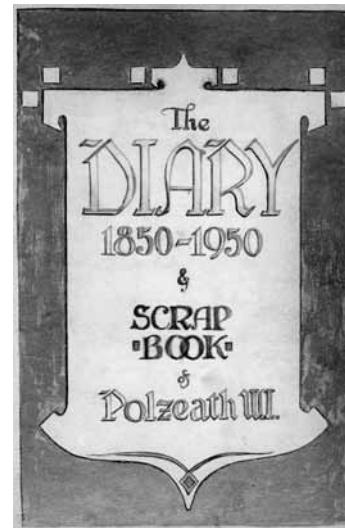


Mably Diary 1850 - 1950

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 Tinners 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 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

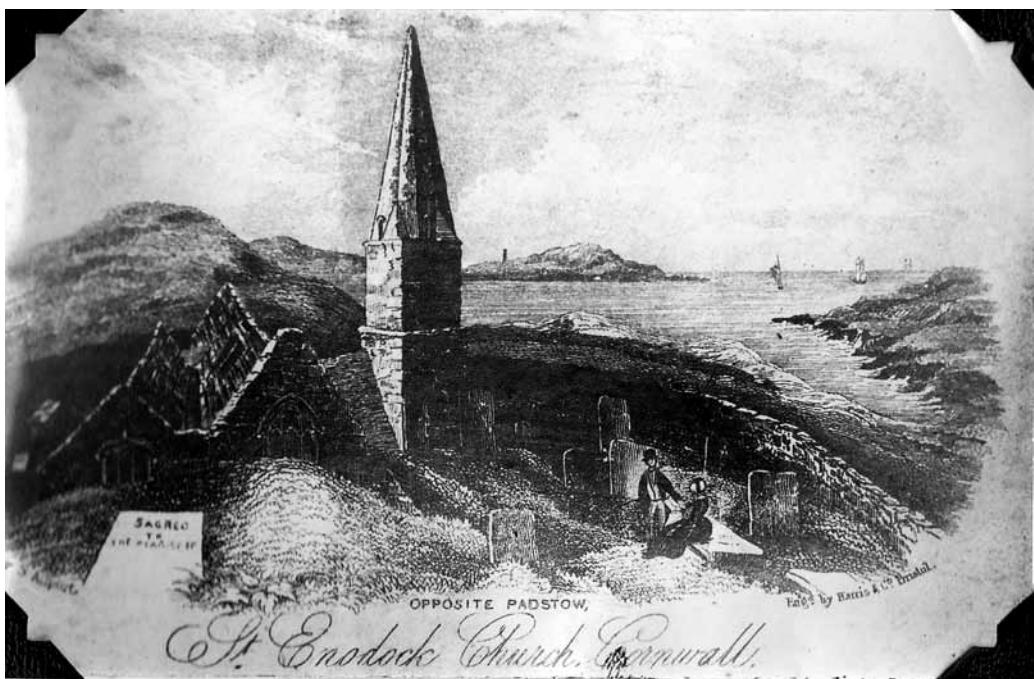
The vicar excited, calls to say that he has now enough money to begin the restoration of the North and South Chapels.

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 "Immaculata" 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 'Immaculata'.

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 Elgashayle.

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 bain 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 Treleaven 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...

Brains Of Britain

These extracts were supplied to us by Anthea Flanagan.

University Challenge (BBC2)

Jeremy Paxman: "What is another name for 'cherrypickers' and 'cheesemongers'?"

Contestant: "Homosexuals."

Jeremy Paxman: "No. They're regiments in the British Army who will be very upset with you."

Beg. Borrow Or Steal (BBC2)

Jamie Theakston: "Where do you think Cambridge University is?"

Contestant: "Geography isn't my strong point."

Jamie Theakston: "There's a clue in the title."

Contestant: "Leicester."

BBC Norfolk

Stewart White: "Who had a worldwide hit with What A Wonderful World?"

Contestant: "Don't know."

Stewart White: "I'll give you some clues: what do you call the part between your hand and your elbow?"

Contestant: "Arm."

Stewart White: "Correct! If you're not weak, you're ... "

Contestant: "Strong."

Stewart White: "Correct - and what was Lord Mountbatten's first name?"

Contestant: "Louis."

Stewart White: "Well, there we are then. So who had a worldwide hit with the song What A Wonderful World?"

Contestant: "Frank Sinatra?"

Late Show (BBC Midlands)

Alex Trelinski: "What is the capital of Italy?"

Contestant: "France."

Trelinski: "France is another country. Try again."

Contestant: "Oh, um, Benidorm."

Trelinski: "Wrong, sorry, let's try another question. In which country is the Parthenon?"

Contestant: "Sorry, I don't know."

Trelinski: "Just guess a country then."

Contestant: "Paris."

The Weakest Link (BBC2)

Anne Robinson: "Oscar Wilde, Adolf Hitler and Jeffrey Archer have all written books about their experiences in what: - Prison, or the Conservative Party?"

Contestant: "The Conservative Party."

Trebetherick and Polzeath WI

September Meeting

There were 23 members and one visitor hoping to hear a talk on Yarg Cheese. Unfortunately, the speaker could not attend so one of our members, Mary Burrell, stepped in and gave a smashing talk on her love of the theatre.

Mary's mother was a professional actress so the seeds were sown from a very early age. From school plays in her infant school, to playing Desdemona from Othello in a theatre in Tottenham Court Road. Her love of the stage carried on after meeting and marrying husband Frank. They moved to Oxford where she produced and performed in three or four plays a year. She also had a lot of fun as an extra for films and was in Inspector Morse and several other movies.

Mary still enjoys anything to do with the

theatre and writes, produces and performs in all our entertainment. It was a very interesting talk and gave us an insight into one of our member's early life.

The vote of thanks was given by Betty Oliver. Letters of thanks were read out from our charity The Handstand appeal for monies raised on our stall at the July fete, also from member Sherri for flowers and from John Godwin for monies given from us and Trebetherick Residents association for new tables for the Methodist Chapel. Competition 1st Joan Rowell, 2nd Dorothy Allen, 3rd Bridget Taylor. Flower of the Month, 1st Dorothy Allen and Janet Carter, 2nd Bridget Taylor, June Lennox and Audrey Webb. 3rd Cynthia Deacon, Betty Bishop, Jean Higgins and Philippa Bartlett.

Valerie Stockton

from page 53.

1886

My son Dick brought 6d home today as Mr Sanford had come to the school to order the boys to pick up stones from his fields. The boys he had to order to work only received 4d

1887

It has been a very dry summer and we have had no rain from Christmas to the end of October. All corners and all corn was cut by 'St James'. Wednesday. The quality of wheat was wonderful but there was only a small quantity. The wheat was so dry that instead of 60 pounds, 63 pounds went into a Cornish bushel and sold at 9/9d or 7/- a bushel. Wheat prices had fallen to 7 shillings for three Imperial bushels.

Frank Coleman from Trevanger told my husband today that the first time he went to

fetch artificial manure and feeding cakes from Bodmin Road station, coming from the factory at St Austell. He thinks that he is the first farmer in the district to do so.

1888

I have had a long spell of the rheumatics so I have a woman in to do my washing. I had to pay her one shilling a day and give her food. My eldest girl goes out dressmaking. She earns two and six a day and her food.

1889

This winter I have laid in 200 pilchards in brine, I bought them at 1/- a 100 but you really get 120. I had a Stayne full of butter bought in 10d a pound. Laid in 12 dozen eggs, I bought them when I could get them at 24 for a shilling, 100 lbs of jam, laid in one dozen pounds of sugar at 1/9. I had a barrel of Canadian apples which I bought for 14 shillings.

to be continued in the next issue.