

Mably Diary 1850 - 1950

Part 3

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.



1890

A Golf Club was started at Rock with nine holes.

For the birth of her youngest our labourer's wife got a maternity bag, which she had to return after 6 weeks. The contents of the bag were: 1 Sheet, 2 Bedgowns, 12 Napkins, 2 Flannels, 3 Bands, 4 Shirts, 2 Daygowns and 2 Nightgowns

St Enodoc Golf Course at Rock - the first Club House.

Wool is down to 7½d (3.1 pence) a bag. There are not many flocks of sheep left on the farms now.

In Polzeath a new Chapel is opened on ground opposite the Court house where for 8 years services have been held.

Our blacksmith Williams in St Minver has added another prize to his collection for his implements at this year's agricultural show.



We can now go daily to Wadebridge from Rock in a horse drawn bus run by the Blake brothers. Mr Chynoweth from Trelawder Farm who had come home from South Africa started a Cricket Club in the Parish.

1891

March 9th & 10th. We had a terrific blizzard. Snow blocked all roads. That evening Sir Lewes Molesworth, Unionist candidate, spoke at a meeting at Tredrizzick. The road to Wadebridge was impassable so he had to spend the night just outside Tredrizzick with his Agent at the cottage of Miss Mably.

The road to Wadebridge was only open on March 12th.

In November the new Vicar and his wife the Rev and Mrs Chase arrive.

1892

Nine more holes were added to the Golf Course.

1892

I helped the Vicar's wife to make up parcels for the poor of the Parish. Each parcel contained

The 7th green at St Enodoc Golf Club.

½lb Tea or 3 pounds of beef or a Crossover, or 2 hundred weight of Coal was given or a red flannel jacket or 2/6.

The first mechanical binder was used by Mr Simmonds of Roserro. He used it only for a couple of years as it used wire for binding and this proved to be dangerous for cattle.

Mr Treleaven takes over the delivery of mail from the blind postman.

1893

January 4th My husband went to the Bellringers Supper at which 18 were present, they had

12lbs of Sirloin of beef
A leg of Mutton
2 ½lbs Rumpsteak pie
2 Dishes of Potatoes
1 Dish of Carrots
1 Dish of Cabbage
2 Plum Puddings
1 Jelly
18 Mince Pies
Coffee
8 Oranges
Pipes and Tobacco



1893

In May we had an enjoyable outing to the Choir Festival at Truro. A pair which took competitors to Wadebridge was there exchanged for 4 greys and Truro Cathedral was reached at 12.30 p.m.

After the singing, tea was served to 1,000 East Cornwall choristers at 6 p.m. in the Market House, and the return journey was started at 7.15 pm.

Horses were again changed at Wadebridge, and the party reached St Minver at 11.15 p.m.

Visitors seem to start coming to the Parish for the Summer holidays. We have a very dry Summer, and Hay and Corn have been bad.

In July 45 farmers had a big dinner at the Temperance Inn.

The Vicar tells me that he has started a Parish Magazine between November the 10th and 16th thousands of Herrings are caught at Rock and sold at 1/3 (one shilling and tree old pence - about 6 new pence) per hundred.

A new Organ is installed in St Minver Church.

In July my son buys the new attraction cap of Cherry and White of the Cricket Club from Mr Frost for 1/-.

On December 9th Sunday morning the Ferry boat from Rock to Padstow sinks with the loss of 2 lives.

The register of St Minver School shows 148 Pupils.

1895

January and February we have Snow and frost for several weeks, consequently it will be a bad year for crops.

In the Spring, Tredrizzick School again enlarged.

In the Autumn our first Football club of boys of the Village is organised.

On June 20th we all go to the house-warming party of the Perceval Institute, St Minver. The building exclusive of site has cost £500. The bands of St Teath and the Duke of Cornwalls light infantry played the whole afternoon and



The Temperance Inn.

evening. Nearly 800 sat down to an excellent tea in a large Marquee.

In December our first hospital nurse comes for 3 months. Labourer's and their families can be nursed free of charge.

1896

Mr Sanford from St Minver house opens the Waterworks which he says have cost him £200. He has laid on Water from the stream by the Vicarage Orchard to a tank in the centre of the Village opposite the Temperance Inn.

January 15th. We go to the first concert in our new Perceval Institute. Previous concerts had been held in the loft over the Stables at the Vicarage.

1896

Sunday School treat in July when 99 children went in 6 wagons to Polzeath.

After attending a Flower Service at 1.45pm at St Minver Church the children piled into the Wagons.

Lovely weather. Mrs Chase told me they had:

- 240 Splits
- 35lbs Saffron Cake
- 3lbs White Cake
- 4 ½ dozen Sponge Cakes
- 2 Loaves.



Polzeath as seen about 1896..

150 Visitors came to the Parish of St Minver this summer.

On June 22nd we celebrated Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee. The day opened with a gloomy sky but soon the Sun conquered and we had Queen's weather, about 6 – 7 hundred partook of the excellent meal provided free to all Parishioners.

Sports for men, lads and maidens caused much amusement and considerable profit to the winners. At 10 o'clock a great Bonfire shot forth its flames. It was a wonderful thought that

thousands of similar fires were at that moment girding the Empire with a circle of flame. After this we had fireworks and only came home towards mid-night after a wonderful day.

1898

January. Mrs Sanford places 2 lamps at the top of the Village of St Minver.

We hope to get some new Cottages, since many Cottages in St Minver have only one or two Bedrooms.

A Methodist School Hall is opened at Polzeath. Last week I sent away one guinea for which I

Old Polzeath showing the 'Tin Tabernacle' - the Methodist school hall.



received:-

- 1 Wadded quilt – double bed size chintzy covered
- 1 Cotton quilt
- 1 Coloured Blanket
- 1 Pair White Blankets
- 2 Pillow cases
- 1 Pair best Sheets
- 1 Pair Cheaper Sheets
- 1 Bolster case
- 2 Towels.

I am very pleased with all these articles.

The children went to see the first steam life-boat at Padstow the 'James Stevens'.

1900

We now regularly read the Cornish Guardian. Coal is 15/- a ton at Rock Harbour

April 11th A terrible tragedy has occurred, the life-boat 'James Stevens' capsized while endeavouring to save the lives of the crew of the 'Peace and Plenty' from Lowestoft. Eight of the crew of the Life-boat lost their lives.

In 1900 Druscilla wife of William Mably takes over the Diary from Joanna. Unfortunately she does not seem to have made many notes.

The Vicar's wife told me that she had to buy some more Blankets for the Blanket club, from which our labourers wives receive loan of Blankets for the Winter months, from the end of October to the end of April.

Lower end of Rock Road. This picture was captioned 'Rock Harbour opposite Padstow.'



Padstow Harbour.

A Harvesters Drink.

Put 6 tablespoon's fine Oatmeal or course Oatmeal ground like flour into a basin, mix it with cold water like a cream, add 6 tablespoons of white sugar and the juice of 1 Lemon.



Add 1 gallon of boiling water, stirring well.
When it is cold it is ready for use. Cost 3d
(about 1 new pence) a gallon.

One of the questions discussed at the Parish meeting was to have a resident district nurse at St Minver.

Population Highlands 471, Lowlands 351, Total 822.

1902

My small son John is ill and we had to call in the Lady doctor from Port Isaac. She came on horse-back. Fortunately he was not taken ill at night as otherwise we should have had to go to the Rock Sands and light a Bonfire as a message to ask the Doctor from Padstow to come over.

Rock Hill Methodist Chapel was built.

(Photo – Rock Hill Methodist Chapel)

1905

Wages are now from 12/- to 14/- per week for all labourers (60 - 70p).

Galloping field is now being closed in and so they are taking Penitant Gate away.

Now my little Mary will not be afraid to pass it for fear of seeing the ghost of the man who was caught at the gate stealing a sheep.

1906

A cart and horse now brings the mail to the Beach at Polzeath, via Rock where the inhabitants collect it from the cart.

It stays there until it returns to Wadebridge via St Minver in the afternoon to take the mail back again.

Daymer Bay before 1910.



1907

St Minver's new burial ground, which was the Bowling Field is consecrated by Bishop Stubbs.

1908

Yesterday, on St James's Wednesday, (the nearest Wednesday after July 25th turned out to be a wonderful day. For days on end we had baked Saffron cake, apple pasties, Cornish pasties, and we had made plenty of cream.

The farm hands had polished the horse brasses, fresh straw had been put into the Wagons. On the fields the Corn had been carried.

We went to Polzeath Beach on the road passing the Quaker Burial ground and noticed how the trees had grown and were showing over the wall. Each grave has a different tree planted on it.

We enjoyed, on Polzeath beach, horse racing, wrestling. We bought sweets at the booths from Gypsies who had arrived about a week before.

We bought some china. We had brought our own faggots and kettle to make tea on the beach. All the children enjoyed the hoopla and the men gathered around the Pub's booths.

We all got home at about 7 p.m.

We had very fine weather during the Summer and Autumn.

Cattle were not housed until December 8th.

1909

For interests sake, I have noted down the food we eat these days.

Most of us on the farms are entirely self



The 'Angele' funeral - November 19th, 1909.

supporting. We use our clome oven once a week, for baking our bread. We start the day with fried fat bacon (from home reared and killed pigs) and potatoes. At midday we have potatoes and bacon pasty. In the evening we have boiled ham and vegetable altogether 'Flat pot' consisting of cabbage, turnip, 'rudabaka' turnip (swede) with 'Slipper Jacks' (a large dumpling).

A Slipper Jack sliced and eaten cold with treacle we call 'Kneelathers'.

The oven had to go white, then black and then white again before it was ready for use.

Some of us boiled our pasties.

December 16th. A gale blew the Cock off St Minver Church spire.

January 11th. A French Schooner the 'Madelaide' carrying pit props, was wrecked at Port Quin.

November 13th Two boats The 'Angele' and the 'Island Maid' were wrecked on the Doom Bar. The crew were buried by a Roman Catholic priest from France, at St Enodoc.

This year roots fetch only 7/- a ton, but by feeding roots to the cattle these improved by £3 a hundred weight.

To be concluded

