

# Tam Kernewek

*“A bit of Cornish”*

**CousinJack.org**  
**Facebook.com (Cornish American Heritage Society)**

Kevrol (Volume) 39 Dyllans (Issue) 3

Kodha (Fall) 2021

19th Gathering of Cornish Cousins, July 16-17, 2021 (from TCA newsletter)

**Cornish American Heritage Society**



## Lewydh Messach (**President's Message**)

Kowetha of CAHS (Friends of the CAHS),

We have completed the 19th Gathering, we have a new slate of officers, and we have changed our governance style. That is a lot to put into one sentence!

Our planning for the Gathering definitely paid off. I feel we had a well-rounded, entertaining, informational, and inspirational **Gathering. Unfortunately it wasn't in person, but throughout the two days, we developed a good sense of camaraderie and conviviality.**

Technology is great and a bummer. Probably the main lesson we learned from the speakers and the process is that we can still meet in spite of age, ability, or distance.

**The celebratory attitude of the Gathering started with the anthems. The audio from the videos didn't work (though it worked perfectly for Chris in the run-through the day before).** At a certain point, Heather Dale starting to be our audio! She gave fine renditions of the songs remaining! (We heard the anthems successfully during Saturday opening.)

Both days had the spirit of Howard Curnow and his friendship and contributions to the Cornish.

Gage McKinney as our keynote speaker told of our CAHS history and our potential. We have existed now for forty years. **During those years we have celebrated and researched our Cornish ancestors and their traditions. Together we've learned** what legacy they have left behind throughout the North American continent. But what about the future of the Cornish societies? How will this carry on when we are gone? The answer: continued perseverance perhaps made easier through the new technology.

**Wesley Johnston combined history, genealogy, and computer science to explain his discovery of "thicket" research.** He showed how families with multiple generations of inter-marriages could be reconstructed into databases for multiple outcomes. He put a new twist into our genealogical research thinking. Leaving the question: how can we look at our own research differently?

**We finished the evening with the movie: "The Fisherman's Friend."** Again, technology was kind and cruel to me: It worked the day before but didn't that night. Christopher Haines came up with a great idea to get around my problem, and though the system wasn't perfect, we enjoyed a fun and enheartening movie about a Londoner drawn into the Cornish way of life.

The next day we learned about Butte. But it began with our Cornish friend Bert Biscoe. He shared some memories of Howard Curnow. Bert contacted Chris and me that morning to figure out how to show his poetry. We emailed back and forth. **For some reason Bert wasn't answering. Chris got it figured out by putting the verses in the chat. I figured out during Bert's presentation that he wasn't answering because he was writing verses about the Gathering and our situation that morning!** He sang a song he had composed about his visit to the Gathering in Milwaukee. It was a very intimate visit with poetry, memories, and songs presented from his home.

Aubrey Jaap, Assistant Director from the Butte-Silver Bow County Archives, shared a photo-filled historical narrative of Butte, showing both mining and cultural aspects of the area. Aubrey then included a virtual tour of the archive building. Hopefully we all can visit Butte personally someday.

Our last presentation was from Samantha Felder, a senior at Grand Canyon University, who shared her research project. This included a great deal of hiking in the Wood River Valley in Idaho, where she knew of a dilapidated log cabin with roots **in the Cornish mining community. This is combined with the letters written by Richard Scoble, the cabin's owner. Her purpose** was to prove the authenticity of the Cornish cabin with hopes of finding funds to restore the cabin as a monument of

## Getting to Know our CAHS Officers

President and Historian: Thomas Rusch



Tom has been involved with Cornish culture from his early childhood. His parents were founding members of CAHS in its beginnings in the '80s: His father was treasurer for years, and mother (the Cornish connection) organized educational courses for the CAHS members. Tom supported their efforts and attended a number of Gatherings, as well as visiting Cornwall. He was president of CAHS in the past and intends to continue the traditions and fulfill the goals of CAHS. His interests include hiking (he hiked 100 miles around the western tip of Cornwall in 2016), genealogy, and the Cornish language.

Treasurer: Dot Hosking Huntley



Dot was born and raised in Coos Bay, Oregon. Her great grandfather, William Henry Hosking from St Just in Penwith, emigrated to Pennsylvania about 1866. Her grandfather ended up in Bandon, Oregon (she loves to tell the story about how he ended up there!) beginning the saga of the Oregon Hoskings.

**She's always been intensely interested in her Cornish history and made her first of five visits to Cornwall in 2005.** She took a few hand written family histories and expanded on them finding descendants and lost children along the way. Although Ireland and Scotland share the greater part of her physical ethnicity, Cornwall claims the largest part by far of her emotional ethnicity.

She has been very active in Pacific Northwest Cornish Society since 1999 and became a member of CAHS not too long after that. She was president of her local Douglas County Genealogical Society for four years and has been an active researcher for them for about 10 years. Her most exciting genealogical moment came when her daughter-in-law **was able to find her birth siblings because of Dot's research.**

She has lived with her husband Dan in Sutherlin, Oregon for about 26 years on 8 acres with a variety of dogs, cats, horses, and cows. Their melded family includes two daughters and six sons and a great number of subsequent grands and greats.

Membership: John Trestrail IV



My first visit to Cornwall was in 1983 with my parents, sister, grandmother (from Donegal, Ireland), aunt, and uncle. We stayed in Perranporth and I loved playing in the tidal pools and caves there. I returned on vacation to Cornwall with my daughter (Olivia-18) and son (Owen-16) in 2015. We split time between Newquay and Falmouth. My most recent trip was in 2017 with my wife Kathleen. We honeymooned in St Ives and explored the countryside.

I'm planning to hike the entire South West Coast Path within Cornwall over the next 10 years. The first stage from Bude to St Ives is planned for next spring (2022). I'm getting excited for it!

I grew up in Grand Rapids, MI and moved to Atlanta, GA in 1996 after finishing college at University of Michigan. I work in supply chain strategy for Newell Brands (we make/sell Rubbermaid products, Coleman Camping gear, Sharpie pens, Yankee Candles, Graco cars seats, etc.). For fun, I captain a beer league ice hockey team and play drums in a rock band.

In addition to the family members listed above, I also have a three year old daughter named Betty who keeps me laughing every day with her big personality.

### Officers con't:

My father (John Harris Trestrail III) and mother (Mary Trestrail) are retired in New Mexico. My sister (Amanda Zimolzak) lives in Chicago with her husband and two young girls. I've only ever met one person with my last name that wasn't a direct family member (Hi to Jim Trestrail in Colorado!) Maybe I'll get the chance to meet others through CAHS....

Media Specialist: Christopher Dunstan Haines



Chris lives in Waterford, MI with his wife Elizabeth, and two children (Sam and Fiona). Chris is a Sr. Technical Services Specialist for Consortia & Major Accounts at GALE, A Cengage Company, where he has worked for a few weeks shy of 20 years as of the Gathering.

Chris comes from a family rich in Cornish heritage, his mother being of 100% Cornish blood, despite being born in the United States. He notes that his true connection to Cornwall was felt when he had the opportunity to visit family homes, towns, graves, and meet cousins he never knew he had back in 2004, when attending Dewhelans 2004 – **he felt like he was 'home'**.

Chris has long been active with the Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan (CCLM) as well. He built the current website for CCLM and manages both the CCLM and CAHS websites. In addition, he manages social media pages and groups for both.

Chris is also an active volunteer in his local community. He serves as Lead Coach for West Bloomfield Community Education's (MI) **FIRST Tech Challenge program (middle school robotics)**, and serves as a mentor, advisor, and reviewer/judge for the FIRST LEGO League (elementary) program.

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Haines



As a granddaughter of 4 grandparents who emigrated from Cornwall to the USA, she considers herself 100% Cornish. She grew up thinking her family was from England but learned it was Cornwall over the years, when most of the food eaten, and almost all of her friends were Cornish. Carolyn has been to Cornwall three times, once for the 2004 Dewhelans in Newquay, where her brother Dennis, and Chris and his wife Elizabeth, felt like they were going to be blown into the ocean! They were blessed to be able to visit with family members in their Perry line still living in Cornwall. They were shown around the SW part of Cornwall and were able to be a part of their **cousin's church service. The other two times she went with her husband, Bill. The last time, she** was able to travel to Wales, to see where her Great Grandma was born and baptized (of Cornish parents). She has attended the Kernewek Lowender (South Australia) three times and each time was able to meet and visit with family members found via DNA and research, which included Tasmania to meet a 3rd cousin on the Perry side of her family.

She met her husband in an MSU Microbiology class and has three children, Scott, Kari and Chris. They are grandparents to six grandchildren. Carolyn was employed as a Medical Technologist for over 40 years in both human and veterinary medicine. Currently she is a fitness instructor for East Lansing Prime Time Seniors Center and the YMCA and loves playing Pickleball with both groups.

She has volunteered at the MSU Lending Center for Internationals, tutored for English as a Second Language, delivered Meals on Wheels, and for over 25 years been Usher and Budget Counselor for the Deacons at her church. She served on the board of the Michigan Genealogical Council as Director (2 years) and Newsletter Editor (8 years). She has also been a member and secretary of the Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan for about 15 years. She is pleased to have been able to serve the Cornish American Heritage Society as Newsletter Editor for over 10 years, President for the past 4 years and Treasurer for the past 2 years. It has given her a broad understanding of the CAHS and culture of Cornwall.

## Kesskrifans a-dre Eseleth

(*Correspondence from Societies and Cousin Jack Website*)

Many of us around the world are joining into the Cornish Story online. The next story will be about Cornish Smuggling on September 4, 2021 at 2PM EDT. These sessions are about an hour long and are free but you have to register.

You can go to [Cornishstory.com](http://Cornishstory.com) and scroll down to “**Receive our Monthly Newsletter**” and enter your email address. You will get the next announcement about the program. Cornish Story can also be found via Facebook. Past programs can be found and watched within Facebook. This is being held in association with the Institute of Cornish Studies at the University of Exeter.

---

California Cornish Cousins will be holding their fall lunches this year. If you are in the area you can reserve a spot in the North, Central or Southern California. Check their website at <https://califcornishcousins.org> for more information.

---

Ballarat Branch of CAV held their August meeting via Zoom due to covid restrictions. Safety is the concern for all. Austell Lanyon spoke at the meeting about Modern Gold Mining.

October 2, 2021 the program will be about the Restoring the Stawell Mining Banner with Val D’Angri.

~~~~~

A Cornish Doctor in Rural Australia, by Robyn Coates

This was the title of a paper I presented at the Kernewek Lowender Seminar held in May this year in South Australia. **The theme for presentations this year was ‘Cornish contributions to medicine, health and welfare’.** I became aware of Dr. Adoniah Vallack through reading an article in the Ballarat Historical Society newsletter, The Lamplight, written by Dr. John Garner concerning Ballarat Doctors on the Goldfields and Dr. Vallack had practised at Ballarat for a couple of years.

The fact that he was Cornish prompted me to look into his life. His was a life of service to the various communities, ➔

in which he lived and worked with lots of adventure and travel, offering friendship, medical skill and advice to many people in various countries and towns. Adoniah Vallack was the seventh child of William Vallack (1770-1835) and his wife Judith (m/s Smith) from Maker on the Rame Peninsula in Cornwall. The Vallack family name seems to have been on the Rame peninsula from the early 1600s.



St. Mary's and St. Julian's Church, Maker, Wikipedia

Robyn Coates has presented in several if not more of these seminars and does an excellent presentation. If you would like more information on Dr. Vallack you can click on the following link which is the whole of her talk:

<https://www.arcoates.com/Adoniah-Vallack-Paper.pdf>

~~~~~

### Funding for coastal dunes

Cornwall Council has secured funding to protect sand dunes which act as vital sea defences for coastal communities. Cornwall is one of 25 areas in England in line to benefit from a share of £150M in funding through the Flood and Coastal Innovative Resilience Programme. A total of 40 sandy beach dune locations around the Cornish coastline have been identified as having sustainability issues and will **be subject to ‘state of the dunes’ assessments.**

*Ballarat Branch of Cornish Association of Victoria newsletter*

---

### Mining again in Cornwall?

From the Guardian, July 27, 2021:

The company that is drilling for precious metals at Cornwall’s **United Downs mine has reported discovery of high-grade copper, tin and silver.** Cornish Metals Inc. (Canada based) **which also owns the Duchy’s South Crofty Mine, has published the first set of results from its diamond drilling programme after it earlier found copper and tin in a ‘lithium lode’.**

The mineralized zone is at least 180m deep and goes to more than 260m and cut through two seams of ➔ 39

### **Correspondence con't:**

high grade minerals as well as a completely new seam of copper.

Drilling at United Downs is being performed by Priority Drilling Company using an Epiroc Christensen CT14 Diamond Drill Rig. Samples have been sent for assay at ALS Minerals in Loughrea, County Galway.

From the Western Morning News, July 28, 2021:

Great Wheal Vor, was once described as the richest tin mine ever worked in the world. Work stopped at the 26 mines near Breage in the 1870s, but permission has been granted to Cornish Tin Limited to start exploratory digging. They have the rights to explore for and extract all minerals and aggregates including tin, lithium, copper, tungsten and geothermal energy on the site near Helston.

Historical production grades at Great Wheal Vor were very high between 3-5.5% tin. Even if the current production grade is 2% tin, this would be one of the top three mines in the world, if mined today.

Cornish Tin has been granted planning consent for Phase 1 drilling for a six month programme of 33 diamond drill holes from 26 drill sites.

*Contributed by Sue Davey*

Three groups of singers took part in the presentation; Red River Singers, Cadgwith Singers and The Ingleheart Singers. A special thanks to Hall for Cornwall and Screen Cornwall for helping us bring this project to life!

This promises to be an unmissable, fun and poignant trip down memory lane for anybody connected to Cornwall, so we would really appreciate your help and support in sharing the video as far and wide as possible among your networks so everybody gets the chance to enjoy it.

To re-experience the magic anytime, listen to Cornish Tales, an interactive smart speaker experience that allows **you to travel through the audio archives of Cornwall's museums**, navigating oral histories, songs and memories.

To access more songs and music, Amazon Alexa has an **app called "Cornish Tales"**. If you have an Alexa you can ask her to play various pub songs from Cornwall past. You can enable the App under Games and Skills and simply say, **"Alexa, open Cornish Tales"**.



<https://mailchi.mp/d6fd3fd6f9af/welcome-to-the-cnmas-first-newsletter-8688225?e=3b7710e2f2>

REBOOT CORNWALL  
INVITING YOU TO EXPERIENCE CULTURE FROM THE EDGE

CORNWALL MUSEUMS Partnership

*Our purpose is to create positive social change with museums.*

Memory Lane Tavern Singalong

This program was on facebook live on August 18, 2021.

To access the program on facebook, you can click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=994763714426254&ref=sharing>

This is a unique chance to listen to rare recordings of three classic Cornish songs being sung in a rowdy Cornish pub over 70 years ago. →

### Top Level Tips:

Wills and other Probate Records before 1858  
14 September, 14:00—Virtual program

Learn how to find relevant records and to work out what information they can provide. Find out how you can use wills, administrations, and probate disputes in your research. This short webinar will focus on the wills left by people from all around England and Wales which were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury between 1384 and 1858. Click on: [Register now](#)

*The correct time for your time zone will show up after you register. (14:00 is 9am EDT)*

*National Archives email*

**Correspondence con't:**



Betty and Bard Ruth Cocks—from Chris Dunkerley

Betty Bevins  
97 years

Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting Betty remember how hospitable she was and how she hosted many Christmas parties for the NSW Cornish Association. She also held many Pasty Days.

Born in Falmouth, Cornwall in 1923 she went to the Church of England National Girls School leaving at fourteen. She worked at what was the Falmouth Hydro Hotel until she married at sixteen in 1940 to a dashing Naval Officer, Tom Bevins. Her first three children were born in Falmouth and the last was born in Sydney. The family moved to Australia in 1959.

Betty never left her love for Cornwall behind, and they joined the Cornish Association at its formation in 1974 and was very active, later becoming the first lady President and was on committee until just a few years before her death. She went to gatherings in the United States and Vancouver Island. Her first Kernewek Lowender was in 1977. She was a regular at the Glen Innes Celtic festivals wearing her Cornish national tartan skirt at the parades. She often spoke of how lucky she was to be able to travel and meet fellow Cornish people.

She was made Bard of the Gorsedh at Marazion in 1995 which she saw as a great honor. Her bardic name in Cornish is Myrgh Aberfal (Daughter of Falmouth).

*Cornish Association of New South Wales newsletter*

**Mes a'n Kemmyn/Out of the Ordinary**  
at  
Kresen Kernow

This summer, Kresen Kernow is holding a very special temporary exhibition as four historic Cornish language play scripts return to Cornwall for the first time in centuries. The exhibition unites The Cornish Ordinalia and The Creation of the World (on loan from the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford) with The Life of St Meriadoc/*Bewnans Meria-sek* and The Life of St Keal/*Bewnans Ke* (on loan from the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth) under one roof for the first time in history. The manuscripts form a very significant part of Cornwall's written and language heritage, as well as providing glimpses of a distinct theatrical tradition which took place here centuries ago.

To watch a video click on:

<https://www.facebook.com/kresenkernow/videos/4073248356054890>

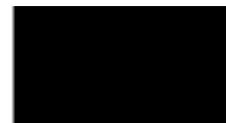
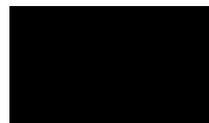
Also

Cornwall and the American West

<https://kresenkernow.org/exhibitions/cornwall-and-the-american-west/>

David Thomas, Archivist, talks about some letters and publications about the Gold Rush and mentions several Cornish men who traveled to the USA on a YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23axxzo9hnE>



**Correspondence con't:**

The Pacific Northwest Cornish Society held their March and July meetings via Zoom. Their March meeting featured **Karenza of Hireth Medicine, who reflected on "Hireth", a Cornish word with no direct translation to English, but known as "a longing for home, a place never yet known."**

Themes were discussed such as the Cornish identity, the brave exploring nature of the Cornish people, and the **intense, sometimes emotional, impact of "being at home" in more than one geographical place, sometimes continents apart.**

*Pacific Northwest Cornish Society newsletter*

**Grand Bard, Elizabeth Carne's St. Piran's Day Speech**

If you would like to see her speech:

<https://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/speech-for-st-pirans-day-from-elizabeth-carne-melennek-grand-bard/>

~~~~~

Cornwall National Music Archive—New Project  
Cornish Tea Treats

The project to collect, preserve and share aspects of this Cornish phenomenon has spanned almost two hundred



From Cornwall National Music Archive

years. Anecdotes, memories, music and memories are still being received and the result is a collection of hugely significant events which meant so much to the Cornish communities.

The Archives will be taking a look at the elements of the annual event to see which parts stayed the same while others changed over time.



Chapels, churches and parishes held the tea treats. The Archives will be studying the materials, that have been or

will be, submitted which provide a picture of the communities that held them.

Tea Treat Day consisted of many aspects and events to which many people volunteered or contributed. Some of the aspects were: the preparation, procession, official opening, the music, the Stannins, entertainment, sports, and games. The tea, tea treat buns, evening concert, serpentine walk and the conclusion.

Tea Treats seem to come from the creation of Sunday schools in about the 1780s in the Anglican church in Redruth.

There are several different parts to the report that you can access from:

<https://cornishnationalmusicarchive.co.uk/content/cornish-tea-treats-introduction/>

~~~~~

Calling all Trethewys

**If you are a Trethewy or have Trethewy's in your family tree,** you might be interested to hear about the Trethewy Society and its One-Name Project. You can find out more on their website -

[Trethewy One-Name Study](#)

The TRETHERY SOCIETY was originally set up by Alan Kent, and after his death the Society and One-Name Study continue to be run by Sally Whiffing and Raymond Trethewey.

The aims of the Trethewy Society are:

- to share information and research into the Trethewy Family
- to document the trees of everyone with the name Trethewy (or variant)
- to verify those trees through DNA testing where possible
- to gain a better understanding of the early Trethewys and how the different branches may be connected

Sally Whiffing, the administrator of the Trethewy One-Name Study writes:

As you will see from the website introduction, though only fairly basic information has been added so far, the project website is being continually updated. You can contact them at:

<https://trethewy-one-name.net/suggest.php?page=Trethewy+One-Name+Study>

## ScoMo at G7

Scott Morrison (ScoMo), the Australian Prime Minister, was invited to attend some of the G7 Summit in Carbis Bay. What he did afterwards got him into trouble at home.

Mr Morrison has Cornish ancestors and took the opportunity to do some 'full-immersion' research into his roots. His sixth-great grandparents, John and Jane Roberts, lived and died in St Kevern. ScoMo went to visit their grave and,

while in the village, dropped into the Three Tuns pub to get some "proper English pub grub" and wash it down with some local beer. In his efforts to gain an indepth taste for Cornish life, he also visited the Old Quay House in Hayle and Jamaica Inn at Bolventor. The press photographed him in physically close to pub staff without a mask. From the viewpoint of Australians subject to travel and social restriction his side-trip appeared to be a 'pub crawl' and a holiday. It did not go down well.



Sydney Morning Herald

William was born in 1755, the youngest son of John & Jane Roberts, and was a naughty boy. He stole "five pound and a half weight of yarn" from a Launceston trader in 1786. He was caught and tried at Bodmin Assizes and was probably held in custody at Bodmin Jail which had been built only a few years earlier. Again ScoMo provided the press with unfortunate photo opportunities when he visited the jail that has recently been reincarnated as an historic tourist attraction.

William Roberts was later held in prison hulks off the shore of Plymouth before being transferred to the Scarborough, one of the First Fleet of 11 ships to sail to Australia. The fleet left Portsmouth in May 1787 and arrived in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788. The date of the First Fleet's arrival, seen as the start of Australia's colonisation by white settlers, is now celebrated as Australia Day. It is highly controversial and has been branded as "Invasion Day", with Indigenous groups campaigning to change the date of the national holiday. That is another reason why some Australians did not like their Prime Minister celebrating his origins.

William served seven years in custody, labouring as a carpenter. Kezia Brown had also been convicted of theft and was deported from England two years after William. →

They met in custody and had two children before getting married after they were released and granted land. They had eight more children and built a successful farm, Hobby Farm near Windsor northwest of Sydney. It stayed in the family for generations.

Scott Morrison can trace his ancestry back to Edward the youngest of William and Kezia's children. Edward was born in 1813 and inherited the farm when William died in 1820 at the age of 65. Kezia spent another 34 years as a widow.

## Recruitment drive

At the biennial general meeting in May the falling membership was discussed and some ideas came up to recruit new members. I have already reported on the creation of our Facebook group. It now has 7 members and has introduced one new person to the Association. It's a start!

The Christchurch branch has distributed posters around libraries in its area and has taken advantage of free publicity for its meetings on community radio and newspapers. They have also generated new interest. Please keep spreading the word as it is important to build membership to keep our Association going.

Editor: *The CAHS is also trying new activities and ideas to spur interest and try and get the younger than 60's interested.*

*New Zealand Cornish Association newsletter*



Gwennap Pit Walk Around

If you start at the bottom and walk around every level it is a mile. When you are done, you can go into the museum there and get a certificate. Cute way to get in some exercise.

*Sent from Susan Davey with her grandson*

Marcella Cherry Russell



Picture compliments of Dorothy Beckwith, taken at the Brewster in Shullsburg, WI

Marcella Cherry Russell with husband Chic at the Brewster Cafe, Shullsburg, WI. What a great Cornish lady, one who was so pleased to host any Cornish person I brought to her with extra side dishes at no charge as her personal gift of recognition. She even hosted Grand Bard Ann Trevenan **Jenkins on the day that Shullsburg named it "Ann Trevenan Jenkins Day" in an official ceremony at the restaurant.**

SHULLSBURG, Wis. — Marcella Cherry Russell passed away peacefully at her home in Shullsburg on July 31, 2021. She was born on March 24, 1933 to Glenn and Ila (Fowler) Cherrey. Her father passed away when she was 4. She spent her childhood in Shullsburg and attended Shullsburg public schools. During WWII she and her mother lived in Beloit for a couple of years while Ila worked at an ammunitions factory.

On January 22, 1949 Marcella married the love of her life **and lifelong best friend Charles "Chic" Russell. They had a wonderful marriage for more than 72 1/2 years and farmed together for many years. After retiring, they became full time proprietors of the Brewster Café in Shullsburg in 1995.**

**Marcella's bread pudding with rum sauce, pasty, Friday fish boil and many other delicious dishes drew customers from the surrounding communities for many regulars from Madison, Monroe, Galena, Dubuque, Platteville, and many other villages and cities. Customers enjoyed the food and atmosphere for nine years. Known for her outstanding pasty, it was served on Thursdays, but only by reservation since she made the pasties herself.**

*Contributed by member Dorothy Beckwith*

Immigrant Ancestor Project  
by Allison DePrey Singleton  
Allen County Public Library

Searching for immigrant ancestors can be difficult. Names can be changed, handwriting can be hard to read, transcriptions in databases can be wrong, and so much more. One tool to help with researching those immigrant ancestors is the Immigrant Ancestor Project, compiled by Brigham Young University's Center for Family History and Genealogy:

<http://immigrants.byu.edu/>

The Immigrant Ancestor Project consists of data mined by student interns in European repositories and brought back to Brigham Young University. There is a list of the repositories on the website. The data is then verified by student researchers before being added to the database. As with all databases, there are limits, including the locations where data was mined.

The languages included in this database could also present a roadblock to finding your ancestors. They include English, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch, German, and Portuguese. If you are looking for an ancestor who lived in a country with a different predominant language, this database will not be helpful for your research. As a researcher, you can search it by one of these languages. You are also able to search by repository, which can be especially helpful if you already know where in the country of origin your ancestors originated. Your ancestors could have lived in one location and departed the country from another that had records.

The basic search form on the homepage asks just for the name. When you click on the Search option tab at the top of the page, you get additional options for searching, including adding dates, locations, and other pieces of information. At the bottom, there is an option to add even more information through an Advanced Search Option. You are then able to search by name, gender, events (that you get to specify), places, and attributes, or other pieces of identifying information.

Next time you are researching an immigrant ancestor, make sure to check the Immigrant Ancestor Project to see if he or she is included. The project is a work in progress, so you may not find your immigrant ancestor, but every search option is beneficial when conducting research. You never know what you can find until you do the search.



Howard Curnow

It is with great sadness we bring you word of the death of Howard, age 84, of St. Hilary, Cornwall. Howard had been fighting Lymphoma for several years and he passed away on 8 June 2021.

**Born in 1936 on his father's farm in St. Hilary, near Marazion,** Howard was the third of seven children. He attended Humphrey Davey School in Penzance, leaving at 15 for a short lived stint in the Navy before enrolling in an engineering course with GEC in Birmingham. While staying there at Castle Bromwich, he unearthed long lost gardens, which today are open to the public. National service followed school where he was stationed at the NATO headquarters in Paris. While attending a dinner hosted by a Breton duchess for 16 guests from all different countries, he was unexpectedly asked to give a talk on Cornwall.

**Howard was behind the revival of St. Piran's Day celebrations** and is responsible for the recent resurgence of interest in Cornish history and culture. In 2011 he created the *Gorsedd Awen Ceremony* held mid summer.

**In the 1990's he helped establish Cornish Associations and Societies (including SWCS) throughout the USA, Canada, Australia, Cuba and elsewhere.** He served 12 years as Chairman of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, was the **Hal-an-Tow Crier at Helston's Flora Day for 41 years, he persuaded County Hall to fly the Cornish flag outside its offices in Truro, organized and hosted a Grand Curnow Homecoming in 1990 at the family farm for 350 Curnows' from all over the world, and planned and led a march to London in 1997 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of An Gof's 1497 Cornish protest march.**

In 1990 he became a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh. He took *Kernow* as his Bardic name as that is the Cornish language word for Cornwall and the word that represents his surname. One of his proudest moments was in 2009

he took a group of Cornish students, aged 10-18 to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The TV news **gave them an accolade of putting on the 'best little show in town' by rowing a Cornish gig through the canals during the meeting.**

Howard was a keen sailor, a performer in the St. Erth players, and a member of the Young Farmers for many years. He eventually became a teacher at Helston Grammar school, where, as careers teacher, he initiated unique work experiences for senior pupils.

In 1966 he married Trewey Davy, with whom he had three children, Jeremy, Jennifer and Nicholas. He built the house they lived in on a corner of the home farm.

Howard left teaching in the 1990s to travel the world searching out Cornish communities and bringing them back in the fold. At home, he threw himself into the cause of Kernow, reviving old traditions and celebrating the Cornish heritage. Music was also a part of Howard, singing with the Marazion Apollow Choir, the Cape Cornwall Singers, many **Friday evenings at the Cadgewith pub sings, and later on the Thraw'd Together. It was in the 1990s that he began the 'Inside Cornwall' tours that were personalized to the visitor, taking people to churches, cemeteries and places that were important to the lives of their ancestors.**

Howard married his second wife, Elizabeth in 2013. He was first diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and did well with treatment until 2020. He spent his last years writing his autobiography entitled **"Cornwall, My Country"**.

Howard will be missed by not only the native Cornish but by the diaspora around the world.

Howard hoped to live long enough to see his book published, but that did not happen. The title of his book was **inspired by the song "Cornwall My Country", written by his friend and neighbor Harry Glasson.** In it he tells of many childhood adventures including memories of bombs falling nearby during WW II.

*Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society newsletter*

DONYARTH (Doniert) - This king is recorded as allowing a young Alfred of Wessex to mount a hunting expedition across the Exe in the 860s AD. Little is recorded of Donyarth, but in 875AD the Welsh Easter Annals report that 'Dungarth rex Cerniu, id est Cornubiae, mersus est.' (Donyarth, king of Cornwall, that is of the Cornish people, is drowned'. In St Cleer stands an ornate Celtic carved stone, date to the late 800sAD, saying 'Doniert rogavit pro anima (Doniert asked for [this memorial] for the sake of his soul'. Nearby Golitha Falls on the Fowey have credibly led to a tale that Doniert drowned while out hunting. Another gap in our records, ie. at least one more King, until ...

HUWAL - The Anglo Saxon Chronicles reports in 927AD that King Athelstan of Wessex (grandson of Alfred) had power of the kings that were in this island; first Huwal King of the West Welsh (Westweala, a term only previously applied to the Cornish). Who next? We have no record. Names have been suggested, such as Conan though he may have been a late Celtic Bishop.

CADOC - meaning 'man of battle'. There is a later Norman reference to one Cadoc as having been the last of the Cornish royal line at the time of the Norman Conquest. He was apparently appointed briefly by the first Norman king William 1 as the first Eoarl (Earl) of Cornwall c. 1068. When he died a Breton supporter of William was appointed Earl (which was later created as a Dukedom – Charles the current Duke). Cadoc's descendants however are said to have lived on in the keverangow of Pydar (and neighbouring Bodmin). The Bodmin lawyer Thomas Flamank, one of the leaders of the uprising against Henry V11 of England in 1497, firmly claimed direct descent from Cadoc. Flamanks still exist in Cornwall and the diaspora.

*Compiled by Chris Dunkerley - Source: Various, especially The Promontory People (An Early History of the Cornish) by Craig Weatherhill.*

**Used with Chris's permission.**



We generally think of the dam-building animals as being residents in North America, but they were once found across the UK and northern Europe too. They were hunted to extinction there hundreds of years ago for their fur to make hats.



Jack Hicks / Cornwall Wildlife Trust

The Cornwall Wildlife Trust has set up a Beaver Project involving the release of a pair of beavers into a special enclosure on Woodland Valley 3 Farm near Ladock. The project is being run on strict scientific grounds in collaboration with the Universities of Exeter, Southampton and Plymouth.

A 5 acre/2 hectare area of plantation woodland along Nankilly water, a stream at Woodland Valley Farm near Ladock, has been fenced to create a beaver enclosure. Two adult beavers, one male, one female, were released into a pond on-site and have been left to re-engineer the area through dam and canal building. The beavers were released in June 2017 and began dam building after just 2 nights. Dams are continually being extended by the beavers and new ones constructed; every week there is a noticeable change.

Water flow and quality was measured over many months before the beavers were introduced to establish a base line. It is hoped to show that the beavers will be highly beneficial to the local environment.

The pools created by their dams are expected to slow down the flow of water increasing local water resources for times of drought, creating wetlands for other species and purifying the water at the same time.

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/on-land/cornwall-beaver-project>

Cornwall Wild Life Trust

## Zoom Meetings between Newsletters

It was decided at our 19th Gathering of Cornish Cousins to have a few more meetings each year so we get to know each other better and also to not have to wait so long to get together between Gatherings.

You will need to REGISTER to receive a LINK for each presentation

October 30, 2021, 11am EDT (90 min)

### **Mark Connor and Damian Nance, “Recreating The President Pumping Engine of the Friedensville Mines”**

Damian Nance (Kerreck) and Mark Connor, who you may remember from our 18<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the Cornish Cousins in Salisbury/Gold Hill, North Carolina, will give us an update on efforts since that time to preserve the ruins of The President Engine House, the only known Cornish style pumping engine house in the United States. The President engine was the largest beam engine in the United States and the largest and most powerful single cylinder, rotative steam engine ever constructed. Although manufactured in Philadelphia foundries, the designer and erector of the engine, John West, was from Cornwall where his family enjoyed an excellent reputation for their engine designs. The talk will also discuss how information gleaned from archival and other knowledge sources was pulled together by Damian Nance and Mark to support the creation of a short animated movie about The President Engine by a talented engineer from Belgium, Guy Janssen. **Guy’s creation will be shown during the meeting.**

Damian, whose bardic name is Karreck (rock in English) is an internationally recognized geologist and additionally broadly recognized for his studies and surveys of beam engines and other Cornish inspired engines in the United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Damian is the grandson of Robert Morton Nance, Grand Bard Mordon, and one of the founding members of the Cornish revival movement.

Mark Connor is a retired business man who has been working closely with Lehigh University and the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) to protect, stabilize, preserve and recognize The President Pumping Engine and surviving engine house ruins and surroundings.

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/Cm58DxCnfxAMnVP48>

November 20, 2021, 11am EST

### **Richard Hoskin, “Invention & Dissent”**

Much of our pride in our Cornish ancestry stems from the inventiveness of our forefathers and, some of us would admit, from their willingness to stand up to authority — all right, their bloodymindedness. These qualities showed up in abundance as I researched Cornwall’s fascinating history in the late 18th century for my historical novel, *The Miner & the Viscount*. Cornwall was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. There were 70 steam engines working in the deep hard-rock mines, mostly for draining the underground water, especially in the tunnels that ran under the seabeds. And above ground many a Dissenter kept the official Church of England on its toes, especially the Methodists. John Wesley visited Cornwall 32 times, riding his horse for five or six days to preach to his flock.

Dissenters who refused to subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles supporting the Church of England were barred from attending Oxford and Cambridge and hence limited in their access to the learned professions. Many resorted to business, the most enterprising with remarkable success. In my talk, I tell the story of the Quaker giants of industry and invention in Cornwall. They formed smelting companies, they financed pilchard fishing and exporting, they invested in shipping and civil engineering, they founded banks. Notably, the Quaker polymath William Cookworthy, learned of huge deposits of china clay on a Cornish moorland, cracked the Chinese code of manufacturing porcelain, and with his Quaker partners founded an industry.

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/eE28bpbsPcysqBDq8>

**Zoom con't:**

Ron James "A quick look at Cornish folklore (and why it is the best in Britain)"

April 9, 2022 11am EDT

Ronald M. "Ron" James is a professional historian and folklorist who taught both subjects at the university level and had state and national appointments until his retirement in 2012. Among his dozen books is *The Folklore of Cornwall: The Oral Tradition of a Celtic Nation* (Exeter, 2018), a finalist for the prestigious Katharine Briggs Award of the Folklore Society. His talk will look at how Cornwall's folklore stands out and why all Cornish should be proud of that legacy. Ron will explore how the remarkable collectors of Cornish folklore stood above many of their contemporaries, leaving works that far exceed what is available in most other places in Britain. In addition, the talented droll tellers of Cornwall created a body of oral tradition unlike what can be found elsewhere, a body of folklore adapted to the sea and the mines and everything that defines what it is to be Cornish. Since the release of his book, Ron has published several more articles on the subject and is now working on a sequel volume: he will disclose some newly emerging insights not to be found in his book.

[Link to register in next newsletter](#)

---

**President's message con't:**

**Cornish presence in Idaho. She hopes to pass her love of history and "Cornishness" to her own children and future students as she completes her education to become a high school history teacher.**

In my closing remarks there were lots of thank-yous. **Then and now I'd like to especially thank Carolyn Haines, our past president and continuing editor of Tam Kernewek, without whose leadership this Gathering would never have been possible. And to Chris Haines, whose behind-the-scenes work with the Zoom presentation and script brought it all together as a cohesive presentation.**

Meur ras ha yeghes da (Thanks and good health!),  
Tom

Officers of the Cornish American Heritage Society for the years 2021-2023

President—Thomas Rusch, 528 Autumn Crest Drive, Watertown, WI 53094— [ThomasDRusch@gmail.com](mailto:ThomasDRusch@gmail.com)

Membership—John Trestrails, 1380Brawley Circle, Atlanta, GA 30319— [johnnyfoos@gmail.com](mailto:johnnyfoos@gmail.com)

Treasurer—Dot Hosking Huntley, 486 Plat B Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479— [dot97479@gmail.com](mailto:dot97479@gmail.com)

Media Specialist—Christopher Haines, 391 Dover Road, Waterford, MI 48328-3573— [81chains@81chains.com](mailto:81chains@81chains.com)

Newsletter Editor—Carolyn Haines, 3835 Bush Gardens Lane, Holt, MI 48842— [hainesc@msu.edu](mailto:hainesc@msu.edu)

Historian—Thomas Rusch, 528 Autumn Crest Drive, Watertown, WI 53094— [ThomasDRusch@gmail.com](mailto:ThomasDRusch@gmail.com)

Founding President - Paul Liddicoat, 1920-2001 Past President - Carolyn Haines

*Tam Kernewek* is a Digital newsletter which comes out four times a year. .  
Send articles to be included in newsletter to Carolyn Haines, [EMAIL](mailto:hainesc@msu.edu) address above.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS ARE 15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, 15 AUGUST AND 15 NOVEMBER

There are no dues. Anyone with Cornish descendants or an interest in Cornwall is welcome to join.

Music in the O. R.  
By Dorothy Beckwith (myrgh.perran)

The 17th of August 2021 was the day my surgery became reality. After postponement of nasal surgery in early April 2020 due to the co-vid pandemic, my surgery became reality in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Benjamin Marcus, nose specialist, met with my son Chris and me in a small room at U. W. Hospital. An exceptionally busy surgeon, he is booked up until the 4th of January 2022!

This was my third meeting with Dr. Marcus. And if you know me, you know that I would be sure that he knew that I am Cornish. During our first meeting when personality and acceptance of this type of surgery was brought up, I mentioned that I am Cornish and therefore highly independent and maintain a great deal of individualism and would handle the event with Cornish strength. Since he has a connection to Cornwall through his sister, he knew exactly what I was talking about.

At our second meeting and before he could say a word I said **"Guess where the President is today." He didn't know. "Cornwall", I said. So now he remembered me.**

August 17th. Since I was going to have the surgery that day, I had a pasty for my **"last" supper. But I told my son I could not tell Dr. Marcus that in such terms! So when he came into my room, my first words were: "Guess what I had for supper last night." He didn't know. "Cornish Pasty", I exclaimed. "Ah, yes, my Cornish gal!" he replied.**

After he left, Chris and I prayed, and then I had the final preps for surgery. I was wheeled to the operating room and as I entered, music was playing. My eyes got big and I sat **up on the gurney. "Where did you get that music?" I inquired. No one knew, but I sang along to the song, and then everyone clapped. The song kept playing as Dr. Marcus came into the room and continued to play throughout the surgery while various nurses or techs joined in on the chorus. Even Dr. Marcus sang a few words and hummed a few bars as he was stitching my nostrils. And I was smiling the whole time.**

And then it was all over. My doctor and his helpers had been singing the words to our anthem: TRELAWNY. I felt so honored, so privileged for the tribute paid to my Cornish roots and to the country that still calls me to come home.

Hocking Descendants Society  
HOCKING Family Roots: World-wide clan is ever keen to learn more of their predecessors

Members of the HOCKING family went from Cornwall around the world during the great emigration years of the last century and since.

Australia is the base of the HOCKING DESCENDANTS SOCIETY INC. (HDS) with branches encircling the globe in research and interest.

From Cornwall, England, Canada, United States of America, New Zealand and Australia, members continue to search for **family links to share with their " new found cousins."**

The Hocking Descendants Society Inc. was formed in 1988 by a group of Hocking cousins in Victoria, Australia, who started sharing their family trees. It has grown from there to having over 42,000 names and over 390 "trees" in our database.

Our aim is to form a lasting record of Hocking families throughout the world, unite family members and assist in their family history research as well as promoting the exchange of information among family members and to stimulate interest in the history and traditions of those who have a connection or concern for Cornwall.

Our society is open to all who have a connection to the Hocking family name either by birth, marriage or ancestry, irrespective of its spelling.

If you have a Hocking connection and would like to find out more about the HDS, please contact:

*Denise Phillips*

President: [hdsresident01@gmail.com](mailto:hdsresident01@gmail.com)

Research Director: [hockingdescendants01@gmail.com](mailto:hockingdescendants01@gmail.com)

Web: [Hocking Descendants](http://Hocking Descendants)

## New Bards Welcomed

Thirteen new bards will be welcomed into the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow at Bude Castle on 4 September 2021 by the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek*, in recognition of their outstanding work in serving Cornwall.

**“Gorsedh Kernow was established with the aim of celebrating and promoting Cornwall’s distinctive Celtic culture and many of this year’s new bards are honoured for working in their community to nurture and promote Cornish culture”** said Grand Bard Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek*. **“Some have recorded the history of their parish and its archaeology; some have been spokespersons for the current needs of their community and others have recorded our landscape and way of life through painting, poetry and film. Some have used Kernewek, our language to promote Kernow while others have fostered relationships with other Celtic countries through music. Two new bards live in Australia where they work to celebrate Cornish culture and conserve the Cornish way of life which their ancestors brought from their homeland. Whatever way they have demonstrated their love for Cornwall, the commitment to Kernow by all is exemplary and Gorsedh Kernow is proud to have them in the College of Bards.”**

We are excited to be able to hold the ceremony in public again, which was not possible in 2020. It will be held in the Castle grounds in Bude at 2pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September and all are welcome. A concert will follow at 6.30pm at the bandstand. On Sunday, there is a chance to try your hand at the Cornish language in an open fun morning session in Stratton Lecture Hall at 10am on Sunday and a guided walk around Stratton at 12pm (meet at the carpark). The weekend finishes with Evensong at the Parish church in Stratton at 3pm.

The new bards for 2021 are:

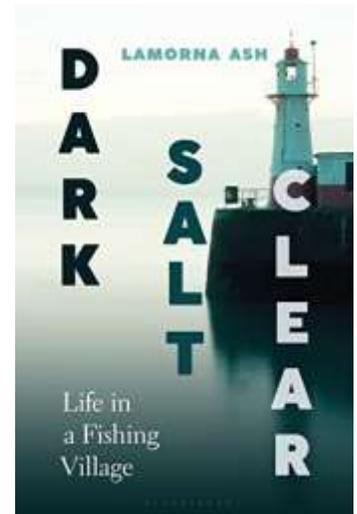
- ◆ Alice HOLLAND-BYWATERS, Helston by examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow.
- ◆ Anne KENNEDY-TRUSCOTT, Liskeard for promoting Cornish/Irish relations through music.
- ◆ Jo MARCH, Gunnislake, for promoting and recording **Cornwall’s unique culture, identity and landscape** through painting.
- ◆ Terry MOYLE, South Darenth, for exceptional community service to the Parish of St.Keverne.
- ◆ Ken PEAK, Victoria, Australia, for promoting Cornish Identity in Australia.
- ◆ Kenneth RICKARD, St. Dennis, for his exceptional community service to the Parish of St. Dennis.
- ◆ Colin ROBERTS, Mullion, for promoting Cornish culture and identity throughout his life.
- ◆ Adrian RODDA, Camborne, for promoting Cornish heritage and identity through poetry, history, and archaeology.
- ◆ Bill SCOTT, Constantine, for embracing Cornish identity and culture in the Media.
- ◆ Tamsin SPARGO, Redruth, for being a valuable supporter of Cornish culture and language.
- ◆ Liesl WARNER, South Australia, for promoting Cornish identity in Australia.

<https://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/>



Taklow a Vern

Dark, Salt, Clear  
By Lamorna Ash



Life in a fishing village. I recently finished reading a new book set in Cornwall. It is a work of non-fiction. Ms Ash grew up in London, but her mother grew up in Cornwall. When completing requirements for her Master's Degree in Anthropology, she had to complete a local study somewhere. After considering exotic places to do the work a friend suggested Cornwall. She settled on Newlyn, one of the few remaining authentic fishing villages along Mount's Bay. Weeks later she was the only female on board a trawler, heading out to sea, affording a glimpse of a fisherman's world.

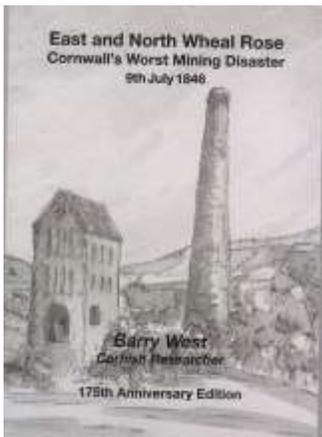
While the book is insightful, I felt there were too many philosophical thoughts from other authors. Very interesting was the ongoing story of her time spent working on a fishing trawler and living the real life of a fisherman, which included days on end out of sight of land and how she learned to gut all kinds of fish 'slowly', and then the shock of returning back to their home in Newlyn, family and yes, the local pub for excess drinking, perhaps as a medicine to help make the transitions back to dry land.

Lamorna tells that even though she comes from a long line of Cornish ancestors, she was a 'posh' London girl who knew Cornwall only as a tourist. As an anthropologist, she wanted to know it as a rooted resident. At this she was successful and her insights splendid.

Among the observations about the fishing industry, she mentions Mousehole which in the winter months is now nearly a ghost town. Many of the cottages have been sold as summer lets. It brings hundreds of people but rising prices have made it nearly impossible for local people, especially the young, to purchase homes in the area. She also addresses the role the pubs and alcohol plays on the life cycle of the residents, especially the fishermen, and the related issues it has caused. Not an easy read, but an important one of the culture and life in a fishing village of today.

Available at Amazon.com in kindle, audiobook or hardcover.

Review by Glen Ridnour, Cornish Bard



East and North Wheal Rose  
**Cornwall's Worst Mining Disaster**  
9 July 1846  
by Barry West

I have just finished reading a new book commemorating the 175th anniversary of the disaster which happened on July 9, 1846 at Newlyn East. At 1pm a violent thunderstorm occurred which sent tons of rain water down the shafts flooding all the lower levels. Despite the best efforts of the mine captain, John Middleton, while 161 miners were rescued and saved—38 men and boys died at East Wheal Rose and one at North Wheal Rose.

The book gives the names of those who perished and their families. Some of the families emigrated to America. Some that are mentioned are John Stevens whose wife Eliza and 9 children emigrated to Wisconsin where she remarried a William Parnell. It mentions that descendants can still be found in the area. John Sobey who helped with the rescue had members of his extended family who settled in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

The book is available from the author: [barrycwest123@icloud.com](mailto:barrycwest123@icloud.com) or: <https://www.facebook.com/barry.west.9809>

Review by Susan Davey, Cornish Bard of Cornwall

**Taklow a Vern con't:**

## Cornwall, My Country by Howard Curnow



Howard Curnow was the most creative person I ever knew. Creativity and love of the homeland were traits that made him **a great champion of the Cornish people and Cornwall's finest ambassador to the world. Cornwall, My Country is his life story** told in his own inimitable, engaging, witty, and humorous style.

**Howard's life might well have ended during childhood were it not for the intervention of his lifelong friend, Serendipity.** One day he rode on the framework of a one-ton roller as horses pulled it across a field on the family farm. He slipped, fell, and only his head was clear of the roller when the horses were stopped. The soil was moist, and his body was pressed into it without a single broken bone. Good fortune saved him for a long life filled with remarkable events.

**As a young man "up country" at university, Howard made two notable archeological discoveries and successfully managed** a near disaster at a major power station. Then, after completing national service at NATO headquarters in Paris, he returned to Cornwall for brief stints as an electrician and a farm supplies salesman. In his late 20s, his friend Serendipity planted a seed that led to a turning point in his life when casually asked whether he ever considered becoming a teacher. The seed sprouted, he returned to university, gained teaching certification, married, began a family, and then returned to Cornwall. For nearly 15 years he served as Head of Vocational Guidance at Helston School, helping students onto a path toward their own futures. One of those students, Petroc Trelawney of BBC radio and television, wrote the foreword to Cornwall, My Country.

In 1989 Howard reached the next turning point when he left teaching and began a very self-fulfilling phase of his life. Following a trip to Australia where he met many folks named Curnow, he began plans for the Grand Curnow Homecoming family reunion attended by 350 worldwide visitors during the same September 1990 weekend when he became a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow. The reunion led to invitations marking the start of many visits to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the **USA, and even Cuba. He became Cornwall's unofficial ambassador working to preserve and champion Cornish identity** and culture while encouraging formation of Cornish heritage societies and helping descendants of the Cornish diaspora reconnect to family roots.

**Cornwall, My Country is a must read, can't-put-it-down** book for those with interest in Cornwall and the Cornish people. It is the amazing story of a Cornishman who led a life of consequence, a life that made a genuine difference.

To be published in September and pricing will be determined at that time.

If you are interested in a book, please contact Bill Curnow at: [wjcurnow@kernow.com](mailto:wjcurnow@kernow.com)

## Preserving a Pioneer Cornish Cabin in Idaho By Samantha Felder, Grand Canyon University

About 15 miles northeast of the historic town of Hailey, Idaho, lies an obscure cabin, known only to locals and the ancestors of its architect, like me. According to oral history, this cabin was believed to have belonged to James Smitham, a miner and my great-great-grandfather, who immigrated to the once bustling boomtown of Muldoon from Cornwall, at the end of the 19th century. However, as I sought to verify the origins of this structure, as part of a college assignment, my research revealed that this dwelling, which stands on the ancestral lands of various Tribes, may be one of the only verified Cornish buildings still standing in the state. With this knowledge, I created a public history proposal aiming to provide an educational experience that showcases the contributions of both these cultures to the formation of the region.

Like many places in the West, Idaho became a prime destination when gold was discovered in the Boise Basin. However, expansion of the industry into the Wood River Valley only occurred after the mixed Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, whose people had inhabited the land for more than 10,000 years, were forcibly removed and white settlers were given unfettered access. Among the newcomers, were hundreds of Cornish immigrants, who had left their homelands after the collapse of the mining industry. According to a collection of letters housed at the Kresen Kernow Archives, in Cornwall, James Smitham and his uncle, Richard Scoble, were two such immigrants to the town of Muldoon; though, this same collection indicates that it was actually Scoble who constructed the cabin, during his time managing two nearby mines.

In order to illustrate the rich cultural influences of the area, the project that I am proposing would be completed in two phases, including the construction of an interpretive trail leading to the cabin site and the restoration of the cabin.

The Interpretive Trail would be the portion of the project that escorts visitors on a groomed trail through the beautiful natural landscapes, abundant in this area. However, the highlight of this experience will be the signage that provides a unique insight into the history and culture of the multiple Indigenous Tribes who inhabited the area. Phase one will require the repair of an existing 3-mile route that has been partially washed out and will directly connect Copper Creek Campground to the cabin. Though the proposed route is tentative, and a survey will need to be conducted to determine how much of it has been eroded, satellite images been

partially washed out and will directly connect Copper Creek Campground to the cabin. Though the proposed route is tentative, and a survey will need to be conducted to determine how much of it has been eroded, satellite images indicate that much of the original trail is still intact and will need Minimal excavation.

The second phase, and potentially the most arduous portion of the project will be the restoration of the single room cabin to its original specifications, based on collected photographs. In order to establish the feasibility of this phase, experts in period carpentry will have to be consulted. As with the first phase, the area around the cabin will also include cultural signage about the Cornish, a topic especially relevant in Idaho where a majority of inhabitants self-identify as English.



While I am aware that this is a big undertaking, and as a college student I lack the availability to spearhead a project of this size, it is my sincere hope that readers of the article will see the value in pursuing it. With stunning landscapes strewn with mining day relics, campground amenities, and a network of trails, this project will have broad appeal and give Idaho an outstanding opportunity to not only pay respect to the communities that were forced from this land and their connection to it subsequently devalued, but also to educate on a community whose contributions have remained largely unexplored..

*Samantha Felder is a senior at Grand Canyon University and for a local history class, she created a proposal for a public history project, aiming to refurbish an historic cabin that holds great significance to her family. She discovered rich cultural influences which must be preserved, and also her own connection to the Cornish immigrants who helped shape the American West. She presented at the 19th Gathering of Cornish Cousins July 2021.*

## The Cornish diaspora and the resilient women of St Just and Pendeen

**Much has quite rightly been written about the 'Cousin Jacks', the Cornishmen who went abroad to work when times were hard in Cornwall or when lucrative contracts were on offer to Cornish miners whose skill and expertise was in demand around the world.**

However, extraordinarily little has been written about the impact that this economic migration had on their wives. Yet it was their resilience and strength which made it possible for their menfolk to go away to work and ensured that their children were taken care of and helped hold the local community together in their absence. In 2018 historian Lesley Trotter published her book, **'The Married Widows of Cornwall'** which inspired this exhibition. It used the stories of individual women to illustrate the many different experiences of the women of Cornwall when their husbands were abroad. It has been estimated by Lesley from Census data that between 1851 and 1901 there were some 660 households in St Just and Pendeen where the husband was absent when the Census was taken. This is an underestimate of the real number as it excludes those men who may have been absent for periods between each Census as well as couples who were not legally married.

These women often had to manage their homes and families alone for many years and indeed some never saw their husbands again after they left home in search of work. They regularly faced financial hardship when husbands were unable or unwilling to send money home and they usually received little support from the Poor Law guardians who administered the only meagre form of social security that existed at that time.

**The stories of some of these women's lives are tragic as they were forced to cope with the death of their children or found themselves in the workhouse because of their poverty. Yet at the same time, the fact is that most women succeeded in supporting their families and maintaining a home for them despite all the challenges they faced. And some women took the opportunity presented by the absence of their husbands to set up new businesses and find innovative new ways to earn a living. Some of the women went with their husbands and made new lives for themselves and their families, often in remote locations many thousands of miles away from where they were born.**

Whatever their individual stories, one is left with a sense of awe and admiration for these women and what they achieved. A recent exhibition presented the stories of →

eleven women from St Just and Pendeen which had been researched and selected by Lesley to show the breadth of experiences of the resilient women of the local community between the mid-19th century and just after World War One.

It is the intention of Pendeen Community Heritage and Geevor Tin Mine to develop this project in the future in three ways.

Firstly, by collecting further stories of local women whose husbands went abroad to work particularly in the latter half of the 19th century.

Secondly, by bringing the story up to date by focusing on what happened when Geevor finally closed through the stories of the men who went abroad to earn a living after the closure, and their families.

Thirdly, by showing that the story of economic migration in Cornwall has not just been about Cornish people travelling abroad. We will seek to tell the stories of those people from other countries who made a new life for themselves in St Just and Pendeen, including those who worked at Geevor.

The exhibition was part of the Tin Coast Events Programme, commissioned by the Tin Coast Partnership and Cornwall 365. The Tin Coast Partnership is comprised of businesses and community groups who are interested in working together to plan for visitors to the local area so that the economy thrives, in balance with the local community, preserves and reveres the local heritage and culture, and protects local landscape and natural environment so it can thrive in years to come. Cornwall 365 is a creative consultancy which promotes Cornwall as a year-round, sustainable cultural destination.

Visit both websites for more details:

<https://cornwall365.org.uk/>

<http://www.tincoast.co.uk>

August 11, 2021

Dear Friends of the Cornish American Heritage Society,

At our business meeting at the 19th Gathering on July 16th, the membership moved and approved that the Cornish American Heritage Society move to an "Informal" governance. We thought this option was needed: our membership is aging and it has become difficult to find people to take on leadership roles.

This means:

- ◆ There will only be a digital newsletter, which will be emailed and posted on our website for easy access. There will be no printed newsletter. (This begins January 2022).
- ◆ The database we keep will only be used for names and email addresses.
- ◆ There will be the addition of a zoom meeting between each newsletter with an informal format. We will have speakers, share informal information, or just have an opportunity to chat between friends.

*This also means, there are now no official members and so there are no membership dues. Everyone will now be Kowetha of CAHS (Friends of CAHS)*

We will have no direct income with this change, but we have sufficient monies in the accounts to maintain this for a long time. Donations will still be gladly accepted to the Paul Smales Fund. The Paul Smales Fund helps pay some travel expenses for those from Cornwall who attend/assist in the Gatherings.

It is still my intention to have an in-person 20th Gathering. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Meur ras! (Thank you)*

Tom Rusch,  
President of the CAHS  
[thomasdrusch@gmail.com](mailto:thomasdrusch@gmail.com)  
920-988-5235



Cornish American Heritage Society  
Invites you to Join Us



We are asking everyone that would like to continue to receive our newsletter to please re-register or register as a Kowetha (friend) of the Cornish American Heritage Society.

Our reasons for asking you to do this are the following:

1. **We want to be sure that we're only sending email to people that want that email.**
2. We want to confirm that we have the BEST email address to send information to.
3. Greater security for the information that you provide.

We will give you time to complete this process (and will send reminders), however it is recommended you do so sooner than later. It's a short form, and should not take more than a few minutes.

Here is the link to the form to register: <https://forms.gle/r3BTE7W3ww4V2h8t9>

## A new baby in the family...

how would you celebrate? If you are a Cornishman, what better way can you think of to welcome a new addition to your family than with a Cornish pasty? Not just any regular pasty, but one which has similar dimensions to the baby! That is just what Tim Fuge did when his new son arrived, **just as we were entering 'Lockdown 1'**. The pasty he made weighed 2.8kg (6.4lb) and had a diameter of 50cm – matching the birth weight and length of his new son. The pasty was made in the traditional way with beef skirt, swede, onion and potato. The biggest challenge facing the baker was how to cook it.

Conventional baking trays did not accommodate such a **large pasty**. In the end, his oven's grill pan did the job. The final product was so big that it took two sittings to devour!

*London Cornish Association via  
Cornish Association of South Australia newsletter*

Gold ring found in  
Early German Bronze  
Age grave was made  
in CORNWALL



*Yvonne Muhleis, LAD Esslingen znd Daily Mail*

A gold ring has been discovered in the grave of an Early Bronze Age woman in southwest Germany - and it was likely crafted in Cornwall.

Archaeologists say this is 'unusually early proof' of the far-reaching trade in luxury objects in Early Bronze Age Europe. An analysis revealed that the ring contained 20% silver, 2% copper, and traces of platinum and tin. According to the team, this points to a natural gold alloy, typical of gold washed from rivers. The team wrote: 'The trace element pattern strongly suggests that this type of gold derives from Cornwall, specifically from River Carnon.'

*by Shivali Best for MailOnline, 25 May 2021*

## Synsas (Contents)

<b>'Brady Bunch' Gathering Participants</b>	page 35
Lewydh Messach	36, 48, 55
CAHS Officers	37-38, 48
Kesskrifans a-dre Eseleth	39-42
ScoMo at G7, Recruitment, Gwennap Pit	43
Marcella Russell, Immigrant Ancestor Project	44
Howard Curnow	45
Early Rulers and Kings, Return of Beavers	46
Zoom Meetings	47-48
Music in the OR, Hosking Descendants Soc.	49
New Bards Welcomed	50
Taklow a Vern	51-52
Preserving a Pioneer Cornish Cabin	53
Cornish Diaspora and Resilient Women	54
Join CAHS	55
A new baby, Gold Ring	56
Synsas, Darvosow	56

## Darvosow (Events)

Gorsedh Kernow  
Cornwall, UK  
4 Sep 2021  
Bude Castle

<https://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/>

**CANCELLED due to Covid**  
Cornish Festival  
Mineral Point, WI  
24-26 Sep 2021

President Pumping Engine  
ZOOM\*  
30 Oct 2021, 11am EDT (90 min)

Invention and Dissent  
ZOOM\*  
20 Nov 2021, 11am EST (60 min)

Cornish Folklore  
ZOOM\*  
9 Apr 2022, 11am EDT (60 min)

\*YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM  
PRESENTATIONS TO RECEIVE A LINK TO THEM  
see page 47