

1837 for the first meeting. Darrell Stephens of Trewornan owned the most land, 1,180 acres and was appointed as chairman of the meeting. He was accompanied by his friend William Sandys Sandys, who together with his wife Elizabeth owned the next most, having 1,116 acres. Sandys lived in some style at St Minver House in Churchtown. The third major landowner was Sandys' farming neighbour to the north based at Moyles, Samuel Symons. Symons owned some 790 acres in the parish and was lessee of another 49. He had had a lively life in St Minver, occupying the house at Moyles and, having bought Doyden Head in 1827, built Doyden Castle as a place to eat, drink and make merry with his friends. He also entertained at 'Polzeth-bay', giving his daughter Susan an eleventh birthday party there on the rocks in July 1836 with some fifty of his men and women friends. By 1841 he was living at Gonvena in Wadebridge.

There was a total of 7,578 acres of land in the parish and these three accounted for just over 40% of them. The next 20% was accounted for by another three owners. Of these only William Arundell Yeo MD, who occupied Dinham House and owned the 520 acres of land at Dinham, Carlyon, Trevenna and Trevelver, was at the meeting in person. Lady Greville's interests in 500 acres at Portearth, Trevigo, Plain Street, Gonvena and Trefresa may have been represented by Samuel Symons who was the lessee of one of her properties. More predictably Sir Charles Lemon, the owner of 600 acres at 'Rosurrow', as it was spelt in the Tithe Survey, Langollan, Trewint, Little Treglines and Smeathers, sent his attorney. His farm was occupied by Henry Symons who lived at 'Rose-crow' as it was spelt in the 1841 census, with his wife, 3 servants, 3 agricultural labourers and his 10 children.

By 1838 the 'Dutchy' owned a mere 253 acres of land, the Great Common, much of it now

occupied by the St Enodoc Golf Club. However they were still able to influence land usage, especially mineral exploitation, elsewhere in the south of the parish through terms in the deeds for land they had previously transferred within their Manor of Penmayne. The Church also by now had little land holding. The Diocese of Exeter owned 224 acres. The St Minver glebe, that is land belonging to and near St Minver Church, amounted to 69 acres in all with the produce of 24 of them being taken by the rector and that of 45 being taken by the vicar.

Churchtown, St Minver's 'capital'

St Minver had 1,139 inhabitants at the time of the 1841 census. Half of them lived on the many farms scattered about the parish. The other half lived in seven small communities. Church Town was the largest of them with 110 inhabitants. In descending order it was followed by Trevanger (89), 'Penmain' and 'Tredrizzic' (86 each), Stoptide (79), Trebetherick (62) and 'Polseth' (44).

The rector at the time of the Tithe Survey was William Sandys Sandys who lived in the large house in St Minver Church Town. The house with some of its extensive gardens and grounds is shown at the bottom of the map. The 1841 census shows 13 people living there, Sandys and his wife Mary, visitors, Mary Chudleigh and her small son, and 9 servants, John Dyre the youngest of them being only 8 years old. Today the house and grounds are used by the visitors to St Minver Holiday Park. Over the road to the east lay the vicarage. Today it's a private house with Grade 2 listed stables, now a garage, built at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Tithe Survey shows it was owned by the vicar, The Rev George Treweeke on behalf of the Church, but occupied by William S Sandys, the rector of St Minver rather than the vicar.

The Reverend George Treweeke doesn't appear in the St Minver 1841 census either.

Although he was the appointed vicar, he had probably delegated most of his duties to a curate, although where the curate lived is not quite certain. At the time of the 1841 census Treweeke was living at Illogan, being presented with a large silver tea service by his parishioners there in September 1843 as a mark of their highest estimation for his service to the parish over the last 21 years ! By 1851 the St Minver vicarage was being lived in by a curate, one John Ellis, while the Rev. Treweeke remained active in Illogan.

In 1838 Church Town was a busy place, full of commercial activity. Coming out of the church and going up the lane every house on the left hand side was occupied and in every case occupied by a tradesman and his family. In succession you would have passed William Mallet, gardener, Robert Oliver, mason, Michael James, carpenter, Michael Gummow, blacksmith, Charles Ivey, shoemaker, Richard Oliver, mason, Edwin Wilce, landlord of the New Inn, now the Fourways Inn, and Thomas Honey Faull, merchant.

Turning left at the top the last two buildings you would have come to on the south side were a large unused shed together with a small butcher's shop run by John Blake. In between the shed and Faull's house was where Edward Tremain, an agricultural labourer, lived with his family. Opposite the Tremains was another St Minver Churchtown blacksmiths, occupied by Nicolas Hicks in the Tithe Map and Apportionment although the only blacksmith listed in Church Town in the 1841 census was Richard Hicks aged 55 and his family. To the west of the blacksmith's house, after a small gap, there was a row of 5 properties, the first one being a small butcher's shop run by John Mably. The rest of the ones in that row were all occupied by other well known local names, starting with Samuel Carhart, then William Treverton, another agricultural labourer, and

the last two by Joseph Burt.

Four of the village houses were occupied by people of independent means, including the one opposite the New Inn. This was called the Old Inn, where Mary Ivey was the occupier. There was also one house occupied by an elderly pauper woman. No house in Churchtown was listed as unoccupied in 1838 although there were 6 given as such in the 1841 census. Within the next two decades, along with the rest of the parish, St Minver Church Town would see a declining population.

On the other hand not all was work and impending decline. On summer evenings after work or after church on Sunday mornings people could gather to play bowls on the piece of land (no.210 on the map) immediately north of the church and now part of the graveyard. Then it was owned by the parish, called 'The Bowling Green', and was for the use of the parishioners. The bowls they played could not have been the game now played by men and women attired in whites on manicured lawns. Go and look at that piece of ground in the churchyard today and you'll see it would have been impossible. In 1838 they would have been bowling at a diamond of nine pins, with the winner being the person, or team, taking the least number of attempts to knock over all of them.

Main sources

St Minver Tithe Map and Apportionment. Available on CD from the Cornwall Record Office

St Minver Census 1841. Available online.

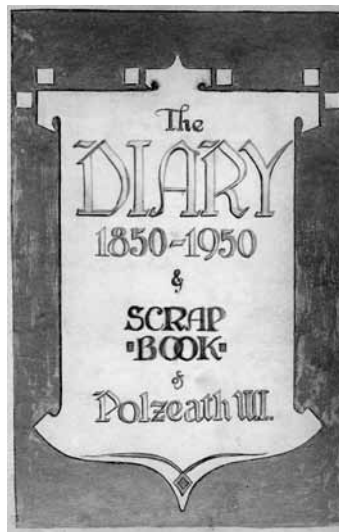
Correction

On page 53 of the last issue (no. 180) in the article about tithes the name William Kearsley Dawson appears in the top line of the left hand column. This should read Robert Kearsley Dawson.

Mably Diary 1850 - 1950

Part 2

Polzeath WI and Trebetherick WI merged in 2008 to form Trebetherick and Polzeath WI. In the archives of Polzeath WI was a handwritten scrapbook based on a Mably family diary covering the period 1850 to 1950. We believe that the scrapbook was prepared for a WI competition but we are not really sure. It makes fascinating reading and we have decided to serialise it in Link. The photographs are scanned copies of those in the scrapbook. We have not changed the spelling, punctuation or grammar - what you read here is exactly as per the handwritten version. This material is copyright and must not be reproduced elsewhere without the prior permission of the Link Committee and Trebetherick and Polzeath WI.



1850

Pentireglaze mine opened this year.

1851

Arrival of the Rev Hart-Smith. The parish church of St Menefreda is at Churchtown, it has a dilapidated chapel called the 'South Chapel' at Porthilly and the ruined north chapel of St Enodoc. Access to the latter was only obtainable through the roof, the vicar was let down once a year with a rope to keep the church consecrated. The visit of the bishop Phillip to St Enodoc. Population, Highlands 757 Lowlands 468.

1853

There is great excitement in the parish as Pentireglaze mine produces some silver, 19.065 ounces (540.48 grams).

1854

Our chapel at Tredrizzick it is being enlarged by the purchase of a field parcel of 30 x 24 feet (9.1 x 7.3 metres) for £10. Other meeting houses are at Tregenna for Protestant dissenters, Stop-a-Tide for Methodists and Rosserow for Brianites.

1855

Polzeath mine is opened, but closes soon. The path the miners walk to the mine we call Tinnars Lane.

1857

Pentireglaze plays mine closes. We all go and see the Forest which has appeared after a terrible storm at Daymer Bay. We find bits of oak and yew and hazelnuts and mixed with these horns and teeth of red deer and the remains of other animals. We are very sorry



Interior of St Menefreda church.

when the the shifting sands buries the forest again.

1861

A census is taken and our Parish counts 1,111 souls. Highlands 626. Lowlands 485.

1862

This summer Elizabeth, my daughter is old enough to join the Tea given at the Vicarage. Mrs Hart-Smith tells me she had 54 children and she gave them Saffron cake, for which she used:

20lbs flour ----- 24/-

7lbs Currants ----- 5/-

5 ½ lbs Butter @ 10d a lb

4lbs Sugar ----- 5d

5 drachm's saffron ----- 3d

Then she had a big white Cake, Buns, splits cakes, Apple tartlets,

3lbs Tea

8lbs Sugar

1 ½ lbs Butter

8 lbs Cream

1 ¼ Citron peel.

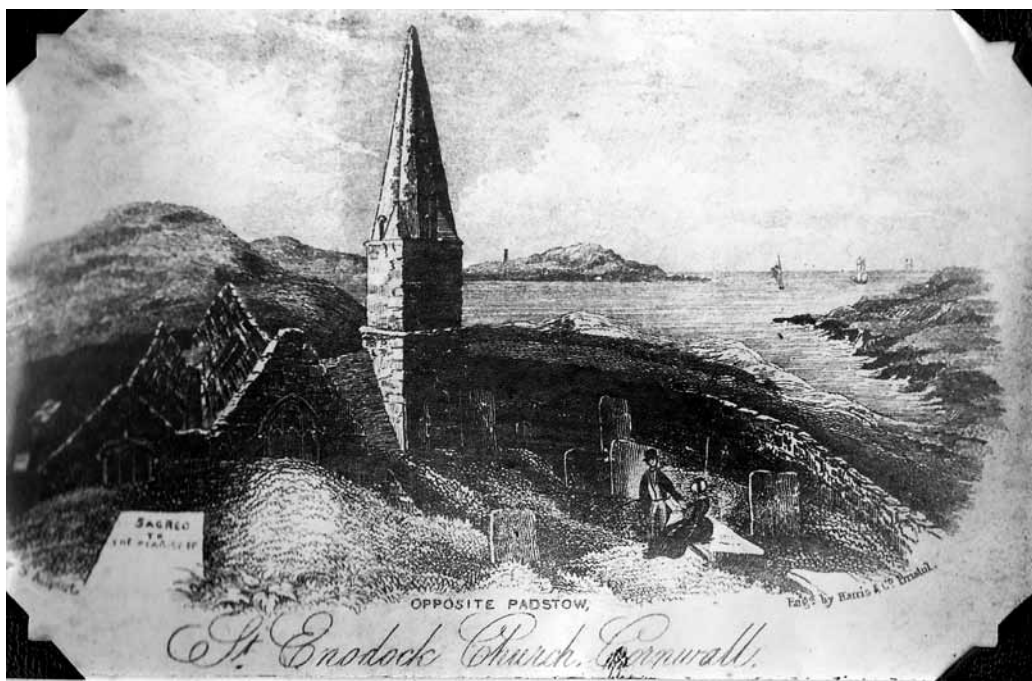
1863

The vicar excited, calls to say that he has now enough money to begin the restoration of the North and South Chapels.

1864

July. We all go and see the restored North Chapel of St Enodoc, the Vicar tells us that the whole cost is £675, of which £656:0:6 has been raised by voluntary contribution, and all team labour has been given by the Vicar and principal farmers for drawing the stone and lime and carrying out the sand from ditch and he estimates this work at not less than £10. During an Autumn storm a Ship carrying Rum and Sugar is wrecked at Polzeath beach, the Rum is saved and carried to Rock and reshipped from there.

The restoration of the Chapel of St Michael is started.



St Enodoc before restoration.

1865

The restoration of the Chapel of St Michael is finished. The Rev. Hart-Smith tells me he will be glad now the roof is restored, he will no longer need to use an Umbrella in the Pulpit on a wet Sunday.

1867

7th Febr. Today we heard about yesterday's life-boat disaster when the Albert Edward II capsized while rescuing the crew of the "Georgiana" and 8 of her crew of 13 were drowned.

Sept 5th. Elizabeth was joined by her brother John at the Tea at the Vicarage. Mrs Hart-Smith tells me that she had 50 children, she also sent tea and tickets to 50 aged and sick poor, 14 of whom did not come, and they had each, 1lb of cake, 2ozs of Sugar and 1oz of Tea sent to them.

She used the same quantities as before, but added one pick of Splitters, made with 6lbs of goodness¹.

1868

The School at Tredrizzick founded in 1828 is enlarged by the Rev. Hart-Smith, so as to earn a Government grant. John my husband and other Parishioner's brought Stone, Lime, Sand and Timber without charge. Rev. Hart-Smith estimates this service at £12.

1869

Elizabeth goes to the Dame School at Pityme, kept by Miss Gummow. She is so nice to the children.

1870

Restoration of St Minver Church is begun.

1871

John starts going to the Tredrizzick School, as Miss Gummow only takes Girls. He tells me there is roll call every Monday morning, when he has to bring his penny for his week's tuition. There are 71 children, some stay away for Cockle picking. We are sorry to lose

the Rev and Mrs. Hart-Smith. Population: Highlands 568, Lowlands 421. In all 989.

1872

The new Vicar, the Rev. Rolliston calls on me. Small-pox is in the Parish and very few children go to School. A Meeting house for Bible Christians is erected at Trevanger, on land given by Mr. Rowe. It will seat 100.

1875.

Joanna wife of John Mably now takes over the Diary from Elizabeth.

27th Sept. The "Imaculata" was wrecked on our Coast. Coal was sold at Rock Quay this Winter, at 14/6 a ton wholesale.

The School at Tredrizzick was again enlarged. The Bell of St Enodoc was the bell off the 'Imaculata'.

1876

With a wreck off Highcliffe, Polzeath, our new Rocket Life-saving apparatus was used for the first time. Two live Pigs were the first to come ashore.

1877

Our St Minver bellringers win the Ringing Match competition at Elgloshayle.

1878

For my indigestion trouble I write for the medicine that I see advertised in the "West Britain".

The advertisement reads as follows: Holloway's Ointment and Pills, as it claims to deal "most successfully with that heavy and troublesome and often tedious ailment indigestion, which is the bane of thousands from overwork and fast living in the present day."

1879

We have had a very wet Summer with rain all the time. No good corn or hay. Its a bad year for sheep, because they all got Flu. Wheat fetched 19/- a bushel.

The bell ringing match was this year held in St Minver.

¹ Does anyone know what this means?

1880

We have a good corn harvest, the hay is a light sheaf, but all is saved in good condition. Wheat has gone down to 15/- a bushel. This dropping in price is very worrying for John. My husband, John and his father, William Anthony used an Eclipse Reaper at Trewiston, the first in the Parish, drawn by horses, which he now uses together with the self raker which he had acquired a year or two before. Mr Hawkey from Pityme had a portable horse-driven threshing machine which could be set up in our Barn. So much quicker with this machine instead of labouring with a flail all Winter.

Mr Keat from St Endellion had a portable thresher which would work in the field along side the mower, drawn by three horses. He supplied two men with it and let it out at 25/1 to 30/- a day.

1881

The price of Wheat has fallen to 10/- Bushel. Our flock of sheep is diminishing, but we have more beef cattle. We no longer use Oxen. Trevelver has this summer used the first horse drawn steam threshing machine. John went to see it and told me that 6 horses were needed to pull the machine and 6 more for the steam engine and one for the elevator. It belonged to Mr Haynes at Windmill.

1882

I took the children to see the launching of a ship at the yard in Padstow. We crossed by ferry, which cost 1d for each of the grown ups. On the way we met the blind postman Nickolus Phillips, we stopped him at Pityme and we were amazed how he could pick out the right letter for me. We walked with him to Rock, where at the Post Office he left the letters for that district. On the way, to our great admiration, he delivered letters and parcels at the correct addresses. In the afternoon he was going to walk back to Wadebridge taking the returning letters. His

way led him through fields of cattle, whose presence he felt and pushed them away with his stick. In St Minver he brought the letters to Goodman's Shop, from here Mrs Treleven delivered the letters to the north side of the Parish.

1883

Aug 15th I took the children to Padstow to see the new Life-boat the "Arab I". It was brought by road from Truro, and there were many people assembled to welcome her. We visited our cousins at Trewint Farm. And celebrated with them "Goosey" or "Little Sunday" we had Goose for dinner. This Sunday is next before Michaelmas September 29th.

1884

July 15th I put Elizabeth on Mr Chapman's horse drawn Bus for Lostwithiel, where she is going to stay with an Aunt for a week. She returned on the next week's bus. We always love to watch it come.

1885

John F Wills and Francis Mably went into Wadebridge on their penny-farthing cycles. Francis Mably tells me his largest wheel is 56" in diameter. We all wished them luck for their cycle race in Wadebridge. Coal was brought today by donkey and cart by young Harry and we paid him 10d a cwt for the Coal and 1 1/2d for delivery. He asks 1d for delivery at the Splatt and 2d to St Minver. John went to Trevelver to have some Corn ground. He first had to fetch Mr Bestwitherick who would harness his oxen and bring some of his own Corn to grind as well. They would reach the bottom of the hill, and would have to walk up to Gutt Bridge to turn on the water, and by then having reached the Mill, the Water would just be coming. Mr Bestwitherick tells me he is selling his Oxen soon, he is the last farmer to use them in the district.

Continued at foot of page 55...