs had not started to develop, and I wonder how many of the people now living in these two districts realise that they are part of an old and interesting parish with records going back to Doomsday.

Chapter 3: Analysis of Feock Church Marriage Register (1837-1861) - Feock in the 19th Century Part I

This was an attempt to draw some kind of picture of the life of the parish from a single Source - the marriage registers. Whilst it is possible to draw information which the Vicar could not have foreseen the method suffers from a number of drawbacks.

a) At first only certain information was looked for on a purely statistical basis. It was soon realised that all the information recorded was of use.

b) Information from the marriage register ought to be correlated with that from the christening and burial registers, but to do so needs a vast amount of time and may well be obtained from the census returns.

Given this restricted source the following information can be gleaned:

1. The marriages were surprisingly local; bride and groom often coming from households within several hundred yards of each other (column 3 histogram). In many marriages involving a groom from outside the parish he came by Water from points close to Feock.
2. Partners were surprisingly mature on marriage, this could be due to economic reasons or to late sexual maturing, or both. It would be interesting to know something about their diets.
3. The literacy rate was not high (partners were considered literate if they could sign their name). There is a notable decrease in illiteracy during this period - obviously something of a revolution in education was taking place. There is no significant difference in the figures for males and females. iv) The marriage rate tends to increase and we know that the population increased. The 5-year period 1847-52 shows an intriguing drop.
4. Analysis of the occupations of all males shows a) one quarter were labourers, (mime or farm). b) Other occupations were concerned with mining, seafaring and farming - c) in minority occupations there were a number of shoemakers (Walking being a necessity then) and a large number concerned with alcohol in contrast to the present more populous parish.

Chapter 4: Inns and Beerhouses of 19th century Feock - Feock in the 19th Century Part I

There were many Inns and Beer Houses in Feock parish in the 19th century, due no doubt to the numerous industries, the shipping and the railway running down to Devoran, all employing numbers of men, for whom these places of refreshment would cater. Many of these establishments have now disappeared and even the memory of some has virtually vanished. The following is a summary of the evidence which survives. It has been gained from Directories, from contemporary newspapers and from the memories of the old people of the district, together with information Supplied by Mr. H. L. Douch of the County Museum, Truro.

Pill Creek

There was an Inn at the end cottage near the quay. In the early part of the 19th century this was very prosperous, due to the increasing coasting trade carried on there by different companies.

Feock Village

There was a Beerhouse opposite the Post Office and one in the thatched cottage attached to the General Stores. The Red, White and Blue, situated on Higher Road, was a popular Inn. Pig clubs were held here and much favoured by the railwaymen from Devoran Who used to go by boat to Yard Beach and then over the fields to Feock, where at the local shoemaker their Working boots were made, calling at the R. W. B. as it Was known, for Some home-brewed beer before embarking for Devoran. The name Was later changed to the New Inn. The innkeeper, Mr. J. Green, who also farmed, moved to the Punchbowl and Ladle, at Lenelewey, out of the parish, and the New Inn Was closed towards the end of the century.

Penpol and Point

A small “kiddleywink", or Beerhouse, existed at Penpoll near the bridge. At Point, or Daniel's Point, Was the Bell Inn, situated on the upper part of the Green- it may have derived its name from a bell rung to summon the boatman from across the water

Point was by reputation a smuggling area and no doubt unauthorised supplies of liquor came the way of its publicans, as the following passage from the Gazette of June 8 and lb, l822, suggests: "Reward £20”. Custom House, Truro. Mr. John Tippett, Collector of the Port of Truro, on the morning of the 20th April, seized 50 kegs of foreign spirits in a barn at Point, and about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day four of the said kegs were rescued by persons’ unknown out of the custody of Charles Pascoe who was left in charge of the kegs". The young daughter of John Bridger, Innkeeper of the "Bell" was involved with other people in an incident at Point concerning Customs Officers and the missing kegs of contraband spirits. Also at Point was a Beerhouse in one of the cottages near the quay.

Devoran

The Commercial Inn at Devoran was much used by travellers and the stables are still there at the rear of the Inn. It was much frequented by seamen from the nearby docks. at one time the Innkeeper Was also a ropemaker.

Tne Crown and Anchor, Devoran quay, was opened in the early part of the century. A prosperous and fair-Sized Inn, at one time it employed a porter and two servants. Redruth Brewery had an interest in this Inn, which closed somewhere around 1902.

The Robartes Arms, Lemon Street, was named after the founders of Devoran. It was there the first cottage stands at the foot of Market Street. At one time it was kept by a Mrs. Gilbert, better known as Mother Gilbert, very strict but Well liked. She made those of her customers who swore put money in a box for the Royal Infirmary. If she thought anyone had consumed enough liquor, she would tell him to go home to his wife and children. At this Inn, as at some others in the neighbourhood, the beer was home-brewed.

Carnon Downs

Carnon House Inn, at Carnon Gate, Was Situated near Lower Carnon Turnpike and adjoining the railway. It was opened about l850 and owned by the Redruth Brewery. A Beerhouse once existed at Pine Tree Cottage, Carnon Downs. It had a skittle alley for the entertainment of patrons, and a stable for their horses. The proprietor was involved in a dispute with the police on one occasion and although he refused to admit then he was fined for keeping late hours. Another Beerhouse or "kiddleywink" also stood at the corner of Tregye Road. At one time a family of the name of Mitchell lived here, not only running the kiddleywink but also acting as carriers. The story goes that the wife used to Walk behind the horses carrying the ore to Point and return. With bottles of contraband spirits tied to her waist under her voluminous skirts, Irish labourers frequented this Beerhouse. It is said that the home-brewed beer was often heated in a tin bath and sugar added to it.

King Harry Passage

King Harry Passage House was later known as King Henry Passage House. In 1816 when it was put up for sale the property included gardens, boats and the ferry itself; the landlord at that time Was a Robert Watkins. In 1843 a survey - the local term for an auction - Was advertised as being at the house of Thomas Crowle, landlord of the King Harry Passage Inn. With the decrease of industry and shipping and later the closure of the Redruth and Chacewater Railway, came the gradual disappearance of many of the Inns and Beerhouses in the parish and a chapter in the busy and prosperous life of the district also came to a co Se.

Note: A "Kiddleywink" was the Cornish name for a type of Beerhouse, of which many existed in the mining and industrial areas of the county. One explanation of the name, undoubtedly apocryphal, is that smuggled brandy Was often kept in a kettle in these houses to deceive Customs Officers, and that those in the know would give a Wink at the kettle – or Kiddley - When they wanted a drop.

Chapter 5: The Parish as revealed by the Tithe Map - Feock in the 19th Century Part I

Tithe maps were drawn up for parishes in England and Wales to accompany a schedule of owners, lessees and occupiers to apportion the rent -charge in lieu of tithes in kind which were due on each holding The Feock apportionment is dated l8ll with minor corrections in l8l45 and the map is dated l8l42. The parish copies are in the keeping of the County Records Office.

The map overleaf shows the pattern of holdings and differentiates Owners, lessees and Occupiers by means of different forms of letter, the four large landowner’s' lands are indicated by an initial letter except where the owner is also occupier. There Were in addition a few substantial estates, some owner occupied as that of John Major at Tregew, John Phillpotts overlooking the Fall at Porthgwidden and Thomas Messer Simmons at Killiganoon, but here much of the land was occupied by Walter Hearle. Juliana Penrose owned Tregye but Daniel Retallack was in occupancy. The Hugo sisters of Tresithick owned land John Vivian and Rev. Molesworth St. Aubyn had a few acres, at Chycoose and on the northern slopes towards Cowlands Creek was a small group of Small holder owners at Lobbs Tenement. Mount George and Brickmoor (sic) had owner occupiers and Pigmoor was owned but not occupied by James Crowle.

The larger holdings were in the main om the higher flatter land but in the northwest were a large number of Smaller holdings whose occupants were in many cases employed in the mining district beyond the Western boundary of the parish. There were small nucleated farm settlements with scattered and interlocking fields at Chycoose-Chypit, at Trevilla and at La Feock and Church Town and the slopes to Restronguet Creek near Harcourt had a pattern of small fields in varied ownership. Here the Cornish Copper Company held leases and at Devoran itself, where the planned development of 1823 had made only small progress, the lease of the short terrace of new houses was held by the English Copper Company. Robert Michell and Son and the Penpoll Smelting Works Company occupied land by the creek and the Redruth and Chacewater Railway Company owned house and Weighing office on the route.

Chapter 6: The Growth of Devoran- Feock in the 19th Century Part I

Devoran reached its greatest development in the past about l870, but not so long ago there was a local expression as dead as Devoran docks'. There was some building in Devoran Lane between the wars, but it is only quite recently that land has become available for further development. Now the ‘Dead Docks' are being replaced by ‘Desirable Dwellings’ and the village is expanding.

About 1800, the ground on which Devoran stands was used for farming and the slopes running down to the river were probably covered with gorse, but the mines up the Carnon Valley were being extensively worked and their prosperity depended on the pumping engines which needed coal. Alfred Jenkin, the far sighted steward of the Agar Robartes of Lanhydrock, who was also a mining agent, saw the possibilities of the deep tidal water at the foot of the slope. On November 25th, 1791, he wrote to Lanhydrock about “a 30-acre croft called Nullas Downs - at the foot of the Downs Reed carries on a considerable trade in coals, timber etc. He will spend £400 to £500 building a new dwelling house there". Elsewhere Jenkin mentions Devoran Cock, or Devoran Wollas (now mid Devoran) to which Nullas Down belonged as having been purchased by Robartes in 1577. As other pieces of land adjacent came into the market he seems to have advised their purchase.

On 24th May 1821 he writes of Devoran as "a small quay on Restronguet Creek but higher up than Lemon Quay, it belongs to Magor, Baynard & Co., Coal Merchants. It is only calculated for small quantities but we save 6sOd a ton over Lemon Quay. " In Winter communications with the mines were very difficult. On 2nd January l8l7 Jenkin writes, "such frequent rains for the last month - the roads from the mines to the wharf are so badly cut up, particularly those to Pill that all the wheel carriages are stopped and the mules are the only conveyance at present". On 4th April 1817. "I am under great apprehension of soon feeling the effects of the wet season we had last autumn. Both hay and corn were so much injured by it that the horses and mules in this neighbourhood have suffered exceedingly".

As early as 1806 plans had been discussed for canals to carry the traffic of coal, ores etc., and it was reported that "the Gwennap mines are to have canals cut to the several shipping places betwixt Truro and Falmouth, and are to be set about quickly so that the estates now ate out by mules will be turned to tillage and pasture --- more butter, bread and beef will be produced". However, an engineer’s survey proved this to be impracticable and it was not until John Taylor took over the mines in the Carmon Valley about 1820 that the plans for an Iron Railroad, in place of the mules and mud, took shape and the Redruth an Chasewater Railway was opened in l826. For some years the existing facilities seem to have been sufficient for the trade and little change took place. There is an advertisement in the Royal Cornwall Gazette 3rd June 1826 for the sale by Private Contract of the lease of the Quays and Wharfs at Devoran, together with a dwelling house and stable. “The situation is the best in West Cornwall, being the only depot of the Devoran and Redruth Railway”

In 1858 Alfred Jenkin and Lanhydrock Estate seem to have decided that trade had increased enough to warrant building more quays; on 26th May 1838 he writes to William Pease at Par, the designer of Par harbour, asking him for plans and advice on the making of a reservoir, to store tidal water to flush out the mud which accumulated in the channel, as was done successfully at Hayle, and for quays etc. at Devoran. “Ι hope thou Wilt allow me to rely a great deal on thy assistance in this matter" so the work was started. The mud banks made it difficult to build stone quays, as at Roundwood and Pill, so wood faggots were used to bind the mud, and wooden piles driven deep into it to make the walling. On 11th February 1839 A. J. writes, "we shall want a great quantity of faggots this spring for the reservoir and quays at Devoran and the coppice in question is well suited for land or water carriage”. This was a coppice at Calenick. The sluice gates were of beech from Boconnoc. Later in 1839 he says "The Works are on the point of completion. I have not let any more of the quay ground, but several plots for buildings which are in course of erection”. On 3rd January 1940 “William Carne has taken 40 to 50 ft. of quay at 5sOd a foot". 12th May 1840 “let 200ft.of quay with the reservoir behind to Michael Williams for a timber pond. I am glad to have so potent a party in the preservation of the navigation and trade'. A month later M. W. takes another piece at £15.6s.0d per annum- On 2nd April 1841 in a letter to James Whitburn, in charge of construction "I am Sorry to find the sluice is out of order, which ought not to be the case so soon after its completion.” This was remedied as on 21st April 184l; he writes to William Pease, "at the desire of J.T. Agar Robartes I send thee my cheque for £5 --- as a mark of the obligation he feels for thy valuable services in planning the reservoir and sluices, which continue to answer very well". The accumulation of mud in the channel was to cause trouble all the time that Devoran was a port.

With the growth of the quays and railway came the need for houses for those employed. In the Tithe Survey, l8l42, there are a few houses near the present Devoran Inn, some at the bottom of Market Street and Carclew Terrace, the rest being scattered. The l8ll census gives 40 dwellings in the area now covered by Devoran and Carrion Gate with 205 people, these include 4 Small farms, 3 inns, a shoemaker, a carpenter and a smith. The rest were employed by the quays and railway. There was no mariner living there. By 187l Devoran reached its maximum with a population of l500 compared with 900 in the rest of the parish. Most building took place between 1845 and 1865.

Most of the stone for the houses came from a nearby quarry, now filled in and built over. The new village was planned, by Lanhydrock, on the higher ground and consists mainly of two long terraces of well-built stone houses with granite lintels and quoins. The houses vary in size, being either single or double fronted. Windows are larger than those in the old cottages. The houses on the lower terrace have long back gardens, those above have long front gardens giving them a view over the roofs below' and look over to the fields and Woods of Carclew.

Many had their own wells and by l853 there was some type of drainage; on 29th November Jenkin writes to Thos. Whitburn, "I have had a letter from T. J. Agar Robartes informing me that Thos. Phillpotts (vicar of Feock) wishes to see me about the sanitary state of the place as there appears to have been an alarming case of cholera or fever there”. The burial register has the word cholera against an elderly man who died at that time. Jenkin continues "as it may be important that whatever may be needful should be done speedily, I will despatch a messenger informing him that thou wilt meet him tomorrow”. On December 5th he writes again "whatever the cost may be the drain in question must be made at once after another cholera outbreak in Falmouth in 1854, he writes to Thos. Phillpotts, "With respect to Devoran thou art mistaken in thinking that nothing has been done there, about 500 ft. of large drainpipes are being laid there and I expect an equal quantity next week. What I am doing there has no reference to W. Treganowans premises where the greatest nuisance is, the Board of Health must take such steps with reference to that as they think proper". On September 9th he pays F.M. Chell for making and laying l80 pipes £9.l3s.6d. this cost to be shared between the property owners.

Streets were originally unpaved but on 5th March 1856 Jenkin instructs Whitburn to pay on behalf of Mrs. Agar one third of the £42. llys.7d., being the cost of paving the street from Sampson's Wharf to the Market House'. This is not the present Market House which was built in l862 but an earlier one, probably on the same site. Lanhydrock also kept a firm eye om the type of house built; Jenkin wrote to Whitburn on 26th March ' 56 "I return here with the plan of the houses proposed to be built by J. H. Nicholls. The size is quite too small for that situation and I would rather leave the ground unoccupied than have houses of that description built on it. The length from out to out being only 36ft. and deducting there from 2ft. for the external walls, 9ins. for half the middle Wall and 4ft. for passage and partition leaves only llft.3ins. for each front room, the back rooms Will be still smaller as the stairs will have to come out of each.”

By l857 the terraces were being provided with footpaths, Jenkin writes, "It will be necessary to have granite curb stones for the footpaths, quarry Stones are constantly liable to be displaced and there would be frequent expense in replacing them". These stones are probably still to be seen there. Larger houses were built for the merchants who were living in Devoran also for the Harbour Master, Railway Superintendent, Mine Agents and others in responsible positions. An advertisement in the Gazette in 1818 gives a good idea of the type of business carried on at that time in Devoran:

**To be sold at the " Crown & Anchor” Inn, Devoran**

*Newly erected Dwelling House, Barn, Stable and outbuildings together with 3 acres of enclosed land. For the residue of a term of 99 years on three lives aged 15, 14 and 12.*

**Household Furniture**

*Mahogany and other tables and chairs, four-post and other beds, bedding and furniture, looking glasses, drawers etc.*

**Husbandry**

*2 cows, 1 heifer, 2 carthorses, part of a mow of wheat, rick of hay, chaff machine and implements of Husbandry.*

**Stock in Trade**

*Bricks, slate for flooring, rag slate, common slate, laths, several tons of coal, lime, limestone etc.*

*Red, yellow and spruce pine, birch, American and English oak, large quantity of planks, slabs, purlins, rafters, beams, etc. Old and new iron, 2 porter’s barrows, 2 iron lime barrows, 4 wood barrows, 2 beams, 3 stands with scales and weights etc.*

**Property**

*I. Quay and railroads connected there with lime kiln with inclined plane, rails, whim and chain with storehouse adjoining.*

*II. Plot of ground with counting house.*

*III. Schooner ‘Merton' rebuilt 1847, register 80 tons with masts, rigging etc.*

*IV. Three quarter share in Brigantine 'George' register 114 tons with masts rigging etc.*

*V. Lighter ‘Stoddart’ burden 60 to 70 tons with all appurtenances.*

*VI. Boat ‘Alfred' burden about 5 tons.*

This man emigrated to Australia in l849 and his family followed in 1853, at which time Lanhydrock allowed the wife a rebate of half the rent then owing.

A later unreserved sale of a Mine Agent lists mahogany furniture in all the main rooms, carpets and rugs, double sets of china dinner and tea services and sets of glasses, a large quantity of linen, copper kitchen utensils and a library of 250 volumes; also a bay mare, a cob, four wheeled gig, saddles etc.

The incidents in the everyday life and the entertainments of this busy little port will provide a separate chapter.

Chapter 7: Education in the 19th Century- Feock in the 19th Century Part I

The earliest information we have of the facilities provided for the education of children in Feock parish comes from an enquiry made by the Select Committee in 1818. This States that the population Was 968 (1811 census) and the number of poor 54 (1815). "The people in general are very poor and but few are desirous of the means of education; at present there are 50 children in Want of instruction. Two small schools exist, one containing l6 children who are taught by a woman and another by a man, consisting of 10 or 12 children. Endowments none" (return made by Rev. J. Symons, Vicar).

Two voluntary bodies Were providing eleg:1entary education throughout the country at this time, The National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, and The British and Foreign School Society, which was un-denominational. An investigation made in 1833, following the Reform Act, had revealed that "out of every ten children of school age in England and Wales, four went to no school at all, three to Sunday Schools only, two to inefficient dame schools or private day school and only one received a satisfactory education". (H. C. Barnard. A Short History of Education).

The Government became concerned and, in order to increase the number of Schools agreed to contribute part of the cost of any new schools built by the Societies. When the National Society made their survey in this area in 1846, it was found that in Feock parish there was one school, used for both day and Sunday scholars. Ten boys and twelve girls attended on weekdays and thirteen boys and six girls on Sundays. The society decided to build two new schools "in lieu of the present one which is not satisfactory". One was built at Feock and one at Devoran.

The school at Feock cost £508, £243 was raised by local subscription and the Government made a grant of £65. It had accommodation for 108 children. The Devoran school. £310, £245 came from subscriptions and £65 from Government grant. The accommodation here Was for 111 children. Feock school was inspected by a visiting H.M.I. in the year it was opened. It was described as a mixed school under a master (untrained) with the younger children placed under his wife. Discipline was ‘very fair’ with good tone throughout the school; "much progress is being made and religious instruction is very pleasing." There were 45 children present at the inspection, 21 were reading letters and monosyllables, 15 easy narratives and 9 reading Holy Scripture easily; 26 writing on slates from copies and 9 from memory, 15 writing on paper. Of those learning arithmetic 24 were doing numeration, 15 working at subtraction, multiplication and division, while 9 were doing Proportion and Practice. In addition, 9 were learning Geography, 9 Grammar and 25 did voal music from notes.

The annual income was, by donations and subscription, £55, by School pence £510. Expenditure, Salaries £60. Nothing was listed as spent on books, stationery, candles or fuel, by 1853 the number of pupils was 5 boys and 1 girl. The master received £55 plus £5 for acting as Parish Clerk; expenditure, books £2, fuel £l, repairs £2. The cost per child was given as £1.3s.6d. The corresponding figures for Devoran, in 1854 were; Income by endowment (Betton Charity) £5, by voluntary contributions £15, School pence £10. Miss Mary Botheras Towan had been the teacher since the school opened seven years before. She was untrained and ran a school of 30 boys and 32 girls alone. As many as 92 children Were present at the last inspection, which suggests that the Monitorial system was still being used. A memorandum notes: - 'It should be observed that although funds do not permit the employment of a master in this school, there is a master at the other school, St. Feock, where boys of more advanced age can be educated." Entries in later log-books explain the low running costs of both schools; much of the work was done on slates with the children supplying their own slate pencils. From a logbook of 1868 "Much time is sometimes wasted by boys though not having brought their slate pencils, if these were supplied by the school this would of course, be prevented." When heating was thought necessary children brought extra pence for firing. In 1866 fires were not started in Devoran) until November 20th.

A day school attached to the Wesley Chapel in Devoran was opened in January 1868. The master was Charles Filfoot who had been trained at Westminster. The school started with 68 scholars drawn from rural and seafaring families. Later the number rose to 110. The estimated income was: - Government grant £140, outfit grant (furniture) £25, Grant from Westminster £35, Chapel Anniversaries £5, school pence £45 (Boys paid 6d a week, girls 3d or 2d, infants 2d, according to the position of their parents). Expenditure: - Teacher's salary £86 with £8 for an assistant, books £20, building £50, chairwoman £5, fuel £1. This school seems to have closed in 187l, possibly because the master moved to Truro, but was open again by 1873, the master was W. J. N. Oliver with his wife Martha as assistant. The fee for boys rose to 9d, girls 3d and infants 2d. About 75 children attended in 1875. James Whitburn was Correspondent.

We do not know exactly what other schools existed in the parish but there were dame schools and small private school in each district. At one time there was a school in the top storey of a building at the back of the chapel in Carnon Downs and another is said to have been held in a barn at the junction of Old Carnon and Carnon Hill. There was certainly a British School at Point in 186l, but where was it situated? What type of school was at Rope Walk? A Sunday School was provided by the Daniells for their workers at Trelissick and there was a school at Four Turnings near Mount Pleasant in 1842.

Altogether there must have been quite a number of places of learning because in the 1851 census, 322 children are given as scholars, just one being listed as Sunday Scholar only. By 1861 the number was 550. There are instances of children remaining at school up to 16 years of age and in 1874 a boy of 18 years was re-admitted to Devoran school when Carnon Mine, where he had been working, closed down.

This is a brief review of the local situation, taker mainly from Privy Council records up to 1863, after which date individual school log-books give detailed accounts of the day to day Working of each school and will provide material for a further chapter.

Chapter 8: Shipbuilding in the Parishes of Feock and Devoran in the 19th Century- Feock in the 19th Century Part I

These notes are only an interim result of an incomplete study of the original sources. Much work remains to be done on the written sources and also in discussion with local residents.

Sources consulted up to date are: -

1. Lloyds register of shipping. Nat. Maritime Museum.
2. The Merchant Shipping Registers. Nat. Maritime Museum
3. Lloyds Certificates of Registry. Nat. Maritime Museum
4. Wreck Registers. Nat. Maritime Museum
5. Lloyds Shipping Lists. Guildhall Library.
6. Various Documents. County Record Office.
7. Files of the Royal Cornwall. By courtesy of Mr. Douch & Mr. Davies. Gazette & West Briton
8. “Merchant Schooners” by Basil Davidson.

During the 19th century Small ships were built at many sites on all rivers and estuaries so that it is not surprising to find that there were several yards even in one parish. The most important building Site Was at Point, where the location is still known as Yard Point, there were also building Sites at Pill, Devoran, Cowlands and Roundwood.

1. Pill.

The earliest record of building that have found so far was at Pill, where the following builders worked: -

 (a) Hitchins and Ford

1819 William Thomas Barge 37 tons.

1877 J.W. T. Schooner 100 tons.

1879 Lizzie Edith Schooner 90 tons.

(b) William Hodge

1865 Glenfeadon Schooner 128 tons.

1865 A.D. Gilbert Schooner 177 tons.

(c) Charles Burt

1879 Reaper Schooner 91 tons.

1. Devoran.

Devoran was not a very convenient site for ship building as there was little depth of water and no good place for building Slips. Nevertheless, several ships were built there: -

(a) W. Stephens, Jnr.

1844 Owner Unknown Smack tonnage unknown

(b) Ricard Gilbert

1881 R. H. G. Ketch 45 tons.

(c) Hugհ Eddy Stephens

1869 Enterprise Smack 53 tons

1870 Annie Sloop 15 tons

1875 Maggie Schooner 12 tons

1875 Mary Smack 25 tons

1877 Mary & Julia Schooner 136 tons

1878 P. H. Stephens Schooner 85 tons

H. E. Stephens built on a site near Tallack’s creek which can still be seen, and lived in one of the Cottages at Carnon Mine.

1. Roundwood Quay (Cowlands Creek).

(a) J. Wellington

l872. W. R. T. Schooner 60 tons

1876 Bushman Schooner Unknown tonnage

(b) W. M. Burley & W. Hitchins

1877 William & John Schooner 83 tons

(c) H. S. Trethowan

1876 Flora - Schooner 99 tons

Launches unfinished at Little Falmouth and completed at Roundwood.

1. Point.

The site at Yard Point seems to have been used for ship building from an early date and members of the Ferris family were connected with it for many years. The early records showing builders names can be confusing and it is not easy to confirm the attributions to individual members of the Ferris family. There is also doubt sometimes whether a ship was built at Point or Pill.

According to Mr. Ben Ferris of Carnon Mine the Ferris family were running the yard when it was taken over by Mr. John Stephens in 1859 and William Ferris, known as "Foreman Ferris' stayed on there as designer and foreman throughout John Stephens' time, J. Stephens lived at “Valletort", St. Johns Terrace, Devoran.

(a) Thomas Ferris

1836 Two Brothers Smack 37 tons

1842 Elizabeth Ann Schooner 83 tons

1851 Clipper Schooner 114 tons

1853 Morwenna Schooner 51 tons

1854 William Henry Schooner 102 tons

1855 Jane & Catherine Schooner 99 tons

1896 Cock of the Walk Schooner 143 tons

1856 Mary Ann' Smack 33 tons

1856 Symmetry Cutter 30 tons

1857 March Hare Schooner 104 tons

This yard was advertised for sale 23/07/1859 (R.C.G.)

(b) Peter Ferris

1806 Caroline - Barge 43 tons

1819 William Thomas Barge 37 tons

1832 Union Barge 37 tons

1834 Amelia Smack 49 tons

1855 Mary Schooner 67 tons

1855 Weasel Schooner 81 tons

1855 Ariel Schooner 24 tons

1858 J. S. Τ. Schooner 127 tons

1858 Commodore Cutter 34 tons

1861 Charles Gray Smack 54 tons

1862 Deerfoot Schooner 129 tons

1865 Dream (yacht) Schooner 41 tons

(Some of these may have been built at Pill)

(c) William Ferris

1885 Cormorant Yawl 4.4 tons

(d) Willian Sara Martin

1861 Fear Not Cutter 21 tons

1861 Cordelia Williams Schooner 76 tons

1864 Golden Light Schooner 120 tons

(e) John Stephens

1859 Primus Schooner 59 tons

1865 Kate Sloop 19 tons

1866 Racer Schooner 67 tons

1867 Arrow (yacht) Schooner 17 tons

1868 Rhoda Mary schooner 150 tons

1869 North Star Steamer 29 tons

1870 Nelly Schooner 105 tons

1870 R.K.P. Schooner 76 tons

187l J.W.W. Schooner 75 tons

1872 Fanny Sloop 18 tons

1874 Goonlaze Schooner unknown tonnage

1875 Bessie Schooner 116 tons

1875 Gleaner Smack 42 tons

1876 Lizzie R. Wilce Schooner 175 tons

1877 Hetty Schooner 100 tons

Chapter 9: The Smelting Works at Point- Feock in the 19th Century Part I

On the South side of the parish an arm of the Restronguet Creek runs north from the village of Point to the bridge at Penpol, with deep water on the east Side of it. In 1817, Sir William Lemon of Carclew leased 8 acres of Penpol Croft, with stone quarries, to John Swan, gentleman of the parish of Feock, to erect and build a quay or Wharf, with storehouses, to be called Lemon Quay; and in November l8l8 there was an advertisement in the West Briton that "Prime Welch 'Coal" was available at the newly erected Quay in Restronguet Creek, adjoining Penpol, called Lemon Quay. In January 1818 John Swan & Co. advertise that they are ready to receive copper ores to be shipped to Wales (for smelting) and to purchase coal brought back in the ships carrying ore.

The Penpoll Smelting Works were built soon after, because in April 1827 John Swan "is now ready to receive samples of Lead Ore for assaying, and to treat for purchase"; but in 1828 he was involved in a lawsuit with Viscount Falmouth and was made bankrupt. He is described as "of Truro, Merchant" supplying mining and building requisites such as coals, timber, iron, candles, leather, Bridgewater bricks, tiles and laths. The sale was held at Pearce's Hotel, Truro, now "The Royal, on September 22nd and describes the Works: -

"the newly erected Lead Smelting Works contain2 Calcining Furnaces, 2 Flowing Furnaces, 3 Refining Furnaces, with all necessary Working Tools Moulds, Test Rings etc. and stock of bone ashes. In complete repair and calculated for smelting 180 tons of Lead a month".

Lemon Quay was also to be sold and details could be obtained from Mr. Wm. Penrose of Tregie, Feock. In 1829 creditors received 10s0d in the £ and another 2s0d in 1831.

In 1829, William Stevens of Feock, Yeoman, leased a piece of land "on the beach under Penpol estate" With liberty to erect and build a mill on the plot of ground nearest to Lemon Quay. The Walls to be stone and the roof slate and to erect a Dam or Weir across Penpoll Creek and hatching and sluices convenient for a pond for scouring the channel in front of Lemon Quay. The Mill has disappeared but 'Bone Mill Pond still exists, With Stepping stones replacing the sluices, and is used as Winter quarters for boats.

In 1830 the Lead Smelting House lease Was drawn up between Sir Charles Lemon and Willian Penrose of Tregie and R. & W. Michell (a Truro partnership with an interest in the Calenick Tin Smelting Works, also suppliers of mining accessories) but on 28th March 1838 (according to the monumental tablet in Feock Church) William Penrose died suddenly and the lese was changed The Michells continued, Juliana, the Widow, took William's place and William Stephens joined them. The copy of the lease in the Whitford papers is engrossed the Penpol Head Smelting Works.

An accident reported in the West Briton on May list 1840 gives a picture of the works. 'On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Trewhella, clerk to Mr. Knight, brewer in Truro, was returning from Point when his horse fell over a plank projecting in the road in front of the smelting works - he was severely injured - but prompt assistance - gives hope of recovery. The place is dangerous at any time, but the road having been repaired with slag from the furnaces, its boundaries are very indistinct, and at night the danger is increased by sudden flashes of light when the fire is stirred".

A school must have been established in connection with the works, because in the report of the Trelissick Tea Treat (W. B. l. 7. 1848) "The scholars from the school at Point, established by Mr. Michell on the British & Foreign system, came in Waggons with banners'. The first Penny Readings were held in support of the library connected with the School. "Mr. H. B. Champion, the manager, for the opening reading selected a beautiful tale Written by Mr. John Harris, the Cornish poet, entitled 'Nat Moss' which was exceedingly well received. All the other pieces elicited the approval of all concerned. The readings Will be continued fortnightly".

In 1870 and 1880 there are other leases between Arthur Tremayne of Car clew (Sir Charles Lemon died in l868) and the London based Penpoll Tim Smelting Company, who had possession of all the land running down to the creek, together with the bone mill and the upper mill pool, except for a piece of land retained "for the purpose of building a schoolroom.

By comparing the maps of 1845 and 1880, it can be seen that the Penpoll Company had set up a new and extended works. The figures published for the fortnightly Tin Ticketing’s (established in 1887) show there to have been keen buyers whenever the price dropped slightly and willing to pay above the average to snatch high grade ore from their 4 or 5 competitors. In the following years tin production in Cornwall declined and the company built new smelting works near Liverpool. In 1921 they paid the Tremaynes £500 to be released from their repairing contract and left Penpol.

At some time before 1880 arsenic flues must have been erected; there were two chimneys on the high land behind the works to get rid of the fumes and in 1924; Mr. Fred L. Morcom had a tribute pitch from the Tremaynes to carry away arsenic from these flues.

Little remains now, but traces can still be seen. At the foot of the hill below Point Green is the oldest quay, built before 1800 and called Daniell's Quay, which was the terminus of the Devoran and Chasewater Railway. There is still quay walling all the way along the river bank, almost up to the Bone Mill Pond this was Lemon Quay and Smelting House Quay. The brick built house on the lower road near Point Green is reputed to be built with the bricks from the chimneys. There is still slag on the beaches on both sides of the creek.



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Chapter 1: Place names in the Parish of Feock- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

According to Dr Gover, Charles Henderson and many others, this is a baffling subject. By far the greatest number of place-names are in the Cornish language, a Celtic language closely akin to Welsh and Breton.

Names were given to places to meet a practical need, as more than one place in an area was settled they had to be named to distinguish them and as settlements grew so did the number of names.

The men who conferred the names had no thought of instructing or informing their posterity but took a meaning understood by those who used the names.

In Cornish the descriptive adjective follows the noun; for example, Tre- indicates a large farmstead (Tregew, Tregye, Trelissick etc.), while Chy- is used for a smaller farm, sometimes situated among other cottages, e.g. Chycoose.

The place-names given in the table were taken mainly from Dr Gover's unpublished typescript and Charles Henderson's Works, both in the library at the Truro Museum. We are especially grateful to Mr Richard Jenkin for his personal assistance, and have also studied Works by Morton Nance and P.A.S. Pool.

With regard to the three main settlements, Feock, Devoran and Carmon Downs:

Feock occurs as ‘Ecclesiam Sancte Feoce’ in 1264 (S.R.) later spellings vary considerably and it was first spelt with a 'k' in 1394. The name is said to come from the Irish saint ‘Fiacc’ or ‘Fiaco’.

Devoran is mentioned as ‘Deffrion’ in 1278 (Ass), the name is a derivative of ‘dever’ or ‘dover’ meaning water (Comish ‘dour’ the old name for the Creek).

Carnon Downs occurs in the 683 Recovery Rolls and means Rocky Downs, a mixture of Cornish and English.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | EARLIEST SPELLING | DATE | REF. | MEANING |
| Tregew | Tregeu | 1208 | B.F. | Farm in hollow or recess |
| Tregoose | Tregueyt | 1280 | Ass. | Farm by the wood |
| Trevilla | Trevelle | 1265 | R.I.C. | Farm and personal name |
| Tregye | Tregy | 1327 | S.R. | Farm of the dog |
| Trelissick | Trelsyk | 1280 | Ass. | Farm-? Bushy (Dexter) |
| Tresithick | Trevethysek | 1342 | N.I. | Farm? |
| Chycoose | Chiencoys | 1378 | P.R. | House in the wood |
| Chyreen | Chyreene | 1692 | P.R. | House on point of land/hillside |
| Clydia | Gwealeggia | 1610 | H.Ms. | Gweal -field |
| Penhale | Penhal | 1327 | Ass. | Head of the Marsh |
| Penpol | Penpol | 1327 | H.Ms. | Head of the Creek |
| Ponsmain | Ponsmean | 1767 | Ass. | Stone Bridge |
| Porthgwidden | Aqua de Porthgwn | 1284 | H.Ms. | Whitehaven |
| Goonpiper | Goon pypper | 1547 | H.Ms. | Downland plus personal name |
| Killiganoon | Kellygnohan | 1296 | Ass. | Grove of nut trees |
| Nancassick | Nanscasek | 1416 | H.Ms. | Valley of the mares |
| Lamouth | Nansmough | 1535 | H.Ms. | Valley plus pigs? |
| Dower Ruth | Dower Ruthe | 1626 | R.I.C. | Red water |
| Loe Vean | Loo | 1327 | S.R. | Little pool |
| Algarnick | Heleginick | 1748 | Map | Hal-moor gwem – alder |
| Pill | Pill juxta la Feock | 1490 |  | Moulton Creek |
| Harcourt | Harcrack | 1300’s | H.Ms. | On the rock? |
| King Harry | King Harry from a former chapel here dedicated to our Lady and King Henry VI |

Abbreviations used:

ASS. Assize Plea Rolls

N.I. Nonarum inquisitiones

P.R. Patent rolls

S.R. Lay Subsidy Rolls

H.M. Charles Henderson Manuscripts

B.F. Book of Fees

Field Names

Some farm and field names are of equal antiquity and can be traced back to the 12th century. When farms acquired more than one field it became necessary to distinguish them by name. This was invariably in Cornish until superseded by English. As time went on, new farms were established and might be given an existing field name.

The following field names are taken from the Tithe Apportionment schedule of 1841 which is the only comprehensive Source we have. Only the more unusual ones are listed.

Tregew

Silver Close

Park Wartha

Park Hale

Park Mullet

The Kestle

Fox Park

Bedlam Wood

Potter's meadow

Kiliganoon

The Boggan

Chygwidden

Tippett's Hill

Great Mount field

Pease meadow

Cries meadow

Trelissick and Penhale

The Beacons

Namphillows

Marl Pit field

Algiers

Nancassif field

The Stennack

The Stitches

Lower Devoran

Little Park and Gullyy

Park and huns

Park Hains

 Lower Park Nethon

Park Gilly

The Negus

Park an Grannick

Shote Plot

Trevilla

Park Dreens

Great Pile field

Crackadden

Colly Vease

Pons field

Moddrick

Tregoose

Outer Ninnis

Glana

Tresithick

Culver House meadow The Gleaner Stately field

Trover

Great Trearren

Stennack

The Gews

Carnon Mine Croft

Higher Devoran

Nonesuch

Boatswain meadow

Park Braws

Clodgy

Vineyard

Harcourt

Trelarren field

The Gears

Skipping close

Kite close

Penpol

Park an Wilkin

Homer great close

Chycoose

Minnin

Lower Lambraws

Sandoes

The Boggan

Chapter 2: Origin of the society now worshipping in Goonpiper Chapel- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

In "More about the Early Methodist People' the late Dr Lesie Church refers to the work of Elizabeth Collett in establishing Methodist Preaching in Feock, giving as his source the life of Mrs Elizabeth Collett, edited by her son Richard Collett and published in Volume 2 of Taft's 'Sketches of Holy Women' c. 828. Born Elizabeth tonkin in Gwinear on May 9th 1762, at 16 she joined the local Methodist Society, which probably met at the home of one of the members. Four years later, in 1782, she moved to Feock and finding there was no Methodist society or chapel in the area, she obtained the consent of the family with whom she lived to have Methodist preaching in the house. She herself seems to have secured the Superintendent's permission for preachers to attend regularly to conduct services. Redruth Circuit covered this part of the county and its Superintendent Rev. Joseph Taylor was one of the first 100 Ministers appointed by Wesley under the Deed of 1784. In 1784, the Feock Society had 43 members but four years later these had dwindled to 14.

The Bishop of Exeter's registry of Meeting-house licences has an entry stating that a lately erected house at Feock was registered on April 4th 1807, at the request of Robert Shepherd, Charles Thomas and Hannibal Edwards. This may refer to the building traditionally regarded as the first Methodist chapel in Feock, which was on the road to King Harry Ferry at Sandoes. A farm building now stands on part of the site and the ruined wall adjoining may have been part of the chapel, the phrase "lately erected" is no real clue, as registration, tough required by law immediately on erection, was often delayed. This would appear to have been the case at Sandoes, for within a few years this building was replaced by a new one erected, it is believed, on the present site at Goonpiper, registered at Exeter on 19th July, 1819. Registration was at the request of Francis Truscott, Wesleyan Minister of Truro. The membership was then 40 and the ground leased to the trustees at 8/- per annum. There was seating for 180, the majority of the seats being backless benches. This chapel cost £154, of which £44 had been raised by the time of opening, the rest being borrowed.

The earliest legal document so far found relating to the Goonpiper property is an Assignment of lease dated 22nd March 1860, when the first legally constituted Methodist (Wesleyan) Trust appears to have been formed. This document refers to an indenture of lease dated 29. 7. 1856, when the property was leased for 99 years, on lives, by John Samuel, Charles Prideaux Brune and the Hon. Anne Dorothea Gilbert to Henry Michell, Calenick (merchant), John Michell and William Enstice, Feock (farmers) and Richard Stephens. Truro (gentleman). By the deed of 1860 these four assigned the property to themselves together with: John Cook (carpenter), William Crowle (grocer), William Enstice (farmer), Jeremiah Marshall (farmer), Benjamin May (shoemaker), John Magor (farmer) and William Magor (farmer) of Kea, these 13 became the trustees. The ground rent was £1 p.a.

From this document and from the tithe map of 1842, it is clear that a chapel already existed on this site, presumably the building registered in 1819. This was superseded by the present chapel in 1867. There is no evidence of any part of the old building being incorporated in the present one, nor are there any remains of a structure nearby. In the tithe apportionment, the landowners are the Assignees of Thomas Daniel and the trustees jointly, the acreage being 1 rood, 5 perches.

An interesting feature of the Assignment is the declaration by the four original lessees that 'such lease was made to us not for our benefit but for the use of the people called Methodists'....and that "the purchase money therein stated to have been paid to us was in truth paid by the Society."

In 1866, under the guidance of Rev Edward Nye, a building was erected consisting of a chapel with a gallery giving seating for 250 people, a Sunday School under the chapel, a vestry and stable, at a cost of £700. In 1879 the trustees received a legacy from Miss Crowle of $20 and a gift of £30 from Capt. T. Gray; this money was put towards alterations in the following year. It had been found that the roof was too heavy for the walls, which were lowered by 18 inches, and the gallery was removed at a cost of £300. The seating was reduced to 150.

Mr H.L. Michell of Penpol recalls an old man telling him that he had seen the removal of the gallery and the lowering of the roof, and new slates being placed in position about 1890. He also said that an orchestra the singing on Sundays. The preachers arrived on horseback so the stable was an important part of the premises. From the Collection Journals it is found that many collections were taken for the Horse Hire Fund' which averaged 10/- per Sunday. In 1935 this fund was renamed the "Motor Hire Fund' and has now disappeared completely. In 1960 a part of the stables was converted into a kitchen.

In 1921 the Freehold was bought from Trelissick Estate for £15 although there were only 19 members at that time.

Chapter 3: Mining Under Restronguet Creek in 1871- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

Geologists suggest that the tin deposits on the rock bed of the river were brought down by severe flooding in the periods between the loe Ages. Although there are no signs of glaciation here, the glaciers reached the South coast of Wales. For long periods the whole of Cornwall must have been frozen to a considerable depth and covered with ice and snow. During the warmer periods as the ice melted the land surface broke up and severe floods brought the debris down the valley. As the tin-bearing sand and stones were heavy they settled at the bottom on the natural rook, with the lighter mud, shells etc. on top. After other Cold periods the light material was washed off and more tin stuff deposited. Finally, when the loe Ages ended, natural erosion gradually covered this with mud, silt and vegetable remains to a depth of up to 60 feet.

In the upper part of the Canon Valley the tin was recovered by a form of open cast mining, and in the eighteenth century this was one of the greatest tin-producing areas in Cornwall. Work was abandoned at the beginning of the last century when it had reached so far down the valley that it was no longer possible to keep the tide out of the workings.

The first attempt at mining under the water was made in 1822 and lasted for five years, the ruins of the engine house are still visible on the beach east of Tallack's Creek. Some years later the lower part of the creek was worked, until 1843, from Yard (Canon Old Mine). Evidence of this can be seen at low tide; there are the remains of the island in the middle of the mouth of the Creek which was built to take the iron shaft in 1871 new operations were commenced in the untouched ground between the two previous Workings. First a shaft was sunk on the beach below high tide level, the tide being kept out by solid 9"square timbering surrounded by a wall of oak faggots with a 3' puddle of mud between; this shaft was 18 fathoms (90feet) deep. An iron ventilation shaft was sunk in the middle of the river by driving piles into the soft mud to a depth of 12, these were supported by cross timbers just below the surface of the mud. The shaft was made of cast iron cylinders 6' in diameter, 6' long and 14" thick with internal flanges. Each section weighed 2½ tons, they were lowered through an opening in the staging and as each section went through the mud the core was cleaned out and more sections added and fastened together. To obtain the weight needed to force the shaft through the mud, barges loaded with stone were fastened at high tide to a girder across the top of the shaft, as the shaft reached down into the tin ground a weight of 250 tons was needed to sink it. The shaft was driven as far as the top of the tin bed, a depth of 76.

The main level was driven through the solid rock 4½ fathoms below the level of the tin bed; it was 9 high and 5' wide. The tram road was laid 2½’ above the bottom, so that if necessary water from the workings could collect there and be pumped out without interfering with the tram.

Parallel levels were next driven north-west, up the Creek for about 90' with a tram road in each; these had openings at F through which tin gravel and waste could be dropped into trams and removed.

Ventilation levels joined the tramways at 20 fathom intervals and from these the stripping levels were driven 14 apart. All levels were strongly secured by frames of 8" timber every 2½’, the legs of the frames were 4½' apart at the foot, sloping inwards to 2 at the top. The roof and sides between frames were covered by planks which were removed one section at a time for stripping the tin; this started at the frame furthest from the ventilation level and was taken to either side. As each section was stripped the rock under the legs of the frame was cut away, the frame removed and the whole allowed to subside gradually and close the inner end of the level. This was repeated working back to within 9 of the air level where the end was securely boarded up. As the main levels had to be kept open, a width of 30' was left unworked on either side. As the mud fell it absorbed oxygen So the miners had to be prepared to change from one Stripping level to another as their candle flames gave warning of danger. There was also some danger of fire from the gases given off by the mud. The top of the bed was level but the bottom followed the contours of the underlying rock; in some places the tin was 6 or 7 feet thick, in others the men had to work lying down and sometimes had to cut away the rock to reach into the depth of 7’. The workings remained dry although at high tide there was 12 to 14 feet of water above them.

The tin stuff and waste was wheeled to the tram waggon, taken to the passes, and shot into waggons, which were taken to the engine shaft where the entire waggon was hauled up the shaft. This was the first mine in Cornwall where the whole waggon was raised; previously the load had been transferred to kibbles before it was lifted to the surface. These works were directed by Mr Charles D. Taylor and his method was a great improvement on the previous attempts.

The Royal Institution of Cornwall has recently purchased an oil painting by T. May showing the artist's impression of the mine in 1874. This picture will be hung in the Mineral Gallery at the Museum, Truro. It shows the engine house on the shore below Point, other surface buildings and a tram hauled to the surface in the cage. There are now no visible remains of this mine and it is uncertain how long the operation lasted.

We are most grateful to Mr J. Trounson and Mr Justin Brook for their help in suggesting sources of reference and for the loan of material.

Main sources used in the above account.

1 Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, vol. IV, 1838

2 Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset. H.T. de la Beche, 1839

3 Four lectures on Geology and Mining, George Henwood, Mining Journal 1855

4 Tin Stream Works at Restronguet Creek. Charles D. Taylor 1873

5 British Mining, Robert Hunt F.R.S. 1884

Chapter 4: Searching the Small Print- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

The two widely read Weekly papers in the 19th century in this area were the "Royal Cornwall Gazette' and the West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser'. Each paper, price 4½d, contained eight large pages of close print, six columns to a page. The aim was the maximum amount of information on national, international and West of England matters. No space was allowed for illustrations, except perhaps a tiny diagrammatic ship above the shipping news, and there were no photographs. Occasionally Devoran, Point and other small places are mentioned to report local events of church, chapel, School, sales or lettings of properties etc., or quaint or tragic happenings.

One incident found in the West Briton of 31st March 1843 gives an account from the Lent Assizes of a robbery at Quenchwell. The Smart action of the Police constable of Kenwyn (William Row) and the severity of the sentence viz.: transportation for ten years, makes one think that committing a Crime in those days was more hazardous when a quick getaway was impossible. The facts as reported are these: Thomas C. aged 25 was charged with having feloniously assaulted and put in bodily fear Margaret Nicholls, and robbed her of nine sovereigns, eleven shillings and a fourpenny piece, and other articles.

When examined, Margaret Nicholls said "I live at Quenchwell in Feock and on Wednesday, 8th February, was going to Devoran to wash, about 25 minutes past five in the morning, it was dark and wet and had my umbrella up before me. was going along and the prisoner came and touched me. He put one hand on my eyes and one over my mouth and put his leg in front and tipped me over, and I fell with my head in the umbrella on the ground. The prisoner was a next door neighbour. When I was down cried "Lord have mercy upon me, don't kill me. Murder, Murder.'"

While I screeched murder he put his hand in all round my flesh feeling for my pocket. He could not find my pocket the side he was feeling and he put his hand round the other side and found it, and he broke my pocket. When he got it - my pocket - he went away. I don't know which way he went, was so much flurried. I had in my pocket nine sovereigns and 8/4 in a calico bag, 3- loose and a snuff box, a pin cushion, a small knife, two nobs of sugar (laughter), a thimble and a padlock."

William Row, constable, said he went in search of the prisoner on the 8th February near Bissoe Bridge, about a mile from his home. "I asked him whether he was on the Falmouth road that morning. He told me he was not. I told him should like to see what money he had. He told me he had 11- or 12- shillings. I told him I should like to see it.

He put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a calico bag which contained nine sovereigns and 11/10d in silver. I told him there were nine sovereigns there and he said he did not know how they got there. I took him in custody and he endeavoured to get away. I found the things now produce: two nobs of sugar, four keys, a thimble and the money.'

Perhaps after this adventure Margaret Nicholls decided to invest her savings in a safer place,

A sad case of a boyish prank is found in the Gazette of 6th February 1863. On a Saturday afternoon some boys were playing at the foot of Green Lane Devoran, near the then proposed railway station. One boy called Cock, lately employed on the line, had some gunpowder belonging, it was supposed, to Messrs Sharp. Cock said to the deceased, Keasley, aged eleven, the son of a porter on the quay "If you will sit down on that stone I will blow you up." Cock put a match to the powder which exploded. The other boys ran off leaving Keasley injured with severe burns about the abdomen, a young Woman passing at the time went to his assistance, and he was taken home and attended by Mr Greenwood, surgeon. After great suffering the boy died.

The simplicity and innocent enjoyment of rural life comes out in the report of a visiting menagerie (West Briton 1st June 1855). "this pretty little valley (Perran Wharf) was disturbed from its tranquil state on Friday last by Wombwells Menagerie settling down in front of the Norway inn, and music from the excellent band which accompanied it soon brought together the inhabitants of Devoran, Mylor, Ponsanooth and other surrounding villages who availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the wild animals." Bathy's Menagerie paid a similar visit in June 1857.

Sorrow came to the Sampson family in November 1872. Mr W. Sampson aged 53, an agent for the Devoran Company and also holding management positions in tin smelting Works at Bissoe and Llanelly, was very near-sighted and suffered from gout. By mistake he drank Burnett's disinfectant, thinking it was Bitter Waters, to relieve his gout. His wife gave him warm water and bicarbonate and summoned Mr Sharp but all this failed. Mr Sampson died and his widow received £1000 life insurance.

Two sailors at Devoran had a lucky escape in October 1866. They were destroying rats in a vessel on the quay, using sulphur, pepper, and quicksilver. On going to see the effect on the rats they were overcome and had to be removed to pure air where they remained in a comatose state for over an hour.

Times were so hard in 1880 that at Perranarworthal a Soup kitchen was organized twice a week between 5th December and 25th March 1881. Some parents had help from relatives. Unfortunately, an expected remittance failed to arrive from a son in the colonies for Mrs Grace E. aged 68, the wife of a porter. On being told at the post office that nothing for her had arrived she went home and hanged herself with a rope from a beam in the kitchen.

Divorce was most unusual for ordinary folk in the last century, but a case is reported at Feock in June 1896 (Gazette). A Petty Officer in the Royal Navy and his bride were married on Christmas day 1890 and they lived together until December 1892. Then the husband sailed away to China on H.M.S. Plover, but before leaving he arranged for his wife's maintenance and also for his wife's cousin to live with her. In the late summer of 1894, while the P.O. was still far away, his wife allowed another cousin, Mr H., to lodge at her home for weekends. The companion noticed signs of attachment between her cousin and Mr H. and decided tocease sleeping in the same bedroom as she was embarrassed when Mr H. came to the room and kissed the wife. The ship returned from China in December 1895 and the P.O. returned to Feock in February 1896. Alas, it could not have been a happy reunion, for on the 14th May 1895 a child had been born to the wife. Divorce proceedings followed, the costs being charged to the co-respondent.

Chapter 5: The Old Vicarage- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

In February 1974 the new Feock church hall was opened; it is built on the site of the old half which, in its turn, replaced the old vicarage burnt down in 1896; this was reported in the Royal Cornwall Gazette on March 5th. A fire of a very Serious nature broke out this morning about 2.30. A messenger was at once despatched to Truro and the Fire Brigade was summoned....and by 430 were ready to start with their engine, but through some cause or other, the coachman was not called. This caused a delay of over half an hour and it was after 5 before the Brigade could get away, when they got to Feock they found that it was too late to render any Service, everything by this time being burnt to the ground owing to the very strong wind that was raging. Great fears were entertained as to the safety of one of the children of the vicar but happily he was rescued uninjured. In less than half an hour from the time the fire was found out, the roof had fallen in. Mr Mermagen's valuable library of 2000 Volumes, the collection of a lifetime, was completely destroyed."

At the next meeting of the Truro Fire Brigade Committee it was decided to connect the telephone to the house of the driver at a cost of 42/- and to purchase 600 feet of hose for $24.4.0, which would make the Fire Brigade 'very efficient'. Later in the year Feock Post Office was connected to the Telegraph system and in 1897 the present vicarage was built.

The old vicarage is fully described in the Terriers, which were lists of the property owned by the church in the parish, sent at intervals to the Bishop. In 1726 it was built mostly of stone but with a 'linney' and part of the back wall of 'clobb', the roof was of thatch. On the ground floor, there were a kitchen and hall, both with lime ash floors, a parlour which was ‘planched’ and a cellar with ‘no floor but the country'; in the linney were a dairy, a pantry, a little cellar, and a staircase leading to a small gallery which gave access to 'three little chambers all planched and ceiled'.

By 1744 the kitchen had been floored with stone, part of the roof had been 'covered over with tiling stones' and one room had been made into a small study. The length of the dwelling house is given as 54 feet and its breadth 26 feet; there were also two outhouses, a wainhouse and a ciderhouse, each 16 feet broad and 20 feet long. Both terriers mention a barn and stable at the end of the house built of clobb and 'on the fore side of the house' a green court and a little garden.

The house was probably considerably changed during the years, but the measurements given in 1744 were similar to those of the old parish hall which was demolished in 1973, and it seems likely that this was rebuilt on the original foundations, possibly using the old stonework, "Clobb or 'cob', which is a mixture of mud and chopped straw, makes an excellent wall as long as it is kept dry, but can disintegrate rapidly if the roof is removed, so the barn and stable have disappeared, and the ground on which they stood is now used to park the modern steed, the car.

Chapter 6: The Growth of Carnon Downs- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

The fact that there are still traces of three tumuli and of an old fort (the Gear) south of Tregye Road suggests that this area Was inhabited in prehistoric times. A flint arrowhead was dug up in one of the gardens in Tregye Road about six years ago.

When the name Carnon Downs was first used is uncertain. Martin's map of 748 gives Hafeginick (now Algarnick), Killiganoon, Tresithick, Ringwell and Lower Carnon. The tithe map of 1842; reference to the census of 1841 shows that some of these buildings were groups of houses. There were four landowners: Lord Falmouth, Sir Charles Lemon of Carclew, Anna Maria Agar of Lanhydrock and the Hugos who owned Tresithick. Except for Tresithick very little freehold was sold until about 1920.

South of the Truro-Falmouth road, where the land is more fertile there were 5 sizeable farms in 1841: Higher Devoran: (formerly called Dinnis's) farmed by W. Williams who also had Carnon Crease, Carnon Treliever and cottages at Chycoose; Tregoose covering 150 acres and keeping the same boundaries until it was sold in 1972, Tregye occupied by Juliana Penrose who sublet the farmland, Tresithick, also Sublet and Killiganoon where Thomas Simmons lived and let a part of the estate to W. Hearle.

On the poor land north of this road there were a number of smallholdings, most being between five and eight acres, which had been broken in from the open moor during the 18th century. Leases in the County Record Office show that it was customary to let the land for 99 years on three named lives at a low rent, the lessee cleared, cultivated and fenced the land, built a house, was not usually allowed to cut timber and in some cases could be inspected by the agent. If one of the named lives died the new lease was given on payment of a fine. Earlier leases show that prior to these enclosures the nearby farmers had rights of turbary, grazing and furze cutting on these lands.

The small holders were poor men so they and their sons were obliged to have other work; this was found in the mines at Kea and Gwennap which were within walking distance; on the railway or docks at Devoran; carrying ore from the Bissoe area to the smelting works at Point and farm labouring, although in most cases this was done by the farmer's family.

Using the Census Returns from 1841 to 1871, which is the last year for which full details are released, also considering an area larger than that covered by the maps, going to the northern boundary of the parish and west to the Carnon Valley, there is very little change in the number of houses during this time, although this is the period when Devoran was growing rapidly.

After 1871, owing to the closure of the Copper Smelting works at Point and failure of the mines, the population decreased, very few new cottage were built until after the end of the 1914 - 18 War and by that time some of the old cob dwellings had been left empty and had disintegrated. I have seen a cob cottage on the Point road fall into a heap of rubble within six months after losing its thatch.

This was a sparsely populated area; 390 people in 1841 of whom half were children up to sixteen years (there were only fifteen aged 65 or more); by 1871 the total had risen to 460, slightly less than half were children and stilt only 27 old people. Only one old man fived alone, most widowed people had an unmarried daughter at home or, in a few cases, lived with a married child. The average household was five.

Canon Downs seems to have been a district in which families stayed for several generations. The 1851 census was the first in which the parish of birth had to be given; of the 87 households, 44 had either the husband, wife or both Feock-born, most of the others were from adjacent parishes, mainly Kea, and only three were born outside Cornwall. By 1871 a few had come from more distant parts of Cornwall, even as far away as Launceston, but still only one more 'foreigner from Devon.

The most striking change was in the employment. In 1841 almost half the males and two females worked in the mines, but in 1871 only ten young men were miners. This change was partly due to the slump in mining (previous to 1871 Cornwall Was producing up to 50% of the world's copper), and also to the fact that there was work to be had on the railway and docks nearer home.

The sons of the farmers and tradesmen nearly always followed father's occupation. Take as an example Mr and Mrs A, a young couple both Feock-born with two children in 1841, he was a carpenter, became a wheelwright and finally a builder and undertaker. His eldest son was apprenticed to him as a wheelwright, then became a ship's joiner, married a local girl and moved to Devoran; the second son joined father and eventually took over the business; the third son became a pupil teacher at the age of thirteen. By 1871 the grandson was a shipwright's apprentice. This family is also typical of the change in attitude to education. In 1851 none of his children was at school, by 1871 all the younger ones had a few years schooling and all the grandchildren between four and twelve were at School.

As an example of an employed worker take Mr B., a Waterman. He and his wife were both born in this district in 1800 and had seven children all living at home in 1841; none of the boys was old enough to Work. Father next had a job at the Smelting Works and finally became an agricultural labourer. The eldest son was apprenticed to a carpenter and left the parish, the next two sons and two daughters Were farm labourers as were two grandsons, another grandson was a carpenter. In this family only the youngest boy had any schooling but in 1871 all the next generation was at school up to the age often.

Finally a widow of forty-six with nine sons and a daughter all living near Quenchwell, in a cottage which has since disappeared; the age range was from twenty-two to four years, which gives the usual average of two years between births. In 1841 her four eldest Sons were miners, then came the girl at home and five more boys. By 1851 the two eldest had left the district, the next five worked on the Tram and the girl and the youngest boy were farm workers. By 1861 mother had died; all the boys, except one, married local girls and had managed to get Cottages near each other, one of the original miners returned with his wife from Gwennap and he and the unmarried brother were working at the Vitriol works in the Carnon Valley.

It is interesting to compare the age groups in 1871 with 1971. he following figures are only approximate and refer to the whole parish except Devoran. In 1871, half the population was under seventeen and only 6% over 65 years, now only 20% are under seventeen and 25% are over 65, of whom quite a number are living alone, compared with five in 1871.

Throughout the last century, the average household was five, today it is between two and three. Owing to the slump in mining which began in the 1870s, there was nothing to attract new people and the population was the same in 1901 as it had been thirty years earlier. The houses at the beginning of this century; a few more have been built. The shaded areas show additions made between 1880 and 1907, mainly additional farm buildings. Some of the waste along the roadsides has been taken in and a few old tracks have gone, there were still the remains of two quarries and of the clay pits from which the fireclay for the smelting furnaces had been dug. Where the Carnon Downs Garage now stands, there were a smithy and a carpenter's shop; there was a shoemaker's wooden Workshop on the verge outside Algarnick House, and a duck pond at the entrance to the present village hall; there was no Post Office until 1934, only a Post box in a wall on the corner of the Quenchwell road.

Map shows the development since 1907; the first growth came after the 1914-18 war when houses and bungalows were built on both sides of the main road (marked on map). These were dependent on rain water and often had to carry drinking water. Lighting for the whole district was by lamps and candles, the paraffin was brought round by an old man with a donkey cart, when the donkey died he is said to have pulled the cart himself. There was no electricity before 1922 when Mrs Powys Rogers of Tregye and the tenant of Tresithick paid £75 to get it brought up from Canon Valley, at first this served only a few houses and it was not until 1947 that the more remote places were connected. Houses built between 1830 and 1940 are marked on the map, these were nearly at built by local tradesmen, in 1946 Carnon Downs was declared a Development Area; it was soon after this that the semidetached council houses in Gig Lane were built on a field which had been called Paradise. All houses built before 1950 are shown shaded, later developments are in outline. Mains water pipes were laid in 1953 and connected by 1957, a sewerage scheme was drawn up and the first connections made in 1964. Street lamps came in the 1960s.

The first buildings after 1950 were the bungalows in Manse Road, Council houses at Carron Crescent; bungalows near Wellington Place, on the main road west of Gig Lane and on Tregye road.

Then, because their cow died, an elderly couple who had a holding between Valley Lane and Quenchwell Road, sold their land to a development company who also bought the adjacent farmland and started the first speculative development. These are bungalows with either two or three bedrooms, a garage and a small garden which the owners have made attractive; part of the land has been reserved for a School.

The Knights Meadow estate began when Mr Knight retired. This was also a Company development but includes some semidetached bungalows; since then the village has grown rapidly on the Western side. Ground has been reserved for a bypass round the South-east of the village. There are now three village stores, a hardware shop, and a hairdresser. The smithy which stood near the comer of Smithy Lane and was the last of the 'shops' in this part of Cornwall has now become a pottery.

Fortunately, a farsighted committee raised the money and bought the site for the village hall before the land was sold for building, although the hall was not built until 1970, it proved so popular that another room has been added and it is a flourishing centre of village activity, providing a meeting place for the Old People's Club, Women's institute, Old Cornwall Society, Drama Group, Gardening club, Winemaker's club and many others. It is also hired for exhibitions which last several days and attract visitors from all parts of the county.

**We have been asked for an explanation of some of the** **names in this area; they are:-**

**Forth Noweth – New Road**

**The Stettin – A short lane**

**Staggy Lane- Muddy Lane**

**Par an Creeg- Enclosure of the Barrow**

**Carnon Crease- Middle Carnon**

**Woon Lane- Named after William Woon who had a cottage there**

**Cowlings Lane- Named after the previous owner of the land**

Chapter 7: 23 Ship Owners in the Parish of Feock- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

This note is based on an analysis of the owners of ships built on the Truro river during the 19th century as shown in the Custom House registers. It is therefore incomplete since many people must have not been included. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this preliminary survey will be of interest as it gives some idea of the pattern of ship owning and may serve as a basis which others can expand.

As is well known the ownership of small vessels was divided into 64 shares, and even these shares were sometimes held in partnership. Ships were seldom owned by one man and quite often the number of owners holding shares in a vessel of no more than 90 tons could exceed 20. Shares often changed hands quite frequently and were also used as securities for loans and mortgages. Thus, an accurate picture of ownership is sometimes difficult to obtain. In addition, the occupations of the owners are often entered in registers in a somewhat erratic manner and the same man can appear, for example as a carpenter, a master mariner, or a ship-owner in successive entries.

The system of ownership for new vessels seems to have varied from yard to yard. For instance, ships from John Stephens' yard at Point Yard were usually built for one managing owner with perhaps one or two partners, whereas those from Charles Dyer's yard at Sunny Corner Truro seem to have been ordered for relatively large syndicates of small shareholders, many of them tradesmen from Truro. The owner of the building yard was often a major shareholder in a new vessel and sold his shares soon after launching, presumably to recoup the cost of building. In the same way, sailmakers and shipwrights often had a few shares in a new ship, perhaps in part payment for their work. Ownership of shares in small merchant craft was widely distributed in England in the last century; this tendency is shown in Feock which was well placed for maritime activity. This preliminary study had provided the names of 99 owners who held shares at various times in 107 ships, all built in the Truro river area. These owners came from all walks of life; 50 were connected with shipping, but 49 had less direct links with the maritime world.



Chapter 8: Memories- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

'Do you remember." Just those three little words but what memories they conjured up of happy schooldays when we were young and carefree. I remember going to School one lovely summer day with several girls and boys, when suddenly we saw an adder leisurely wriggling its way across the road. Without a moment's hesitation, a boy found a stone and dropped it, plonk, right on its ugly head. Then the other boys helped him fling it over a branch of a tree by a field gateway. We girls were terrified and kept well out of the way. Now, we had always been told that adders and snakes, however early in the day they were "killed' would not die until sunset, so we would prove the truth (or otherwise) of this story. When we returned from school in the afternoon the adder still hung from the branch and when the boys prodded it with a stick, sure enough, still wriggled. The headmaster later confirmed that it was a fully-grown adder and complimented the boy on his bravery. What a thrill we had another morning when along came a farmer with his horse and waggon and gave us a 'ride' to school; we would not have exchanged it for a glass coach.

I remember as a small child going with my mother to the 'shoot for water. The pipe came through a hedge in the lane and the pitcher was placed under the shoot to fill up. When the level of the water fell below the pipe we had to go and dip a bucket in the well and "heave to. It was Worth all the trouble; the water was icy cold and sparking, a tonic in itself. One morning mother came in with a full pitcher and while her back was turned my baby sister dropped all the dirty potatoes into it, she was 'only trying to help'.

I remember our local shopkeeper who also had a smallholding, on occasions he would kill a pig for his own use, After the lard had been rendered down, the residue, which we called 'screeds' was shared among us children. It was always a race to see who could get to the shop first and fascinating to see him take a square of paper and with a flick of his wrist produce a cone, then in would go a handfull of screeds. Our day was made.

On baking days at home, the house would be filed with the aroma of freshly baked bread, brown and crusty. As we were five children, mother was kept pretty busy. She has told me how she used to heat the cloam oven with wood inside it until the inside was white hot. Then the ashes were raked out, the bread and cake popped in, then the door put on and sealed with clay. After the appropriate time the door was opened and the contents taken out perfectly cooked. When we moved to another house we had a Cornish stove, it had to be blackleaded once a week and the ornamental brass work on the doors and rack polished until it shone. Every few weeks the oven had to be taken out and all the accumulated soot scraped off, a job detested by everyone. It had to be fed with coal and sometimes, if the quality of the coal was not up to standard, it would get rather temperamental. Wonder how the young housewives of today would manage if confronted with one of these 'monsters'. We are living in a modern age with everything to make us happy, yet there is nothing to compare with happy childhood memories.

Chapter 9: Devoran National School (1863-1893)- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

The school at Devoran was built by the National Society in 1846 and was therefore a Church School. The vicar, as chairman of the managers, frequently visited the school, sometimes giving instruction in Scripture. There were several vicars during this period but Mr W. Lidigey carried out the duties of Correspondent for thirty years and longer. The government's contribution to the running of the School was made by a yearly grant directly connected with the attendance and attainment of the pupils, which was assessed each year by a visiting H.M.l. The master's salary was not fixed, but depended on the grant and on 'school pence' brought by the children. This was always difficult to collect and was the cause of Some absenteeism.

Children could not be compelled to come to school and some, often girls, did not attend at all over a period of years; while others made such irregular attendance that teaching them was made disheartening and difficult. There was also the problem that children who made less than 250 attendances during the year were not allowed to be presented for examination on which the grant for that year was calculated. The setting up of Local Attendance Committees and the appointment of an Attendance Officer after 1876 had little effect on the long list of absentees which caused such great concern to each successive headmaster.

The keeping of school log books became compulsory in 1863 and these provide a record of every event in the life of the school. From them we learn that for many years at the children were taught in one room, 32' by 15’ and 14' high. This assembly consisted of children from the age of two years upwards, with the number present sometimes as high as 100. The Headmaster with the help of one or two Pupil Teachers taught the standards, while an Assistant Mistress taught the infants at one end of the room and had charge of the needlework of all the girls. Repeated entries show how difficult this situation was for everybody, as the small children became noisy and restless, especially during hot weather. There was a slight improvement after January 1866 when the vicar ordered that no child under 4 years should be admitted. These very young children were then taken to Dame Schools in the district. Conditions continued to be difficult until 1871 when the H.M.E. in his yearly report wrote "The school cannot be efficiently conducted while the infants are taught in the same room as the higher classes', and a new room was added, 48' by 18' and 17" high. In 1877 there were 156 children attending the School and by 1880 the managers were again being pressed to provide further accommodation for 162 children.

The curriculum of the school was dictated by the requirements of the "Payment by Results' system. Subjects to be taught were rigidly controlled under codes laid down by the Education Department and strictly imposed on all schools by Her Majesty's Inspectors. Failure to conform resulted in reduced grants. Each child was expected to reach a prescribed standard of work according to age, consequently much time had to be spent 'drilling the children in the 3Rs (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic). In addition, there was Geography for boys and Sewing for girls. In 1877 drawing was added (model, freehand and geometry) for which a new grant was offered by the Science and Art department if the children's work reached the set standard. The school for this grant in each following year, it amounted to £5. 12. 3 in 1881.

Singing was taken in odd moments. The log book for 1873 says taught two new songs in time allowed for recreation, "Under the Willow Tree she's sleeping and "Kiss me mother ere I die". For 1875 it reads 'E have begun to teach Drill in leisure time'. in 1889 the H.M.I.'s report on the work of the infants stated 'Some attempt to relieve their lessons by interesting manual employment may be made'. They were also to be given object lessons on the Table, "use of the Hand", etc. and Musical Drill was introduced. At the children were given "Home Lessons' and kept in to correct them.

Over the years from 1863 to 1893 ten masters had charge of the school with varying degrees of success. The most outstanding was Mr Richard Daniel who was there from 1879 to 1893. Under his tuition, the school reached a high standard of efficiency and in 1883 earned a grant of £125. 6. 6. The H.M.l’s report in 1889 reads "The instruction is as efficient as in past years and higher praise cannot be given, such uniformly good work is seldom seen”. For ten years in succession the Diocesan Inspection brought a report marked 'excellent’. The size of the staff remained the same even when the number on the register reached 180, Mr Daniel having at one time to teach 96 children without assistance, while in the infant room there were 80 children under one teacher. Boys and girls who showed promise sometimes stayed on at school to become Pupil Teachers. They served a five-year apprenticeship receiving further instruction from the headmaster, sometimes before breakfast (6.45 - 7.45 a.m.) and then giving lessons under his guidance to the lower classes during the day. The master usually taught standards V to VII, with children sometimes staying on after the age of 14 to form Standard EX VIII. He had classes doing Algebra, Geometry and French. All standards spent a lot of time learning Grammar but he had to admit of some children 'Parsing, especially, is beyond their grasp, while analysis also shares the same fate." He liked the children to enjoy their lessons and he made their work as interesting as he could, lessons on the formation of words using Latin, Greek and Old English prefixes always went well but children found the paraphrasing of poetry difficult. Children from the seventh standard helped as monitors when there was a shortage of teachers.

Boys and girls were often kept home from school: picking stones in the fields, potato drawing; 'making weight on the coal scales' at Devoran Quay, fetching "liver and bits from the market on killing day and getting in supplies for the winter when the pitchard boats arrived, were some of the reasons given for being absent. Boys sometimes went to sea with their fathers, but if they were found to have been 'mitching’ they were severely punished. The master occasionally excluded a child when his discipline was not upheld by the parents. In 1876 a mother took her three children away from school because 'she would not allow them to bow on entering and leaving school and as would have good manners called them back and made them do it. In September 1888 children from Higher Devoran Farm had to help their parents with the harvest when the men were not willing to work'.

Illness and bad weather often caused the attendance register to drop so low during Winter months that registers were not marked, Children suffered from measles, whooping cough, Scarlatina, Scarlet fever or mumps each year. A very severe epidemic of measles caused the Medical Officer of Health to close the school for three weeks in 1882. A single case of smallpox occurred in 1881. Influenza is first mentioned in June 1891 when it "raged tremendously” through the district and the school had to be closed. There was 'a fearful panic among the parents' in 1892 after a child was found to have the "itch', an infectious complaint looked upon with horror, a case had occurred once before in 1885. Heavy falls of snow were reported in 1881 (snow in the playground was said to be over 18" deep) and again in March 1891.

Small private schools and Dame Schools continued to operate. Children admitted from Dame Schools were always reported to be backward, if not totally ignorant. Another Dame School was opened in a private house in Carnon Downs in 1891 - 'surely here is a field of labour for the Attendance Officer. Numbers at Devoran dropped when children from Perran left to attend a new Board School opened there in 1879.

The government's Special Fee grant of 10/- per child, introduced in 1891 to make education free for most children, failed to make any noticeable improvement in the attendance at Devoran school during the time of Mr Daniell. In October 1892 it was decided to offer prizes for regular attendance, in the hope that this would prove an incentive. With little or no help for much of the year 1892 - 93 the master battled on, desperately trying to keep up the standard of work throughout the school. He left in March 1893 with 'deep regrets' after giving 14 years of service to the school. On June 1st 1893 it was reported in the Royal Conwall Gazette: 'Mr R. Daniell has the Inspectorship of the Western District. Mr W.R. Cock commenced duties as headmaster of Devoran School On June 5th 1893.

Thanks are due to the county archivist and his staff for making available the tog book of Devoran School on which the above is based.

Chapter 10: Trelissick- Feock in the 19th Century Part II

The gardens, park, woodlands and some farmlands were given to the National Trust by Mrs R. Copeland in 1955, but this is only a remnant of the estate that existed between 1800 and 1920 (see map) and included land beyond the parish of Feock.

A farm has probably existed here from early times, there is a reference in the Assize Rolls of 1280 to ‘Trelesyk’ (1); 'Matthew Treleset’ is mentioned in the Lay subsidy Roll of 1327; in a will of 1632 the premises called Trelissick were held of John Trefusis Esq.. 'as the Manor of Trevilla and worth 61-yearly. The property later passed to the Lawrence family and is mentioned in the will of Edward Lawrence of 1705.

The first mention of the house that I have seen is in 1838 (3) "Trelissick is now the most splendid feature of Feock. The house was built about the middle of the last century by Mr John Lawrence, a captain in the County Militia during the Seven Years War' (1756 - 1763), 'still remembered for his good nature, convivial habits and wild eccentricities. It is perhaps deserving of notice that the architect was Mr Davy, grandfather of the celebrated chemist", (Sir Humphrey Davy of Penzance). The property became divided at Mr Lawrence's decease.'

1800 - 1832 The Daniels and the formation of the estate.

The date of John Lawrence's death is unknown, but the expense of building had probably overstrained his resources. About 1800 (4) Mrs Lawrence still owned Trelissick, which was rated at £3, 4, 3 and occupied by Francis Pender Esq. She also owned King Harry Quay (S1) let to R.A.Daniel Esq. Mrs Ann Lawrence occupied La Feock (SA. 4 0), had part of Harket (Harcourt), Trevilla and Nanfellows.

in the Gazette (5) of March 1805 there is a notice: "To be peremptorily sold. Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery - Daniell and others, Plaintiffs against Lawrence and others, Defendants. Two third parts of the Freehold of the Capital Barton called Trelissick and Rosuggan now in the occupation of Francis Pender Esq. -37 acres of meadow, three acres of garden and orchard, and seven acres of wood'

A few years later (4) R.A. Daniel was the proprietor of many holdings including the Barton of Tregew (rated (£8, 13. O) also Roundwood Quay and others which are difficult to identify because they are listed as "Hobbs' (identified at Trevilla by an advertisement in the Gazette, May 29 1823), Rosuggans, Olivers etc.

The Lawrence’s' new house is described in the Gazette, May 29, 1802, when it was "to let by Private Contract with the elegant furniture." It had a 'coach house for 8 horses (hayloft over), poultry yard, large Walled garden well clothed with fruit trees, a good orchard behind the house and a handsome lawn in front. The house stands much elevated... and comprises an Entrance Hall, spacious Drawing Room, exceedingly good Dining Parlour, good Bedchambers, with 3 Servants’ rooms, Kitchen, and Back kitchen. Wash house, Servants' hall, Butler's pantry, Cellars and 2 chambers over the Dairy, the whole is in good order and repair.

This house is illustrated in 1820 (2) at the top of a grassy, tree clad slope with Channais Creek in the foreground. It is not known when it became the property of R.A. Daniell, but it is said that subsequently there were heavy legal expenses over inadequate title deeds.

The Daniel fortune, which enabled Ralph Allen Daniel to create the estate, was made by his father, Thomas, born 1715, and trained by the 'great Mr Lemon' to take full advantage as a merchant and a speculator in the mining development of the period. In 1754 he married the niece of Ralph Allen, Citizen of Bath, from whose quarries he received the Bath stone which faces the Truro Mansion House which he built. When Mr Lemon died in 1760 Thomas took over his business and 'continued throughout his whole life to conduct most extensive concerns as a general merchant, as a tin smelter and above all as a spirited adventurer in mines on the largest scale" (3). His portrait was painted by Opie in 1786 and is now in the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.

Ralph Allen Daniell, his only son, was born in 1762. C.S. Gilbert said that "he advanced to an extraordinary degree the welfare of a large body of miners and has frequently risked an immense fortune in support of the mining system', and Davies Gilbert (3) wrote that "he Continued most of his father's concerns, adding to them the large Smelting Works for copper in Glamorganshire, and so successful were his mining speculations that he is said to have gained in the course of a few years about a hundred and fifty thousand from Wheal Towan alone." He was a highly-respected County Magistrate for many years; in 1795 he became High Sheriff; he was M.P. for West Looe i806 - 1813, and fought expensive elections in this rotten borough in 1806 - 1807. In 1805 he invested in the new Llanelly Copper works (Daniell, Nevil and Co.) (7) and continued his father's interest in tin smelting at Calenick (8). The profit from mining was subject to considerable fluctuations in the price of tin and copper and Daniell, as a speculator and Smelter, must have been affected by the depression of 1816 to 1820. Also as a merchant importing leather and timber from Europe his trade must have been made difficult by the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1815 the Calenick Smelting house became a company in which he and his son Thomas held only a quarter of the shares. when the company took over his new blowing house at St Austell he kept only a half share. The Consolidated and United Mines went out of production during the depression (7 p.73) and were restarted by John Taylor in the 1820s.

When R.A. Daniell died in 1823, his obituary (6) notice of April 4 said that he was a gentleman who was at one time most extensively engaged in mercantile affairs and mining concerns.... but had retired in a great degree from business, until recently he was the principal of the Miner's Bank in Truro.

His son Thomas, born 1758, the eldest of his 12 surviving children, succeeded to the estate and in 1825 employed P.F. Robinson, the architect described by Alfred Jenkin as 'too grand for Cornwall', to add to the house giving it the porticoes and new roof line shown in the Allom engraving in 1837.

He was High Sheriff in 1826 and in September of that year, steward, with Mr Humphrey Willyams, of the Truro races. After the two-day races, there was a 'splendid dinner and a ball at the theatre which was kept up to a late hour with great spirit and attended by the sheriff with his wife and family (Gazette, September 9). His horse, Kitty, won a silver cup in 1825 (Gazette September 3rd).

His father had created the estate and started to lay out the woodlands. The first O.S. map of 1813 shows North Wood and South Wood, but the road from Trevilla to the ferry then curved east through Penhale and the farm place of Namphellows was then half way down the hit above Lamouth Creek. In the next edition (some 20 years later) and on the tithe map of 1842, Namphellows has been replaced by Woods, new plantations, Wellington, Exmouth and Boxheater have been made on the West, Pill and Nullas extended the Woodland along the river and the Lodge Plantation has appeared. The road from Trevilla was realigned further west to bring the land round Penhale into the park, which had probably been planted with many of the trees shown as mature on the 1880 map. The unfenced roads of 1813 west of Sandoes were hedged and the downs changed into fields, C.S. Giobert (2) in 1817 had suggested that in times of agricultural depression landlords should plant woods and bring poorer and into cultivation as a long-term investment to provide immediate employment for those in distress, this seems to have been done by the Daniels who had wealth available from mining.

Financial difficulties were approaching, have a letter written by Thomas on February 26 1827, in which he says that he has advanced 1100 to a brother to purchase his captaincy in the army... could John Hall repeat his loan of £1000? He adds that there has been frost for 6 weeks. In 1828 the Calenick Tin Smelting Co. took over all his interest in it (8 p.55) and in 1832 there was a mining slump; smelting Works in Wales stopped and Cornish mines were advertised for sale. Thomas's East public appearance seems to have been on October 17, 183i (Gazette) when he took the chair in Truro Town Hall at a meeting for the rejection of the Reform Bill.

1832 - 1844

In an attempt to raise money Tregew seems to have been sold to John Magor and the rest of the estate mortgaged to the Earl of Falmouth. Between 1832 and 1834 farms are advertised to let (apply to steward at ‘Tregothnan') and also the house, described as having 3 living rooms, bedchambers, offices, stables and Walled gardens, 'admirably adapted for a large or moderate sized family in comfort without Superfluous expense' (Gazette September 9, 1832). The 1841 census gives only a caretaker, Eliza Ellory, and a girl of 17 in residence.

In July 1835 there is a notice in the Gazette: "the creditors who have proved their debts under a Fiat of Bankruptcy against Thomas Daniell, formerly of Trelissick,...now in Boulogne, copper smelter, dealer and chapman, are requested to meet in Truro on September 4 to choose a banker for the assignees and also to assent or dissent... to carry on the Suit in Equity instituted by the said bankrupt before his bankruptcy against the Rt. Hon. Edward Earl of Falmouth for the purchase from the said bankrupt of an estate called Trelissick", signed by D.S. Brockett of Lincolns Inn Fields.

In January 1837, the Earl and others interested tried to put part of the estate up for auction at the Angel Inn Helston; in June the assignees advertised it as an estate of 25 acres 'exceedingly picturesque and well adapted for villa residences'. This led to a notice "The Earl of Falmouth has lien thereon amounting to the fulf estimated value thereof and upwards."

In September 1839, it was again advertised for sale by order of the assignees and under the authority of the High Court of Chancery. Between 1841 and 1844 the Falmouth estate advertised farms to let: Home Farm 100 acres; Penhale 35 acres, and Pill 76 acres, but the tithe apportionment of 1842 gives the assignees of Sir William Daniel, Thomas Daniel and Edmund Tunner as owners.

Eventually after 12 years with the house empty and no resident landlord to care for the upkeep of the estate, it was sold. Thomas Daniel died in Boulogne in 1866, the West Briton (January 23) reported it and added "A gentleman who at one time occupied a position in the county, having been High Sheriff in 1826. In those days, there was more pageantry and expense connected with this office than at the present time and Mr Daniell, unsparing of expenditure, surrounded the Shievalty with more splendour than perhaps any previous or succeeding Sheriff. He had also been unsparing of his money at Trelissick and like John Lawrence, it had helped to bankrupt him.

1844 to 1920

In 1844 John Davies Gilbert bought the estate and the list of his purchases still exists, identical with the land held by the assignees in 1842.

He was the only son of Davies Giddy of St Erth who had very considerable talents and did much to encourage and help such inventors and pioneers as Humphrey Davy, Trevithick and the Hornblowers. He was M.P. for Helston in 1804 and for Bodmin from 1806 to 1832. In 1808 he married Mary Ann, the heiress of Thomas Gilbert of Eastbourne and took the name and arms of Gilbert which included a squirrel. He edited a number of books, including a Parochial History of Cornwall (1838) based partly on the works of Hals and Tonkin. He died on December 24 1839 and the West Briton on January 3, 1840 after listing his many achievements added that he was a “conversationalist perfectly adapted to his audience”. His wife was interested in agriculture and they had made various improvements on their extensive Eastbourne estates. She published articles in the Agricultural Journals in 1840 and 1842.

J.D. Gilbert, born 1811, inherited the very considerable wealth of the Manor of Eastbourne. When he came to Trelissick in 1844 he must have found much in need of attention. Nancassick, shown on the maps of 1813 and of the 1830s in the valley, had fallen into ruin and does not appear on the tithe map; it was rebuilt (date unknown) adjacent to the King Harry road west of Sandoes. In 1846 (Gazette January 3) Pill Farm is advertised to let "with newly created house, barn, stables and outhouses'. In the 1851 census, he is described as J.P. and farmer of 386 acres employing 32 men, women and boys. The estate was considerably larger than this but some farms were let. One of his interests must have been corn growing and selecting the best varieties of seed because, at the Crystal Palace exhibition in 1851, he showed Cornish Agricultural Grains - wheat, black barley, and skinless barley. Mr Michell of Tregoose showed barley (West Briton June 24, 1853). He must also have built up a considerable flock of sheep, when the live and dead stock of the Home Farm was sold in 1858 (Gazette September 10) it included 90 breeding ewes, 180 younger Sheep and 2 Leicester rams, as well as a number of ploughs and other equipment, a few cows and pigs.

His work on the estate, his activities as J.P. and his responsibilities at Eastbourne probably took up most of his time, he is seldom mentioned in the local papers except on July 21 1848 (West Briton) when he and Rev. T. Philpotts organized a tea treat for the 500 children of the parish with no distinction of sector party.

In 1851 he married the Hon. Ann Dorothea, eldest daughter of Lord Carew of Wexford, but in 1854 he died aged 43. The West Briton (April 21) describes him as "manly and athletic with a sunny temper...brought up at Eastbourne, interested in agriculture, and a J.P. and liberal in politics. He had a long-standing disease of the liver; he was at Quarter Sessions (Bodmin) on the 4th and appeared perfectly well, not so Well the following day and he died on Easter Sunday at the house of his brother-in-law, Charles Prideaux Brune, Place, Padstow". He left one son, Carew Davies Gilbert. He was buried in Feock churchyard; his wife lived until 1909 and is buried in the same grave.

Carew started his lifelong interest in riding at an early age; when the Truro Council reviewed their water bounds and landed for dinner from the steamer Sydney at 3.30 in Trelissick grounds, he rode up the centre of the tent on a 36" high Indian pony; he was toasted and the party of 64, with the band, conducted him back to the house where "Welcome Home' was played (Gazette July 17 1857).

For the next 20 years he seems to have been away from Feock, probably at school and later travelling to the Far East and Australia, but the Hon. Mrs Gilbert laid the foundation stone of the rebuilt church in July 1876, and gave the prizes at the day school in July 1878. Because newspaper reporting was more detailed at this period there are many more references to Carew than to any of his predecessors at Trelissick. Despite his duties as Lord of the Manor of Eastbourne and his interest in sport and politics elsewhere, he was connected with many Feock activities. He was president of the reading room and lectured there on his travels in the autumns of 1870, 1880 and 188t, he was vicar’s warden until 1895 when he declined re-appointment as he expected to be away for a long period; he subscribed to the rebuilding of the church and with Canon Philpotts he was a member of the Truro Cathedral Building committee from 1884. He was an executor of the Canon's will in 1890. He was a keen huntsman and rode extensively in Cornwall and elsewhere; he was Master of Trelissick Harriers (kennals near Penhale) for some years in the 1880s. He was made Rear Commodore of the

Royal Cornwall Yacht Club and president of the Feock Regatta committee; in 189 his yacht 'Little Windflower’ was beaten by 6 minutes by Canon Philpott's 'Georgina' on a 14-mile course. He was keenly interested in the Conservative party and attended the National Conference at Oxford in 1887. He married in 1881 and his wife was president of the 'St Feock Habitation of the Primrose League' from 1888. At the meeting to nominate members for the first Feock Parish council in 1894 (150 electors present and 20 names put forward for 11 seats), Mr C. D. Gilbert took the chair.

He was also a J.P. and attended many meetings; in one case offering to guarantee the cost of sending the uncontrollable son of one of his tenants to an industrial school. Farming was among his interests and experiments were made with silage. In 1886 (Gazette December 31) landlords and tenants were invited to the opening of the silo, which had been made by plastering the turnip house walls and fitting it, in mid-June, with 4050 tons of grass from the lawns and orchard, together with several loads of comfrey and 20 lbs of salt to the ton; the whole well trodden and covered. When it as opened and offered to the cattle it had a 'mixed reception'; samples were offered to any of the visitors who cared to send a cart for it to try it on their own animals, Mr Magor of Tregew thanked Mr Gilbert and Mr Sangwin, the Home Steward. During periods of farming rent rebates were given; 20% in 1888, 10% in 1889 and 1893.

Trelissick Barn is often mentioned as a centre for village activities, concerts were given to raise money for the Reading Room, the new Vicarage, the first Devoran and Feock Garden Society show in 1893, it was unfortunate that there was a lack of light to see the 400 entries properly'. It was also used by the Primrose League and the Temperance Society. Trelissick grounds were opened for fetes and rallies. In 1891 Mrs Gilbert's house party gave an evening concert there in aid of the Primrose League. In 1885 there was a bazaar to raise money for Cathedral fittings (the "Ladies of Cornwall' furnished the interior of the new Cathedral), Mrs Gilbert had a fruit and flower stall and her two daughters sold posies and buttonholes, there was a "Magic Show in a marquee and the band of H.M.S. Ganges played. Lunch was 26 in the dining room and cheaper in the barn. The profits went towards the cost of the Reredos and Organ.

The park was more extensively landscaped; the O.S. map (surveyed 1878 - 1879) shows additional woodland and many groups of farms; the fishpond at the head of Channal’s Creek was made: it was said that 10,000 waterlilies had been in flower at one time during the summer (Gazette August 26 1897); the drives through the woods were kept gravelled and swept, it is still remembered that Mrs Gilbert used to drive along them in a small pony cart, the public were not allowed to use them. The estate had purchased land at Mount George and Frogmoor and sold Pill Point. -

The house was extensively remodelled to make it suitable for house parties and entertaining; when it was sold in 1920 there were 14 principal bedrooms on the first floor, a billiard room designed by Mr St Aubyn and 4 more bedrooms in the attics. These extra rooms were built over the single storey wings on each side of the portico. The conservatory was built before 1800 (Gazette). The whole house had been modernised with an adequate water supply, up to date drainage, two bathrooms, central heating by hot water and a double water supply pumped from Penhale to a 25,000-gallon tank as well as the 7000-gallon tank in the Round Tower over its own well. The house had its own electrical installation, Worked by engines, for lighting and pumping.

In addition, many of the farm houses and cottages appear to have been rebuilt in stone with slate roofs, but not to any standard plan. Trolver was "erected in concrete'. Penhale had ceased to be a farm house and is described as an 'attractive marine residence standing in 35 acres of park and pasturage with its own acetylene gas lighting'.

In 1913 Carew Davies Gilbert died and the estate (some 900 acres in Feock) was sold in many lots, some being advertised as 'a Capital Building site'. So, it was again reduced; farms and cottages passed to new owners and ceased to be under the estate. Mr D. Cunliffe must have bought in most of the land, he was at Trelissick in 1920 and held the sporting rights over most of the estate; he left it to his niece, Mrs Copeland. Some 300 acres have now passed to the National Trust, so all can enjoy the park and Woodland which was created as the prerogative of a few.

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Chapter 1: Feock south of Trevilla - Feock Local History Notes III

This essay is an attempt to give some idea of the people and their occupations during the 19th and early 20th century in the small portion of Feock parish shown on the accompanying sketch maps. Porthgwidden is not mentioned here as it is fully dealt with in another article in this book. Both maps are based on the outline given on the Tithe Map of 1842 and show the housing development between that date and 1970. Field boundaries have been omitted for the sake of clarity.

In 1841 there were 71 houses with a population of 362, an average of 5 per household; only 10 people had reached the age of 65 and 45% were children under 17 years. By 1871 the population had risen to 522 and 22 new cottages had been built; the proportion of old people to children remained the same, wives usually outlived their husbands. By 1971 there were just over 340 houses and bungalows averaging 3 per household. Now nearly over a quarter of the people are over 65 and only 20% are children. Most of the new building has taken place since 1960.

The only industries were mining and shipbuilding, both continued on the eastern side of Restronguet Creek. The Cornish Copper Company had the mine at Yard from 1833 to 1843 where they were mining under the water on the same principle as described in our previous book except that the main tramway had no drainage channel beneath it and the ore had to be transferred to kibbles to be hoisted to the surface. A 40-inch engine was used for pumping and by 1836/37 the workforce had risen to 212. During this year they sold 122 tons of black tin at an average price of £51-11-3 per ton. Unfortunately, the mine was abandoned in 1843 as it was rendered unprofitable owing to the |ow price of tin; the entire produce had amounted to £52,615 while working expenses were £65,692 and royalties £2,933, making a loss over the 10 years of over £16,000. The Copper Company also rented Marblehead Quay from which the ore was probably shipped.

Shipbuilding was carried on by the Ferris family whose name appears in the Parish Marriage Register in 1680. The founder of the shipbuilding was Peter Ferris, born in Feock in 1776 and living at Marblehead in 1841 (C). He had 13 children; some of his sons and grandsons continued the business. One great grandson, William, is listed as a shipwright in 1923 (K). Another great grandson, Norman, who died recently, told me a few months before he died that he was still building a boat. Members of the next two generations are still living in this part of the parish.

The main occupation was farming. The farms rented from the large estate owners, were between 40 and 80 acres, and were at Trevilla Harcourt, Loe, Church Town, La Feock, Pill and Trolver.

Henry Bath farmed Trolver, about 50 acres, and when he retired to one of his newly built cottages at “Bath’s Town” (see Map), his son Edward took over the farm. The old farmhouse at Trolver is still used as outbuildings and the present house was the first house in the parish to be built of concrete (Sale Catalogue, Trelissick). Edward farmed here until he and his wife were killed in 1872 on the way home from Truro, when their horse became restive on the steep descent so was pulled to the side of the road to avoid the even steeper descent near the railway viaduct, but the trap capsized and both were thrown out. Mr Hugo of Feock took them in his trap to the Cornwall infirmary but both died of head injuries. They leave two sons and two daughters, the eldest son is in America. (G) This must have happened at the top of Arch Hill just below the present mini-roundabout. The farm was then taken over by Thomas and Ralph Michell, who were there until 1914; it then went to Henry James who was still here in 1939 (K}.

In 1841 (C) the and at Trevilla, north of the road, was leased to Daniel and Robert Retallack and farmed by John Retallack, Daniel and Robert were then farming Tregye, by 1851 (C) Robert was living at Trevilla - 60 acres - and this and remained in the family until 1910 (K). Another Robert Retallack had La Feock Grange - 80 acres by 1889 (K) and this family stayed there until the 1930s when the last male member was dragged by the bull which he was leading and was killed. At this farm the clome oven was often used for baking until the Retallacks left.

The land south of the road at Trevilla appears to have changed hands frequently during the last century. The Retallacks had it in 1871 (C). It was later farmed by Richard Williams, who also had land at Loe, east of the church, where his descendants are still living,

The name Williams occurs in the Parish Marriage Register in 732. in 1851, John Williams had 12 acres at Loe, besides and at Trevilla, and in 1883 (K) Richard Williams is given as a fruit grower, from 1930 to 1939 Mr N. A. Williams is listed as ‘florist, Flowers and Fruit’ (K). They were among the earliest people to send flowers to distant markets and also introduced violet growing to this area.

During this same period there was another fruit farm at Loe which was run by the Searle family whose ancestors were farmers at Harcourt in the 1820s; another brother was a market gardener at Church Town.

Owing to the mild climate and nearness to the sea which alleviated the problem of frost, winter flowers such as violets, anemones and early daffodils were profitable crops in the early part of the present century, but rising costs for freight and packing materials after 1950 made it very difficult to get a satisfactory living and the trade has practically died out. Mr Bersey, one of the first violet growers is still living in the cottage at Trolver into which his family moved when it was built soon after 1840.

Among the tradesmen the oldest family who remained here are the Chegwyns. John Chegwyn, mason, lived at Trevilla in 1841 (C) and must have been there in 1820 when his eldest son was born; he had four sons who all became masons, and by 1871 there were 17 grandchildren. There was still a John Chegwyn, mason, here in 1939 (K) and Miss Chegwyn died at Penpol in 1974.

In the early part of the last century shoes and boots were handmade; the best known bootmaker in 184f was John Lilly who had been born in Kea. Three of his sons became shoemakers and in 1861 (C) his wife and daughter gave their occupation as Bootbinders. This family also kept the Post Office at La Feock in 1873 (K) and continued to do so until after 1950. Their cottage is still known as the Old Post Office and is one of the oldest surviving cottages which have not been seriously improved. It had a lucky escape during the last war when a bomb fell just opposite but did not explode; it was not discovered until several years later. The first telephone was installed here soon after the old vicarage was burnt down in 1894 (G). Another member of the family kept a shop at Trevilla until 1923 (K) and there are still descendants living in this same part of Feock

A village shop was a necessity for those who had no means of transport. In 1841 there was a grocer at Ponsmain, Elizabeth Crowle; her son carried on and is given as Grocer and Draper in 1873 (K), and was still there in 1883. Her brother James, who lived in the next cottage, was a blacksmith and also farmed 9 acres; his son and grandson were blacksmiths. The name occurs in the Marriage Register in 1745.

By about 1880 the Misses Mary and Elizabeth Crapp had a shop at Churchtown which was later named the Feock Supply Stores and was still being run by Miss M. Crapp and Mrs Oates in 1936 (K). There was a William Crapp, born in Feock in 1813, who later lived at Trevilla. New premises have been built on to the original cottage which remains unaltered externally and the shop and Post Office are in the new building.

In 1893 Thomas Brabyn is given as a Grocer and Tea Dealer (K). He was a descendant of the Thomas Brabyn who came to this part soon after 1800 and had two sons, William and Thomas, who remained in the parish; one was a gardener and the other a shipwright, and between them they had 7 children. Miss Brabyn, the last to bear the family name, lived at Laundry Cottage, Restronguet and died in 1972.

The only inn was at Lane End, La Feock. This was kept by John Green, son of John Green who was living in this district by 1827 (C). The inn was carried on by the same family until about 1914 and they are now living at Penelewey.

The first public transport was started in the early 1900s by J. H. Trenhail, farmer at Feather cock, who ran a waggonette to "Truro on Wednesdays and Saturdays; by 1930 he was running a daily omnibus to Truro; this was continued by Mr Richards until the Western National took over.

There were many living in the district in the 19th century whose livelihood depended on the sea; fishermen, bargernern and sailors. As the sea-going trade from Devoran and Point increased, more young men from here went to sea. There were also profitable oyster beds in the creeks, but largely owing to overfishing, this industry declined after 1861 and only a few older men carried on. When a cottage at Yard was sold in 1919, the rights to fish certain oyster beds were included in the deeds.

This part of Feock seems to have been a self-sufficient little community; the roads remained the same as they were on Martin's map of 1748. Life centred around the church chapels at Goonpiper and Penpol, the Reading Room built in 1894, the school and later the Village Hall. Many of the descendants of the old families of whom I have only mentioned a few, are still here. In spite of the influx of foreigners during the past twenty years, there is still a friendly village atmosphere.

REFERENCES

1. Report of the meeting of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 20th July 1873

2. Mining Journals, 1835 and 1852

3 Census returns, 1841-1871 (C)

4. Kelly’s Directories, at the Royal Institution of Cornwall library, Truro (K)

5. Royal Cornwall Gazette (G)

6. Parish Registers for the late 17th and early 18th century, by kind permission of the Vicar

Chapter 2: Methodism in Penpol - Feock Local History Notes III

The centenary of the erection of the present Methodist chapel was observed in 1962, the building having been opened for public worship on Thursday, January 30th 1862. Unfortunately, at the time of the celebration very few contemporary details of the earlier occasion were then available, and, indeed, none at all in respect of the origin of the church itself; but despite this handicap, a very interesting and otherwise informative brochure was very kindly prepared by the then Assistant County Archivist, Mr Richard Potts, B. A.

Within recent years, however, the discovery of some old class tickets, some manuscript rotes, and the account book of the period, has afforded a small but useful amount of information regarding the earlier history of the Methodist society in Penpoll.

It is known that is 1841 the short-lived Perranwell Circuit was formed from Truro, surviving as a separate unit until about the year 1852, when, with one or two exceptions, all its chapels were added to the Gwenap Circuit. The Truro Circuit Quarterly Meeting Minute recommending the formation of the Perranwell Circuit, (quoted by Theodore Hawken in one of his series of articles in the West Briton, and published in the issue of the 1st May 1913), makes no mention of Penpoll in the list of chapels composing the new Circuit, but it does appear to have been one of the societies transferred to Gwennap in 1852. It would therefore appear that the Penpoll Methodist Society was founded sometime during the eleven years from 1841 to 1852, an assumption which finds support from both a single class ticket which has survived, and a reference in one of the title deeds of the property. The class ticket is one of admission to Wesleyan membership issued in June 1847 to one Elisabeth Pascoe, its Circuit of origin being that of Perranwell. There are good grounds for the belief that this lady was at that time associated with the Methodist cause at Penpoll, and that the ticket indicates that she had now become a member there. The title deeds reference is to an indenture of lease, dated the 29th September 856, by which John Samuel Enys, Esq. , and Charles Glynn Prideaux Brune, Esq. , Trustees under the Will of “John Davies Gilbert, Esq. deceased; the Hon. Anne Dorothea Gilbert, Widow and Relict of the said John Davies Gilbert granted to Richard Harris, …all that plot … of ground situate at Plenpole, Feock, containing about six poles, together with a Building then or then lately used as a Meetinghouse or Chapel erected and built thereon. (Penpoll is correctly spelt on the title-page of the document.)

The fact that a previous meeting-house existed on the present site implies the still earlier existence of an established group of worshippers, and it is by no means impossible that Elisabeth Pascoe was one of the first members of that particular group. It is of interest also to note that in an address at a Sunday School gathering at Penpoll some years ago, the late Miss Marian Chegwyn mentioned that her great-grandmother was at one time the leader of the Bible Class for “the young men of the neighbourhood", the class probably connected with the meeting-house that was here before this chapel was built, and that when failing health prevented her from attending the meeting-house its members came to her in her home, - the same cottage in which Miss Chegwyn was then residing. Marian Chegwyn, for many years a devoted member and church worker, a Sunday school teacher, and a Trustee, was very proud of the fact that she was a Methodist of the fourth generation, and that so many members of her family had been so deeply attached to the chapel at Penpoll.

No record has as yet been found by which the date of the erection of this earlier chapel might be known, but the fact that within a period of less than twenty years it was геplaced by the present chapel, gives some ground for believing that in Penpoll we have, perhaps, an instance of Methodism taking over from another denomination, and succeeding to the occupancy of its property. This could easily have been the case, since, according to Hawken, (West Briton, 27 March 1913) a congregation of Calvinistic Baptists in the early eighteen-twenties gave up their place of meeting at La Feock, and migrated to Penpol. There is no further information concerning this community, and it seems very probable that within a few years they had ceased to exist as such. It is also known that the early nineteenth century Register of Meeting House Licences of the Bishop's Registry, Exeter, contains an entry which almost certainly relates to Penpoll. This entry records that at the request of James Heath, Samuel Stephens, James Heath, Jun. and James Trenery, made by letter dated February 20th, 1807, a house in the village of DINPOLL was licensed for worship on June 20th, 1807. The assumption is, of course, that “Dinpoll” is simply a misspelling of the place-name, although it has to be admitted that nothing is as yet known of any of the four signatories named; nor, indeed, of the actual site in Penpoll to which this registration refers. Never the less, it is by no means impossible, and indeed, almost tempting to conjecture, that the present site is indicated in both these instances; that the 1807 group of a now unknown denominational label, erected the earlier building; that they were succeeded in the same premises, in the 1820s, by the Calvinistic Baptists of La Feock; and that in the early 1840s these in turn were succeeded by the first Methodists of Penpoll.

With the legal documents, and the contemporary accounts of the Trust now available, we are, of course historically on much safer ground. The first of the legal documents is as already stated, the lease granted to Richard Harris in 1856. This was for 99 years, subject to the lives of himself (at the age of 45 years), and his children, Catherine and Edwin, then aged 25 years and 19 years respectively. But it was not until1862 that a Trust deed was actually prepared, the deed itself possibly affording a clue to the reason for the delay. On January 27th of the year, just three days before the present chapel was opened, Richard Harris assigned the premises to himself and eight others, as Trustees, for the use of the “People called Methodists," for the residue of the period of the initial grant, subject to the lives stated, to the covenants under the original lease, the payment of a rent to the free holders and an indemnifying covenant in respect of Richard Harris. The Trusts were to be those of the Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of 1832, the Church's assent being signified by the signature of the then Super intendent of the Gwennap Circuit the Rev. James Mitchel. The first Trustees are named as: Richard Harris, (carpenter), William Maunder (tin smelter), William Plummer (millwright), Edwin Harris (builder), Thomas Martin (sawyer), John Treneale, Jun. (tin smelter), Thomas White (school master), Robert Sampson (tin smelter), and William Williams (yeoman), all of Feock. Edwin Harris is probably the son mentioned in the 1856 Deed, at that time not eligible for appointment as a Trustee, and his father's hope that he might become one, could account for the delay in the assignment of the Lease. Of the nine Trustees, only the tin smelters and the yeoman indicate their assent with an “x”.

High above the chapel door way may be seen the date, 1861, which probably is intended to indicate the year in which building operations commenced. The earliest account book now in the possession of the Trustees opens with the finances associated with the initial Effort, het don Good Friday of that year, in aid of the New Building Fund, and commences with a list of subscribers whose contributions range from one shilling to ten shillings, and totalling just over £6. Captain Nettle, a name associated with the Penpoll Smelting Works, subscribed two shillings, as did also Mr William Daniell. We note that Mr Williams, presumably the yeoman Trustee, subscribed ten shillings, with, in addition, the milk for the public tea, free of cost. We note also that Mr and Mrs William Chellew contributed ten shillings, a further five shillings being subscribed by "Mr. Wm. Chellew’s servants. The public tea is referred to as “the Tea Meeting", its proceeds amounting to £3. 17. 6, the connection at the evening meeting realising £2. 11. 2 ½ , a total of £12. 6. 4 ½ for the day. But they were sadly lacking in the ability to make a profit, the cost of the tea almost equalling the income derived from it. Even so, their first effort established the Fund with an initial £8.8. 7, encouraging them to borrow, according to the next recorded item, the sum of £50 from a Mr J. Coyne, Jr., at an annual interest 5%

Thomas White, the schoolmaster, had been appointed the Treasurer and his entries are set out in excellent order, and in an attractive hand. He was evidently the leader in all matters affecting the clerical and business side of the enterprise.

Presumably, this "Effort” was held in the old chapel premises, though these must soon after have been pulled down since obviously building preparations must already have been put in hand. These involved an enlargement of the site, necessitating the basting away of rock in the hillside, an account of later date revealing that for this fourteen pounds of 'basting powder" had been used, at a cost of 8d per pound.

The opening services on Thursday, January 30th, 1862, commenced with morning worship, followed by dinner, tea, and evening meeting, the afternoon being taken up by a Bazaar, which raised £18.6.7 ½ collections on the opening day were: morning £2.5. 1, evening £2.7. 5. Meals, at probably only a few pence per person, brought in £6, this being also the amount received from the collections on the following Sunday, the first Sunday of the new chapel. The weekend's expenses of over £9 included “11/8 to Mr Tonkin, Truro, for beef.”

The first payment in respect of the actual erection of the chapel was made early in 1862 to the Trustee, Richard Harris, who evidently had been entrusted with much of the work. His account was for £200. 17. 5d, of which £20 was for the site. A mason, Charles Pengilly, was also paid the sum of £62. 7. 1d for labour, but his separate item for building the gateway, and fixing the doorstep, etc., amounted to only £1. 5. 0.

By midsummer and autumn, 1 862, bilIs for an assortment of items in connection with the work were being received, including safety-fuse at a few shillings, 875 bricks costing £1.7.0., and £10. 6. 0. “to Mr Lidgey, for the centre-piece and cornice.” William Mellens, Sen., received one shilling and sixpence for the service of his horse and cart, but the time involved is not stated. A number of labourers received payment - apparently at the rate of two shillings per day - but much of the work was done gratuitously, its value being estimated at £40, making a total cost of the erection a paper charge of £395. 11. 5 ½ d, the actual cash payment being £355, 11.5 ½d. During the year, however, slightly less than £60 had been raised: £41. 2. 6 in subscriptions, and £15. 14. 0d seat rent proceeds for six months, which at perhaps just a shilling, or at most, two shillings per quarter per seat, indicates something of the amount of public support the newly erected church in Penpoll was receiving.

In 1862, a few months after the opening of the chapel, the Trustees required further financial assistance and secured a loan of £120 from a Mr. James Hearle, of Gwarder, in the parish of St Gluvias, repaying him £20 per year during the next three years although no capital repayment was made in the case of the loan by Mr Goyne. In 1865, however, the amount of the Goyne loan of £150 was taken over by Mr Hearle under a legal agreement and at a legal charge to the Trustees of twelve shillings, the total debt now being £20. Repayment contributions continued to be made from time to time, but the amounts being comparatively small, and made at such irregular intervals, another forty-three years were to elapse before the debt was finally extinguished in 1908. Family incomes were limited in those days, and the limitation was reflected in the church's income. Nevertheless, a schoolroom was built at the rear of the chapel in 1869-70, and this apparently without any addition having to be made to the then existing debt - a situation suggesting that if money was in short supply, voluntary labour was plentifully available. Indeed, this latter feature has happily been in evidence throughout the history of Penpoll Chapel down to the present day, when perhaps the financial aspect is in some ways a little less disturbing than in former days.

In 1848 the proprietors of the Feock Lead Smelting Works established a Day School, presumably initially, for the children of their employees, conducted on the British mode, and its sessions held at Rope House. This in turn seems to have inspired the founding of a Sunday School in the same building, and at that time under the same. auspices. This Sunday School, although not officially Wesleyan, was very closely linked with the Gwennap Circuit of which Penpoll at that time formed a part, and when the schoolroom was opened in 1870, the school had a ready thrown in its lot with the Methodists of Penpoll, at once transferring both its sessions and its equipment to the new building. In terms, solely of cash, the schoolroom had been erected at the cost of a mere £38, and towards this sum, as showing the it personal interest and pleasure, the pupil is of the Lead Works School contributed five shillings and seven pence.

The Sunday School banner, probably obtained within a short period of the change-owner, and which for many years afterwards was proudly carried at the head of the annual procession on tea-treat days, bore the wording, worked in blue and gold lettering on a cream background, Penpoll Wesleyan Sunday School. Established in 1869, but in tribute to the first Methodists in Penpoll, it should be remembered that the school had, in fact, already been in existence for a number of years under the name, Feock lead Works Sunday Schools, its actual date of origin, like that of the Society itself, now being unknown. At the time of the transfer, the school consisted of 111 scholars, and 33 teachers. The Methodist premises at Penpoll must have seemed uncomfortably crowded in those days:

The school room of 1870 continued in use until 1960, when it was demolished and the present larger and more attractive building was erected on the site. Its cost inevitably far exceeding that of both the previous erections, would have been much larger still, had it not been for the very considerable amount of Voluntary labour given once again so readily and gladly. The dedication of this building took place on April 22nd, 1961, the opening ceremony being performed by Mrs Simmons of Saltash. Later a generous gift to the Trustees of a plot of and adjoining the new schoolroom made possible the provision of both kitchen and toilet accommodation.

The property is now held on freehold tenure, the Trustees securing that interest under a generous offer by the then owners. The cost of the transaction only was to be regarded as the purchase-price, and this amounting only to the sum of 35, the freehold interest became virtually a gift to the Methodist Church. The Conveyance is dated 12th March, 1921.

Renewal of the Trust, following this acquisition, took place on March 7th, 1930, when for the first time in the history of the chapel, women were appointed Trustees, a precedent which quite properly in an enlightened age, set the pattern for all future appointments

As a village community, the Church is proud of its premises, its member’s devotion being shown in their use of these in worship, in service to the community, and in the care by which they are so well maintained.

Chapter 3: Barges- Feock Local History Notes III

Until the Second Word War, there were a number of barges based on Restronguet and often crewed by men who lived in Feock and Devoran. These barges were used mainly for carrying stone from the quarries at St Keverne, but they also loaded a great deal of sand from Restronguet Creek and were employed in general cargo work as required. For instance, they often carried corn or bricks. They frequently worked up to Truro, Tresillian, Penryn, Point, Perran-ar-worthal, Gweek, and Ruan. Usually the crew consisted of two men who normally had to discharge the cargo and sometimes to load it as well, so the work was extremely hard.

In those days ships used to work up to Devoran and it was necessary to keep the channel clear, so the barges were usually moored under Harcourt or under Tregunwith Wood. At that time, there was much more water in the creek and Mr W. Trebilcock says that in his grandfather’s time, the Norwegian timber ships could lie afloat off Marblehead. There were two pilots based or Devoran and, when a ship was due to come up the river at night, they would row down and place a lantern on each of the posts that marked the channel.

There were two classes of barges; ‘the outside barges’, which were fully decked and had bulwarks, and the ‘inside barges’ which had no bulwarks. Some of the latter were completely undecked and some had narrow coamings. The ‘outside barges ‘carried mainsail, staysail, jib and topsail with a standing topmast and crosstrees. The ‘inside barges’ carried only mainsail and jib and only one of them carried a small bowsprit, the jib being taken to the stemhead.

Some of the best known barges were the following:

Outside Barges

**Eve**; Built at Plymouth, owned by Pierce of Falmouth, Captain R. Phillips

**William & John;** Built at Penryn, owned by H.T.P. Rebuilt by W. Dunstan at Chycoose, Captain W. Dunstan (not the same man) Carried corn to and from Plymouth

**H. T. P.**; Carried corn from Truro to Falmouth

**Dorothy;** Captain E. Burley and J. Lewarne

**Silex;** Captain T. Allen, usually carried stone

**Mary;** Built at Devoran, Captain C. Trebilcock senr., considered to be the best sailor of all the barges

**May Blossom;** Built at Plymouth, Captain C. Trebilcock and R. Ferris

**Shamrock;** Built at Plymouth

**J & R;** Built at Plymouth

**Mystery;** Built at Plymouth

**Emma;** Built at Plymouth, Captain E. Burley

**Winifred;** Built at Penryn

**Border;** Built at Plymouth

**Kate;** Built at Plymouth, usually carried bricks

**Regina;** Built at Milford Haven

**Helford;** Captain C. Webber

**Sweet May;** Captain T. Lewarne

Inside Barges

**Clipper;** Owned by Redruth-Chasewater Railway, carried tin from Devoran to Plymouth.

**Marlon;** Captain A. Opie, carried tin from Point to Falmouth & corn to and from Penryn.

**Daisy;** Built by Burts of Falmouth, Captain W. J. Opie

**Maggie;** Captain J. Nichols, carried sand and grain

**Bessie;**

**Industry;**

**Topsy;** Carried beer between Truro and Falmouth for Carne’s brewery

This note is compiled from information supplied by Messrs W. Trebilcock, R. Michell, H. Bersey, A. George and R. Ferris.

Chapter 4: Rowing races at Carnon Mine- Feock Local History Notes III

In the days when there were many fishing boats and other working boats located in the river and owned by people in the Devoran area, rowing races were held on most evenings in the summer when the tide served. Crews and individuals used to race against each other and would often change boats to eliminate any advantage since some boats were well known to be faster than others.

The course was usually from Carnon Mine, around an old hulk off Devoran lower quay, down to the channel post off Chycoose and back to finish off at Carnon Mine.

The boats were usually the 15 foot skiffs or the 15-foot oyster dredging punts with a crew of three, two with an oar and one with two paddles. A number of boats were built with racing specially in mind and one builder of fast boats was Mr Fred. Bryant who still lives at Carnon Mines.

Some of the best known boats were:

*Evelyn:* Designed by Mr Charley George and built in Wales. She was brought to Devoran on board either the Erimus or the Trefusis, the steamboats that worked between Wales and Devoran. She is still owned by Mr F. Bryant.

*Kitty:* Built by Mr F. Bryant Maid Nancy Built by Mr T. Hichins at Carnon Yard

*Flip Flap*: Built by Mr T. Hichins at Carnon Yard

Among the keenest rowing men were Messrs Dick, Tom and Charlie Trebilcock, who rowed the Maid Narcy and the Kitty; Messrs Dick and John Ferris with Mr Gordon Martin of Falmouth; and Messrs Fred and Dick Bryant with either Mr Dick Trebilcock or Mr Dick Jackett of Falmouth.

There was great rivalry between crews from Devoran and Coombe and races were held at Coombe, Pill, Restronguet, Point and Devoran and Feock. However, the men from Coombe and those of Devoran used to join forces to send crews to compete at Hayle Regattas and were very successful.

Compiled from information supplied by Mr R. Michell, Mr R. Ferris and Mr A. George.

Chapter 5: The Bleak House Band- Feock Local History Notes III

In the days before radio, television and the motor car, people organised their own amusements and one of these was the local band. At one time Feock had such a band, but it shut down and the instruments became available so Mr W. Trebilcock of Carnon Downs, who then lived at Bleak House, organised the Bleak House Band. He had formerly been a member of the Perranwell Band, later joined the St Keverne Band and still maintains his interest in band music.

The members of the band were:

Mr. William Trebilcock: Cornet

Mr Tom Trebilcock: Euphonium

Mr. Richard Trebilcock: E flat bass

Mr B. J. Marshall: Baritone

Mr William Trebilcock (farmer): Drum

Mr. R. Michell: Tenor Horn

Mr R. L. Michell: Cornet

Mr Jack Marshall: Cornet

Mr R. Moore: Cornet

Mr Gordon Marshall: Cornet

Mr Frank Marshall: Cornet

The band used to practice in the front room at Bleak House or in the shed on the bank behind the house, and, at times, in the barn at Mr Trebilcock's farm (now Barn House).

A Christmas the band collected for Doctor Barnardo’s Home and on one occasion joined forces for carols with the Devoran Chapel Choir

As the members married and moved away, the band broke up and was finally dissolved in 1929. Mr. R. Michell still has the tenor horn and for a long time the drum was in the barn but finally disappeared. Mr W. Trebilcock has several photographs of the band when it was at its full strength,

This information was supplied by Mr W. Trebilcock and M. R. Michell.

Chapter 6: Tregye - Feock Local History Notes III

The earliest known plan of Tregye - from Doidge’s Survey of 1737 - shows no principal house but at least two small ones and lists twelve fields or closes, a wood and orchards still recognisable in the Tithe Map of 1842 (where a number of additional fields are shown) and indeed even to-day. For most of this time the land has been leased by successive owners to tenant farmers. The principal house, or The Mansion as it was once called, was built, it is believed at the beginning of the last century, enlarged at the end, and substantially altered in recent years. Although occupied for a time by tenants or caretakers, the house has been, during three periods of its history, the home of a prominent local family, involved not only in the development of the house and grounds but in the economic and social life of the neighbourhood.

The name, spelt variously Tregye, Tregie, Treguy or Tregy - as in the earliest record, the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 - is thought to mean “the house of the dog”. In the Feet of Fines of 1398, right of tenement was acknowledged as belonging to Henry Gourlyn and Margery, his wife, as a gift from John Nansmolkyn.

The 18th Century

The earliest known document referring to ownership or tenancy is dated 1715 when an agreement was made on the assignment of tithes relating to about two acres purchased by Martin Bodinar of Newlyn in the parish of Paul from Andrew Jenkin of Feock, yeoman, and Willmot, his wife and the daughter and co-heir of Christian Hendra.

The earliest known resident, however, is Stephen Adams, and it would seem that the estate had been divided into two as it is mentioned in both the will of Stephen, who died in 1727, and that of his brother William Adams, who died in 1725. This suggests that the property may have been owned by their father and divided on his death between his sons - a late but in Cornwall by no means uncommon example of the “Gavelkind” system of tenure whereby, in intestacy, the estate descended to the sons in equal shares. Stephen's estate passed to his widow Martha and then to his daughters, while William’s estate passed to his daughter, Ann Adams, who died in 1773, and then to her cousins Grace and Ann Cardell (see “Some Feock Wills and inventories” elsewhere in this issue).

It seems likely that at that tire all or most of the land was owned by the 3rd Viscount Falmouth and this connection with the Boscawen family has continued. An example of a personal link was a bequest by Ann Adams - a sum of 40/- - to the executors of the late Lady Falmouth “as a token of my gratitude for a favour she once did me". In 1800, however, certain fields to the north of the Carnon Downs - Come-to-Good road and adjoining Killiganoon were sold by the next Lord Falmouth to Thomas Spry of Killiganoon and Place. In a conveyance dated 26/27th June 1800, a total of 133 acres were acquired by Thomas Spry – 6 ½ acres formerly in the occupation of William and Ann Adams which he himself was then occupying, and 7 acres formerly in the tenure of Philip Watkins and then of John Libby. Lord Falmouth's ownership and the occupants were confirmed by the Land Tax Assessment of 1800: that part of Tregye occupied by Thomas Spry was assessed at 12/6d., and that part occupied by John Libby at £1. 17. 11d.

John Libby, who lived with his wife Jenefer at Come-to-Good, was the son of Henry Libby of Kea, a tinner, who directed in his will that his elder son should teach young John his trade of ropemaking. During his lifetime John became a wealthy man and in his will, in which he is described as a gentleman, he left not only his leasehold tenements and estates of Come-to-Good and Tregye but other leasehold property in the parishes of Feock, Kenwyn and Kea, together with a house near Coinage Hall in Truro, a freehold property at Cliffs Meadow, Carnon Downs, shares in Wheat Fortune in and Copper Mine, and a substantial sum of money. At the time of his death in 1807 his nephew, James Penrose, was living at Tregye but the residue of his estate, of which Tregye would have been part, was left to James’ elder brother William, the change of occupant at Tregye is confirmed by an amendment to the Land Tax Assessment.

1809-1850 (The Penrose Family)

A farmhouse of substantial size, by 18th century standards, must have existed for some time at Tregye - probably where Tregye Cottage stands today. The inscription “W. P. 1809” over the front door suggests, however, that the building of the present Tregye House was begun by William Penrose soon after he acquired the property from his uncle. This inscription is still to be seen above what is now the doorway on the right-hand side of the entrance lobby. But it was not until 1814 that William, then aged 43, brought a bride to Tregye: in March of that year he married Juliana, daughter of Matthew and Mary Roberts of Lemellyn in the parish of Probus, and in February 1821 their only son, William Roberts Penrose, was born. William Penrose's business interests in the Penpol Lead Smelting Works have already been referred to in “Feock l”. His death in 1838, at the age of 56, and that of his son only four years later, are recorded on a tablet in Feock Parish Church where William was a Churchwarden. All his freehold and leasehold property was left to his wife and to his friends the Rev. Francis Cole (who had been appointed Vicar of Feock in 1833) and Edward Michell, of St Clements, in trust for his son until he attained the age of 21.

On 25th May 1838, soon after William Penrose's death, a notice appeared in the West Briton offering to let for a period of 7 or 14 years Tregie house, the Stables, Coach-house, a Labourers Cottage, 5 acres of orchards and some 54 acres of “excellent arable and pasture land” together with the adjoining tenement of Come-to-Good. The house was described in some detail: “pleasantly situated in a garden, has a southern aspect and commands most interesting and picturesque views of Falmouth Harbour and the river Fal. Comprises a cheerful Dining-room, 22 ft. x 20 ft., a Drawing-room of same dimensions, a Breakfast parlour and Book room, with 2 excellent Kitchens, furnished with every requisite, 5 good Bed-rooms, Dairy, Pantry, extensive Beer, Cider and Wine Cellars, Apple House, with Cider press, and other convenient offices. The Walled Garden (in which there is an excellent greenhouse) is stocked with choice Fruit Trees, and the Orchards are in full bearing”.

Another advertisement appeared in May 1840 and as it suggested, the land was then let separately. In an agreement signed on f 4th November 1840, Juliana Penrose (presumably in her capacity as co-trustee of her husband's estate) leased to William Retallack and his two sons, Robert and Daniel, all yeomen of Feock, “all that estate and premises called Tregye containing about 54 acres of and ... and at that estate and premises called Come-to-Good containing about 30 acres” for the term of 14 years at a quarterly rent of £130. The “Mansion House” and its walled gardens and orchards, the coach house and the labourer’s cottage were excepted from the agreement, but it seems that by then both Mrs Penrose and her son were living elsewhere and required a caretaker at Tregye. Certainly, by 1841, as the Census shows, their friend the Rev. Cole was occupying Tregye with his wife Susan, their three daughters and two servants, probably remaining there until his appointment as Vicar of St Issey in 1844. Two young gardeners, Samuel and Norman Mortimer, were recorded in the Census as living in the second dwelling at Tregye, presumably the cottage.

The Tithe Map of 1842 shows that, of the 54 acres of arable and leased to and occupied by the Retallacks, some were freehold and owned by Mrs Penrose (presumably as co-trustee), while the remainder were owned by Lord Falmouth and leased to Mrs Penrose.

In July 1842, only three months after attaining his majority, and inheriting the house and freehold land at Tregye, William Roberts Penrose was accidentally drowned at Turnaweir Bar, Pill Creek, as he was sailing from his lodging at Pill to Truro, where he was articled to a firm of solicitors, Hodge and Hockin. His small boat was upset in a squali and, unable to swim, he tried to reach the nearby shore with the help of an oar but was drowned when the oar floated away.

Mrs Penrose died on 8th July 1850 at the age of 72 at her home at 47 Lemon Street, Truro - a woman of some wealth as family papers show that that part of her estate invested in mortgages and personal securities amounted to no less than £14,000. In her will, made a month after her son's tragic death, Mrs Penrose left her leasehold property at Tregye to her sister-in-law Ann Drew, the wife of Joseph Drew of Perranarworthal and William Penrose’s sister. A Codicil made three years later, refers to her subsequent purchase of the freehold portion of Tregye - the house, walled garden, orchards and about 31 acres of land “formerly the freehold of inheritance of my late husband William Penrose deceased and which on the decease of my late son William F. Roberts Penrose descended to his uncle James Penrose Gentleman as his heir at law”, and bequeathed this freehold property to her nephew John Eliot, the only son of her sister Mary, a surgeon of Kingsbridge, Devon, and on his death to his son William Henry Fletcher Elliot.

1850 - 1890

For almost forty years following Mrs Penrose’s death (and indeed probably from the time of the Rev. Cole's departure in 1844) the house appears to have been occupied either by a care taker or by a tenant. At the time of the 1851 Census, in March, the occupants were John Roberts, a lead-smelter and refiner, his wife and seven children while only a few weeks later, or 30th May, an offer was again made in the West Briton to let the house, garden, orchards, coach-house and stables “now in the occupation of Otho Cooke, Esq.” It together with any quantity of and not exceeding 10 acres for a term of 3 or 5 years. Further advertisements appeared in 1852 and in 1853.

But perhaps the story of these forty years is really the story of Sarah, daughter of William Gerrish, builder, of Carnon Downs, who was mistress of Tregye for thirty of those years. In 1859, after the death of her first husband, Nicholas Tallack of Narabo, a waterman, Sarah married Daniel Retallack who was by then living at Tregye. His father William Retallack, had died - at the age of 85 - in 1847 and since his brother Robert had his own farm at Trevilla it seems that the original lease of 1840 between Mrs Penrose and the three Retallacks must have been renewed by Daniel. The 1851 Census confirms that he and his wife Sarah were the occupants of Tregye with Sarah’s daughter Catherine Tallack, then aged 12, and a young servant girl, and describes Daniel as “a farmer of 88 acres employing 1 man and 1 boy”. These were probably Thomas Barrett and his grandson Thomas Woolcock Barrett, then aged 11, who were living in the second dwelling at Tregye. Thomas’s wife Mary Ann was described as “char woman” - perhaps at Tregye?

During the summer of 1861 payment of £3. 17. 9d. was made by Mr Elliot to Messrs. Treseder and Farley for "labour at Treguy from 16th July to September 29th at 3/- a day” after deduction of 18/- for fruit sold. But in December 1861, Daniel Retallack died and within a few months the house, it’s orchards, gardener and the 31 acres of and had been sold. A bond between John Elliot and his son, dated 22nd April 1883, refers to their concurrence in the sale, completed in or about the month of April 1862 for a sum of £1,850. The purchaser is not known but may well have been Lord Falmouth who already owned the other portion of Tregye.

Sarah remained at Tregye with her daughter and in February 1864 married for the third time. Her husband, John Dunstan, also a farmer was born in Kea and was 13 years her junior. Recording John Dunstan, his wife Sarah and Catherine, now aged 22, as occupants of Tregye with one servant, the 1871 Census describes Mr Dunstan as - "a farmer of 85 acres employing 1 man and 2 boys”. The cottage was occupied at that time by William F. Tregenza, farm labourer, his wife Susan and two daughters, Susan J. and Mary E. ln 1873 Mr Dunstan was offering “modern farm buildings” for letting, and in 1880 and again in 1888 he was advertising for a farm labourer to live in the cottage arid tend cattle – “none but good men need apply”.

The Boscawen and Rogers Families (1890-1939)

Sarah Dunstan died at Tregye in November 1885, aged 65, but her husband continued to live there until 1889. In that year, the 6th Viscount Falmouth died and Tregye became the home of his youngest son, the Hon. John Richard de Clare Boscawen, and his wife, Lady Margaret Florence Lucy, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Strafford whom he married in 1890. While extensive alterations were being made to the house the Hon. John and his wife lived at Porthgwidden, Feock. A second floor was added, under a pitched roof which replaced the original flat roof and the initials J.R. de C.B. and M.F.L.B with the date 1891-2 can still be seen inscribed on the east-facing gable end. In January 1892, the builders, C. & J. Harris, of Truro, were advertising for general masons required at Tregye.

The two semi-detached cottages at the entrance to Tregye were built about ten years later and most of the extensive landscaping which the Hon. John carried out in “Happy Valley” was completed at about the same time, as the pools in the valley are shown in the 1906 revision of the Ordnance Survey. The Hon. John became a County Alderman in 1895 (and headed the list of votes in 1901): in 1896 he and the Rev. Arthur Boscawen called a meeting in Truro to establish the Spring Flower Show and two years later the Hon. John became its Secretary. Kelly’s Directories refer to him as "lord of the manor” and, after his death in 1915, to Lady Margaret as “lady of the manor” - roles clearly illustrated in a photograph taken some years earlier of a Boys Brigade tea treat at Tregye with the boys seated at three trestle tables set up outside the front door, with the Hon. John on the steps about to give a word of Welcome and Lady Margaret pouring tea from a large silver teapot.

After the First World War, Tregye became the home of Mr Edward Powys Rogers and his wife Charlotte, a member of the Williams family of Scorrier and sister of Mr J. C. Williams of Caerhays Castle, and formerly of Burncoose House Perranwell. Mrs Powys Rogers lived at Tregye until the Second World War when the house was occupied by the armed forces.

There are still many who remember her as a friend and benefactress. She it was who, with the tenant of Tresithick, paid £75 to have electricity brought up to a few houses from the Carnon Valley in 1922; and who gave boots to local children at Christmas time. Like her predecessor, Mrs Powys Rogers continued the enrichment of the gardens with beautiful and sometimes rare plants brought back by expeditions financed by members of the family. Happy Valley - now fortunately being restored to its former beauty after many years - contains, for example, large marigolds which came from the gardens of the Vatican.

There are many stories concerning Tregye - its ghost, for instance, of a headless coachman driving four headless horses, said to appear or Midsummer Ewe. Of greater substance, perhaps is the story of the willow tree still growing over the old well to the north of the house. This well, built into a grotto at the head of a little stream, provided the water for the house until 1891, when the Hon. John had a second well dug, and the willow is said to have grown from a cutting of one growing over the original burial place of Napoleon on St. Helena.

The second well at Tregye was sunk at a location chosen by a diviner, who predicted water at 35 feet. No water was found at this level and digging continued for some time. Surfacing at lunch time however, the Workmen dislodged a stone - at 35 feet - which released a torrent of water and too is left at the foot of the shaft have remained there to this day.

**\***Commander Thomas Spry, R. N. was born Thomas Davy but assumed his mother is maiden name by Royal Licence in 1779: he inherited Place, in the parish of St Anthony, through her, and later became an Admiral in H. M. Fleet.

MAIN SOURCES:

Wills - County Record Office, Public Record Office and Principal Probate Registry (Somerset House)

Land Tax Assessment, c. 1800, with Amendments – County Records office

Tithe Apportionment -- County Record

Census Records - Public Record Office

Royal Cornwall Gazette and West Briton - Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro

The Elliot Family Papers, Reading University

Chapter 7: Some Wills & Inventories of the Adams Family of Tregye - Feock Local History Notes III

Very often we can trace the names of families through estate manuscripts but know very little about their personal affairs. Probate documents can help to fill in the picture.

When a person died, an inventory of his goods and chattels, that is to say, his household items, money, debts due to him, clothes, jewels (if any) and farm goods or trade tools, had to be produced before probate of his will would be granted. This appraisal was required to be carried out “by honest and skillful persons” and was in fact usually done by two local men who were friends or neighbours.

The inventory and the will which usually went with it gave a great deal of insight into the circumstances of the individual concerned. This is apparent when we look at the probate documents of the Adams family of Tregye (see article on Tregye in this issue). It is clear that they were a well-to-do family, with Stephen Adams personal possessions valued in 1719 at over £400, and William Adams at £183 in 1725 - even this was a large sum then. Their inventories show that like many other Cornish families of the time they were engaged in mixed farming, with cattle, sheep and arable crops all playing their part. The sheep and bees abroad in William Adams inventory must refer to other land distinct from his home farm. In spite of being reasonably prosperous, the Adams family did not indulge in lavish spending on their homes; like many of their local contemporaries, their household goods seem to have been modest

The making of a will was the opportunity for providing for dependents in the days before State Pensions and Social Security; the Adams wills make careful provision for the wives and, to a lesser extent, for the children. Stephen Adams left only a shilling to each of his daughters, an indication that he had already given them dowries or the equivalent. Unlike William Adams he also had a thought for the poor of the parish.

Affluence was not necessarily accompanied by even the rudiments of education. Although William Adams was reasonably well-to-do, he was unable to sign his will and, like one of his witnesses, had to make his mark.

The following are transcripts of wills and inventories of the Adams family. They are accompanied by a photocopy of the original inventory of William Adams, made in 1725.

**INVENTORY** of the goods and Chattels and Credits of Stephen Adams of Feock deceased, taken and appraised by John Lawrence and John Cook of the said Parish this 10th day of July 1719,

Imprimis

* His purse and wearing apparel, 04-00-00
* His Chattels and Estate in Treguy 240-00-00
* His bedding and their furniture 9-00-00
* A hanging press in the Chamber 10-00
* Pannbrass 2-15-00
* Three brass pots and two iron pots 2-00-00
* The whole peuter 2-15-00
* One broker pestle and morter and one old pasty pan 00-03-00
* Five leather chairs 00-14-00
* Five wooden chairs 00-07-00
* One round table 00-18-00
* Two old table boards, two forms and two cupboards 01-01-00
* For Shelves 00-03-06
* A large Stone trough 02-01-00
* Three other Stone troughs 00-08-00
* A Syder press 00-10-00
* Cask and other Timber goods 01-14-00
* Hay 01-10-00
* Wood and furse faggots 01-00-00
* Three ladders, one Scyde and one wheelbarrow 00-08-00
* A Bar of Iron 00-04-00
* A butt wain and wheels 05-0-00
* Two harrows, plows, chains and other utensels belonging 01-17-00
* For Corn in the Mowhay 01-07-00
* One Yoak of oxen 08-00-00
* Two cows 06-00-00
* Five young Bullocks 07-15-00
* Two nags and one mare 10-00-00
* Two calves 01-00-00
* For 44 sheep 15-00-00
* Fifteen lambs 03-00.00
* 44 fleeces of wool 04-00-00
* Three hogs, gees and other fowls 02-00-00
* For 6 acres of wheat and 6 ½ of barley 26-10-00
* For Debts Separate and desperate 35-00-00
* Things forgotten and unappraised 02-00-00

Sum Total £403-07s-06d

The Will of William Addams. June 1st 1725

I William Addams of the parish of Feock in the County of Cornwall yeoman being sick and weak in Body but perfect and sound of Minde and Memory praised be to God for the same, do make and ordaine this to be my Last will and testament in manner of form following.

**Imprimis**. I give devise and bequeath unto my Loving wife Ann Addams the sum of six pounds of Lawfull Mony of this Kingdom to be paid unto her yearly by two equal payments by my executrixes hereafter named if the lives on my estate in Tregy in Feock shall so long live the first three pounds to be paid to her six months next after my decease and so to be continued and paid unto her during her widowhood if the lives as is aforesaid shall so long live. And if not continued satisfied and paid within twenty days next after the six months and then it is my will that my wife Ann Addams is hereby impowered to enter in and upon my estate in Tregy in Feock aforesaid for any sort of goods on the premises and to have the same with the Arrears if any. It is my will a so that if my wife Ann Addams be marryed again after my decease that she shall have but one shilling after her marriage. Also give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Addams my younger daughter the sum of fifty pounds of Lawful Mony of the Kingdom to be paid to her ten days after my death. Lastly I do nominate and appoint Grace Addams and Ann Addams my two daughters to be my whole and sole executrixes of all my goods chattels and creddits and to pay may debts and legacyes and funeral charges of this my last will and testament Revoking all former wills by me made. In witness, hereof I have hereunto set my hand and sea this first day of June one thousand seven hundred and twenty five 1725.

The sign of

*William ff Addams*

Signed Sealed Published and declared to be the Last will and testament of the abovesaid William Addams

in the presence of US

Theo: Harvey

James Trenhaile

Jane C CooK

REFERENCES.

Probate collection, County Record Office, Truro “Farmhouse and Cottage inventories of Mid Essex”, by F. W. Steer

A True & perfect inventory of the Goods Chattels & Creditts of William. Addams of Feock deceased Taken and appraised by Theodore Harvey and Hopson Woolcock of the said ptish the 30th day of June 1725 as followeth.

* His purse and wearing apparel 03-00-00
* His Chattle Estate in Tregy 100-00-00
* Two Cows 4£, 3 Small heifers £2 10s, 06-10-00
* A young mare 01-10-00
* For 10 sheep at home & 3 sheep abroad 02-00-00
* for 5 Lambs at home & 2 Lambs abroad 00-14-00
* for Bees at honey home & abroad 01-01-00
* Two acres of barley 03-00-00
* For bedding 10-00-00
* Three Silver Spoons & a Silver Taster 01-00-00
* A Cyder Beame & one Harrow 01-00-00
* Two -hogsheads & five halfe hogsheads 01-00-00
* Potts & brass 01-00-00
* an old cart and an old gun 00-12-00
* pewter a Court Cupboard and irons & spit 02-00-00
* A round Table two Side Tables & a form 01-00-00
* Eleven Chaires a Dozn & halfe of Glass bottles 00-17-00
* For Wooll 01-00-00
* For Debts Separate & Desparate 45-00-00
* For things forgotten & unappraised 01-10-00

Sum Total £183-14s-00d

Appraisors- Theodore Harvey & Hopson Woolcock

Chapter 8: A talk prepared for the Wesley Guild at Carnon Downs by the late Mr T. J. Trebilcock in 1952 - Feock Local History Notes III

The road from Truro to Falmouth ran through Playing Place and continued through the Killiganoon estate to Carnon Downs, with five cottages of cob walls and thatched roofs as you entered the hamlet. One of these was a “Kiddlewink”, the Cornish name for a public house where beer only was sold. There were four more cottages as one left on the Perranwell road which was then the main road to Falmouth. The present main road down Carnon Hill, thence to the Norway Hotel and through Perran-ar-Worthal, was made by the Turnpike Trust in 1830. The old cottage at the entrance to the present main road to Falmouth was also a Kiddlewink, but when the new road was made and Turnpike Gates were placed there it became a gate house and was occupied by an employee of the Trust whose duty it was to let the traffic through and collect the tolIs.

When the G. W. R. branch line form Truro to Falmouth was under construction and the Sparnock Tunnel, midway between Carnon Downs and Baldhu was being built, the G. W. R. engaged a gang of Irish navvies and housed and fed them in wood buildings on the site. The nearest place at which they could obtain beer was Carnon Downs Kiddlewink, kept by Henry Nicholls. In 1895 his son Henry told me that these navvies came each evening and ordered several gallons of beer which his father poured into a tin bath placed in the middle of the room. They sat around it; the ganger was given a pewter pint which he dipped into the beer and after drinking the contents passed it to the next man, all drinking in turn until the bath was empty. The Falmouth branch of the railway was completed on 24th August, 1863.

The lane from the Bissoe road across the downs to the junction of the Perranwell road and Carnon Hill at Trethewey Cottage, now known as Staggy Lane, was originally Kitty’s Lane because it led to Kitty Martin's grocers shop. Kitty’s husband kept a night school in the barn during the winter months. The barn is still there and in a good state of repair. Boys attended from all over the district. My father who lived at Playing Face Farm was a pupil. On dark nights, they carried lanthorns with tallow candles which were lit by their parents at the open chimney fire; these were the days of the flint and tinder box. Mr Martin lit the lanthorns for the return journey.

The lane from the Carnon Valley across the downs passes the present Pottery, crosses the Perranwell and Carnon Hill roads and leads through Carnon Crescent to Deadman's Lane. Here tradition says that a traveller supposed to be carrying something very valuable was unhorsed by a highwayman and murdered; a stone embedded in the bank marks the spot where the crime took place. This stone has dark red markings supposed to be the blood of the victim. The lane continued to Point and the tidal waters of the Restronguet estuary; it was a mule track; everything being carried at that time on mules’ backs.

When the lease of the Wesleyan Chapel was granted by Lord Falmouth in1824, all the land from the main road to the Carnon Valley was a downs of heath and furze, several hundreds of acres in extent. The Chapel was built in 1825 with a seating capacity of 536. William Gerrish, the builder, a Carnon Downs man, was also the builder of Devoran Church in 1857, having built Baldhu Church nine years earlier in 1848. He also built Trethewey Cottage for his own residence and he owned the land a Carnon Crescent on which the council houses are built. The Reverend Cyril Davey, Methodist Minister, is his great grandson.

Before the new turnpike down Carnon Hill was made, he road to Devoran from Carnon Downs was through Higher Devoran and Narabo Farms. When land was being acquired for building cottages and for small holdings, it was leased on the three lives system to revert to the landlord on the death of the last life. The land at Carnon Downs was apportioned in what were termed “plots", the number of each plot, its size, name of lessee and conditions of the lease were recorded. A few uncultivated parts remained until around 1900. It is interesting to note that Carnon is retained in the following place names on the downs; Carnon Gate, Carnon, Old Carnon, Higher Carnon, Carnon Crease, Carnon Wollas, Carnon Hill, Carnon Mine and Carnon Mine. The mill situated at Old Carnon has long since disappeared. Two meadows adjoining it were gradually covered by the waste from the mines. The remains of the miller's Cottage were removed for road widening when the Redruth and Chacewater Railway was closed during the First World War and the track from the bottom of Vitriol Works hill to Old Carnon became a highway thus making a direct road up the Valley from Devoran to Bissoe. Previously the route was via Carnon Hill , Carnon Downs, Bissoe Road, Ringwell Hill to Old Carnon; the new road cut the distance by two thirds besides having the advantage of being practically dead level.

Ralph's Lane which leads from the top of Lodge Hill to Algarnick, links up with the lane down the Algarnick valley which emerges on the Carnon Downs-Bissoe road at Heath Farm. The site of the Cottage on the corner of Ralph's Lane where it meets the Algarnick road was a waste piece on which timber was burned to make charcoal. The second holding down Algarnick Lane (Valley Lane), now called Samaria was originally Jinny West 's. The public well outside the garden fence is still known as Jinny West's well. A dozen cottages on the Bissoe road end of the village had to get their drinking water from it. The narrow road leading to it is called Row Hill. Halfway down on the right-hand side there was a cot; it had two rooms one above the other - half a cottage, hence the name cot. When I was a boy it was occupied by Willian Burrows and his wife Lizzy. They had no family but he was known as Father Will. He was very short and stout and stammered badly. Lizzy was a match physically, the same height and size. When a portion of the Chapel was made into a schoolroom in 1857, a bazaar was held in it to raise funds to help in defraying the cost. Eliza Collins, who was a maid to a lady who did a lot of traveling, happened to be at home visiting her mother at the time and brought with her a galvanic battery. It was new to Carnon Downs and a source of wonder. On hearing that this bazaar was being held she offered to bring and operate it as a means of augmenting funds. Father Will came in the evening after he had left work and watched the contraption with puzzled curiosity for a time, then decided to pay his tuppence and have a go. The operator said "Now Mr Burrows let's see how strong your nerves are; when you have had enough say stop. He gripped the handle pieces, the current was turned on and he soon started to squirm. His mouth twitched but he couldn't utter the word ‘stop’. The large number of people in the room were suddenly startled and shocked as Father Will managed by supreme effort to shout at the top of his voice, “Hell!”.

The first blacksmith's shop in the village was situated on the Tregye road near the present Grey Gables bungalow. Gig lane did not exist at that time; a lane called Shop lane led to the blacksmiths shop from the main road. The entrance to the lane was just above the present bowling green and followed its top boundary hedge to the Tregye road. The ruins of the shop and cottage were there in 1875 but soon after the remains were removed and site added to the field, a depression in the corner of which clearly indicated the old site. The next blacksmith's shop was on the site of Henry Wearne’s bungalow on the corner of the Bissoe and Quenchwell roads and was part of a small holding with fields bordering each road. In addition to the shop there were cattle houses and a barn which extended from the corner of the Bissoe Road and formed the road boundary on the Quenchwell Road. The farmyard on the inside of the buildings was entered from the Bissoe Road. It was fairly large and square and at the back of it, facing the Bissoe Road was a thatched Cottage and a smaller one built at a later date. The end of the latter cottage was on the Quenchwell Road in line with the other buildings. There was a small entrance on the Quenchwell Road serving the blacksmith's shop and the cottages; the entrance to the cattle houses was from the farmyard. A Post Office letter box was built in to the wall of the barn facing the road. The third blacksmith's shop is now the garage (and the fourth is now a pottery). See illustration in Feock Part II.

Mention has been made of Kitty Martins grocers shop - the next one was on the Bissoe Road at what is row called Hazeldene. It was kept by Nancy Dunstan, the wife of William Dunstan the village carpenter. These were the parents of Ralph Dunstan, Mus.Doc., to whom I shall refer later. The third shop was at Bryher Cottage on the main road just below Cross Lanes, the fourth was at the junction of the Falmouth and Bissoe Roads, the fifth the present Kiddlewink Stores and the sixth, the shop that now incorporates the Post Office. A Post Office was first opened in the village in 1936. The shoemaker's shop was situated in the centre of the village at the junction of the Truro-Falmouth main road and the Quenchwell road.

A strip of and for the construction of Gig lane was given by Squire Penrose of Tregye. It was at the time when gigs were coming into fashion and Squire was the first in the district to have one. When the lane was opened, it was arranged for him to be the first to use it and he drove his newly acquired gig through it. Hence the name Gig Lane. Squire died on the 23rd March 1838.

The public footpath through Gateshead, the ark and across the Point-Penpol road passes through Higher and lower Tresithick and Penpol farms to Penpol bridge. From there it goes through Trolver Farm to the top of Feock village, enters Veage Lane and leads directly to the parish church where the older inhabitants of Carnon Downs are interred. Their graves lie close to the boundary hedge opposite the detached belfry.

Formerly, a village green was situated where the Tregye road joins the main road at the village. Both the main road and the Tregye road were much narrower than at present, hawing in many places wide grass verges on either side. The green was triangular in shape and sufficiently large for us boys to play leap frog and other games. Political meetings were held on it. At the time of the Boer War, a Company of the Duke of Cornwall’s tight Infantry marched through the county visiting towns and villages on a recruiting campaign; they were headed by their band which heralded their arrival with a stirring march. They came to Carnon Downs on their way from Falmouth to Truro and pitched on the village green. While the officers were addressing the crowd, members of the Company buttonholed eligible young men trying to induce them to join up.

The polling station for the whole parish was at Carnon Downs until; 1900. It was at the old vestry, a small room above the stable and carriage house at the back of the Chapel. This room was used for various things from time to time. For two generations, a dame school was held there and also a night school for ‘hobble-de-hoys’ (teenagers), a cow club and a pig club. Sixty years ago, it was a men’s institute and about thirty years ago it was found necessary to lower the walls and re-roof it as it had become dangerous.

Tregie Manor was the property of a branch of the old family of Penrose of Sithney. There is a very beautiful marble tablet in the parish church on the south wall near the circular Norman font which bears the following inscriptions: “Sacred to the memory of William Penrose, Esq., of Tregie in this Parish who died suddenly or the 23rd March 1838, an affc. husband and father, a kind friend and benevolent neighbour, he lived distinguished and when it pleased the Creator to end his term of days he died sincerely lamented. To the memory of William Roberts Penrose, Esq., of Tregie only son of the above named who in the prime of life was accidentally drowned by the upsetting of a boat at the entrance of Truro river on the 2nd July 1842 in the 22nd year of his age. His amiable manners had endeared him to an extensive circle of acquaintances by whom his loss was most sincerely deplored and his untimely decease which cast a mournful gloom over the minds of his surviving friends is here most affectionately recorded by his sorrowing mother Juliana Penrose who died June 8th, 1850, aged 72”.

Killiganoon signifies “the grove by the downs”. It is 300 feet above sea level and situated on the perimeter of the parish. The land on the west and south slopes to the Carnon Valley and Restronguet estuary. The land on the east slopes to the River Fal. Richard Hussey, son of John Hussey of Truro, attorney-at-law, purchased the land, built the house and laid out the gardens and grounds. He became a most distinguished lawyer having the honour of being appointed Attorney General to the Queen and Counsel to the East India Company. In 1768 he was Member of Parliament for Loce. After Mr Hussey is decease, Killiganoon passed into the hands of a Mr Dagge. Two brothers of that name went to London from Bodmin to seek their fortune. Ore became the manager of Covent Garden Theatre, the other practised as attorney and ultimately retired to Killiganoon. Afterwards Killiganoon became the property of Admiral Spry who enlarged the house and improved the plantations. From him it passed to his son, Sir S. T. Spry. After him it came into the possession of Thomas Simmons, Esq. The house was destroyed by fire in 1872 and the Squire had it rebuilt. When he died, he left it to his grandson, John Messer Bennet, Esquire, solicitor, who improved the gardens, lawns and pleasure grounds and successfully farmed the land. He sold the property just before the Second World War. At present, it is being used as a country hotel and riding stables. Before leaving Killiganoon I want to draw your attention to two things on the estate which are of historic interest. The first is the mound or beacon situated near the farm buildings. My mother, whose forebears farmed the and before it became an estate and trees were planted around it, told me that bonfires were it on this mound. It was a link in the chain of bonfires through the county. The story that a bonfire was lit there at the time of the Spanish Armada in 1588 has been handed down through the family to the present day. It is fenced around and completely hidden by the trees which are planted on it. The second is the old water mill at Come-to-Good, close to the stream and only a stone's throw upstream from the boundary of the Quaker's burial ground. The remains are still there and several large stones scattered around were evidently taken from the wheel pit.

Two sons of the village who deserve special mention are Ralph Dunstan and Pope Manuel. Ralph Dunstan, I have referred to as the son of William Dunstan the village carpenter. He joined the Chapel choir at the age of twelve and earned to play successively the piccolo, flute, euphonium, bassoon and clarinet. In 1877 at the age of twenty he went to London and entered Westminster training College to train as a schoolmaster. In 1879 he competed his college course, coming out with distinction at the head of the College list. He was retained as junior tutor and on the advice of friends turned his attention seriously to music. in 1882 he was appointed music master of the College and three years later he received the like appointment at Southlands College. In 1892 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Music. Under the patronage of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the London Cornish Association, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and the Cornish Gorsedd he arranged and published the Cornish Song Book. Among his numerous arrangements are Cornish Dialect and Folk Songs sook of Carols and One Hundred Old Methodist Tunes. Dr Dunstan died in retirement at Perranporth in 1935 at the age of 77.

Contemporary with Dr Dunstan was Pope Manuel and he was also engaged in the teaching profession. He secured a headship at Dr Barnardo's Homes which position he held until Dr Barnardo’s death. He was then appointed one of four Governors who were responsible for the administration of the homes.

A special event was the Carnon Downs Chapel Tea Treat. This was held at Tregye until the death of Juliana Penrose in 1850, following which it was held for the next sixty-five years at Killiganoon. Five to six hundred people patronised it. The kissing ring and the game of twos and threes were the beginning of many a romance. If a young man walked home with a girl that meant taking her to Truro Whitsun Fair the following Saturday... if he treated her generously it soon led to wedding bells. One young man, according to custom, took his girl to the fair. The price of admission to the larger shows was sixpence, the smaller ones three pence and a very few small ones one penny. He could only afford a penny and paid it for the girl to go in while he waited outside. That's how William lost his Mary and how for the rest of his life he was known by the nickname of Penny Boy.

*Note:*

The above consists of extracts from two MSS of addresses prepared by the late Mr Trebilcock, and given by him at meetings of the Carnon Downs Wesley Guild, in the one instance, and of the Carnon Downs Old Cornwall Society, in the other: the former in 1952, and the latter some few years later. These extracts have been selected and edited for this issue by his son, Mr Frank Trebilcock, of Feock.

Mr Thomas J. Trebilcock was born at Tresithick, Carnon Downs, on December 8th, 1880, and except for the period of his service with the D.C.L.I. during the First World War, the whole of his long life of over 92 years was lived in Carnon Downs.

As a child, he attended the Council School at Devoran, later studying book-keeping at a night school in Truro, his proficiency in this subject securing him the offer of the post of assistant purser on one of the White Star Liners of that day. Family pressures, however, led to his deciding against taking up the appointment; and giving his thought to work on the land, he became a highly skilled woodsman and gardener.

At Devoran he was greatly influenced by the late W. R. Cock, the village schoolmaster and a gifted musician. Under his training he became a member of the Devoran Choral Society, then newly-formed, and which in his time was a competitor in the first County Music Festival, winning the Buller-Howell shield for the best choir taking part. Later he became a member of the Carnon Downs Male Voice Choir, then under the direction of Gordon Hall, F.R.C.O.

A loyal and devoted member of the Methodist Church, there was no office open to a layman man in the church and Sunday school at Carnon Downs which at one time or another he had not held. A Trustee for many years, he was Secretary of the Trust when the present organ was installed. And in wider service still to the community, he served for about thirty years as a member of the Feock Parish Council.

Following some years of retirement, and still held in warm esteem, Mr Trebilcock passed away at Carnon Downs on the 17th of June 1973, in the 93rd year of his age.

Chapter 9: Porthgwidden and Tom Phillpotts- Feock Local History Notes III

The figure of Canon Tom Phillpotts stands in the central niche of the South Porch of Truro Cathedral. When he died, the Bishop paid tribute from the pulpit, to 'A Life of Service’; more than half that life was centred on Porthgwidden in Feock. Now he is almost forgotten and clues to his service have to be sought for in records of his time. Newspaper reports can be inaccurate and incomplete and this article is put together, tentatively, in the hope that further information may be forthcoming.

Porthgwidden

The name, meaning “The White Haven” is mentioned as early as 1248 but the first reference to the house is in 1829 when it is described as newly erected. (There are earlier records of the land and the farm house - See Map.)2 in 1840, it was described as 'Spacious and Elegant Mansion, late residence of Edmund Turner, M.P., with a productive garden, orchard, meadow and arable land, delightfully situated… eligible site for marine villas, the House with about 8 acres of walks and pleasure gardens (interspersed with Timber Trees, shruberies and thriving plantations and with a large lawn shelving to the River) contains an Entrance Hall, large and lofty Dining and Drawing Rooms, a Library and a Boudoir, a Housekeeper's Room, Kitchen and back kitchen. Butler’s Pantry, Cellars, etc. 8 good Bedrooms, Dressing Rooms, Servants bedrooms and a Water Closet...Stables and Coach House.3

It was bought in 1842 with the land on the south-east side of the road to Restronguet Point by John Phillpotts.4 He was the brother of the Bishop of Exeter (whose diocese included both Devon and Cornwall), a Barrister, M. P. for Gloucester for 17 years and his London house was 14, Pall Mall.5

Tom Phillpotts

His son was born in 1806, and educated at Eton and Kings College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. in 1829, he was ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln in 1830 and, in 1831, married at Brixton to Mary Emma Penelope, heiress of Ulysses Theophilus Hughes of Swansea. In 1833, he obtained his M.A. degree and the following year became a Curate at St Austell. In 1835, with his wife and one daughter, Emily, he went to Gwennap as Vicar; four more daughters were born there Helen in 1836, Georgina 1838, Mary 1839, and Emma in 1843.5 In 1844 he became Vicar of Feock and moved to Porthgwidden; Alice was born in 1844 and his only son, John Hughes in 1845.6

Vicar of Gwennap

While at Gwennap he caused several small chapels to be built which were more accessible to the many miners, than the parish church.7 In 1839, at a clerical meeting in Illogan rectory, he said that he believed schools and mission chapels were necessary for evangelism - if “people would not come to the church, the church must be brought to the people”.

He was also concerned for the physical wellbeing of his parishioners; when the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society aided Tresavean mine to install a man engine in 1842, he was one of the inspecting committee.8 This engine halved the time that miners spent in getting to and from their work and did away with the effort of climbing ladders, as men were conveyed up and down, by stepping on and off moving platforms.

Vicar of Feock

When he moved to Feock he again found that the church was in a rural area and that many of his parishioners were in the growing port of Devoran, two miles away; so, in 1847, a Church School was built there (with the aid of the National Society and Subscriptions) and it was licensed for Services. At the same time the Feock school was rebuilt. The work of evangelism and teaching was carried on by the Vicar, two curates, the Schoolmaster and his wife at Feock and the Schoolmistress at Devoran.9

Devoran Church

This church was built by 1856 and was a community effort; the Rev. Tom produced the design (J.L. Pearson the London architect, drew the plans); Mrs Agar of Lanhydrock gave the site and the endowment; Mr Robartes the East Window and the inhabitants of Devoran the West Window. (Did the Rev. Torn suggest the themes of Christ’s baptism and teaching shown in the last window? At a Clergy Synod at Exeter in 1851 he had strongly supported resolutions re-affirming the necessity of baptismal teaching, and supported the plea for primary education.) He provided the money to build the Chancel and the past Curates of the parish gave the six dark serpentine columns that adorn it. There is a brass set into an ornamented recess inside the altar rails commemorating his parents and those of his wife to whose memory it was given. His father died in 1849 in such a dramatic manner that the West Briton devoted a whole column to it, instead of the usual few lines describing how he expired in an omnibus at Regents Circus in London, how he was carried into a chemist’s shop and a surgeon and a police constable were called and that the post-mortem revealed his heart to be of double size. The Rev. Tom also gave £500 towards the cost of building the rest of the church and the other money was raised by subscriptions.

Building started in September 1854; the masonry was done by William Gerrish of Carnon Downs and the woodwork by Salmon of Truro. It was finished by August 11, 1856 and on that day, a procession set out from the schoolhouse reciting the 84th psalm: How amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts. The Rev. W. J. Neame, curate of Devoran, the Rev. J. H. Kirwan, curate of Feock, the Rev. T. Phillpotts and many local clergy took part, together with a large congregation. At the close of the service, the granddaughter of one of the builders was baptised. In the afternoon, there was another service for nearly two hundred school children, and the Rev. Tom gave the address explaining the church to them as the House of God.9

Gardening

In his younger days, Torn Phillpotts was a Judge at Flower Shows; in 1834, while he was still at St Austell for the Tywardreath Gardening Society and at least four times between 1834 and 840 for the Cottage Garden Section of the Royal Horticultural Society Shows at Truro or Falmouth. For many years, he was steward for the Horticultural Section of the Bath and West Show. "he was one of the earliest members and a warm supporter” of the Royal Horticultural Society in Cornwall and on August 30, 1859 their Exhibition was held at Porthgwidden. It rained all the previous day and all night, but cleared by eight o'clock in the morning. Crowds came by road and by the steamers from Truro; the Miners Artillery Band played or the lawn in front of the house, the Exhibits were in a marquee to the south east, by the archery ground. Refreshments were served in another marquee and after lunch there were speeches. The Rev. Tom stressed the advantages of Cottage Gardens - even drunkards have been reclaimed by work in them; the aim of the show was not merely to exhibit pineapples and grapes, but to show the cottager how he could improve his condition and bring comfort to his family. It grieved the Rev. Tom to see how the owners of bigger gardens had withheld their support only two exhibited besides himself). The Flower Judge was so impressed by the Cottage exhibitors that he offered to give them free seeds. (Mr Tresidder, of Truro, supported the show with a fine collection of new varieties of shrubs.) At four o'clock the rain started again and there was a general scamper for shelter; it washed out this show and also many more Royal Horticultural Society exhibitions in Cornwall.

In 1860 the Gwennap Cottage Garden Society’s exhibition was described as “the finest in the County”. Had Tom Phillpotts started the Society when he was Vicar there?

Parish Work

He was not only interested in encouraging his parishioners to cultivate their gardens but was also careful of their health. In 1853 there was a general outbreak of cholera and attention was called to the danger of its spreading through the lack of sanitation. There was one case in Devoran and the Rev. Tom wrote to Alfred Jenkin, the Agar-Robartes Agent, about the lack of drainage and the continued correspondence lead to speedy action to remedy it.10

The S.P.G.\* was another of his interests that he recommended to his parishioners; in 1869 monthly meetings were held in Feock, supported by the vicar and his family and the Curate, the Rev. A. W. Sowell in order to create interest in mission work. At a meeting in Devoran, the Rev. Tom took the chair, read out a list of subscriptions for 1869 and expressed his sorrow at their decrease - speeches on the work of the society were followed by a collection!9 (Devoran may have been the richer part of the parish, but it was probably beginning to feel the effects of the recession of mining.)

In May 1871 it must have given him great pleasure to present eighty candidates for confirmation in Feock church. Bishop Philpot is aged ninety, had resigned in September 1869 and the younger and more active Bishop Temple was touring the diocese, holding services such as this all over Cornwall; in Feock he was afterwards entertained at Porthgwidden. When he came again in 1873, the Service was held in the new church in Devoran and there were another thirty-two candidates.

Other Activities

In his work outside his parish, Tom Phillpotts name most frequently occurs in the newspapers as the J.P. acting as Chairman of the West Powder Petty Sessions. (He held this office for nearly twenty years, until increasing deafness made it too difficult and he resigned in 1880.) His own parishioners occasionally came before him; in 1875 an argument between a Burley and his neighbours drew Tom Philpott's comment that to his knowledge it had been going on for years - a £10 bond was ordered so that the peace would be kept for twelve months. Shortly afterwards, Peter Collins of Feock was fined 40/- for using 'unjust scales and he was given the option of having the scales forfeited or paying a £5 penalty.

The Rev. Phillpotts had no patience with drunkenness and several times said that he thought that the number of beer houses was excessive, but he was meticulous in explaining any changes in the laws which related to them.

His interests were wide and many societies made use of his knowledge and ability. In 1869, he was President of the Diocesan Training institution for Schoolmistresses (in Agar Road, Truro, established in 1858 to follow up the training previously given at the Fairmantle Street School.) At the January meeting, at which he was present, the Secretary was requested to send a circular on the objects and advantages of the institution to all the clergy in Cornwall.

In 1873, he is mentioned as Chairman of the Truro Savings Bank, which existed to encourage the habit of thrift for the small investor and of which he must have approved.

He supported the Royal Cornwall infirmary (now the City Hospital in Truro); in 1836 and 1846 he preached their Anniversary Sermon in St Mary's, Truro; in 1872 he was there very active President and also did a great deal to help to improve their financial position.

He was a member of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (the Museum in Truro), attending some of the meetings at which erudite papers were read. In 1856 he contributed a concise and detailed report on a meteor which he and Mr Enys saw when they were crossing in a boat from Point to Restronguet, and Dr Barham, the Secretary, incorporated it in an article.11

Later, the Rev. Tom was made a Vice-President and after his death, tribute was paid to his personal interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.

Agriculture

Farming was another of his interests. In the autumn of 1865, Cattle Plague spread from the continent to England and J. P. is had to prohibit the movement of cattle to markets and fairs and, early in 1866, to enforce a general standstill order which tasted for nearly a year. Tom Phillpotts gave a lucid interpretation of this Order and also published a pamphlet (printed by Heards of Truro) defending the action taken by the West Powder Magistrates.

He also published notes on Market Gardening in Cornwall in 1863 - probably with the idea that the small farmer could increase his earnings and take advantage of the up-country markets made available by the opening of the Penzance to London railway in 1859.12

He was a member of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Society and in December 1865 helped to change their method of selecting Show Judges, from the time-wasting one of doing it at a General Meeting, to that of delegating it to a small Committee.

This work in connection with farming was based on personal knowledge. He and C. D. Gilbert of Trelissick came to Feock at about the same time and were friends. Tom Phillpotts acquired the Porthgwidden Home Farm at Harcourt, possibly with Gilberts advice at first, and worked it until 1867. When he sold the Live and Dead Stock, the list is very similar to that of the Trelissick farm (sold in 1858 after the death of C.D.G.) - some 150 sheep, with Leicester and Shropshire Down rams, a few pigs and 6 dairy cows, together with a large collection of implements, listed as supplied by the best firms of the time. Only the best was good enough for him. William Nichols came to Harcourt Farm, as a tenant farmer, before 1861, from Gwennap 3 and his descendant, John, was still there in the 1930s13 - had he followed his Vicar?

The Family

The household at Porthgwidden was large. The 1851 Census Fists the Rev. and Mrs T. Phillpotts and five daughters (Emily, the eldest, was away) a son, two governesses, six female servants and one male servant (Edward Green aged nineteen and born in Feock) - at living in the House. Those living nearby were the laundress (her husband was an agricultural labourer on the estate), a butler, coachman, bailiff and a gardener.

Ten years later there were only two daughters at home, the governesses had left and there were a butler, footman, cook, lady's maid and three housemaids living in. Geo. Austin was both gardener and bailiff, the coachman lived at the lodge and the laundress was still at laundry Cottage.

It was much the same in 1871, except that a groom was living in. The gardener, Cross, was Cornish born, but trained in Lady Ashburton's garden at Melchet Cross, Romsey and came to Porthgwidden in 1869.9

Tom Phillpotts third daughter, Mary, was an authoress who wrote short stories, published by S.P.C.K. in 1864 and for several years following, and three books, The Manor Farm in 1869, Maggie's secret, 1871 and Janet’s choice, in three volumes, published in 1872. They were highly praised in the reviews for their moral tone and pure style.

All his daughters married between 1860 and 1877; Emma became Mrs Arthur Tremayne (Carclew) and Georgina, Mrs Richard Williams (Tregullow). His only son died in January 1871 of a chill caught while boating at Porthgwidden.6. 9.

In 1873 Tom Phillpotts was ill; he and his wife spent nearly a year on the continent, leaving Alice, his youngest daughter and her husband, the Rev. William Hopkinson, in charge of the parish. When he returned in June 1874, he resigned as Vicar after thirty years work in Feock.

Turnpike Trustee

Before considering his work in retirement his interest in roads and building must be mentioned.14.9. When the Truro and Redruth-Penryn turnpike Trusts combined in September 1849, the Rev. Tom was one of the Trustees who took the oath for the true and impartial execution of their work. It seems probable that, as Vicar of Gwennap, he had previously been a Trustee for the road that ran through that parish.

He did not attend the monthly meetings unless he was concerned with the business to be transacted, but when he was present he usually took the chair and endorsed the Minutes of the meeting with his precise and legible signature. In December 1850, he was present when the Redruth-Penryn Trust finances were finally untangled and handed over.

Between 23 March 1859 and 26 November 1862, he attended eighteen meetings, because the subject under discussion was the replacement of the old and dilapidated wooden Boscawen Bridge in Truro, and he was on the Committee to oversee this work. The consent of the Admiralty had to be obtained before it could start, then plans and estimates were requested. It was decided to build in granite, with high arches; Mr Brereton's plan was accepted and Mr Eva's tender of £2,995. There were discussions of how to raise the money and Mr Tweedy, the Banker, was added to the Committee in February 1860. The Bridge was completed in November 1862 and all debts were paid off in a few years.

The Rev. Tom was in the chair in August 1855 when the flooding of the Lower Canon road was under discussion (it was decided to raise the level of the road and negotiate with the causers of the trouble); in November 1864, when the Devoran Water Works requested permission to break the Turnpike road to lay pipes to connect their reservoir with the village and again in July 1866 when he supported a Feock parish petition against the Turnpike Surveyor who had placed a style across Tarrandean Lane (to Perranwell station) in order to prevent the evasion of tolls.

In November 1865, the Rev. Tom proposed a £10 reward for the conviction of persons damaging the Trusts bridges. In January 1866, four men from Calenick appeared in the Truro Magistrates Court, before him and Mr W. T. Chappel (another Turnpike Trustee), charged. by Mr Hicks (the County Surveyor for Bridges) with causing 30/- damage to Calenick Bridge in a drunken spree on Christmas Eve, by throwing five coping stones into the river. Even though they had replaced the stones on Christmas morning two of the men were found guilty and ordered to pay £11-10-00, with the Magistrates comment that there had been too much wilful damage lately and that they were determined to impose the heaviest possible penalty.9

The Bishops Library

Between 1867 and 1869 when the Public Rooms in Truro the building in Quay Street which now contains the Palace Theatre and other offices) were being erected, the Rev. Tom was Chairman of the Bishop's Library Building Committee. The entrance porch of the present S.P.C.K. bookshop is still inscribed Bishop Phillpotts Library and bears the arms of the Diocese as they were in 1869. The books were the aged Bishops gift to Cornwall and are still there. To the north of the building there was to be a depository for the S.P.C.K.9

Retirement - Feock Church

When the Rev. T om resigned in June 1874, the Rev. Arthur Perry was appointed as the new Vicar, and Tom Phillpotts used his leisure to arrange for the rebuilding of the church. As soon as he had been appointed in 1844, he had had the nave enlarged to increase the number of “free” seats for his poorer parishioners; now he was determined to procure a better and more beautiful building. Piers St Aubyn was his architect, the old church was completely taken down, though much of the stonework of the windows, columns, arches and South Porch were sawed and re-used.

In February 1875, the Hon. Mrs Gilbert laid the Foundation stone, “a ceremony which her ladyship performed with considerable grace”9

William Gerrish, who had built Devoran Church had retired, so Clemens of Truro was commissioned for the masonry and Salmon did the carpentry as before. The new church was two feet wider than the old and the chanced twenty feet longer. The Rev. Tom gave the Reredos, with the central panel of mosaic and the low stone screen, based on the design of one that he had seen in a palace in Florence. The Misses Phillpotts contributed the East Window, designed by Morgan of London on the theme “Thy brother shall rise again”, in memory of their brother John. When the Rev. Tom under took his improvement of the old church in 1844, he had placed glass in a window of the transept showing the arms of his uncle Bishop Phillpotts and his own.15 These arms were retained and their glowing colours can still be seen in the upper part of the West Window of the transept.

In August 1876, Bishop Temple re-consecrated the church; many robed clergy were present and a large congregation. Afterwards luncheon was served in a marquee sent by Captain Woodward of H.M.S. Ganges and erected in a nearby field. The Rev. Tom responded to the speeches and said that it was the completion of work that had been a dream for years and not the first or second time that he had to thank God for allowing him to be the instrument of building new churches to Him. Many had subscribed (including especially his young friend, Carew Davies Gilbert). They included those who seldom came into the church arid he rejoiced to see so many Dissenters present. (The total cost was between £2500 and £3000.)9

Porthgwidden

At some time, probably earlier when the family was at home, the House had been considerably enlarged (see maps) and the stable block erected, (the clock in the tower is dated 1855). Part of Park-an-Gollan and the Treefield were turned into a large walled garden and a range of glasshouses was built in it. (This may have been after the arrival of Mr Cross the gardener in 1869). Cottages above Loe Vean were acquired from the Gilberts and remodelled. The one standing back from the road (now called Gunfield Lodge) has a tiled inscription let into the end wall, “T. P. 1875”. Both cottages were divided into two and the one on the road is said to have been occupied by the gardeners. Mr Cross must have had a considerable staff under him to tend the extensive and well laid-out grounds. After Tom Phillpotts’ death, a choice collection of orchids together with stove and greenhouse plants were sold and were fully listed in the Gazette of October 2, 1890. Some where there must have been a goldfish pond and fountain, because in 1887, whilst everyone was at the Queen's Jubilee Fair at Trelissick, the water was stopped and the fish stolen.

A boat house was built near the beach; there are references to the Rev. Tom's yachts as far apart as 1857 and 1889. In 1877 he is mentioned as a member of the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, who made “useful suggestions” and in 1885 he supported the local regatta at Loe beach by throwing open the Porthgwidden grounds. In 1889 there was an exciting race over a fourteen mile course, between his big yacht “Georgina” and C.D. Gilberts “Little Windflower”, in which the latter won by six minutes.9

His first wife died in March 1880 and in August 1882 he married, at the age of seventy-six, Mrs Mary Elizabeth Webber, the widow of an army captain from Yorkshire. She died in 1924 aged ninety-one, so was, at the time of her marriage, aged forty-nine. Porthgwidden must have been a lonely place in between for him and it is not known if he kept up his custom of giving a New Year Supper for his employees and their wives, the Bible Class and adult members of the choir. The total was usually around forty or fifty and when they had finished their meal the Hall was cleared for games.9

The Cathedral

In the same year that Feock church was competed the Diocese of Cornwall was separated from that of Devon and Bishop Benson was enthroned at St Mary's in Truro in May 1877. In the November of that year, he called his first Diocesan Conference in the Truro Public Rooms. There were two speakers at it, the Bishop on the Organisation of the Diocese and the Rev. Tom Phillpotts on the siting of the new cathedral and its financing. A Committee was appointed to consider this last and he became its Secretary. Truro and the somewhat dilapidated St Mary's church were approved and the land around it was acquired. While abroad he had studied European cathedrals, and was determined to “avoid above all things, poverty of detail and cheapness of execution”.7 In the summer of 1878, J.L. Pearson's plan was accepted (he had been the architect for Devoran church in 1853); it retained one aisle of the old St Mary's and created a building unified with it. The site was cleared and the Cathedral Foundation Stone was laid in May 1880 by the Prince of Wales.16

Meantime the organisation of the Diocese was proceeding; in January 1878, the first Canons were created and the Rev. Tom, became Canon Phillpotts of St Aldhelm's stall; he was also made President of the Chapter and Chaplain to the Bishop.

The collection of the £95,000 required began, although it was a time of financial depression in Cornwall. Bishop Benson left to become Archbishop of Canterbury and was succeeded by Bishop Wilkinson, who aroused the enthusiasm of the Ladies of Cornwall to raise the £15000 for the interior fittings (See Feock I, p. 41). By 1887 the Chancel and Transepts were completed.

Canon Phillpotts was or the committee to organise the Consecration Ceremony, which had to be postponed until November so that Archbishop Benson could be present. It was a full week for him (he was eighty years old). On the Sunday he preached the last Sermon in the temporary wooden church in High Cross, on “The Old and the New” taking as his theme, “You desire to pray in the Temple, pray in yourself, but first be yourself a temple of God." (The Bishop was so impressed by this sermon, that he ordered that it should be published.) On the Monday, the Canon was on the platform of a large Liberal-Unionist ray in Truro and on the Thursday, there was the three hour Consecration Service attended by the Prince of Wales, the Archbishop, twenty-two Bishops and nine additional sections of choristers from other cathedrals as well as the Cathedra clergy and choir and a congregation of 2500. On the previous night there was hail, rain and wind and this continued for most of the day with only occasional gleams of sunshine. In the evening, he and Mrs Phillpotts, with 350 other guests, attended the Mayor’s reception for the Archbishop.

Among the gifts to the new Cathedral were the Bishops Throne, in memory of Bishop Phillpotts (who had wished to create a separate diocese and had suggested either Bodmin or St Columb churches as possible cathedrals); the Canon's stall, given by the family in memory of the Bishop and an Alms dish, worth £100 given by Canon Phillpotts.

£87000 had been raised by 1887 and building continued (it was finished in 1910 - free of debt).

Canon Phillpotts chose the South Porch (opposite Cathedral Lane and at the junction of the ‘Old’ and 'New') as his special gift. He offered an additional £500 to decorate it with mosaics; Pearson insisted on sculpture, to be in-keeping with the rest of the Cathedral, but at a cost of £1500. The Canon raised this money by the sale of a much loved picture - by Romney of Lady Hamilton (a recumbent figure in a pink dress, set in a wood and scene). Years before, it had belonged to a friend and he had always admired it; he could not then afford the £50 asked for it and he was allowed to have it for £30. It was loaned to a Winter Exhibition at the Royal Academy and while he was in Rome, a dealer sent him a telegram asking him to "name his price”. Being reluctant to sell, he asked £3000. The offer was accepted and the Porch was completed.17 (On the west wall there is a Latin inscription commemorating the Canon.)

Death

In 1890 he was seriously ill and went to Newquay hoping to benefit from the change of air, but he became worse and in June, was brought back to Porthgwidden. At his special request, he was driven round the Cathedral on his way home. He died on Saturday July 20 and was carried to his grave in Feock churchyard on the 22nd, followed by his family, the clergy and choir of the Cathedra and by very many other mourners. On the following Sunday, tribute was paid to him at the Cathedral Services; in the evening, the Bishop preached his memorial sermon, “A Life of Service”. His grave is unmarked but the lychgate at Feock commemorates him and his thirty years work as Vicar there.

The churches at Devoran and Feock and the Cathedral itself are monuments to his life and faith. Years later, his statue holding a model of his porch, was placed in the central niche of the "Phillpotts Porch”.

Porthgwidden

Porthgwidden was left to his daughter Emma (Mrs A. Tremayne) and her children and they let it to a series of tenants. In 1891, the Hon. John Boscawen was there while Tregye was being enlarged; in 1896, Mr and Mrs H. Bolitho occupied it; a few years later, Mr W. H. Spottiswood lived in it and laid out a private golf course in the fields between the gardens and Laundry Cottage. Between 1908 and 1919 the Trefusis family, including Lady Mary, who did so much for the English Folk Dance Society, were the tenants and lived there until 1914. At some period, a generator was installed at the Harcourt Home Farm and electricity was conveyed to the House and to Laundry Cottage through heavy underground cables. (ln 1910, Henry Edward was electrician at Trelissick, could he have been responsible?)

Between 1923 and 1930, Mr and Mrs H. K. Neale were the owners and Polgwynne was built in part of the grounds. In 1935, it had passed to Mr and Mrs K. Holman 18and during the 1939-1945 war they made it a centre for local Red Cross activities. Mrs Holman sold the property in 1956 and applications for development were made; a change of use to a nursing home received conditional permission, but that as a hotel was refused. In May 1961, conversion of the House into flats was agreed and this was started by Mr B. Burton, who sold to Lt. Co. D. F. Grant, who completed it in 1971. Before this, the stables and coach house had been converted into Clock House, which includes the walled garden with the fish pond, the magnificent camellia and magnolia, all of which may date back to the time of the Rev. Tom.

The House and grounds, with the exception of the Lodge, have now been acquired by a consortium of leaseholders of the flats and Porthgwidden Estate Limited was incorporated on June 19, 1974. Much restoration has been carried out on the House itself; the grounds which have been neglected, are being restored to some semblance of their former glory. The present owners are intent that this gracious residence, set off by its terraces and parkland with views over Carrick Roads, shall, in these changing times, retain as much as possible of its original atmosphere.

\* S. P. G. - The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

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19. I should also like to thank all who have given me verbal information and especially the present occupants of Porthgwidden

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Suggestions from readers concerning material or sources are always welcome.



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Chapter 1: Early Mining in the Devoran Area- Feock Local History Notes IV

In the 18th century the Carnon Valley was the site of the most important stream works in Cornwall. The valley is fed by 45 miles of streams, 25 miles of which flow through ground rich in tin. During the late 18th century and through the 19th century, there were five attempts at mining in the lower part of the Carnon Valley and in Restronguet Creek. The first two involved building embankments to keep out the tide and the last three involved mining under the water.

The upper part of the valley had been worked by digging pits and trenches until the tide obstructed the works, before the invention of the steam engine it was impossible to work beyond this point.

Down to the point marked on the map, the stream had been worked. Here, there was 10 feet of tidal water and an overburden of 20 to 30ft of debris before the tin could be reached.

Work was then continued downstream by building dykes. A channel was cut into the rocky shore on the south side (Carclew) and a smaller channel was built on the Devoran side, the excavated material being used to form the dykes. A strong dam was then built from points 3 to 4. As the overburden was removed it was added to the dykes around the workings. The navigation for the flats and barges serving Messrs Fox and Co's foundry at Perranarworthal was improved. The work took years to complete and cost thousands of pounds, small percolations were easily disposed of by the use of a steam engine.

Writing in 1797, Maton says “The number of men and boys employed here amounted to 150 . . . gold in minute quantities is continually found, we actually saw several particles among some ore that had just been washed.”

Henwood gives a more vivid description: “It was at this point of the stream that I first visited the works and I shall never forget its singular appearance; a machine in a desert of red sand heaped into vast piles and hollows, the only herbage being a few tufts of sea daisy, while here and there in the trenches might be seen tinners working knee deep in water and a few squalid, half-clad boys wheeling the tin ore to the stream head in barrows.”

The method was to take a ‘stope’ (a certain area) and remove the overburden. As soon as the tinstuff was reached it was taken to the ‘floor’ (the place of examination) and inspected by a person, conversant with tin in its natural state, nice judgement and long experience being required; hence the expression “he knows tin” applied to a shrewd individual. If there was any doubt, a ‘van’ was made by bruising the tinstone on a polished shovel and washing off the fighter particles until only the tin remained; men capable of doing this received higher wages.

Sometimes small particles of gold were found, known as ‘prills’, which were seldom bigger than a grain of wheat and usually the size of a pinhead or smaller. These were considered the perquisites of the tinners, who carried a quill with one end cut off and fitted with a plug of wood into which they dropped the ‘prill’. Where gold did exist: the miners received lower wages. The largest nugget found weighed 11 dwts 6 grs, equivalent to 18g in today’s weight. Amongst other interesting finds made by the miners was a shovel formed of the knotty part of a heart of oak to which a leather thong was still attached, probably preserved by the tanning property of the oak. The handle had gone but had evidently fitted into a hole in the spade and been tied in by the thong. This is now in the Truro museum. Another find was a pick made from one of the prongs of a stag’s antler. It is now in private ownership.

The preliminary survey, made in 1805 or a little later, for the first Ordnance Survey Map, clearly shows the workings stretching from the bridge cry the old road from Carnon Downs to Perranwell, as far down as the site of Old Carnon Mine. In 1812 a very severe gale combined with an exceptionally high tide breached the dam and flooded the works causing them to be abandoned. Traces of the embankments were visible well into the present century and the dyke across Narabo creek was used as a footpath.

Profits from this streaming are given as £5,000 by Henwood; another writer mentions “upwards of £4,000”.

Before 1818, applications were being made to the Lords, i.e. owners of the mining rights, for ‘setts’ (leases) to start mining in the area where the stream working ended. In a letter dated 21st February 1818, written by Henry Mancur to Sir William Lemon of Carclew, we read: “I make application on behalf of some gentlemen in London who will engage to work the mine effectively… the dues shall be one twentieth until £8,000 worth of tin has been made and then to return to one fortieth. The mine is at this moment much out of order and at the east between four and five thousand pounds must be expended before any tin can be raised … it is a considerable object to have the stream site to work as soon as possible as a considerable breach is now made in the centre of the embankment which in every tide is enlarging”.

Writing to Francis Paynter on March 24th, 1818, Sir William says “it appears to me that you have considered the levelling of the banks in Carnon Stream as the sole objection I had to the setting on foot again of an adventure which I am convinced will never be found to answer either to the Lords or Adventurers, I must therefore revert to the sentiments I expressed in my first letter to you, which was that I should be brought to consent only on Public Grounds of its being of Paramount Utility of finding employment for the Miners who are out of work and in such occasion I would submit to the inconveniences at Carclew and sacrifice my own comforts to the General Good”.

The leases were granted and a powerful steam engine and water pump erected; the remains of the engine house can still be seen. There a cofferdam was built and a shaft sunk. Water was drawn up by the engine with flat rods - a series of horizontal beams attached to each other and suspended by triangles extending from the engine to the mouth of the shaft.

Having sunk the shaft to the depth of the tin seam, they cut a horizontal gallery about 4 feet wide and 6 feet high in the direction of the stream carefully supporting the roof and sides with wooden planks and pillars from 7 to 11 inches thick; this was the highroad. Next, they cut a similar road, not quite so high, at right angles, and working from the farthest end of this extracted the tin, gradually working back to the highroad, removing the timbers and allowing the mud to fill the worked-out space. This was repeated until all the tin within reach of the highroad had been extracted. Another shaft was sunk centrally in the estuary, as the river widened, they were forced to build an island which was washed away on two or three occasions. When completed, it was 30 to 40 yards in diameter formed of sand from the bed of the river. then the whole process of underwater mining was repeated.

According to Mr Edmund Michell, who was a shareholder, the shaft was sunk in 1824 and in two or three years the experiment afforded a profit of £28,000.

Everything, however, did not go smoothly. The gazette of February 28th 1828 reports: “The Mayor of Truro, as Law Conservator of the Fall River and Creeks, and Mr Peter Chiverton, J. P. consider the complaint of the Redruth and Chasewater Railway against the Adventurers of the Carnon Stream Mine for obstructing the navigation in Restronguet Creek in the course of working the mine and order the creek to be surveyed before March 6th”. There is no report of the outcome of this, but the mine closed soon after.

Chapter 2: Life in Feock Parish in the Late 17th & Early 18th Centuries- Feock Local History Notes IV

The County Record Office at Truro has a collection of the wills and inventories of some of the people who lived in Feock parish between 1661 and 1745 which gives us an idea of their possessions and occupations during that period. Everyone was partly dependent or the land even though he had another occupation as a carpenter, blacksmith, miner, etc.

When anyone died, his goods were valued by two responsible people living in, the neighbourhood; as there was no question of death duties the valuations should be reasonably unbiased. Houses and land were usually held on lease, the value of which is included in the inventory. Most of the land belonged to the Falmouth, Carclew and Lanhydrock estates and was let on leases for 99 years or on three named lives. The value varies between £2 for a Cottage and garden to £20 or £25 for a farm.

All the inventories begin with the words “His purse and wearing apparel”, the value in the case of an aged widower being 10/-; the highest value is £7 for a prosperous farmer. Only one man is given as having two suits of clothing. In the wills of this period clothes were often left to a son or daughter.

The last line of the inventory reads Debts Sparate and Desparate 11. Sparate (or sperate) debts were likely to be paid and the doubtful ones were termed desparate. Thirteen out of the twenty-three inventories show people with money out on loan. One elderly widow had left £88 out of her total of £101. This throws an interesting light on the network of borrowing and lending which seems to have been a feature of local life in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Thomas Lawrence, who died in 1734, had been running the King Harry Ferry having a lease on the Passage Tenement and Boat worth £40 and on two cottages worth £30; one of these was a public house containing 'brewing pans, tubs and cider. Both cottages were furnished with beds, so he appears to have provided accommodation for travellers. These cottages were near the ferry on the old road to Trelissick. His inventory is the only one in which knives and forks are mentioned. His total estate was £143, so that, deducting the value of the leases and the £40 owing to him, there are £33 to cover his clothing, furnishings, and livestock. He kept a mare, a cow and had a stock of hay. This indicates that, like most tradesmen at that time, he had a plot of land.

LIVESTOCK

Except for those of two old men and three widows, all the inventories list livestock of some sort, but only in small numbers. Sheep are mentioned in twelve of the inventories, varying from three on a small farm in 1661 to thirty-five belonging to a well-to-do farmer, John Dinnis, in 1722. On Martins map of 1748 the farm which is now called Higher Devoran is called Dinnis’s. There is a definite increase in the number of sheep kept during this period and in their value, which ranges from 2/- to 3/- a head in the 1600s to 5/- in the 1700s. Sheep's milk was used to make butter and cheese; as shown in a document dealing with the payment of tithes to the vicar of Feock.

Here is only one mention of a cow in the early inventories and during the whole period, only ten households kept a cow, excepting that of John Dinnis which had two cows and a yearling. The value was between £2 and £3 per beast, probably depending upon whether they were in calf; compared with the prices of other stock this value is quite high. A bullock is only mentioned on three farms.

swine are mentioned on seven farm inventories, but never more than two per farm. The blacksmith was also a pig breeder and owned sixty-nine which were valued at £6. 16. 0 in 1725.

Poultry are not mentioned until 1722 when three gee se four ducks and four pullets are stated as being worth 4/-. In 1747 a goose and three goslings are valued at 4/-.

Of the twenty-three families studied, twelve had a horse or mare two belonged to tinners and the rest to farmers, one of whom had a nag and mare. Several are described as small or poor and values vary between 5/- and £3. Horse gear is seldom specified except saddles, in one case a saddle with pillion is mentioned.

Only two of the farms have implements listed in any detail; these include the harrow, plough and chains, dray, side, a pair of wheels and butt, yoke and chains, barn boards, a barn floor and mattocks and hooks,

CROPS

These are not given in great detail; the early inventories list barley and pease at 3/- and 8/- a bushel. Corn and hay appear in the later inventories, but two inventories of small farmers taken in January and March show no stocks of fodder.

These inventories not oral y throw light con local farming and occupations, but also take us inside Feock homes. John Martyn, who died in 1735, was a small farmer and bargeman having a half share in a Barge and Boat belonging and a third share in a Boat and Bottom against the cliff. His was a four-roomed house, and, according to the parish register, there had been at least five children.

At his death, the contents of the house were: in the kitchen a table and form, a cage of shelves, a tray, a tub, a bucket, a lantern, a stone jug and some ear them ware. His plates, dishes, mugs, and candlesticks were of pewter, as they were in at the houses. There were several pewterers working in Cornwall at this time as tin and lead were readily available, The open hearth and cooking utensils are dealt with in another article in this book. The tray was probably a rectangular wooden box with sloping sides. As late as 1929, I saw one in use as a washtub; it was still called a ‘tray’.

In the chamber over the kitchen a feather bed a dust bed, two feather bolsters, two pillows and two boxes. Bed coverings are usually included in the value of the bed. In the middle chamber one dust bed, a table and wool. The dust beds were mattresses filed with chaff from the threshing; the local pronunciation is ‘doust’, In the small chamber one table and form, two boxes, and two spinning wheels. He also had a cider wring and cask, four sheep, six lambs, two poor horses, two pigs, a cow and calf. This family could have been practically self-supporting. There is no mention of a lease and his total assets, including £12 for the boats, were £33.

FURNISHINGS

Beds were the most valuable items in the house; in most cases, they were worth more than all the rest of the household goods. Only in two of the better furnished houses does the value of the rest of the goods exceed the value of the beds by as much as £3.

Beds are often given as bed furnished which, judging by the value accorded them, would be a term to denote four-poster beds with curtains, mattress, pillows and coverings. There were also trundle beds which were low and could be pushed under the higher beds during the day. One house had a half-headed stead bed. This had posts and rails at the head end and curtains that could be drawn far enough to protect the head and shoulders; it was later called a half tester.

Some houses had beds in every room except the kitchen. In the poorer homes, mattresses were filed with dust or flock. (sheep's wool), which became lumpy and uncomfortable. The mattress was then emptied out, the wool teased and put back into the cover. One house with five beds furnished, also lists two pairs of linen sheets.

The tables were boards resting in a frame and there was also a long wooden form. Chairs only occur in the better houses and then often only one. In 1690 the inventory of John Frenhale, tinner and farmer, lists six joint stools; stools made by a carpenter and properly jointed. He also had two chairs with Cushions and a hanging press. Chests or boxes are mentioned in all the houses and were listed for storage.

Every inventory lists pewter table ware; plates, dishes, saucers (small dishes), candlesticks, tankards, and pint and half-pint measures in the houses which had brewing equipment. Brass candlesticks occur, but otherwise brass is only found in the larger houses as cooking utensils. When not in use these things were kept on the cupboard, which was simply a wooden shelf. One house had a frame of shelves and another a cage of shelves; two had court cupboards, which were enclosed cupboards standing on the floor with a similar cupboard or opera shelves standing on the top.

The kitchen, with its open hearth, was often the only heated room. Here the family cooked ate and spent any Spare time they might have. The lighting was by candies. There is only one mention of a grate with fire showed, sifter and tongs. These belonged to a widow wino died in 1734 and had been the wife of a prosperous farmer. She was then living in two rooms furnished with the bare essentials, a bed, table board and form, a little pewter and a few cooking pots. She also had two spinning wheels and the only looking glass mentioned in the inventories.

A few of these people can be traced in the parish registers; they appear to have married in their middle twenties, had an average of five children and died in their late 50s or early 60s.

TRADESMEN

Among the inventories studied are those of three tinners, a carpenter, a bargeman, and a blacksmith.

The wealthiest of the tinners was John Trenhaile, who has already been mentioned. He left an estate worth £96.4.6. of which £44 was due “upon stocks and bonds”. He shared his tinbounds with a fellow adventurer who valued the tin stuff broken and lying on the grass with tools and other tacking at £1.5.0. In addition, he had a ladder, wheelbarrow, adze, hatchet, borer, handsaw, and a fowling gun. Like many others he brewed his own beer, having two hogsheads, three half hogsheads, two barrels, three tubs, a brewing pan and three small parts. Among his personal possessions were a gold ring, a silver seal and four old books; this is the only inventory in which books are mentioned. He had a rare and heifer, five small rearing pigs and a stock of pease and barley.

Another tinner, Robert Reynolds, who died in 1663, left £64 including £20 owing to him and bounds and tinworks worth £12. His home is very simply furnished and there is no mention of a lease. He kept five kine, a nag, and a mare, so he must have rented a few acres. In his will he left 10/- to the repair of Kenwyn church, 5/- to the poor of Kea and 3/- to the poor- of Feock.

The third tinner was a poor man who died in 171 3, leaving a widow and five children. He may have died in a mine accident, as the inventory taken in July of the following year describes him as a tinner who died about the beginning of December last 1713. Of his total estate of £8,14.8. the lease on his house, garden and croft of downs was worth £4, and his tools were a shovel and hacking axe. He also kept 'half a dozen small sheep’ and a mare. The total value of his household goods was 38/-.

A carpenter, Water Clarke, who died in 1690, had ‘two deals (planks) and other goods to timber, his shop and tools belonging to his trade, small pieces of timber and frames and a bench for his work’ worth £4. 17.8. He also had a pump gouger and a grindstone. he gouger was a too used to hollow out the centre of a long thick piece of wood to make a pipe. He also had a little of d boat with mast and sails and kept sewer sheep, a nag, and a mare. Of his total assets of £27, there was £2 for the lease and £7 owing to him.

Henry Lawrance, the blacksmith already cited as a pig breeder, was a wealthy man having leases on a number of estates in Feock worth £51, as well as and inherited from the family who owned Trelissick estate (see the Lawrance wills at the County Record Office) and money out on loan. The inventory has been included to show even the wealthier men could have a trade.

His trade as a blacksmith is only referred to as small tools and new cold iron", value £7. 10. 0. He also farmed, growing corn and hay for the pigs, brewed his own cider and had a boat with sails. His household goods were worth £17 and included ten chairs, a court cupboard, two dressers and a cock. This is the only mention of a cock. The total value of the goods was £384.

Peter Woolcock, who died in September 1691, was also farming. He had “a third share in an old boat and net and one half of a sand barge” worth £17. On the farm, he kept “two milch kine, two and twenty sheep, two pigs and a nag” and had a very good store of wheat, barley and pease for the coming winter. This the only inventory that mentions wheat.

With one exception, the inventories chosen do not include: the large farms or the people who were wealthy enough to lease several properties which they sublet. Neither does it include the poorest people whose possessions would have been so slight that they would not have had anything worth valuing.

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Chapter 3: Methodism in Carnon Downs- Feock Local History Notes IV

This article is taken from a much longer one written by the late Mr T. Trebilcock, which he read at the Centenary celebration of the Chapel in 1925.

Let us take the year 1824 as our start ng point. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism had been dead for 33 years; the Truro Circuit formed a quarter of a century later was then, and had been, part of the Redruth Circuit for 14 years. The Super Intendent Minister was the Revd Frau Orchard. The first editor of the West Briton, Mr Edward Budd, was a local Methodist preacher and conducted a service in the open air at Carnon Downs, approximately on the site where the Chapel now stands, the congregation coming from Perranwell, Devoran, Penpol, Feock and Calenick. Mr Edward Olive supported him on this occasion. Mr Budd was chosen as Circuit Steward in 1819.

In 1824, Mr Olive secured a lease from Lord Falmouth of a piece of and for a chapel. Capt. Olive, as he was locally known, was about thirty years old, of medium height and build, a shoemaker with an establishment of journeymen and apprentices. He was also a farmer, rate collector and relieving officer. He resided at Ebenezer, which he had on lease from lord Falmouth, having built the dwelling house with workshop attached and brought the land into cultivation prior to his marriage with Honor James of St Feock Churchtown.

The piece of land granted for the Chapel was of considerable size; being part of the common it was not as valuable as it is today. Capt. Olive could have had the whole of the land from the Turnpike to Kitty's lane (Staggy Lane). It was originally intended to use part of the ground as a burial ground, but this project was abandoned in view of the fact that the lease was of three lives. According to the original deed, the lives were those of William Roberts, aged 5 years, the son of William and Juliana Roberts Penrose of Tregie; John aged 6 years, son of John and Jane Dunstan; and Honor James, the daughter of Edward and Honor Olive, aged 6 years, all of Feock parish. This was subject to... a yearly rent of 5/-. The names of the Trustees were Edward Olive, John Retallack, William Bassett, William Daniell, Edward George, Stephen. Martin, William Scoble, William West, Samuel Gillard, Richard Nicholls, and Simon Nicholls.

The Chapel was built by donations, subscriptions and borrowed money. Every subscriber of £1 had a free sitting during the lease subject to the following regulations: Seats to be built by the Trustees but kept in repair by the seat-holder; that any seat-holder wishing to give up his seat shall first offer it to the Chapel Steward and if he fails to buy it for the Trustees, the holder may sell to anyone else; that no seatholder may alter his seat by making it longer or higher without the consent of the Trustees; that no seat-holder shall claim a right because he or she has a sitting, to be present at any society, meeting or love feast, or to disturb in any way the peaceable worship of Almighty God. The number who availed themselves of this privilege was 56; the rest of the sittings were let in the manner of the present (1925) day.

The Chapel stood unenclosed on the downs until 1833 when hundreds of loads of stone were drawn and a ring fence built, with entry by a stile on the Bissoe Road, at a cost of £15.1.0. Sometime later a portion of the and was granted to Mr Morton, who built the house (Crossways) where Mr Burrell now lives; and Mr Charles Manuel also had a portion and built the premises which Mr J. F. W. Davey now occupies. in 1834 Mr Morton received a grant of another portion of and west of the Chapel; among the conditions were: (a) a 9-ft roadway to be left at the west of the chapel; (b) half the high rent (2/6) to be paid; (c) a stable to be built to the west of the Chapel, 10-ft by 9-ft and 6-ft high, with a small window with shutter for admitting air. The Trustees contributed £2 towards the cost and it became the property of the Trustees who used it on Sundays to shelter the preacher's horse; it was used by Mr Morton during the week. Another condition was that no public house or kiddleywink should be built on it.

The total cost of building the Chapel was £186.2.0. of which the Trustees themselves collected £81, a further £95 being lent by them.

In 1842 the western end of the Chapel was taken down and the building enlarged to seat 537. Capt. Olive held a service in the open air with the congregation among the building materials.

The Chapel was lighted with candles (tallow dips). The late Mr. Theo Hawkins in his reminiscences says that when he visited the place as a lad he counted eighty candles (West 8 Briton, April 3rd 913). It was the custom, during the singing of a hymn, for one or more people to go around with snuffers. In those days, there was a pulpit; Sammy Michell was the last to preach from it. The leaders seat was across the centre, immediately in front of the pulpit; it was occupied by Capt. Olive, William Bassett, Capt. Jewell (retired mine captain), Harry Michell (Calenick), Edward Tregaskis (Mid-Devoran farm), whose brother, Thomas Tregaskis, founded Hicks Mill Chapel, Nicholas Dunstan (Carnon Hill) and Walter Hearle (Killiganoon Farm). Joanna Ede also sat there.

Having a good voice, she pitched the tunes as there were no instruments or choir at that time. She had a drunken husband and worked at dressmaking, going out sewing for sixpence a day.

William Dunstan joined this society in 1837 at a revival meeting. He was born at Penelewey Farm, but the family moved to Chyreen where he married Nancy the third daughter of Edward Olive. He became a local preacher and continued until he was over eighty. I well remember his tall, straight, wiry figure, clear bright eye and fine happy face and his thin white hair and snowy beard.

Among the loyal supporters of the Chapel were the Simmons family of Killiganoon; the Squire paid a visit every day to Capot. Olive at Ebenezer, where, if the Captain was absent, he was sure to find his Lieutenant, William Bassett, who also acted as the Society's Whip. On the day of the week right service he called on a those holding office to remind them of the service and or other members as well.

Mr Walter Hearle had lent money to the Chapel, but having taken a larger farm at Constantine, he called in his money. Squire Simmons advanced it, charging more than the bank rate of interest. Shortly after, Andrew Paul, a very quaint preacher was appointed to preach at the Chapel and taking as his text the words “Will a man rob God” (Mal.ch.2, ν.8) went on to speak of robbery in its worst form, the taking of more usury from God than from his fellow men. The interest on the loan was promptly reduced to the bank rate.

Among the leaders at this time were Charles Lobb, Fanny Manuel, Henry Manuel F, Stephen Teague, Joseph Locke, my father William Trebilcock and Joe Witta who was a local preacher and strong temperance advocate. By this time there was a choir and the singing was led by wind instruments. Phil Sampson told me the following story when he was we over eighty:

“The choir that my boy Jack belongs to down there ‘edn a bad lot but nothin' like th'ould choir my brother Sammy and used to sing in; uncle Ebb could make that bassoon of his almost speak. We used to get invited round to different Chapels once a year to sing our anthems on a Sunday afternoon. We once went to Kea Church and, occupying the gallery at the back, sang to a crowded congregation. I well remember an invitation we had from St Erme, the Sunday came and we met as arranged except for two brothers; they were taking important solo parts and we could’nt very well go without 'em, so two of our party went in search and found them in bed, fast asleep. They had been working on night core, but they roused up, dressed, came down and had a dish of tay and a morsel for a stay-stomach and was on the road in a jiffy with a corner of pasty in their pockets to ait on the way in case they felt leary. That made us late and we drove fast, we were riding in farm carts. The horses galloped through Truro and a pretty bad shaking we got over they granite cobbles from Lemon Bridge right on through Boscawen Street, but we managed to arrive at St Erme only a quarter of an hour late.

Capt. B. Donald was a retired sea captain who came to reside at higher Clydia. Arrangements were being made for a bazar and Capt. Donald was appointed Treasurer. After a successful effort, the committee and workers met in the old vestry - an old room over the present boiler and coke house - which had a ramp with hand rail leading up to it. The meeting was rather stormy as the Captain presented his statement in nauticatl terms which appeared to be unintelligible to the audience. Some village lads were on the ramp listening, among then John Nettle, known as Pickles. During one or two lulls Capt. Donald was heard saying, 'I wish could see my way out’, Pickles had a brainwave. He went to Mrs Lockets to borrow a lantern on the pretext that he had dropped something and could not find it as it was a dark winter night. On his return to the vestry the storm was still raging and at the next lull came Capt. Donald’s voice still more impassioned: ‘Oh wish I could see my way out!’ Pickles promptly knocked loudly, the noise inside suddenly abated, the door opened, and a voice demanded what he wanted. “I’m come to show Captain the way out," he said. Captain Donald heard this welcome sound and, rising from his seat leaving the financial statement and cash on the table, followed Pickles down the ramp and along the main road as far as Trethewey where he stopped and said, 'If not trouble you to go any further lad. He then took sixpence from his pocket and gave it to Pickles, saying, shall not forget your kindness in showing me the way out.

The Sunday School was started by Capt. Olive in his workshop, two years before the Chapel was built. When it was transferred to the Chapel the numbers soon reached 200, where were approximately 150 when first attended and when became the secretary just over fifty years ago, the numbers of pupil s and teachers kept steadily around 125 for several years. The anniversary was always kept on Whit Sunday and the Tea-treat on Whit Monday. In the early days, this was held at Tregye, but after the death of Juliana Penrose, the treat was held at Killiganoon during the lifetime of Squire Simmons and continued under the new owner, John Messer Bennetts, for sixty-five years altogether. When transport difficulties became a problem, together with other considerations, it was decided to hold it in a field near the Chapel; this has continued for a little over thirty-five years.

In 1885 the Chapel lease expired with the death of Honor James Dunstan, having run for sixty years at a rent at of £1 per annum. There had been an insurance on the tease, but prior to its expiration the insurance company became bankrupt and paid 1/- in the pound.

Under the successive stewardships of John Teague, Ned Davey, Ton Pollard, T. J. Trebilcock, J. H. Williams and John Tippett, the debt begun in 1825 was reduced and finally paid off in 1916. In 1923 a new heating apparatus by Holden Bros. of Sheffield was installed at a cost of £160. Money was raised by subscription and concerts, etc. for a new pipe organ. The Trustees having dwindled to two members, a new trust was formed and held its first meeting on March 20th, 1928. On the 4th June of the same year, the Organ and Renovation Secretary, Mr J. Tallack, presented the specification of a pipe organ from Messrs Hele of Plymouth, as recommended by Dr Dunstan, together with details of structural alterations necessary for its installation, plus details of renovations and lighting schemes. On August 10th Messrs Burton and Dunstan’s tender of £184.19.0 for structural alterations was accepted. The new organ cost £300. A petrol gas lighting pant replaced the oil lamps. The organ was delivered seven weeks later and opened by Dr Dunstan on December 4th, with Sir Tudor Walters as principle speaker.

During October 1935, electric lighting was installed at a cost of £52. All the expenditure has been met and the premises are free from debt. Mr and Mrs John Tallack gave an electric blower for the organ as a memorial to their son Basil who was killed in Holland in 1944 .

Further information from members of the Chapel:

Mr T. Trebilcock based his address on research done by Mr Theodore Hawken of Truro to which he added his personal reminiscences.

In the late 19th century the vestry was used as a Dame School by Mary Michel and Emily Gay. Later, a day and evening school was kept there by Mr Pond. It also housed the Cow Club and the Men's Institute, From 1895 it served as the Polling Station.

In 1894 the size of the Chapel was reduced to provide room for a Sunday School room with a gallery above flanked by two small lobbies; in one of these there was a chest, known as Noah's Ark, where the music was kept. The reduced space offered difficulties for the orchestra which was soon disbanded.

In 1896, a Christophe Harmonium was purchased and housed in the Choir Stats with a passage behind it. At that time lighting was by oil lamps in chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and lamps in decorated brackets along the gallery.

In 1928, central heating was installed, with pipes behind the organ to help in its maintenance, by the engineers working on Devoran church.

The new schoolroom, built in 1955, cost £3853 and was the only large hall here until the Village Hall was built in the 1960s. It became the centre for all village activities, but was subject to the rules of the Methodist Church, it now houses Nursery School and is still available when the Village Had is fully booked.

Carnon Downs owes the beginnings of its now flourishing social activities to the Chapel and its Sunday School rooms.

Chapter 4: From open Hearth to Cornish Range- Feock Local History Notes IV

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries cooking was done on open hearths; at least two still exist in Feock parish at Tregew and Tregoose. Another one is just outside this parish, in that of Kea. This large house was the home of a prosperous tinner. The hearth has remained unaltered, so it was possible to measure it and to examine the chimney.

The Hearth is made of rectangular granite slabs, beautifully fitted together, and raised above the kitchen floor which is also granite. The lintel and its supporting pillars are single pieces of granite. The oven is hollowed out of the fireplace wall across the back corner, it is 3½-ft deep and 2½-ft high. I could find no traces of clay between the stones to suggest that it had been lined. Both this oven and the one at Tregoose have iron doors.

The only small hearth I have seen was about 4-ft across and made from a single piece of rough stone of a type still to be found in the surrounding fields; the intel was a thick wooden beam and there was a cloam oven. Furse was it inside the oven and when it was hot, the ashes were raked out and the baking put in. The old lady who used it said that in order to get a good seat she would put a little damp clay round the edge of the oven door, which broke away easily when she opened the oven. A cloam oven was in use at La Feock Grange as late as 1935.

Above the level of the lintel the sides of the chimney slope inwards until the chimney stack is reached; the stack is not over the centre of the hearth, but slightly to one side, away from the oven. In the chimney of the large hearth there is a thick horizontal wooden beam about 8-ft up from which meat could be hung for smoking. There was also a notched iron bar let into the wall of the hearthplace which could be swivelled and from this the cooking pots were suspended on chains with hooks.

in the small hearth, a brandis, or brandiron was used. This was a triangular iron frame supported on three legs, which stood over the fire and supported the cooking pots; a large brandis had an extra bar joining one corner to the centre of the opposite side.

Cooking pots are listed in inventories as crocks, pots, pans, kettles and skillets. Some can still be found in use as plant pots, the ids are usually missing but people who remember them say the lid was slightly domed. They are made of brass or iron. I found a skillet, which was a pan eight inches in diameter and five inches deep with a lip for pouring and a long handle; these were usually made of brass. The baker, or slab, was a flat iron plate about 2-ft in diameter and 1 in. thick, with a handle at one side. This was placed on the hearth before the fire was lit.

I have recently met a Mrs Sandry, born in 1904, who married in her early twenties and lived in a cottage on the cliffs between Porthleven and Rinsey Head, where she cooked on a small Cornish range and a fringle. She clearly remembers her grandmother cooking on an open hearth. I am indebted to her for the following information

Her grandmother cooked by ‘furze and turf’. The furze was cut as long as possible, placed head to tail alternately and tied when the bundle was a convenient size. These faggots were made into a rick near the cottage. One rick was made each year, so that there was always one in use and another drying for the following year. There was also a rick of turf. The slab, or baker, was put on the hearth and a furze fire it on top of it; when the furze had almost burnt to ashes, the remaining sticks and ashes were drawn off the slab with furze hooks. The bread, etc. was put on the slab and covered with an inverted kittle, the slab having been swept clean with a home-made brush of twigs. The hot ashes were piled over the kittle and the whole covered with turves. When asked how they knew when the food was cooked, she replied, "We just knew, and if you wasn't sure you could hook up one side of the kittle with the furze hook and have a peep and a smell. The baked food was then put on home-made rush mats to cool. This particular hearth had no rod and chains, so all pots had to be handled with the furze hooks.

When Mrs Sandry married, her cottage had a small Cornish range and a fringle where there had once been a hearth. The range did not occupy the whole hearth, so a rough wall was built at the side of the range and the remaining space converted into a fringle. The bottom was filled in with stone to a height of about 8 ins, leaving a draught hole from back to front, iron bars were put on this foundation and a furze fire fit on the bars; bellows were needed to get a good fire. The brandis was then put on to support the cooking pots. On Mondays the water was boiled there in a big iron boiler. She was bringing up a family of five children on 30/- a week, so the range was only lit on baking days because coal was expensive.

They kept a sow, some poultry and grew vegetables. After farrowing, two piglets were kept for family use and by careful feeding one was fattened to give plenty of lard and the other kept lean to give good bacon. The hams and fitches were salted in brine then put into muslin bags and hung on hooks in the kitchen beams. No part of the pig was wasted; the intestines were thoroughly washed out, turned inside out and rewashed and soaked in salt water for ten days. Then they were filled with a mixture of flour, fat, onions and seasoning, the ends tied off, and either baked or boiled. This dish was called pudding skins, any surplus produce from the holding was bartered at the village shop for flour, sugar, butter arid other household necessities.

Rabbits and birds “helped out”, but we didn't take birds in the nesting time. Occasionally they had ‘shin broth’, a fore leg of beef with the shin on the bone. This was boiled until all the meat came off and the gristle turned to jelly, the bones were removed and vegetables added with a ‘deck’ on top. The deck was a dumpling mixture rolled out flat to form a lid; in other places, it is called a skinner cake,

When pilchards were cheap they were gutted and salted down to be used as required, two or three for father, two for me and one each for the children. Pilchards were also dried; they were gutted, the heads twisted off - never use a knife for that - cut down the backbone and opened out fat, then threaded on strong wire and hung in the sun. They called the Scrollers; in Gweek they were known as Scrowlers. For use, they were well peppered and grilled over a clear furze fire in the fringle. The grill was homemade; a piece of stout wire was twisted into a flat spiral and the end of the wire brought up to form a handle. This held three or four pilchards. Her instructions for this operation were: “You must put them belly down so the oil along the backbone gets into the fish, then turn them over and the scales all disappear”.

"There was a pump near the cottage, i.e. a well with no windlass, but she preferred to fetch drinking water from a spring in the nearby valley where otters played in the stream, badgers had setts and there were many birds to watch. Her parting words were: "I wouldn't mind going back to them days”.

Some fringles were fitted with a basket type grate in which coal could be used. A specimen of an early grate with an over can be seen at the Folk Museum in Zenor and this is also called a fringle.

Next came the Cornish range which is peculiar to this county and is locally called the slab or the apparatus. Kelly's Directories which cover the period from 1873 to 1939, list six foundries in Truro and five in Redruth, and all the slabs I have seen in Feock came from these towns.

The first drawing is the large range at Tresithick House, made by Terrill and Rogers, Redruth, who were advertising from 1873 to 1893, The second shows the small range at the Blacksmith's Cottage in Smithy Lane, Carnon Downs. Both are still in excellent condition.

The slab had three good points: the heat passed over the oven down the far side, underneath the oven and ash pan to a flue behind the ornamental ironwork, which could be unbolted and removed to sweep the chimney; dampers regulated the draught; by lifting off the oven door and releasing the four turn buttons, the whole oven could be removed and the space cleaned; and the oven could be taken to the blacksmith to be repaired when necessary.

All the knobs, the front bar and supports of the airing rack are brass, the ties round the large slab are secured by large brass screws. it was a weekly task to take the oven out, polish the brass and backlead the ironwork.

There is a good collection of these stoves in the garden of a bungalow on Beacon Drive, St Agnes. Two are visible from the road and there are more in the back garden. Each maker had his own style of ornamentation.

Chapter 5: Cottages built before 1840- Feock Local History Notes IV

For this study, I have omitted the farmhouses, Devoran (which was a separate village created by the Agar Robartes of Lanhydrock) and the Trelissick estate. I have concentrated on the cottages, scattered about the parish, most of which had a few acres of land attached to them and were leasehold. Those at Pill Creek and Point were probably built between 1760 and 1800 by men connected with the trade from the Quays and are more sophisticated in design.

Basically, the cottages are rectangular, about 30-ft by 15-ft, with walls about 2-ft thick and window openings 3-ft square. The interior divisions, which are not of structural importance, have probably already been changed several times since the cottage was built. We have looked at some cottages that have not been recently modernised and which show variations in the basic plan.

These small houses grew from the so if like the trees that so often surround there. They are built of stone from a local quarry or from cob and it is difficult to say how old they are. Some must have existed adjacent to Feock Church and a Feock well from a very early period; Trevilla, the site of an old manor, and Chycoose, near the river, are two other odd sites. Sandoes smithy, on the old road across King Harry ferry to Haliginick, where the roads crossed or what is now Carnon Downs, is shown on Martyn's Map of 1748. It has been suggested that the cottages facing east, rather than south, are the oldest. There are two in Feock Churchtown, one at La Feock (the old Post Office), one at Trevilla, and one at Haliginick.

Between 1740 and 1840, Carnon Downs were gradually enclosed and broken up into small holdings of about eight to ten acres, each with a cottage facing south, outbuildings for animals, and a well. This provision of a water supply seems to have been general unless there was a surface spring nearby, as at Avondale, The Beeches and Quenchwell, in the north of the parish. The group of cottages at La Feock are the exception and must have used water from the well outside a Feock Grange.

There is one cottage at Carnon Downs, behind the present Pottery, where the date 1742 was found carved on a roof beam, and from about this time new surnames appear in the Parish Registers. It is impossible to say where these new families lived, but the 1813 Ordnance Survey map shows 15 or more buildings in this area.

In 1818 Lord Falmouth advertised Feock Downs to be leased in lots of five to ten acres (Royal Cornwall Gazette, April 2nd), and on the 1842 Tithe Map fields have been enclosed, but not as many cottages had been built as at Carnon Downs.

There is little information about the occupants of the cottages until the Census returns of 1841. These show that the man usually had a trade or some employment that would bring in a cash wage and he would work on the holding in his spare time with the help of his family. It was a life with few reserves to meet emergencies, such as illness or accident, and leisure must have been very limited.

There is no uniformity in the cottages, so they were probably do-it-yourself efforts, with the aid of advice from friends and relatives who were tradesmen. in 1841 there were masons and carpenters living in various parts of the parish, and this was probably a well-established pattern, William Gerrish, who later built Devoran Church, lived at Carnon Downs, as did two carpenters; there were carpenters at Chycoose and in a Feock; the Chegwidden’s lived at Trevilla, one a carpenter and the other a mason.

Existing old windows still show local variations, they all had small panes; some are sash, some casement; some open on side hinges, others open only at the top; windows at La Feock are of the same pattern as those at Chycoose. It should be recorded that, occasionally, where old windows have had to be replaced recently, care has been taken to secure exact copies and so retain the character of the cottage.

A few thatched roofs still exist, but now a thatcher has to be called in to repair them; they were more usual in the past when agricultural labourers normally thatched hay and corn ricks and long straw was generally available and carefully harvested for this purpose. It provided an excellently insulated roof, but was a fire hazard, harboured rats, and required comparatively frequent repair and renewal. If small states became available, they provided a long-lasting alternative and received a regular cement wash which wedded the slates together. They could be fitted with a launder to catch rain water so that it could be stored in a barre and reduce the number of trips to the well. The old launders were made from solid wood with a deep, rounded groove cut out with a hard plane...

The Census of 1841 suggests that many of the cottages that are now one house were originally two dwellings. "; The cottage in Feock. Churchtown, opposite the tower, is typical. We know from the Tithe Map of 1842 that Biddy Clyma leased it from Lord Falmouth. The Census shows that Biddy and her husband Josiah, their baby son; and Josiah's father, lived in one part, whilst in the other portion lived Stephen Clyma, aged 50, a son and two daughters all in their teens and a housekeeper aged 50.

Later as living conditions improved, the cottages were remodelled, with a central front door and a staircase between the kitchen and front room leading up to two bedrooms. In the last 50 years, many cottages have become freehold, and with the advent of mains water, electricity, better roads, and motor transport they have been radically modernised. In the past, many had no through ventilation so, having been condemned, they have only survived by being drastically altered; a few have disappeared completely and some are in use as sheds.

To complete this study a few typical features are instead. Floors downstairs were originally of beaten earth or lime ash which gave a surface superior to the cement which often replaced it. The height of the ceilings varies from six to seven feet, the boards laid over the beams to form the downstairs ceiling and bedroom floor varying in width. The oldest of these are wide, not tongued and grooved, sometimes covered with narrower boards laid at right angles. The narrow, steep stairs, with little room at the top or bottom, make it difficult to get furniture up or down and it is not unusual to find a series of boards forming a trap door resting firmly or the beams in one bedroom, and often called a coffin shoot. old partitions between rooms were wide boards placed upright with the joins covered with wooden slats, referred to as plank and post.

Chapter 6: Tregew - Feock Local History Notes IV

The name Tregew (or Tregeu as it was once spelt) may be derived from if the “farm on the goodland*”* or the “farm of the javelin” - both descriptive of its position on the fertile and to the east of the parish of Feock and adjacent to the ancient Camp at Roundwood. During the early years of the 7th century the Edmonds, who came originally from Middlesex, transformed the farmstead into a gentleman’s residence and is shown as such in Martyn’s map of 1748, “it still has the appearance of a gentleman’s seat” said Charles Henderson, writing only some fifty years ago, “with its park-like surroundings interspersed here and there with rows of stately elms”.

As a farmstead, Tregew had a ready been there for many generations and the site is thought to be the oldest in the parish. In 1304, Inquisitions Post Mortem record: “Tregew held of Nicholas Boscawen as of his manor of Trevilla, value 16s.”. In 1315 Tregew was mentioned in the Taxation of the Vicarage of Feock, when the Vicar was assigned its Garb Tithe, and in 1327 the Lay Subsidy Rolls referred to John Tregew, with a valuation of 3s. - the second highest in the parish.

It seems that at about this time Tregew became the property of the Gregor family, remaining so for some 300 years. Although the historian C. S. Gilbert said that Tregew became the in property subsequent to the Reformation, according to Canon Jennings, the Gregor's settled there at the time of Edward II and records confirm this claim. In 1342 Johan Gregor granted lands in Tregew, given to him by his father Gregory de Tregeu, to his daughter Joan and her husband John Coman of Fowey as a marriage gift, some years after, their son Robert Coman was the plaintiff in a suit against Thomas Bryant and Joan his wife claiming lands in Tregew and alleging that Elena (John Gregor's second daughter and co-heiress) had died without issue.

17th Century - the Edmonds

During the reign of James I, according to Jennings, the Gregor family left Tregew for Truro (and later Trewarthenick), selling the farmstead to a Mr Edmonds. In his history of Feock, written about a hundred years later, William Hals said: 'Mr Edmonds, a person well qualified for the purpose was sent from London by the Company of Pewterers to inspect and try Cornish tin, then corrupted by the blowers thereof, before it was coined that so the bad metal might be examined and tallied before it was coined proportionable to its badness. In which assay-masters’ office he thrived so well that at length he became a tin factor himself, grew rich and bought this place and the other lands near, and also the Manor of Truro (bought in 1624) of Sir Bevill Grenville, Kt.’. But, Hals continued: 'Mr Edmonds, unable to pay the consideration money, was cast into prison where he died without further satisfaction to his said creditors, notwithstanding which those lands descended to his heir now in possession thereof". This Everard Edmonds, merchant and burgess of Truro, married Jenephor, daughter of Michael Avery of Truro and Dionesia Glanville of Tavistock. They had three sons, Henry, who lived at Tregew, Edward, a draper in Truro, and Hugh, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margerie.

More than once the Barton of Tregew and the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro were to be assigned or mortgaged by the Edmonds to benefit creditors. In 1635, in consequence of the marriage between Henry and Alice, eldest daughter of Thomas Polwhele of Treworgan, and a portion of £500, these lands were assigned by Everard Edmonds to Thomas Polwhele and Richard Hill of Truro. Again in 1672, when Henry is son, also named Henry, was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Grylls of Lanreath, for a portion of £700, they were conveyed to Charles Grylls and others by Henry, Tregew being subjected to a rent of £80 to his daughter-in-law Elizabeth for her life and at the lands era tailed on the issue of the marriage, with remainder to the grantor's eight heirs. In that same year, Henry sold Tregew and his Manor to his son Henry with the provision that the latter should provide for his parents’ sufficient meat, drink, apparel, firing, lodging, can delight and attendance for the rest of their lives.

In 1701, the second Henry and his son, the third Henry, assigned Tregew and the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro to John and Richard Polwhele and others in order to pay the father's debts and provide portions for his younger children, Everard and Anna. And, in their turn, Henry Edmonds senior and Elizabeth his wife shall enjoy his room with the chamber in which Anna his daughter now lodgeth and shall be a lowed by the said Henry Edmonds junior sufficient meat and drink there and an annuity of £20. The schedule of debts included £550 to Charles Trevanion of Caerhays, £267 to his brother Richard Edmonds, £202 to his sister Dionesia Edmonds and £160 to another sister Jenefer. In her will dated 26th June 1716, Jenefer Edmonds left, among other bequests, 20s. to her brother Richard and 20s. to her nephew Henry to buy a ring in remembrance of me.

In 1706 the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro was bought by Samuel Enys (grandson of Henry Gregor of Truro) for £2,146 from father and son: other bidders in the sale included Mr Thomas Shepherd, husband of Anna, who offered £1,500.

Twice in its history, Tregew has been associated with the Society of Friends. In 1684, when the Friends and indeed the whole Puritan movement were under bitter attack, on information of Henry Edmonds of a conventicle at the house of Waiter Stevens of Feock" the justices imposed fines or Walter Stevens and others for being present and for absenting from public worship for three Sundays. The second time was in the 9th century, through the Magor family then living at Tregew.

18th Century - The Allens

After the third Henry Edmond's death in 1728, Tregew appears to have passed into the hands of the Alien family, for an Elizabeth Edmonds, presumably Henry is wife, was living in Truro at the time of her death ten years later. Although the name Allen is not uncommon in Cornwall, this branch is the only one in the neighbouring area whose members are described as 'gentlemen". The Allens also owned other property in nearby parishes and, unlike the Edmonds, they chose to rent out Tregew and live elsewhere. When John Allen of Kea died in 1730, he left £110 to his son Alexander, smaller sums to his daughters and their children and the residue of his estate to another son, Michael. (Writing in 1817, C. S. Gilbert refers to Saveock House, about 4 miles west of Truro, as the seat of Michael Allen). Since John Allen left only money to Alexander, it seems reasonable to suppose that Alexander had already acquired Tregew, either as a gift or as a purchase, before his father's death, perhaps at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Lawrence of Feock, seven years earlier.

Alexander Allen died only three years after his father and in his will, dated 25th July 1733, he left property at Tregew, Penelewey and Mellingey, in the parishes of Feock, Kea and Perranarworthal, to his son, also named Alexander and at that time a minor. Elizabeth, appointed co-guardian of the young Alexander with his uncle Michael Allen, received an annuity of £30 to be paid out of these estates. In his will, Alexander was described as "of Hewgos” in the parish of Kea (now Hugus, about three miles to the west of Truro and not far from Savelock).

Less is known of the tenants of Tregew at this time. In 1754, however, the Feock parish register records a marriage between Thomas Nichol is of Feock and Margery Phillips, a servant to Mr William Laskey of Tregew. William Laskey died in 1789 in Perranarworthal, his estate being administered by his son William Laskey of Trevalga and daughter Anne, wife of Richard Lawrence of Feock, it is probable that William Laskey seniors father was William Laskey of Perranarworthal, the co-administrator with the second Henry Edmonds of the e state of his younger son Everard Edmonds who died intestate in 1702. If so, this would provide an interesting earlier link between the Laskeys’ and Tregew.

Thomas Nichols was the son of a tinner, also named Thomas, who lived at little Tregew, a small farm adjoining, in his wit made in 1736, Thomas senior directed that his mother-in-law should live at little Tregew, with his children for one year after his death and to have her maintenance with them. - is daughter Jane was left Little Tregew when 21 or married: Thomas, also a minor, was appointed sole executor and inherited “all my estates”. The inventory at the time of Thomas senior’s death armour tecd to £257.10. 0d. the second Alexander Allen married Mary Tippet in 1753 and their son, the third Alexander, was born seven years later. Alexander and his wife Mary were named as deforciants in a dispute as to title concerning the estate of Tregew brought before the Courts in 1778 by Francis Cole, clerk.

The surnames Nicholls and Tippett (though with only one t) occur again in 1786 when the Barton of Tregew was advertised for sale in the Sherborne Mercury of the 17th July: to be sold on 31st July next at the Red Lion, Truro all that Freehold and Lease-hold Estate in Tregew now in the several tenures of John Snell, Peter Tippet, Esq. John Bullen, Elizabeth Burley, Thomas Cooke, Robert Nichols, William Solomon, James Harris and William Burley, consisting of the mansion-house, several farm-houses, with barns and other buildings and about 221 acres of good meadow, arable, orchard and pasture land, it is interesting to note that it was still regarded as a mansion house and, though term armed, had not lost status. Included in this sale were the houses and buildings at Roundwood, originally used for smelting and refining copper, and the wharves and quay there.

The third Alexander married Mary Clarke of St Clements in 1786 and was presumably the Alexander Allen named as the proprietor of Tregew and assessed at £8.13s. in the Land Tax Assessment made about 1800. The occupier at that time was named as Mr Edward Rogers.

Early 19th Century

Tregew was sold within a year or so, however, and the Amendment to the Tax Assessment made around 1804 gives the new owner as R. A. Daniel, of Trelissick. Ralph Allen Daniell’s father Thomas Daniel, born in Truro in 1715, was the protégé, business associate and finally successor of William Lemon. His wife, who he married in 1754, was Elizabeth Elliot of Truro, niece of Ralph Allen of Prior Park, Bath, a notable Cornishman on whom the character of “Allworthy” in Fielding's “Tom Jones” was based. He was born in St Blazey in 1694, the son of a country inn-keeper. By the age of 10 he was helping his grand-mother, the postmistress of St Columb, and at 16 he had joined the Bath Post Office - an early experience which doubtless led to his becoming in later life the first great reformer of the British Post Office. Ralph Allen was the owner of the Bath stone quarries (he gave the stone used in the Mansion House in Truro, built for Thomas Daniell after his marriage) and he was a man of considerable wealth. It was his generosity that enabled Thomas to take over William Lemons large mercantile firm on his death in 1760 and when he himself died nine years later, Ralph Alien left £500,000 and extensive property in the West Country. Despite his name however, there appears to be no relationship between Ralph Allen and the Allen’s who had owned Tregew.

Ralph Allen Daniel, great-nephew, and name-sake, was born in 1762. With vast wealth behind him, he may have become care less of money, for he exchanged trade for politics, became M. P. for the Rotten Borough of West Looe, and died, comparatively poor and intestate, in 1823. his property passed to his son Thomas, eldest of his 12 surviving children. Thomas, unsparing of expenditure at Trelissick and in maintaining his position in the County, particularly during his term of office as High Sherriff, was before long in financial difficulties, was declared bankrupt in 1835 and forced to flee to France where he died thirty years later.

Daniel is misfortunes were reflected in the story of Tregew. In 1837, presumably in an effort to raise money, parts of the Trelissick estate were offered for sale by the Assignees of Thomas Daniel. In June, the West Editor carried the following notice: Sale of Freehold Property: “Eligible Building Ground" in which the Tregew estate was described as containing about 225 acres of productive orchard, meadow, arable and wood and, several residences fronting on the Roundwood and Falmouth Creeks, together with the Quay at Roundwood' … the whole being exceedingly picturesque and well adapted for villa residence. A week before the date set for the auction, however, another notice appeared in the West Briton, inserted by solicitors acting for Lord Falmouth, informing would-be purchasers that the Earl was it in possession of such Estate and had a lien thereon amounting to the full estimated value thereof or upwards" and would “retain possession of such Estate until the same shall have been fully satisfied and discharged”.

During all these years, Tregew, as part of the Trelissick estate, was eased to tenant farmers. It is not known for how long Mr Edward Roger's remained there after 1800, but records show that a subsequent tenant, for over twenty years, was Peter Oliver, with his wife Margaret. In 1819 their daughter Mary Anne was born at Tregew whereas their el der daughter, Grace Elizabeth, had been born two years earlier, in St Clement whilst they were “of Lameer”. In 1823 Charles Oliver died at Tregew, aged 96, followed a year later by Grace Oliver, aged 80. In 1840, her namesake and Peter's daughter, Grace Elizabeth, was married from Tregew and the family were certainly still there at the time of the 1841 Census. Peter, then aged 55, was described as a farmer, his wife as aged 50. There were two sons and five younger daughters, and two servants and two independents were also named.

Though Census returns and Directories name occupants, ownership of Tregew during these years has been difficult to establish so precisely. At some time between the proposed auction in 1837 and the preparation of the 1842 Tithe Apportionment Map, Tregew and its estate became the property of John Magor, for his name appears thereon as both owner and occupier. The remainder of the Trelissick estate was, it seems mortgaged to Lord Falmouth until, in 1844, it was sold to John Davies Gilbert, son of the famous: Davies Gilbert. The Tregew estate was certainty not included in that sale as there is no reference to it in the Abstract of Tithe Roundwood is included however, and it would appear that the estate acquired by John Magor was smaller than that advertised in 1837. his is confirmed by the 1851 Census in which John Magor, as occupier, is described as a farmer of 170 acres, not 225 acres. (the Abstract contained a reference to Peter Oliver as the tenant of Nancassick and part of Penhale).

Tregew and the Magor Family

The Magors had lived at Trethowell, a neighbouring farm, for many years and it is thought that John's father, John Magor senior (1775-1851) may have bought Tregew from the Trelissick estate for his eldest son John - possibly on his marriage. In John senior’s will, made in 1844, John, though named with two younger sons, Richard, and William as co-executor, was not otherwise mentioned. The farm at Trethowell was left jointly to Richard and William, and little Tregew to a fourth son Martin: their mother Prudence was to receive an annuity, the house, garden, household goods, wine and liqueurs at Trethowell and, like Richard, William and Martin, a sum of money.

John Magor junior lived at Tregew with his family for over forty years until a few years before his death at Stanley Villas, Truro, in 1895, the farm passed into the hands of his second son Richard. At some time, possibly as early as 1846, Johan Magor sold Tregew to John Davies Gilbert in order to raise money for the purchase of Trevaster as an off-farm to Tregew, which once again became part of the Trelissick estate. He remained at Tregew was lessee. John Davies Gilbert died suddenly in 1854, but the Hon. Mrs Gilbert continued to manage the estate on behalf of her son, Carew Davies Gilbert, born posthumously.

In the 1861 Census John Magor is described as a farmer of 150 acres. Apparently, Mr Magor also leased and at this time from another neighbouring land-owner, the Hon. Anna Maria Agar, one of the principal land-owners in the parish, who owned woodlands to the north of Lamouth Creek. In a letter to her son (soon to be created Baron Robartes of Lanhydrock and Truro) written in April 1860, the family is agent, Alfred Jenkin, wrote: "There are in that part of the tenement of Tregew in Feock, which belongs entirely to thy mother, some trees, principally scrubby oak in the hedges, which ought to be taken down. At the request of the Tenant, John Magor, I have been there and marked the trees in question, and I also mentioned the matter to Messrs Gilbert, Rodd, and Cornish, they inform me that Mrs Gilbert is much obliged by having been consulted and has no objection to the trees being cut down. There are 81 Oaks, 13 Elms and 4 Ash, some of the Elms are good sticks apparently but past their primes and injuring some juvenile neighbours. The Oaks are neither useful nor ornamental,

John and Catherine Oliver Magor (Despite her name and the fact that she was born in St Clements, there appears to be no relationship between Catherine and Peter Oliver, her predecessor at Tregew.) had seven sons, John, William H., Richard, Edmund and three who died in infancy, and four daughters, Eliza, Fanny, Edith and Laura, born between the years 1844 and 1864. Miss L. L. Northey, Laura's daughter, and Miss Constance Hearle, Richard's granddaughter, are still living in the neighbourhood and have both provided much helpful history which is most gratefully acknowledged.

At the time of the 1851 Census, when the family consisted only of John then aged 6, Eliza, 3 and William H. 2 months, there were also at Tregew a house servant, a children's nurse, and an agricultural labourer. Ten years later, when there were four more children, there were a governess, a house servant, a dairymaid and a shepherd. In 1871, when their youngest child Laura was six, the household had one servant, Ann Cummins, and a housemaid, Elizabeth J. Hall.

The family was closely associated for some years with the Quakers and the Friends' Meeting House at Come-to-Good. Still to be seen there are headstones commemorating the deaths of John Magor senior, who died on 30th June 1851, aged 76 years, his wife Prudence, who died, aged 84, on 5th February 1865, and their 26-year old daughter Thomasine, who died in

A book of Burial Notes relating to Come-to-Good for the years 1839-1849 contains a record not only of Thomasine’s death but also of the three infant children of John and Catherine Oliver Magor - George, who died aged about one week in 1847, William Henry who died aged about 5½ months in March 1850, and Martin, who died in August 1856 at the age of1 year. All three were described as not a member. The William H. recorded in the 1851 Census as a baby of 2 months was born not long after the death of the baby William Henry and it seems that the custom of naming a child after a dead brother or sister, common in the 16th and 17th centuries, was continued by John and Catherine Magor on this occasion.

In his later years, John Magor became a Wesleyan and was something of a public figure - a judge at local agricultural shows and a member and sometime Chairman of the West Powder Highway Board during the 1880s. Three of his sons left home, John to live in Creed, William H. at Bonallack and Edmund in Nebraska, U. S. A. Richard remained at Tregew taking over the farm a few years before his father is death in 1895.

Richard Magor, born in 1852, married Emma Williams of Wadebridge and lived at Tregew until the end of the First World War. Mr and Mrs Magor are still remembered by Mrs Emmy Ferris of Penpol, whose father, Jim Hooper, was employed on the farm at Tregew. Mrs Ferris remembers Mrs Gilbert calling on Mrs Magor in her pony-cart and recalls how her father, who was in charge of the farm during Mr Magors absence, once drove a herd of bullocks to Grampound with only the help of his dog. Mrs Ferris her self lived at Tregew was a young girl, starting house-work at 6. 30 in the morning, baking in the cloam Owen and preparing breakfast on a brandis. Her off-duty hours were between 6 and 9 p.m. on Friday evenings, though she attended a sewing class on Tuesday evenings.

Labourers wages were then normally regulated by the rates paid to the roadmen by the County, but Mr Magor ensured the best labour and plentiful help at harvest-time by paying 2/- a Week above this rate. It is said that other farmers, headed by the Hon. John Boscawen, sent Mr Magor a letter of protest to which he replied that after due consideration he had "decided to pay 3/- a week above the usual rate". Mr Magor also gave a bonus of £1 for every year of service if a man left or retired, the widow receiving the sum if a man died.

A notice in the Royal Cornwall Gazette in 1899 reported that Mr Magor had had his foot trapped when a tree was being felled: he had received medical attention, and was progressing favourably.

The Post-War Years

Carew Davies Gilbert die d in 1913 but Tregew was not among the twelve excellent farms included in the sale of the Trelissick estate by his Trustees seven years later, in 1919 Mr Edward Penna, who farmed at Nance on the Tehidy estate in Illogan, bought Tregew from the Trustees, and as his sons were still boys, leased the farm to Mr William James Downing and his two sons, who were identical twins. When Mrs Downing died shortly after, the three men continued to live at Tregew, looked after by an old lady who used to come each day from Penelewey in a donkey-cart. Mr Downing was a local preacher at the Feock Methodist Chapel.

The Downings left when their 14-year lease expired ad by 1935 Mr Edward Penna was joined at Tregew by Mir William John Peters. In 1948 Mr Penna's son, Mr E. FP. Penna, having become part-owner on his father's death, bought his brother is share of the farm, On Mr E. P. Penna's death in 1957, the property passed to his wife, Mrs E. E. Penna (Mr. Peter's daughter) who row farms the estate in partnership with her son John. Our special thanks are due to Mrs Penna for her kindness in showing us Tregew and her help in our research.

The House

Charles Henderson, writing in the 1920s said that the greater part of the mansion was still standing though it had been altered considerably. The front of the house is original but the windows are late 18th century insertions and have superseded the more pictures que Elizabethan windows with granite mullions". Today, two windows still retain their ancient moulded lintel, but, as Charles Henderson pointed out, all else is modern. A well carved sill acts as a step in a stile near the house and others may be seen in humble positions on the premises. There is a fine old chimney of elvan with a carved granite cap at the back of the house and various other interesting features may be seen. A stone measure lies outside the porch, and there are four others in the gar den - all of which were recently brought from Wadebridge

Since the house is now shared by Mrs Penna and her married son, it has been modernised and converted into two homes. Two fireplaces in ground floor rooms probably originally the hall and parlour) have heavy granite frames with moulding and stops usually associated in Cornwall with an early 17th century date, and there is a well-worn flagged passage-way between the front and back doors, with steps leading to the court-yard which may well date from the mansions earliest days.

The farm has hardly changed in size, South Devons replaced Ayrshires about 25 years ago, and the milking herd was sold some 12 years ago; now there are sheep and cereals in their place. Fields named at the time of the Tithe Apportionment include Silver Close, Park Mullet, Fox Park and Bedlam Wood; three, Park Kestle, North and South Kestle – or “castle” to reflect their proximity to the Iron Age Camp at Roundwood, the outer ditch and vallum of which crossed this land.

In recent years’ access to the house has beer from the road at its rear and what was once the carriage drive leading to the front has reverted to grass. It requires little imagination, however, to visualise the faint track as it must once have been, an impressive approach to this “gentleman's seat'.

Main Sources

Wills arid Documents relating to the Society of Friends (County Record Office)

Land Tax Assessment, c. 1800, with Amendments (C.R.O.)

Tithe Apportionment Schedule (C.R.O.)

Census Records and Parish Registers

Kelly’s Directories

Files of The Royal Cornwall Gazette, West Briton and The Sherborne Mercury (Royal Institution of Cornwall and County library)

Charles Henderson’s Cornish Mss. (R.I.C.)

Jenkin Letter Book (R.L.C.)

C. S. Gilbert, Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall (1817-20)

Canon Peter Jennings Mss.

William Hals, 1 Parochial History of Cornwall It

Chapter 7: A Cottage at Carnon Downs- Feock Local History Notes IV

This cottage is situated on the main crossroads at Carnon Downs, with its right-hand wall or, the Bissoe road. It is particularly interesting in having the stairs in an area special ty built out at the back of the house so that no space is lost in the living rooms. There is a long window on the landing which lights the stairs and upper landing, and there was a similar window, now blocked, in the right-fin and walI of the present kitchen.

The house is built of rough stone, but where the outside corner is visible near the well, the stones are larger arc: have been roughly squared. The kitchen was originally a lean-to shed, not connected to the house, and the short passage between the present living room and the kitchen was cut in 1968. The learn-to shed at the back seems to have been added later and is less well made, it has slightly larger sates than the rest of the building. The slates on the other roofs are very small and have been cement washed many times.

The previous owner had a door cut between the present sitting room and the lean-to extension which they used as their kitchen and a slab built into the walls against the staircase. In 1968 this room was divided by a concrete block wall to form a bathroom with hot cupboard, and a garden shed. Judging by the thickness of the fireplace walls, the house could have had open hearths and earth floors. When the present owner bought the cottage, all the interior woodwork, floors and partitions, had to be removed and it was found that the joists were aid straight or the earth, there being no evidence that the floors had ever been covered with stone slabs or cement. New front windows were made by a local carpenter in the style of the old ones and new windows were also made for the kitchen and bathroom.

This cottage is an excellent example of how a comfortable home can be made without losing the original character of the dwelling, it has more living space in it than many modern bungalows.

My thanks are due to Mrs Lawrence for allowing her house to be thoroughly studied and for supplying so much information.

Chapter 8: The Old Post Office- Feock Local History Notes IV

The Old Post Office at La Feock is one of the oldest unspoilt cottages in the parish; it was at one time two cottages, the plan showing it as it was before it was made into one house. On this plan the shaded parts in the centre wall show where new openings were cut. The staircase in the larger cottage was removed and access to the bedrooms provided by an opening at the head of the remaining stairs leading into a low passage under the thatch.

There was a line of the main beam of the roof; the chimney stacks are a little to the rear of this. At the back the thatch sweeps right down to within five feet of the ground so there are only three bedrooms along the front. The sash windows are old and show irregularities in the glass. The downstairs windows have four panes each way, but, owing to the low roof, those in the bedrooms are only three pares deep and not much above floor level. This feature can be seen in several old cottages in his parish.

To take the Post Box, a small opening was cut in the front wall; this can still be seen as an alcove inside the house. On August 13th 1844, this office was given its first Feock postmark. At that time letters were brought out from Truro by messenger. On September 18th, a messenger resigned as he objected to working on the Sabbath, but the seven-day service continued until April 1852. When the railway was built from Truro to Falmouth, mail for Devoran and Feock was collected at Perranwell Station.

The three fireplaces were probably built as open hearths, the two end ones having been filled in to take modern grates, but the centre one still having a Cornish slab. Except for some necessary alterations and enlargements to the windows at the back, the present occupiers have maintained the externa! structure intact

I wish to thank the present owners for letting us measure the house; also, Mr J. E. W. Lewarne of Surrey who sent a photograph of the front of the house taken about 1902 and the local residents who have supplied information. The picture of the back was taken a few years ago, when the alterations were

Chapter 9: One Cottage and its Land, Algarnick 1900-1976 - Feock Local History Notes IV

When we first saw Algarnick in 1938 it was a typical example of an unmodernised small-holding. There were eight acres of land sloping gently to the southwest, divided into eight fields of varying size and separated by Cornish hedges covered by brambles and blackthorn, with many untrimmed holly trees growing on them. At the bottom, on the far side of a little fast flowing stream, were two heavy clay, partially waterlogged, moors and another small moor completely covered with willow trees and very marshy, from which clay had been dug to make the cob to build the local cottages. The other fields were down to grass. Mr and Mrs Harris who owned it had lived there very happily since 1919, brought up their family and were then nearly seventy. Mr Harris, when questioned about the land, described it as ‘grateful’, responding rapidly to any topdressing of manure.

The cottage was typical; two rooms downstairs with very low ceilings, two bedrooms, a slate-shelved dairy and scullery in the back lean-to, which had a door into the yard only 4-ft 6 ins high. In1919 the roof was still thatched but this had been replaced with long sheets of thick corrugated asbestos. The open porch protecting the front door was held up by two posts from a wooden four-poster bed. The bedrooms still retained their low plaster ceilings. At some time, before the Harris's bought it, the front of the cottage was said to have fallen out and had been rebuilt in stone. The long intel over the downstairs windows and front door is a length of old railway line. To keep the cob dry the cottage was faced with cement, lined off to represent rectangular bocks and whitewashed.

The water supply was from a 26 foot-deep we in the yard. This had a granite surround with a wooden trap door down which a bucket on a rope was dropped and hauled up by hand. Drainage was non-existent, there was a sentry-box type of earth closet in the shrubbery beyond the cottage.

The small front garden was full of flowers, including 23 rose trees, some of which were ramblers. There were tall trees to protect the buildings from the southwest wind and along the roadside to the east. Mrs Harris was a keen gardener with green fingers, she remembered the various Chapel festivities from which she had returned with small pieces of the fora decorations to grow in the garden and shrubbery. On the window silIs indoors she had a wonderful collection of tall geraniums, which obscured most of the light out flowered magnificent. Lighting was by oil lamps and candles and cooking was done on the Cornish range, which kept the cottage warm and dry. The shrubbery included a well grown rhododendron ‘Pink Pearl’, a pink laburnum, a Snowball tree, Daphne mezeriorn, skimmia, Solomon's seal; the ground beneath was a carpet of snowdrops.

The furniture in the kitchen included a long table in front of the window, a high glass-fronted cupboard against the opposite Wail (so high that the beams had been slightly cut away to accommodate it), some wooden chairs, a Windsor arm chair for Mr Harris and a black horsehair sofa against the wall by the stairs which both had colourful cushions. In the front room, there was a round central table with a chenille cloth with bobble fringe, a harmonium and several chairs. Apples were |aid out on the floor and covered with newspaper. Upstairs there were double beds in both rooms and because Mrs Harris was almost bent double with spinal trouble and could not reach up to cupboards, the clothes were aid very tidily on tine floor under protective paper.

The entrance to the yard was nearly 7-ft 6 ins wide, adequate for their pony and trap, but difficult for any lorries delivering goods to us. The yard was of well-brushed, hardpacked shale, non-slip for animals and sufficiently well drained not to become muddy. In places, it had been cobbled; we had it cemented to make it easier to maintain.

The cow house was the biggest building in the yard; made of cob with Iarge stones as a footing, it looked like a derelict cottage. It was cement floored and whitewashed inside. It was divided by a wooden partition giving space to tie four cows and for hayracks. Above was the hayloft, reached by steep open wooden stairs. Above the door on the ground floor was another door through which hay could be pitched up from the yard. All the shed roofs were of galvanised iron which kept out the wet. The pony shed was just inside the gate; the bottom 3-ft were cob and the upper part of rather ancient wide boards. It was divided by a wooden partition, one side for the pony and the other for harness, etc. The remaining sheds had wooden walls and were not rainproof. At the far end of the cottage was another dilapidated lean-to of wood and galvanised iron and near this was a high roof supported by tree trunks, under which the hay was stored. Poultry roamed the yard and had their little shed on the bank opposite the back door. There was wire netting on all the garden hedges to keep then in their place. In three of the fields there were long low sheds made of galvanised iron with wooden doors and earth floors, where the pigs were kept.

This holding with its livestock, a large vegetable plot, and an orchard, had been almost self-supporting; surplus butter, cream and pigs were sold. There was a rack on the Iower side of the bears in the kitchen for the home-cured bacon and ham, Mr Harris also did outside work to bring in cash for clothing and fuel: he told us he had sometimes walked as much as eight miles to a job.

They had planted about a dozen ‘boughten' apple trees in 1919 and had added to them with grafts from friends trees, for which Mrs Harris grew the stocks from apple pips. They knew the name of each variety and the range was from early August eaters and cookers to keepers which lasted until after Whitsun. In the past they had been we cared for, pruned and the trunks whitewashed, but by 1938 they were over grown by brambles and loganberries. The lane which ran through the centre of the holding was a so covered by brambles and gorse with just a cow width track down the centre, where we cleared these We planted shrubs, usually grown from borrowed cuttings in their place. It was this overgrowing that convinced Mr and Mrs Harr is that it was time to retire, as they could not care for the and in the way that they considered it should be done.

Before 1919 the Pengelly’s had rented the holding from Lord Falmouth. According to local reminiscences they had traction engines, wagons and a threshing machine and did contract work. When we ploughed the fields against the road we found traces of coal as in the corner nearest the Cottage and were to d by a neighbouring farmer that the threshing was done there for farmers who brought their corn to the machine. There was also a mill to grind corn and the concrete base of the three-storey wooden building remained just inside the entrance gate until a few years ago; it had four one-foot-high, inch thick, almost Larr Lasted iron screws embedded in it where the engine had been bolted down. Mr Michell told me it had been acetylene-powered and was started by a sort of treadmill; as a boy, he had helped to get it going. The mill burnt down about 1918. Outside the front gate, where the Garden Shop now stands, there was a wooden shed over a long board-covered inspection pit and this was where the traction engines were repaired. This shed was taken down and re-erected on Devoran Quay where it was used for log cutting. Sometime in the 1920s, Mr Claude Stanbury, who then lived with his aunts at Avondale, brought his corrugated iron shed from the corner of Mr Cowlings lane and erected it as his carpenters shop until he retired. Eventually a speeding car failed to take the road bend and demolished it in 1971.

Between the mill and the repair shop were the engine sheds; they had disappeared long before we got there and we used the space for compost, making it with grass grown on any untilled land and anything else we could acquire, such as road verge trimmings and the thatch from Miss Burrows cottage ("The Beeches”) when her root was stripped and tied. She was terrified that if the thatch was burnt it might set fire to her property.

We were commercial flower growers and in 1938 were rerating a house and eight acres of land in Gweek. A friend invested in Algarnick on our behalf and lived in the cottage. During the war years, we worked the land in both places. Under war regulations we grew potatoes, broccoli and other vegetables but were allowed to keep two acres for flowers. These brought in a handsome profit, daffodils selling at up to sixpence each; because clothes and sweets were rationed, flowers were almost the only available luxury. As a result, when our lease at Gweek expired in 1944 we were able to buy Algarnick and Miss Foreman moved into Truro. In 1938 water was brought into the cottage by means of a hand pump over the well and a storage tank in the yard, the dairy was transformed into a bathroom and lavatory and a cesspit dug for the drainage. A bath meant 150 strokes of the pump handle to get the water up to the tank from which it flowed down and was heated by a boiler round the fire of the Cornish range; we did not find this satisfactory and repo aced the range by a small ideal boiler. We were quite happy to use paraffin for lighting and cooking until electricity was connected in the late 1940s; then we had a quarter horsepower electric motor attached to the pump handle and the ghost did the pumping.

In the autumn of 1945 the ex-cowshed fell down, having given a few preliminary rumbles which gave us time to remove all the wooden broccoli crates, etc., which were stored in it, we had to secure the permits to buy concrete blocks and timber to replace it; the galvanised iron was treated with bitumen and reused on the roof, whilst most of the cob was piled just outside the front gate to make a loading platform and the stones from the foundations made a rockery.

The other wooden sheds were coated with thick layers of tar obtained from the then-existing Penryn gasworks, and the least water tight wall was replaced by thin corrugated iron sheets scrounged from the Baldhu rubbish dump to which they had been consigned at the end of the war. They were probably originally parts of ex-army huts.

At Gweek the ploughing and preliminary cultivation had been done for us by a local farmer with horses, but, as there were no suitable horses in the Carnon Downs area we had to invest in a small Ransome caterpillar tractor, a plough, and discs and harrows. As part of their war effort, Farm industries conveyed the tractor free of charge between the two holdings whenever they had an empty lorry going in the right direction. We also had several small machines, a Rototiller, a general-purpose Autoculto, an Allen grasscutter and a three-wheel tipping truck, the last two being essential for compost making. With the help of one man, we grew anemonies, wall flowers, polyanthus, daffodils and iris as the main flower crops, with strawberries in the summer which were sold locally.

The flowers were bunched, stood overnight in water packed and sent to market in either London or Sheffield, from about September to May. There they were sold or commission, which is a gamble in which only the grower loses. During the somewhat hectic few weeks of the daffodil season, our friends rallied round and bunched piecework in the long wooden shed at the back of the cottage on the site of the hayshed. This had been a deep litter house belonging to a neighbour; we bought it, do smart led i t and with the help of Mr Stanbury, the carpenter, four of us carried each section in turn on our shoulders along the road. (Have you ever tried carrying something like this when someone has cheerily put your terrier on top and he decides to come and lick your ears?)

The dilapidated lean-to at the end of the cottage had to be rebuilt before we could use it. When we were polarising this, a large strong, wooden door was brought to us by our employee and his father. It was hidden under a load of hay on a pony cart and we were requested to repair it immediately. suspect it came from a derelict mine building and they could not bear to see it was ted.

By the early 1950s, building restrictions were being relaxed and we had sufficient money to rebuild the back of the cottage and add two more bedrooms. Demolition showed that the cement--washed, small sated roof of the back lean-to must have beer self-supporting, because the joists, which were made of four-inch tree trunks with the bark still on, had deteriorated to powder and crumbled away when touched. As the back of the cottage is cob, it would not take the weight of an additional building, so the new portion had to be free standing. The bedrooms were supported or cement block pillars with reinforced concrete lintels and the inside pillars were let into the cob wall. Because of the building regulations, the new part is loftier than the old, but we kept it as low as possible.

We were fortunate to have young men working for us who had been brought up on cottage small holdings and had the skills of the mason, the carpenter, and the mechanic, as well as those connected with cultivation; their forefathers had probably built their own cottages and broken in the land. Their attitude was, ‘let nothing be wasted’, so useful bits of wood were stored, old windows saved in case they could be used in a shed. Once, when we were short of pots in which to stand bunched daffodils, our man arrived with a couple of dozen, gallon paint cans threaded on string and slung round his shoulders. With the rims removed, the old paint burnt out and a coat of black preservative to prevent rusting, they made excellent upright containers, far better than the sloping-sided ones which we had bought.

We retired when increasing production and transport costs threatened to make small-scale flower growing unprofitable, so Algarnick has again changed its use and is now the Garden centre.

Chapter 10: Memories of Devoran when I was a Boy- Feock Local History Notes IV

The following extracts are taken from the memories of John Sims, written by him in 1943 at the age of 82 years. He was born in Devoran in 1861 and later moved to Truro where fine ran brush factory.

I will start from the mouth of the river where the ships came to unload their cargoes. There were American ships with timber in bulk and ships from Norway with timber for the mires and small sailing vessels and steamers with coal and other cargoes. The coal was unloaded and some put into flat" bottomed barges and poled up the river to Perran Foundry. The names of the steam boats were Morfa, Augusta, Ogmore, Effie, Netherton, John Brogdon and Bains. The sailing vessels were Margaret Mine, Eliza Bain. The tugboat Pendennis would tow up four boats at a time; other tugboats were called Effort, Lioness, and North Star.

At John Stephens ship building yards, they built boats, barges, tugboats and sailing vessels; sometimes l would get aboard a vessel and be launched out to sea, it was grand flint for men and boys. Falmouth harbour looked like a forest with the masts of sailing ships. At the end of the quay they built a two-masted vessel; I think it was called ‘The Pordia’ and was built by Mr Hugh Stephens and his sons.

There was a sail of t where they made sails and nearby were the stables for the horses of the Railway Company. There was a workshop for the making of trucks stores for timber and saw-pits where the timber was cut into shapes for the building of vessels. At the lead of the timber yard was a large pond for slushing the river. There was a viaduct down on the quay and trucks were shunted down on the viaduct full of copper ore and ingots of tin which were loaded on to ships and taken to Wales and other places. The empty trucks were taken to the coal dumps and loaded with coal for the mines, the tinworks, vitriol works and arsenic works. Horses pulled the trucks up to where the trains started.

Now will come to the engine sheds and wagon arid smithy shops. Mr Henry Arthur was foreman of the engine shed, Mr Woolcock of the smith's shop and Mr Treskerris of the wagon shop. Mr Jury and his sons worked the sawmills and Mr Millet was the engine worker.

There was a railway from Devoran to Point worked by horses. There was a tin smelting works at Penpol and a lead works at Point. The lead works had a very tall stack and it was built square. I have seen the blue-grey smoke come out of this stack and the tin drawn out of the furnace at the Penpol tin works. There were quays all the way along from Point to Penpol where the ships unloaded their coal. There was also a kiln for blowing lime and a tin mine at Point. The mine went out under the river and an iron shaft went down out in the middle of the river. I went down the mine shaft by a ladder that had iron spokes. They had a driving plant at Point which sashed the stuff that care out of the nine. There is a tot of tin in the mine still, since Taylor’s Company closed it down when tin was only £50 a ton. This was a busy place and a lot of men worked there. The old engine house at Carnon Mine was out of use before I was born.

I was baptised at Devoran Church on March 21st 1862; the first thing in the morning was a hymn, then the ten commandments, we all joined in, boys and girls, and then this was followed by the lord’s Prayer. Sometimes the Vicar would come and talk to us. Where the school closed for a day we had lessons to take home and bring back the next day.

My father was an engine driver at Devoran. He often took me up to Redruth and Lanner Hill to Will Buller’s mines (2), with the coal for the mines. On the way, it was a sight to see so many busy places, there was a weighbridge that weighed the coal and then we would pass the vitriol works (3) and on towards Bissoe where we could see the Carnon Valley line, with launders where they put old tins and sheet iron for the copper water from the mines that went in the filter beds and then in the launders. It would turn the tin cans and iron into copper and after a time we could see copper on the tins; when it was fit they would sweep up the launders and it would look like sand which they would dry, put in sacks and then ship to Wales, to the Copper Works (4).

Then we would come to Paynter’s works, Tallack’s Foundry, and the Arsenic Works (5). The men who worked there wore sponges over their mouths and noses and you could see the arsenic burning in the furnaces. Then we passed the smelting works at Bissoe and Twelve Heads tin stamps and on to Croft Handy Mines, Nangiles and Poldice Mines. Then on to Carn Marth with coal for Pednandrea. For the return journey, they would form a train of trucks filed with ore bricks and blocks of tin to be taken to Devoran for shipment to Wales (6).

Now, about the foundries at Devoran and Perran Wharf. The Basset Wharf Foundry was worked by Mr Jewel and is now worked by Vincent’s Ltd (7). The Perran Foundry was a large and very busy place when they were in full work. They made large engines for pumping water out of the mines and engines for winding to bring the minerals to the top for the stamps. They made engines for steamboats and a lot of large boilers. The small boilers for boats were, made at their boiler works at Ponsanooth, where there was a gunpowder mill as well.

Mir Hall lived in Devoran House before he went to South Africa for the Taylor Company. He was head of the Redruth Chacewater Railway Company. There was a brass band at Devoran and the Jury family had a band that played for the children’s tea treats in a field. There was a pipe and drum band at Perranwell.

At Christmas, the men used to trim the engines with holy and evergreens, the ships, and steamboats they tied up with holly on the top of the masts. Throughout Christmas we got plenty of saffron cake; nearly everyone would ask you to have saffron cake and mince pies. (8)

And now to close, I would like to mention that one of the most happy days spent in Devoran, after many years, was on the occasion of the unveiling of a tablet in the church yard the planting of shrubs in the churchyard in memory of my two great uncles, William and Thomas Lobb; the duty was performed by Viscount Clifton on October 2nd 1942.

Explanatory. Notes:

(1) The stack was built on high ground to carry off arsenic fumes; when it was taken down the bricks were used to build two houses at Point.

(2) Wheal Buller Mines closed during sims boyhood, but the rail terminus was known as Wheat Buller Sidings until 1915 when the railway closed.

(3) The site of the vitriol works is now occupied by the firm of FR. J. Mitchell and Son, Builders, at Bissoe.

(4) Where copper was mined, water in the mine held copper in an acid solution (tailings). This was passed into sumps into which scrap iron had been collected. The iron combined with the acid and freed the copper which then appeared as small particles like sand. This chemical action is known as metal displacement:

Fe + CuSO4 🡪 FeSO4 + Cu

Where tin and copper were mined together they were separated during the dressing process. The copper sulphide was burnt to convert it to copper oxide this was then leached with sulphuric acid (vitriol), which dissolved the copper, forming copper sulphate enabling the process described above to be used.

(5) Paynter’s Works were advertised in the Royal Cornwall Gazette, 3rd July 1890 as being, “to let, all those manufacturing works, formerly used as vitriol and manure works with the tin dressing floors adjoining thereto, situated at Carnon near Bessowe Bridge”.

The ruins of the arsenic works, with their square chimney stack still remain at Point Mills.

(6) United, Nangiles and Poldice mines closed in the 1870s. In John Sims time, united was part of Clifford Amalgamated Mines.

The 19th-century, tiered stack of Pednandrea, now reduced from its original height of 145-ft, still stands in Redruth, not far from the railway station. The mine closed in 1891.

(7) The exact location of Basset Wharf is uncertain, but the Census returns for 1861 and 1871 show Mr John Jewell as a brass and iron founder living at St Johns Terrace, Devoran.

Perran Foundry at Perranarworthal was established by the Fox family in 1791 but it was later taken over by the Williams family. It is now used by Bibby as a cattle food store and previous to that was used by Edward Bros (millers).

(8) The Christmas saffron cake was an old Cornish custom and reminds us that, owing to the high cost of saffron, it was seldom eaten by the poor except at Christmas.

Chapter 11: Devoran Docks- Feock Local History Notes IV

On 26th May 1838, Alfred Jenkins (the agent of the Agar Robartes family and so responsible for development at Devoran) wrote to William Pease (who had been instrumental in creating Par Harbour for Mr Treffry), asking for his plans and advice for the making of the Reservoir, Quays, etc.: “I hope that thou wilt allow me to rely a good deal on thy assistance in this matter, with the kind consent of thy Principal” (Jenkin letter Books, Royal Institution of Cornwall)

William Pease replied from Par on 11th June 1838: “When I wrote you on Monday last did hope… I should have had time to devote a little attention to the contemplated improvements at Devoran”, but he was occupied with other work until the 20th of the month. He goes on: “ To prevent delay as much as possible to commencing operations, I propose to be at Devoran (if I can obtain Mr Treffry's consent, of which I have no doubt) on Saturday the 23rd inst., between the hours of 9 and 10 in the morning. At which time and place I shall be glad to meet you and the person whom you intend to appoint overseer of the work … It would be desirable if you could, by the time I come down, be furnished with the prices at which some part of the work would be undertaken by parties in the neighbourhood, such as the labour of laying the wood for the frontage of the wharfs at so much for every 36 square feet in front - Excavating the ground at per cubic fathom - Driving the Piles (This think, the Carpenter on the spot would undertake …). The prices of the different material should also be immediately ascertained - and one and a half dozen wheel-. barrows should be ordered at once - I get very good ones made for about 10/- each”.

In William Pease’s Diary (still in private possession but some extracts have been made) there is a note:

*1838 Oct. 19- Devoran*

*Expense of 216 feet of wharf frontage - £243-0-6*

*Excavating ground for reservoir - £39-2-0*

*Wood used in 216-ft on length of frontage – 16-ft high and 2 faggots depth equal 6070 (faggots).*

NB. This letter, from William Pease was only recently acquired; it was posted at Par and has a “Lostwithiel Penny Post” handstamp.

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