

TRET  
FAM

# Trethewy Society

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY



The Old Manor House Trethewey nr. Tintagel



Old Gateway  
Trethewey Manor  
Tintagel

**NOT ONE OF OUR'S!** - drawings by Hilary Ballard, M.I.I.

The manor house at one of the several Trethewys and Tretheveys in Cornwall. As noted in *Newsletter 16* it was converted into holiday flats which led to an expensive dispute between neighbours over a new cesspit.

## NEWSLETTER No. 24 January 1999



### MEMBERS

Email, new and revised:

M21 Joy Brealy, joy@bretc.freemove.co.uk

M24 Arthur & Joy French, a.french@eclipse.co.uk

M60 Phil Harris, p\_harris@banks.ntu.edu.au

M93 Christopher & Jennie Edwards, cre@powerup.com.au

Lapsed: M48. Rejoined: M44.

### CORNWALL FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FAIR 1999

The penultimate (*sic*) year of the millennium is being celebrated by a repeat of the successful fair of 1997, now regarded as biennial. It will take place at the Princess Pavillion, Falmouth, Cornwall on Saturday & Sunday the 29th & 30th May. I intend to have a Trethewy Society stand there and look forward to meeting old and new friends. (My real purpose of course is to experience once again the excellent fish restaurants of Falmouth.)



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## DOCTON OF DOCTON IN HARTLAND

Descendants of Mary Warne, the wife of Richard Trethewy of *Group 9*, are also descendants of the armigerous Docton family of Docton in Hartland, Devon, close to the northernmost tip of Cornwall. (Hartland is the name of a parish and also of the hundred - an old territorial division - containing the parish. The parish would always be meant unless the hundred was mentioned.) Mary's maternal grandfather John Docton was said to be of Hartland when he and Mary Tregear were married at St Mabyn, Cornwall, in 1679.

Heralds from the College of Arms visited Devon and Cornwall in 1620 to confirm or reject claims by the gentry of the right to bear heraldic arms. The claimants submitted pedigrees in order to make their point. The Devon pedigrees are reproduced in J.L. Vivian's *Visitations of Devon*, a companion volume to his *Visitations of Cornwall*. The Docton pedigree as originally submitted starts with "Thomas Doketon de Doketon in Hundred de Hartland." Thomas, who was the great great grandfather of John, evidently lived in the earlier part of the 16th century. Burke's *General Armory* states that John Doketon of Kilkhampton received a grant of arms in 1459. Vivian in his version of the pedigree skips a few generations and makes this John the father of Thomas. Kilkhampton is six miles to the south of Docton and in Cornwall.

It may thus be inferred that the earlier Doctons were a family of gentry who took their name from that of their estate, as happened so often: it did with the Trethewys for example. The estate was a principal residence of the family well into the modern era even though the John who received the grant of arms, and who was one of the last mediaeval members, was living a little way away. He may have owned or otherwise held several properties.

In 1593 Thomas Docton, grandson on the senior line of descent from the Thomas already mentioned, purchased an estate called Thorry. This was evidently adjacent to Docton into which it was then incorporated, so that its name all but disappeared. Nevertheless Thomas named the two estates separately in his will. His son and potential heir Nicholas predeceased him without issue, and so on his death in 1618 the estates went to his cousin Thomas the great great grandfather of Mary Warne. He was the claimant in 1620 and so was responsible for the pedigree. Local legend has it that Nicholas was accidentally killed during a quarrel with his father who struck him on the temple with the buckle of his sword belt.

Some way away from Docton, which is now a farm, is Docton Mill, an old watermill so named because it belonged to the Doctons in the 17th century. The mill is surrounded by a garden that is open to the public. A booklet *A Millennium for a Mill* attempts, through tortuous and *ad hoc*\* arguments, to show that the mill can be traced back over a thousand years to Saxon times. No doubt there was milling in the valley throughout the period, but the mills themselves must have come and gone.

The booklet mentions the Doctons and makes curious statements about them and their estate. The family, it is supposed, came from Kilkhampton and occupied various places in Hartland, as can be seen from a list of local 16th c. tenancies that has been published by a local historian. There is no place in the list called Docton. When Thomas Docton bought Thorry he gave his own name to the estate. This is confirmed by the fact that he mentioned both Docton and Thorry in the same sentence in his will, this providing the first instance of Thorry, and hence presumably of anywhere in Hartland, being called Docton.

I wrote to the authors of the booklet suggesting that the Visitation pedigree showed that the Doctons were living in a place called Docton at least 50 years before the acquisition of Thorry,

\**ad hoc*: a Latin expression effectively signifying "devised specially for the purpose in hand."

and that the wording of the will indicated that the two places were distinct. I made the point that it was common for mediaeval occupants of estates to take the names of these as their own surnames.

Their reply accounted for the pedigree entry in an *ad hoc* manner by claiming that the Doctons temporarily gave their name to another holding before they settled at Thorry.\* The absence of any mention of their being at a place called Docton in the published list of tenancies shows that they did not live at the place that is now known as Docton until they acquired and renamed Thorry. This is negative evidence that disregards the possibility of errors and of omissions, deliberate or otherwise, and is therefore untrustworthy. The likelihood that the Doctons had taken their name from their estate was countered by words to the effect that the inhabitants of Hartland did not behave like other people, a similar assertion having already been made in the booklet. This is negative evidence again and somewhat irrelevant as part of a claim that the first Doctons did not live in Hartland

In the course of further investigation I consulted the Devon volumes in the *English Place-Names Society* series. The Hartland section shows that Docton was mentioned in the *Bishop of Exeter's Register* in 1319 and in the *Lay Subsidy Rolls* in 1330. The form of its name, which probably denotes a settlement (*ton*) where docks grew, is Saxon, showing the place to be of considerable antiquity.† If a credible millennium is wanted it could be taken as the period from when the Saxons first named the place to the time when the Doctons were living there.

It all goes to show that we amateur historians must not attempt to justify our preconceived notions with *ad hoc* arguments or rely on negative evidence. (And that goes for professional historians too!)

Thanks to Arthur French, M24, for drawing attention to *Millennium* and for providing a copy.

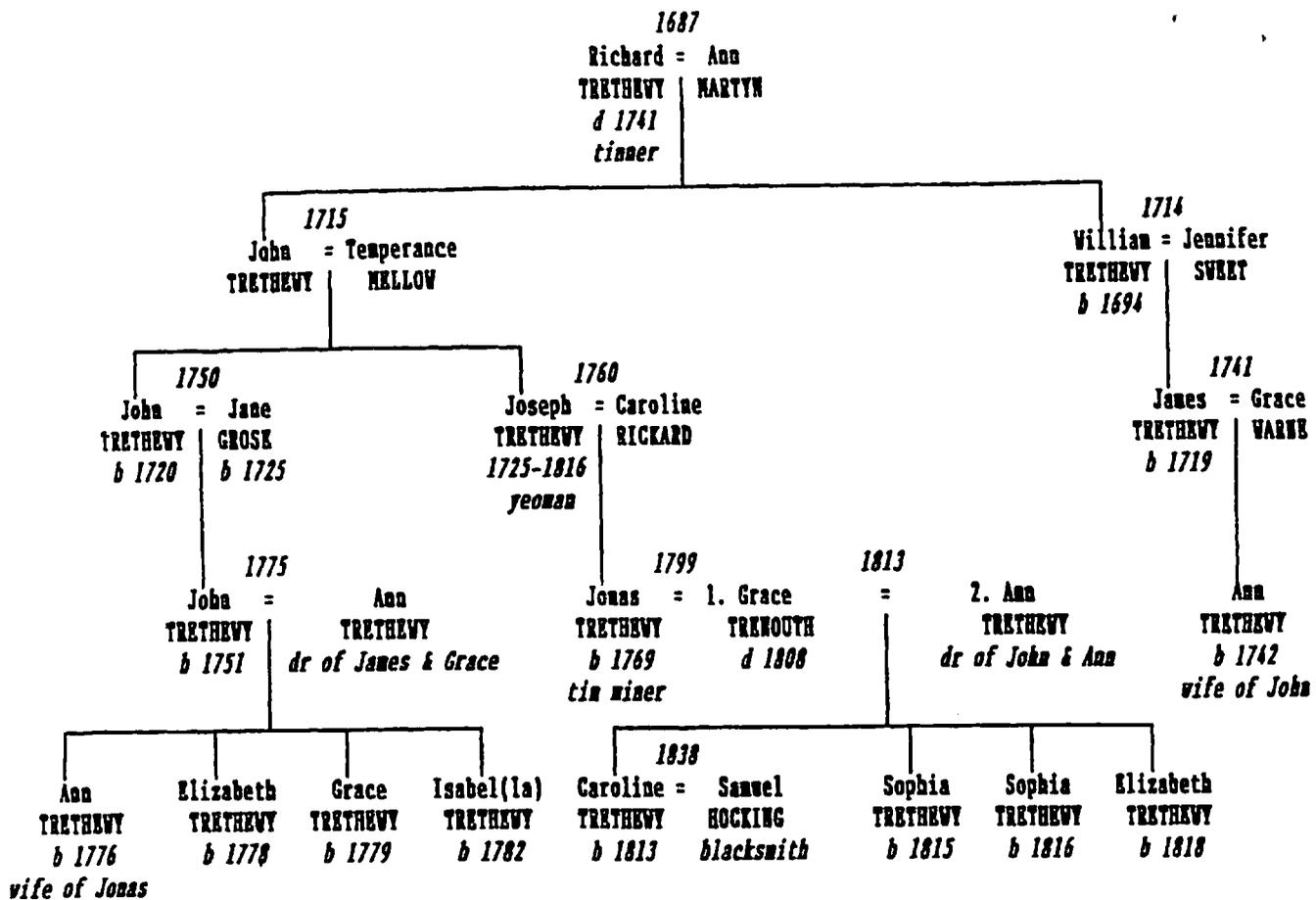
## KISSING-COUSINS

Marriages between people who were related, either directly or through marriage, seem to have been especially common in Cornwall. So it was with the Trethewys of St Stephen's. It would not be safe to identify the partners of a Trethewy-Trethewy marriage on the assumption that they must have been closely related, for there were so many Trethewys in St Stephen's that there would be a strong likelihood of their having come together by chance in the usual way. Nevertheless, when any family has been reconstructed in accordance with standard principles it is gratifying to find that brides and grooms with the same surnames were closely related.

This was the case with Jonas Trethewy and his second wife Ann née Trethewy who were married at St Stephen's in 1813. Jonas's distinctive name made him easy to identify as the 1769 son of Joseph of *Group 9*. Ann was also quite easy to identify despite her common name. At the time of the 1851 census the couple were living at Terras in St Stephen's with their daughter Caroline and the latter's husband Samuel Hocking, a blacksmith. (He was the uncle of the novelist brothers who had had part of his nose bitten out in a pub brawl in 1847 - *Newsletter 5*.) Jonas was then blind. Ann was 75, indicating that she was born in about 1776. The parish register shows only one suitable baptism. It took place on 4th August 1776, Ann's parents being John and Ann. These were clearly the John and Ann, also née Trethewy, who had been married

\*This implies that the Thomas who drew up the pedigree when he was living at Docton stated that his grandfather was of Docton when he would have known this to be a different and temporarily named Docton.

†Docks, *rumex* species, are common European weeds that are rubbed on nettle stings to alleviate the pain.



at St Stephen's on 11th June in the previous year. They were known to have had two further daughters, Elizabeth baptised 5th January 1778 and Grace, 1st August 1779.

John and Ann had such common names that I made no serious attempt to identify them until I had modified my main genealogy programme to allow searches to be made and the results clearly displayed. I then found that I could eliminate all but one John and one Ann as given by the baptismal records. (But it must always be remembered that not everybody had a recorded baptism.)

The only suitable John was baptised 13th April 1751 the son of John and his wife Jane née Grose. This was eminently satisfactory for the younger John was Jonas's first cousin. In 1813 Jonas was a widower while his younger but by no means young bride, a relative whom he would have known since childhood, probably feared ending up an old maid. Marriage thus offered considerable benefits and was to be blessed with four daughters.

The only known Ann who was likely to have become John's wife was in one way less satisfactorily placed than her presumed husband. She was baptised 19th April 1742, making her the elder by about nine years, though such disparity was by no means unusual. But in two ways she was very satisfactorily placed. Her parents were James and his wife Grace née Warne. James was the first cousin of John's father, so that John and his wife were presumably second cousins. Also, Ann named one of her daughters Grace, presumably after her own mother.

This investigation threw up another problem. At the time of the 1841 census Jonas and Ann were living at Boscoppa Downs in St Austell with another daughter Sophia and a mysterious Isabella Trethewy. (Information from Hilary Ballard, M11.) Family relationships were not given in this census and there was a problem in the identification of Isabella. She should have been a close relative of either Jonas or Ann but the parish registers revealed no such relative. The ages of adults were rounded down to multiples of 5 for this census and Isabella's stated age implied that she was born in the period 1786-91. There was no suitable Isabella named in the IGI for

Cornwall and the only possibility offered was an Isabel baptised in St Stephen's on 6th June 1782, the daughter of John and Jane. This is confirmed by the parish register. If she was the person sought then there are two discrepancies by comparison with the census information, the birth year and the details of the name, but neither is serious. Ages as provided by other persons were often guessed and are therefore untrustworthy. Other examples show that the names Isabel and Isabella were often interchanged.

The heart of the problem was the identification of John and Jane. No suitable John-Jane marriage was recorded in Phillimore's *Cornwall Marriages* and no other children of such a marriage are in evidence. Also no further John of a reasonable age was known as being available to be the husband. The couple could not have been the younger Ann's grandparents John and Jane as this Jane would have been aged 57 in 1782. A little investigation showed that an Ann was buried 1st of June 1782. The likely interpretation then is that Isabella was in fact the daughter of John and Ann and that Ann died at the time of the birth. It may be that when Isabella was about to be baptised the rector or his clerk asked John "Mother's name?", and the distraught John answered with his own mother's name. Isabella thus appears to be the younger Ann's sister and if so then her presence in Jonas's household in 1841 is adequately explained.

### **A FAMILY OF BASTARDS**

There is far more bastardy nowadays than in times past but we don't refer to it as such because it is politically incorrect to remind bastards and their parents of their condition. This sociological aversion to words describing the condition doubtless stems from times when there was a religious aversion to the condition itself. In the past there were of course semi-euphemistic and picturesque terms like "ill-begotten", "spurious", "base-born" and the tongue-in-cheek "love child" to denote the condition, but undoubtedly there was then a greater openness about it than now. A 19th century family of illegitimate Trethewys used aliases in a way which must have made it quite clear as to their status. (Once it was not unusual for people to have alternative surnames for other reasons, especially in Cornwall, but such times were long past.)

On the 8th June 1830 Susanna Trethewy and William Yelland were married in St Stephen's church. Thomas Trethewy and Susanna James were married on the same day and in the same church. (The IGI gives Miss James's Christian name as Sarah, but the PR and other sources show it to have been Susan[nah].) This looks like the double wedding of close relatives, probably a sister and brother. Susanna Trethewy was the illegitimate daughter of Grace Trethewy. She was given the second name Coad when she was baptised at St Stephen's on the 8th February 1807, presumably to publicise the father's surname - there was then a Coad family in St Stephen's. A Susanna Trethewy had an illegitimate daughter Jane at St Stephen's in 1827. As this sort of thing tended to run in families she may have been Grace's daughter, but we cannot be sure as there was one other suitable Susanna.

No available Thomas Trethewy was recorded in the St Stephen's parish register or in the IGI for Cornwall as a whole. The absence of a baptism occasionally points to illegitimacy, here supporting the idea that Thomas and Susanna had the same mother.

Grace had a further illegitimate child, James Andrew Trethewy baptised 21st December 1813 at St Stephen's. His second name evidently recorded his father's surname. He and his wife Sarah had a daughter Mahala Couch Trethewy baptised at St Mewan, a parish adjacent to St Stephen's, 1st January 1843. He died in 1877 leaving a will, his estate being valued at between £250 and £300. He described himself in the will as James Andrew Trethewey otherwise James Andrew, farmer of Sticker in St Mewan. This indicates that he knew himself to be the son of a man surnamed Andrew. He enjoyed moderate prosperity despite his unpromising beginning and

this suggests that his father had helped him. His daughter Mahala had probably not survived for his sole legatees were his wife and his stepchildren Peter Mitchell and Mrs Caroline Couch Rowe. He was married in the last quarter of 1841 according to the index, evidently to a widow Sarah Mitchell née Couch.

No James Trethewy had been found in the censuses for St Mewan but a new check of the 1851 census revealed James Andrew, an agricultural labourer aged 42, his wife Sarah aged 50 and daughter Mahala aged 9.\* Unless he had been baptised relatively late he had overstated his age by 5 years, perhaps to bring it closer to that of his elderly wife.

Any of three Graces born in the period 1778 to 1780 might have been the mother of the spurious children. Two of them appear to have died in infancy though the register does not indicate which. Two have the merit that they allow William Yelland and his wife Susanna Trethewy to be cousins, their respective mothers being sisters. As noted in the previous item marriages between cousins were especially common in Cornwall. The parents of both pairs of sisters were themselves first or second cousins. William's parents were Thomas Yelland and Elizabeth née Trethewy who were married in St Stephen's 3rd August 1799. (They are ancestors of M27, Michael Yelland and of Wallace the husband of M28, Mrs Joan Yelland.)

The first possibility is consistent with a Yelland tree which gives the date of Elizabeth's baptism as 5th January 1778. This is satisfactory in that it would make her a year younger than her implied husband. Her sister Grace would then have been baptised 1st August, 1779. Their parents would have been John and Ann née Trethewy, second cousins of *Group 9*. This family was mentioned and displayed in the previous item.

The second possibility is that Elizabeth and Grace were the daughters of James Trethewy and his wife Elizabeth née Trethewy, first cousins of the St Dennis branch, *Group 11*. Their earlier children were baptised at St Dennis but in about 1777 the family moved to St Stephen's where the later children were baptised. Their daughter Elizabeth was baptised 2nd January 1771, contrary to the Yelland information, and with the disadvantage of making her six years older than her implied husband. (But the adverse gap is less than that for James Andrew Trethewy and his wife and for the John and Ann of the previous item.) Her sister Grace was baptised the 1st January 1780. Another sister, Ann 1790, had an illegitimate child Mary in 1808.

Despite the difficulties noted the second is my preferred solution because of the name James. It was still the practice to preserve the names of close relatives from one generation to the next. These were usually names from the father's side but a dutiful husband would also pass on his father-in-law's name. The father of the *Group 11* sisters was called James. This name was introduced into Thomas's part of the Yelland family for the first time when he and Elizabeth gave it to a son in 1817, and we have seen that Grace gave it to one of her sons. The other pair of sisters had relatives called James but as these were the grandfather and uncle on the maternal side it is far less likely with them that the name would have been passed on in the same sort of way.

The 1841 census for St Stephen's showed that Thomas Trethewy, his wife Susan and their children were living in Long Lane. Thomas was a husbandman, a farmer. There was no sign of the family in 1851 but in 1861 Susan Trethewy, now a widow, and her children were living in St Mewan. She was an agricultural labourer. Residence at St Mewan reinforced the idea that Thomas and James were closely connected.

\*All information marked with an asterisk in this item was provided by Janet Legg, M97, a descendant of Thomas and Susanna, to whom thanks.

On 4th April 1849 Thomas Trethewy, a miner, fell 120 feet to his death in the Great Polgooth Mine in St Mewan.\* He was buried at St Stephen's two days later and was then named as "Thomas Trethewy commonly called Puckey."\* His age showed him to have been born in about 1803. There was thus a strong pointer to his being the illegitimate son of a man called Puckey, whom he presumably knew. His alias, his age and his presence in St Mewan suggested strongly that he was the husband of Susan and the son of Grace. The new search of the 1851 census for St Mewan revealed Susan Puckey a widow aged 40 who was a farm worker born at Ladock, and her children.\* Their names confirmed that this was the family that called itself Trethewy in 1841 and 1861. Together the IGI and the censuses show that there were at least 9 Puckey/Trethewy children.

One of these children, Christian, born c. 1842, had an illegitimate child John Kent Trethewy who was baptised at St Mewan the 26th October 1863. There was a substantial family of Kents, originally of St Stephen's, living in St Mewan at this time. Two of the boys then in St Mewan, Philip and Nicholas, were of an age to have been the father. Their own father was James Kent, a farmer born in St Dennis. He was the great grandson of Nicholas Kent and Joan Trethewy. These were my 4 x great grandparents, though not on the all-male Kent line. Joan was of *Group 11*, being the 1734 daughter of Thomas Trethewy of St Dennis and Elizabeth née Jolley. If the erring Grace Trethewy was of *Group 11* then this couple were her paternal grandparents, so that she would be a first cousin of James Kent's father. James's wife was Eliza Trethewy the daughter of Philip, a rope-maker, and his wife Grace Varcoe. Philip was of *Group 4* and so only remotely related to the Trethewys of *Group 11*.

The youngest of Thomas and Susan's children, Ellen, was born 22nd October 1848, five months before her father's death. Her birth certificate\* names her mother as "Susan Tretheway formerly Rowe" which is inconsistent with Susan's maiden name James as given at her marriage. A search for her origin showed that she and her mother also used an alias. She was the base child of Elizabeth James, alias Rowe, baptised 8th March, 1811, at Ladock.\* (Susan who registered the birth was illiterate, whence the phonetic spelling of her surname.)

At a guess, James Andrew Trethewy had gone to St Mewan to work on the farm of a relative, perhaps his father, and in due course inherited it. Thomas appears likewise to have been set up as a farmer in St Stephen's. He must have failed for he too went to St Mewan, but to become a miner. Perhaps at first he had worked there with James, as his widow may have done later. And the arrival a few years later of James Kent, who was probably a fairly close relative and who was a former china-clay labourer now turned farmer, may be significant.

## A NOTED SCULPTOR

William Thomas Trethewey, 1893 - 1956, "was a noted sculptor and craftsman, excelling in strong portrait sculpture, and there are a number of his sculptures in Christchurch and New Zealand."

William was the son of Jabez, 1851 - 1935, and the grandson of William and Martha née Williams of St Stephen's. The family is in *Group 11*. Most of the early members of the group lived in St Dennis but this line had remained in St Stephen's. Jabez and his wife Sarah Bullen emigrated to New Zealand in 1876. Jabez was a carpenter before and after emigrating but acted as a schoolmaster while aboard ship. Helen died soon after arriving, apparently childless. Jabez then married Mary Wallis. Originally of Cornwall, she was the mother of the sculptor and a great aunt of our informant Eileen Poplewell of New Zealand.

## A BAD BUY?

William Griffiths Trethewey, 1865 - 1926, was a grandson of Samuel Trethewey the hydraulics engineer of *Group 9* whose family emigrated to Canada, *Newsletter 10*. His silver-mining interests had led to his becoming a millionaire so that for example he owned at various times a sailing yacht, a diesel yacht, an airfield near Toronto and a large house in Sussex, *Newsletter 15*. In accordance with his new-found status he became interested in his family origins. He produced the "little red book", showing a somewhat incorrect genealogy of his part of the family, as a Christmas gift for his relatives in 1911, *Newsletter 11*. At about the same time he commissioned the College of Arms to draw up a Trethewey pedigree. The resulting document was signed by the officer who dealt with West-Country families, Everard Green F.S.A., the Somerset Herald of the time.

As a source of information the pedigree is not worth the paper it was written on. It merely reproduces Vivian's defective pedigree as given in his *Visitations of Cornwall*. One of Vivian's errors was taken from Gilbert's *Historical Survey of Cornwall*: it made Henry Trethewey the Black Prince's yeoman the father of Thomas the murderous coroner, despite their births being separated by over a century. The other errors were his own. For example he confused an Anthony from an unenterprising branch with one from a highly enterprising branch and he ascribed the 1639 will and hence the children of a relatively poor widow Richoe to a Richard of the wealthy branch. (Richoe was a name occasionally given to girls in Cornwall.)

On the title page of the pedigree there is coloured representation of the two distinct sets of Trethewey arms, the main goat-based arms used for three hundred or so years, and the trefoil-based arms born for a single generation by a junior branch. (They were then taken by an heiress to her husband's family.) But both are quartered on a single shield as though one person had inherited both.

Whatever William's hopes and intentions may have been, there was no attempt to link his line with the Tretheweys of the Visitation pedigree, and the link has yet to be found.

The pedigree passed from William to his son Frank. It was of no great interest to him as it shows no link to his family and so he passed it to his father's great-nephew, Richard Trethewey, M72, who in turn has kindly passed it to the Society. It originally consisted of several folded unbound sheets. For their greater protection I have taken the liberty of having them lightly bound and provided with covers by a professional bookbinder for a modest sum. The document has no genealogical value but it is of considerable interest as a piece of Trethewey history and it shows how much confidence can be placed in pedigrees produced by the College of Arms. I shall bring it to Falmouth in May. I hope that when the Society ultimately closes the document will be passed to a Cornish organisation with genealogical interests, whichever seems most appropriate at the time.



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# Trethewey Society

*Will it have been ...*  
*1871*  
*Thomas Henry Trethewey*  
*11th November 1871*  
*1871*  
*Beane Trethewey ...*  
*born September 1871*  
*Samuel Trethewey ...*  
*born November 1876*



Part of a Trethewey family Bible: see *A Family Bible*.  
Note the subtraction sum on the title page to determine Thomas's age in 1898.  
Four pencilled subtractions on the same page have failed to copy.

## NEWSLETTER No. 25 APRIL 1999



### MEMBERS

Welcome to:

100. John Roger Curtis. 13 India Street, Edinburgh EH3 6HA, UK. *Group 11*: Thomas Trethewey & Elizabeth Jolley (as M1), Thomas 1735 m. Wilmot Hicks 1761, Elizabeth 1765 m. Robert Varcoe 1796, 4 x great grandparents.

101. Harry E. Pascoe. 23909 Virginia Ave, Warren, MI 48091-4583, USA. email (c/o): sagolden@earthlink.net. Three descents, *Groups 9, 1 & 6*: Mary Trethewey m. Thomas Pascoe 1836 (as M35), great great grandparents.

102. David Wayne & Jennifer Elizabeth "Jenny" Farnham (née Farnham). 3107 Stevens Circle North, Erie, CO 80516, USA. email: farnham@spot.Colorado.EDU. *Group 11*: James Trethewey & Mary née Wallish (as M62), John Wallace T. 1859-1946 m. Margaret Adelia Libby 1881, William Demon(d) T. 1889 m. Birdie Lorella Hansen 1911, John Alvin T. 1916-1994 m. Hope Ann Lamson, Patricia Ann 1939 m. Steven Farnham, David's parents.

New addresses:

M61: Dawn Bowen, 54 Ballance Street, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

M95: Tim Hurd, 1929 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504, USA.

M98: Dawn Trethewey, 2/5 Marine Parade, Redcliffe, QLD 4020, Australia.

Email:

M13 Andy Trethewey, dscland@gtnet.gov.uk

M27 Michael Yelland, jsmy@amble32.freereserve.co.uk

Lapsed: M36, M88, M89

## **A MAP SHOWS THE WAY**

At the times of the censuses of 1841 and 1851 John Trethewey and his wife Harriet were living at Green Lane in St Stephen's. Their ages as given in 1851 implied that they were born in about 1816 and 1818 respectively. (The 1841 census does not give exact ages.) John was a copper miner in 1841 and a tinner in 1851. His was the commonest of names and so a detailed search had to be made to indentify him.

A son James was present in 1851. His age was given as three and so a birth certificate was easily obtained. This showed that he was born 1st February 1848 and that his mother's maiden name was Johns. It was an easy job to search the General Record Office marriage index back from 1841 for John Trethewys until a cross-check for each one found showed that a Harriet Johns with the same reference code was also listed. The marriage certificate was then obtained. This showed that the couple were married 3rd August 1839. John's father was named as Richard, a labourer, and Harriet's as James, also a labourer.

With this information John was identified as the son of Richard and Rebecca née Bone of *Group 11*. He was baptised 13th September, 1812, four years earlier than expected. Harriet was baptised 31st December 1815, over two years earlier.

John and Harriet were not recorded in St Stephen's at the 1861 census but the Internet version of the 1871 census shows a John and Harriet, both born in St Stephen's, living at Camborne. However, it was questionable whether these were the same couple for their stated ages implied that they were born in 1822 and 1823 respectively. But these ages were not altogether trustworthy: the St Stephen's couple had shown themselves to be indifferent as to their ages and this version of the census contains many errors.

The 1881 census shows that Harriet was then a widow living in lodgings in Camborne. Her age implied that she was born in 1821. She did us a favour by being unnecessarily precise about her birth-place: the name of the parish would have sufficed but instead she gave the name of her hamlet, St Stephen's Coombe. This hamlet, otherwise known simply as Coombe, is about a mile south of St Stephen's church. The 1:25,000 map for the area shows that Green Lane, where the St Stephen's couple lived in the years following their marriage, is part of the hamlet. Age discrepancies notwithstanding there was evidently only one John and Harriet.

## **THREE UNTIMELY DEATHS**

The 1871 census recorded the persons present in each household on the night of Monday 3rd/Tuesday 4th April. The return for St Erme, a parish six miles west of St Stephen's, shows that on census night Samuel Dean, a 39-year-old widowed farmer with 43 acres, was at home in Polisken with his elderly housekeeper and his three-year-old son Tom. But Tom was lying dead.

I discovered this after Victor Pascoe, M56, kindly sent a photograph of a gravestone at St Stephen's. Apart from some verse the inscription reads as shown. The H in Thomas's (Tom's) name stood for Henry. (Owing to a misinterpretation the reference to the inscription in the CFHS MI index wrongly indicates that Samuel died on the same day as Jane.)

SACRED  
 TO THE MEMORY OF  
**JANE**  
 only daughter of WILLIAM and  
 MARTHA TRETHERWEY & wife  
 OF SAMUEL DEAN OF THIS PARISH  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL 16 1870  
 AGED 32 YEARS  
 leaving two children to lament their loss  
 [verse]  
 ALSO TO THE MEMORY OF  
 THOMAS H DEAN  
 SON OF THE ABOVE SAMUEL &  
 JANE DEAN who was accidentally  
 killed April 3rd 1871.  
 AGED 3 YEARS & 8 MONTHS

It will be seen that Tom had died on the day leading up to census night so that unwittingly or not the enumerator had recorded the presence of what was in fact a corpse.

According to her death certificate Jane died at Downderry, St Stephen's, of "decline, not certified." The death was registered by her mother who had been present. Death by decline was usually attributed to the elderly. As Jane was 32 consumption may have been the cause, and if so the family may have supposed that it was not worthwhile having medical attention that would have been of no avail.

According to his certificate Tom was "killed by a rolling stone falling from a cart on him" at Highway in St Erme. The informant was the coroner, an inquest having been held on the day following the accident. The accident was reported in

two local papers, the *West Briton* for 13th April and the *Royal Cornwall Gazette* for the 15th April. The accounts were virtually identical, even to the misspelling of the surname:

**FATAL ACCIDENT TO A CHILD.** - A child three and a half years of age, son of Mr Samuel Dain, farmer, St Erme, late of St Stephens-In-Branwell, has been killed by a stone roller, while being lifted from a cart, slipping and striking him on the head. Death was instantaneous. An inquest has been held and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

According to the 1871 census Highway had three houses while Polisken had one, but maps suggest that the two names were interchangeable. Highway evidently took its name from the road running from near Mitchell to Truro, now the A3076.

Samuel was baptised in St Stephen's in May 1831 the son of Thomas and Philadelphia, and he married Jane in November 1863. The various pieces of information show that Samuel and his children moved from St Stephen's to St Erme at some time in the year separating the deaths of his wife and son. The Deans were evidently prosperous. Samuel owned his own farm according to the 1873 Land Return. His younger brother Henry, born c. 1836 was farming 259 acres at St Minver in 1871, though as a tenant. In 1881 however he was the hotel keeper at Indian Queens in St Columb Major.

Jane's father William Trethewy, baptised 3rd May 1814, was the son of Richard of *Group II* and Rebecca née Bone, and hence, by chance, the brother of John of the preceding item. He had married Martha Williams at St Stephen's 26th September 1837. Like his brother he lived at Coombe. (Downderry is about half a mile to the south.) From his marriage until 1861 William was recorded as being a miner but by 1871 he had become an assayer. On census night of that year he was with his wife, his son Jabez and his granddaughter Bessie Dean. Bessie, aged 5, was the elder of the two children of Samuel and Jane referred to on the gravestone. As a farmer her

father would have had horse-drawn transport available, so she was doubtless whisked off to her grandparents following the accident. (The 1871 census, or at least the Internet version, wrongly states that she was William's niece.)

Samuel's circumstances in 1881 were exactly as in 1871 except that his residence was now named as Highway and he was living with Bessie and his 91-year-old mother. (But in 1851 she was said to be aged 57.)

We cannot ignore Samuel's 1871 housekeeper for she was to become part of the family. Born Sarah Brewer in St Stephen's c. 1816, she married Joseph Bullen in 1846. They had a daughter Sarah who was born c. 1853 and who was a farm worker living with an elder brother and two sisters in St Stephen's in 1871. She married Jane Dean's brother the aforementioned Jabez Trethewey on the 16th August 1875. As reported in *Newsletter 24* in the item on Jabez's son the sculptor, the couple emigrated in the following year to New Zealand, Sarah dying shortly after their arrival. (In noting her death I inadvertently gave her name as Helen.)

## SECOND THOUGHTS

When Methodism came into being it was of little interest to members of the upper classes. They tended to regard it merely as a vehicle by which the lower-middle and working classes could express their dissidence with decent containment in a puritanical holier-than-thou manner. I was surprised therefore to notice when scanning through the IGI that Henry and Jane Trethewey had arranged for their daughter Mary to be baptised in a chapel of the St Austell Wesleyan circuit. This was on the 22nd March 1825.

Henry, 1786 - 1871, who had married Jane Tresawna in 1811, was in what was probably the most elevated branch of the Trethewys of the modern era. He was descended from the Robert Trethewey who had submitted the pedigree for the 1620 Heralds' Visitation and so confirmed the family's right to bear heraldic arms. His great great grandmother Dorothy Scawen provided him with ancestors drawn from many of the most distinguished Cornish families. Indeed, he was himself distinguished, being a leading innovative agriculturalist. (*Newsletter 4*.) His family is so well recorded in various sources that there had been no need to look for it in the IGI.

I was even more surprised to find from the next entry but one that Henry and Jane had arranged to have a daughter Mary baptised in Probus parish church on the 11th October 1827, two and a half years later. Further investigation showed that until 1819 their children had been baptised at the parish church. Their son William, who had been born in about 1822, was baptised in the church at the same time as Mary. It looked as though Henry and Jane had had a short flirtation with Methodism but on finding it wanting had reverted to the Established Church.

That there were two baptisms of a Mary seemed to point to what often happened in those times of high infant mortality: a child died and a later child was then given the dead child's name. But the circumstances made me suspicious - William who was baptised at the age of five could have had a Methodist baptism in his infancy, the record being lost.

Biographical sources show that in due course a daughter Mary married Joseph Faull. I therefore called up Joseph and his family from the 1871 census through the Internet. (See *Newsletter 23* for the search method.) Appropriately for Henry's son-in-law, Joseph aged 52 was a farmer of 310 acres in Probus. His wife Mary was aged 46. Their children were Henry 13, Arthur 10, and Anthony 7. The census covered the night of 3rd/4th April. The implication was that Mary had been born sometime in the twelve months preceding the corresponding days of 1825 and that she was therefore the child baptised in the chapel late in March of that year. This confirms what I had suspected, that when Henry and Jane had second thoughts about their religion they decided to have Mary and William re-done, this time properly.

## DON'T GO DOWN THE MINE THOMAS!

Three persons called Thomas Trethew(e)y were killed in separate mine accidents in the 1840s, two of them within the space of about a week.

The first death was that of Thomas who, as reported in *Newsletter 18*, was of sufficient religious attainment to have an obituary in the *Bible Christian Magazine*. He was born in 1786 at St Dennis the son of Richard Trethewey and his wife Grace née Brokenshire. While he was climbing down a mine ladder at Holmbush, St Austell, in April 1841 one of the rungs broke and he fell 40 feet. He died three days later.

The second death was noted in *Newsletter 24*. This Thomas is believed to have been the illegitimate son of Grace Trethewey, born about 1803. The *Royal Cornwall Gazette* for 13th April 1849 reported:

**FATAL MINE ACCIDENT.** - A man named Thomas Trethewey was killed at Great Polgooth mine on the 5th last, by falling from a plat [sic] to a depth of 20 fathoms. He has left a wife and seven children to lament their loss.

The details of third death were given by the *West Briton* of 20th April 1849. It stated that an inquest was held

At Roche on the 16th on Thomas Trethewey. He was an engine man in the Beam Mine. About a week since he was screwing up the corner of the engine when it slipped over the stairs and fell on his head. He was taken up and was sensible for a few minutes. He was carried to his home but never spoke afterwards, although he lived a week. One of his comrades who was holding a candle to him at the time of the accident gave evidence as above. Verdict, "Accidental death."

This Thomas was born in St Dennis in 1786, the son of Richard and his wife Elizabeth Varcoc. He was the brother of Samuel the water and mining engineer. (*Newsletter 10*.) The family moved to the St Hilary/Breage area in the south west of the county and he spent most of his life there even though he died in Roche. Roche was the home of several cousins, the children of his uncle and aunt, the Thomas and Jane who had brought Methodism to the parish. His death certificate shows that he died at Rock Cottage in the hamlet of Hendra. The 1851 census shows that Rock Cottage was where one of these cousins, Jenefer the wife of Samuel Robins, lived. He was probably in Roche on a temporary assignment as his widow was still at Ashton in Breage in 1851 where the family had been in 1841. He is the subject of an item in *Newsletter 16* on account of his talent for writing hymns.

Samuel Robins, baptised at Roche 1795 the son of Paul and Agnes, was a china clay merchant employing 16 men, 2 boys and 2 girls. His wife was a relative by marriage: his sister Agnes, baptised Kenwyn 1797, was the first wife of Jenefer's cousin the aforementioned Samuel Trethewey. Samuel also left the south west and was employed for a time at a Roche mine.

Also in Hendra at this time was Jenefer's nephew John, the son of her brother Samuel Trethewey. John was a farmer of 15 acres. Samuel was farming 83 acres in St Columb. Hendra is about a quarter of a mile south east of the famous Roche Rock and the Beam mine was about a mile south east of Hendra.

*Hendra*, for *hen-tref*, "the old dwelling (etc.);" is said to be the commonest farm and hamlet name in Cornwall.

Thanks to Joy Brealey, M21, great great granddaughter of the third Thomas, for sending details of his death, for drawing attention to the proximity in time of the second and third deaths and for providing references for the newspaper reports.

## A BAD DEBT

It was noted in *Newsletter 6* that two naval Tretheweys, John and his son Henry, had died on active service, their wills being proved in 1757 and 1783 respectively. John married Joan Sussex at Padstow in 1739. This supports the idea that he was the son of Robert and Grace who was baptised two miles away at St Issey in 1704. Robert's origins are not known but his presence in St Issey may be connected with the presence there of Richard the son of the Richard at the head of *Group 9* in the years following 1728. But there were no Roberts for several generations in *Group 9*, suggesting that Robert of St Issey was not closely related.

John's father-in-law Henry Sussex, a mariner of Padstow, made his will in 1732 but it was not proved until 12th May 1753, his widow Ann's will being proved on the same day. Ann, then a widow, had made her will on the preceding 3rd April when she was described as sick and weak. Among her bequests were a leathered chest and 5 shillings to her daughter Jone Trethewey. She was dead by 3rd May when the inventory of her goods, and by implication her husband's, was drawn up.

The inventory was of the sort that named the rooms in which the various items were kept. The rooms included the broad chamber, the soldiers chamber (for a lodger or as a billet?), a back chamber, the law room,\* the kitchen, the passage, the cellar, the brew house and an outhouse. Somewhat carelessly it may seem, the outhouse contained 2 pairs of bedsheets, 2 bolsters and cloths, 7 old pillow cases, a small gold ring, a silver spoon and the most valuable listed item, pewter at £3.3s. It also contained the most interesting, an old pewter still.

The inventory finished with the statement "£4.12s.10d of the aforesaid Book Debts [£15.11s.11½d in all] is due from John Trethewey and £6 from Sundry others making together £10.12s.10d which we think to be very Bad."

## THE WORLD BOOK OF TRETHEWEYS

This eminently missable Halbert/Burke's Peerage publication, against which a warning was given three years ago in *Newsletter 14*, has evidently run to a second edition, for Derrick Trethewey, M10, has recently received junk mail about it. The price has risen from £21.95 to £29.95. We are told that the book will lead us to the estate records, as given in PCC wills from the last part of the 18th c., of Tretheweys of means. The PCC, the Probate Court of Canterbury, was the senior probate court. It was used by the well-to-do when bequeathed real estate extended through several lesser jurisdictions, or simply to demonstrate the family's status. It was also used for the wills of servicemen. There are only two Trethewey wills proved by the PCC for the period, those of John the debtor and his son Henry mentioned in the previous item. As naval ratings they were scarcely men of means.

## A FAMILY BIBLE

A friend of Evelyn Cockram née Trethewey, M14, found a Bible at a second-hand book sale at St Austell which contains Trethewey entries on the fly leaves, so she sent it to Evelyn. Evelyn has sent it to me to find a home for it as the entries do not refer to her family. The entries, omitting duplications, are:

A reward from Bethesda Sunday School to Joseph Trethewey, Feb 19th 1869.

Joseph Trethewey who was born January 13th 1860.

\*This is not "low room": the writing is very clear. The room contained "1 old bedstead and some old linen." Any ideas?

Joseph Trethewey went to Montania (sic) The April 7th 188- [probably 6].

Elizabeth Ann Trethewey went to America 26th of October 1887.

William-Jhon (sic) Trethewey who was born June 16th 1871.

Thomas Henry Trethewey who was born September 23th (sic) 1881.

Bessie Trethewey who was born September 20th 1872.

Samuel Trethewey who was born November 1876.

Alfred Trethewey who was born September 5th 1883 and died June 1884.

These are but a few of the 20 children of Joseph Trethewey, *Group 11*, and his wife Elizabeth née Hockin of St Austell. Thomas Henry Trethewey is the grandfather of Tom Trethewey, M66, of Michigan. The Bible has been sent to Tom and his father.

## A REARRANGEMENT OF FAMILIES

It has become clear that two 18th c. Richards have been misplaced in the Trethewey pedigrees. Richard the husband of Ann Rickard was made the son of Joseph and Caroline née Rickard of *Group 9* on the assumption that his mother and wife were related and because he named a daughter Caroline. But there is no direct evidence that Joseph and Caroline had a son Richard. Richard fits in better as the known son of John and Jane née Grose of *Group 1*, both in regard of timing and by the fact that he would then have followed the respectful practice of naming his first son and daughter after his father and mother.

This displaces Richard, the husband of Susanna Cunday, who had been assigned to John and Jane. This was on the basis of timing: there was no significant match of family Christian names. He fits more comfortably as Richard the known son of William and Grace née Rickard of the part of *Group 11* (now part of *Group 1*) that stayed in St Stephen's. This Richard would then have named his sons Richard, William and Thomas after himself, his father and his brother.

The revised descents are;

*Group 9*: Richard Trethewey m. Ann Martyn 1687, John m. Temperance Mellow 1715, John 1720/1 m. Jane Grose 1750, Richard 1762 m. Ann Rickard 1798.

*Group 1/11*: James Trethewey, Thomas, Bartholomew, Bartholomew, Bartholomew m. Jane Bruart or Bryant 1665, Thomas 1675 m. Joan Mellow 1701, William 1714 m. Grace Rickard 1736, Richard 1753 m. Susanna Cunday 1788.

With apologies for any inconvenience.

## HAROLD WILLIAM TRETHEWEY 1892-1921

*Newsletter 16* included an account of the family of George Hicks Trethew(e)y, *Group 9*, and his wife Emily née Wesson who had emigrated to Tasmania. In particular mention was made of their son Edwin Clifford who, as part of the ANZAC force, died of wounds in France in 1918. George's great grandson, John Trethewey M74, has sent information about Edwin's short-lived younger brother Harold who distinguished himself as a member of the same force.

Harold William, whose name appears alternatively as William Harold, was born at Fingal, Tasmania, on the 7th June 1892. As a civilian he was employed as a bank clerk, originally at Burnie and Sheffield in Tasmania and later in Melbourne. He was a keen tennis and Rugby player. Notes produced by a military historian and his letters home, as quoted in the local press, show how he fared in the 1914-18 war. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in Melbourne on the 17th August 1914 and arrived in Egypt in January 1915, being unable to go

on embarkation leave to his parents' home because of a ferry strike. He disembarked near Gallipoli on the 25th April, the third day of the land campaign. The torpedo boat towing his boat ashore had to cast off to pick up survivors from another boat and so his group had to row for the shore. On landing they had to fix bayonets and chase some Turks up a hill. The group was immediately shelled and had to take cover, many being blown up.

After a fortnight Harold was moved to a different part of the front. His section was reduced to three men. At one point he stopped a bullet but it struck a tobacco tin and then a clasp knife in his pocket, so that he was unscathed. He was not displeased to see shells from a warship blowing Turks, horses and guns into the air. In a charge to take some Turkish trenches he received a bullet wound in the groin and leg. While attending to his wound in a trench he was buried following a shellburst on the parapet but was able to dig himself out. He was then rescued by stretcher bearers and shipped to Alexandria, followed by Malta. While in hospital he acquired the three stripes of a sergeant. The Governor of Malta, Lord Methuen, regularly visited the hospital and told him that with a name like his he ought to have come from Cornwall.

He returned to Egypt in January 1916 and was posted to the Western Front in May. There is very little information about his activities there, though he was made a warrant officer, class 1, in May 1917. He embarked for Australia on the 20th November 1918 and arrived on 5th January. He was discharged on the 6th March and returned to banking on the 31st, presumably in Melbourne. Later he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for devotion to duty in the field.

He died the 21st December 1921 at his father's home in Launceston, Tasmania. The military source indicates that he returned to the island in 1920, which suggests that he may have gone there suffering from a long-term illness. Newspaper cuttings imply that his mother died between his return to Australia and his own death.

## **WRONG PREMISE, WRONG CONCLUSION**

In the item on bastardy in *Newsletter 24* I said that my preferred identification of Elizabeth Trethewy the wife of Thomas Yelland and mother of William was as the daughter of James and Elizabeth on the grounds that one of her sons was called James. I am advised by her descendant Michael Yelland, M27, that assigning a son James to her was due to a misunderstanding: he was in fact the 1817 son of John and Eleanor Yelland. Furthermore, Elizabeth's age as given at her burial in 1843, 67, better supports the idea that she was the daughter of John and Ann Trethewy. This weakens the argument for the loose-living Grace to have been the daughter of James Trethewy, but it does not demolish it, especially as she called a son James and as the elder James had a daughter Ann with similar habits.

## **CORNWALL '99**

I hope that many of us will be able to meet at the Trethewy Society stand at the Cornwall Family History Society Fair at the Princess Pavilion, off Melville Road, Falmouth, on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th May.



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# Trethewey & Polharmon? Society



## Trethewey in Lanlivery

Part of this farmhouse has survived from the time when it was occupied by and gave its name to our earliest Trethewey ancestors - see the items *Trethewey* and *Polharmon*.

*Sketched from her own photograph by M11, Hilary Ballard*

## NEWSLETTER No. 26 JULY 1999



### MEMBERS

#### Extended Ancestry:

14. Mrs Evelyn May Cockram née Trethewey. 6 Queens Mews, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QG, UK. Two descents. *Group 1/11*: James d. 1573, Thomas d. 1616, Bartholomew, Bartholomew d. 1666, Bartholomew m. Jane Bruart 1665, Thomas 1675-1743 m. Joan Mellow 1701, Thomas 1710-1795 m. Elizabeth Jolley 1733, Richard 1752-1816 m. Grace Brokenshire 1778, William c.1790-1832 m. Christiana Stethridge or Stuthridge 1815, William 1816 m. Elizabeth Stick 1841, Thomas b. 1845 m. Jane Retallick 1872, Joseph 1889-1939 m. Elsie Luke 1914, parents. *Group 1*: Bartholomew d. 1666 (as above), Ann(a) d. 1670 m. Thomas Stick, 4 x great grandparents of Elizabeth Stick above.

#### Welcome to:

103. Geoffrey Bruce "Geoff" and Dawn Mavis (née Pascoe) Wain. 65 Parkstone Avenue, Christchurch 8004, New Zealand. gbwain@es.co.nz. *Group 4*: Philip Trethewey m. Isabel Beaubery 1720, Richard 1720 m. Ann Jewel 1751, Philip 1765 m. Grace Varcoc 1797, Isabel 1798 m. Robert Martin 1816, 3 x great grandparents of Dawn.

104. Bradford Trethewey and daughter Jocelyn Ann Brookfield. Bradford lives in the Canary Islands, so please communicate with Jocelyn at Sea Haven, 12a Gyllingvase Terrace, Falmouth, TR11 4DL. *Group 1/11*: Thomas & Elizabeth Jolley (see M14 above), Thomas 1735-1814 m. Wilmot Hicks 1761, William 1771-1828 m. Catherine Kella 1803, Richard 1822 m. Jane Williams 1848, Richard 1855 m. Martha Burley 1885, Henry 1885 m. Elsie Benetto, parents of Bradford.

105. Rodney "Rod" and Gertrudis "Trudy" Bray. 13 Cunningham Place, Camden, NSW 2570, Australia. ozbrays@zip.com.au. Three descents: *Group 1/11 & Group 1*: William Trethewey & Elizabeth née Stick (see M14 above), Christiana 1843-1914 m. Thomas Jolly 1868, great grandparents of Rod. *Group 3*: Nicholas Trethewey and Petronell née James (as M1), Julyan m. Richard Morlyn/Merlin, great great grandparents of Thomas Jolly.

Email: M52. Gwen & Edgar Truscott: edwen@tpg.com.au

Lapsed: M41, M90, M92

## TRETHEVY . . .

The early Trethewys lived at and took their name from their residence Trethewey or Trethev(e)y in the parish of Lanlivery. We can infer this from a bond of 1278 which states that John de Trethewey held land in Trethewey. The drawing by Hilary Ballard on the title page shows Trethevy in its present form. She also sent some photographs and some notes about it.

The house is a Grade 2 listed building, which means in effect that its appearance must not be altered. Part of it is said to be 12th century and beams in a ground floor ceiling are 13th century, so that the first Trethewys could have put them there. The wing shown behind the car in the drawing is in the Tudor style - nearer London this would date from about 1485 to 1558 but in more remote districts it could be up to 50 years later. In the grounds there is a Gothic gateway which is separately listed. Experts in Cornish architecture, Veronica and the late Frank Chester, believe it to be a Hall House. Early manor houses consisted of a hall in which almost everything was done but gradually rooms were added for the greater privacy of the more important members of the household.

Trethevy lay in the manor of Polharmon, so that there was no manor of Trethevy. The next item shows that the Trethewys probably held the whole of the manor and that they may nevertheless have preferred to live at Trethevy, treating it as the manor house.

## . . . AND POLHARMON.

The manor of Polharmon, sometimes Polhorman etc., lay in the parishes of Lanlivery and Tywardreath. There are three main reasons for supposing that the early Trethewys held the whole of the manor. The first, not of itself conclusive, is given by the bond of 1278. In it John de Trethewey arranged to defer a payment to the prior of Tywardreath in respect of Polharmon. The second is that Trethevy had the form of a manor house even though it lay in the manor of Polharmon. The third is given by documents concerning the forfeiture of the possessions of Sir Robert Tresilian after he was hanged for treason in 1388 for supporting the king against a self-appointed commission of peers. The possessions included the manor of Polharmon. Sir Robert was one of the effective heirs of John de Trethewey's descendant Henry Trethewey the crown agent, so it is likely that he received it from Henry. (*Newsletter 14*.) A farm in the manor went to the other heir John Penhargard, who sold it to Sir Robert in 1365.

Hilary Ballard's information about Trethevy included a mention of two members of Parliament called Polharmon. If they took their name from the manor in Lanlivery then a Trethewey

connection was possible. John Polharmon was the member for Launceston in 1322 and Robert for Liskeard in 1326 and 1327. A check in Maclean's *Trigg Minor* revealed two priests called Polharmon. There are two references to Master Thomas de Polharmon. He was appointed portioner, joint rector, of St Endellion in 1278 and was granted a licence of non-residence in order to study in 1308. Master Robert de Polharmon vacated a similar position in 1312. The possibility that *Robert* stands in error for *Thomas* can be ruled out. There is no doubt about Thomas with his two references and it will be shown that there is a second reference for Robert. The only other Polharmon in my records was Philip who witnessed John de Trethewy's bond of 1278.

These Polharmons covered a very short span in time, 1278 to 1327 with a few additional years for childhood and old age. Their name, like *Trethewy*, was locational but unlike *Trethewy* it did not persist to become an established surname. That the family provided MPs suggests that it held an elevated position, yet there is no mention of it in the standard histories and genealogies for Cornwall, nor in Burke's *General Armory*. Any ancestors, and any descendants if there were any, must have used another surname. The Polharmons were making themselves known at the very period in which the manor of Polharmon was held by the Trethewys and so it could well be that they were themselves Trethewys.

The above-mentioned Henry Trethewy was the senior member of his family but he appears to have died without sons and so brothers or cousins are required to account for the continued use of the Trethewy name and arms. The Polharmons would fit in well. Thomas, John and Robert were favoured Trethewy names though too common to allow a link to be inferred. The rarer Philip is more significant, for a Philip Trethewy was MP for Cornwall in 1382. The two Philips lived a century apart, but there may have been unseen Philips to preserve the continuity of the name in the intervening period.

The service provided by the Polharmons as MPs accords well with the idea of their being Trethewys. Starting with Henry, who was himself MP for Bodmin in 1325, the Trethewy's were administrators and MPs for 150 years until Thomas the coroner upset the applecart.

There is another place called Polharmon in Cornwall. It lies a little to the north of Mullion in the south west of the county and it gave its name to a family that was still living at Mullion at the time of the published tax assessments of 1524 and 1543. However, Philip's signature of 1278 implies that Polharmon in Lanlivery was also a source of the surname.

These thoughts led me to search for instances of Polharmons in mediaeval documents published by the Public Record Office. An inquisition postmortem of 1331/2 showed that John held 1/15th part of the manor of Skewys belonging to the late Otto de Bodrigan. There is a Skewys in Cury, next to Mullion, so that he may have been of the Mullion family.

The *Catalogue of Ancient Deeds* produced three instances. In 1310 an agreement concerning tenements in Philleigh in Roseland between Oliver Carminow and Master Robert Polharmon was annulled. The designation "Master" suggests that Robert was the second of the priests named above. In 1334-5 a rental agreement concerning a tenement in Dounheved (Launceston) and involving Robert stated that he was the son and heir of John. This Robert was presumably one of the MPs and John the other or else their father. In 1375-6 William witnessed a deed setting up a trust for certain of John Reskimer's lands. This is a late instance and as the deed was witnessed at Reskimer, about 3½ miles north of Mullion, William is likely to have been of the Mullion family.

The designation "Master" suggests that the priests were masters of arts. Priests who were bachelors of arts would have been designated "Sir", or in Latin "Dominus", while non-graduate

priests would have received no designation. The designation is consistent with what we know of Trethewys at this time. Thomas's leave of absence to study shows a scholarly bent. It may be recalled that Master Robert Trethewy, an MA and formerly the principal of Exeter College, Oxford, had similar leave in 1383. Any university record that would have mentioned them cannot have survived for they are not named in the published lists of the early alumni of Oxford and Cambridge. Exeter College was established to provide university places for men from Devon and Cornwall, and its register has survived but the college was not founded until 1314, too late for the Polharmons.

It was a puzzle why the Trethewys, if they held the whole manor of Polharmon, preferred to live at and take their name from one of the farms in the manor. The 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map suggested a reason and so I decided to scout the area while travelling to the Cornwall '99 Family History Fair. (While doing this I came across Penpel, known to have been held by Trethewys as part of the manor.) In this part of Lanlivery there is a valley about a mile wide and skirted by two long low hills with gently sloping sides. Polharmon is near the top of one of these and overlooks the valley - pleasant enough but by no means spectacular.\* By contrast Trethevy lies on a hill overlooking a steep-sided wooded valley into which tributary valleys run. Short walks from the house would provide some spectacular views. I suspect therefore that the senior Trethewys preferred to live at the more dramatically situated Trethevy, leaving Polharmon itself to junior members of the family.

There is thus no firm evidence that the non-Mullion Polharmons were a junior branch of the Trethewys but the circumstantial evidence is impressive.

## LIFE UP NORTH

It was suggested in the previous Newsletter that Methodism was of little interest to the gentry, but as noted in earlier Newsletters there was a Trethewey family of minor gentry which had problems and which embraced Methodism, no doubt because this was able to provide solace and act as a vehicle for self expression. Bartholomew Trethewey, c1799-1857, was a member of this family. His aunt Jane and her husband had established a Methodist mission in Roche and his father and brother were ministers. He did not follow them into the ministry: perhaps he suffered from the bouts of depression that affected some of his relatives, Jane for example. We know that he had an unspecified chronic mental disorder towards the end of his life. He was given a lay appointment in the movement however: as noted in *Newsletter 3* he was one of the eleven town missionaries in Leeds, Yorkshire, in the years around 1840. (The Mission is still there.) The main job of the missionaries was social work on behalf of the underprivileged of the city. Bartholomew or one of his colleagues wrote the following report at this time:

C. E. said to me "I have been living with my husband forty years and the change that has taken place since he joined the Socialists is such as I could never have thought. He comes home at all hours of the night - dragging me from bed by the hair of my head, is almost continually angry with me and often says he should think it no sin to murder me since God has given him the organs to murder." The woman has lately joined the Methodists - the Lord support and guide her.

\* The *Index of Cornish Placenames* (1985) in the English Placename Society series makes no mention of Polharmon but it does mention a place in Lanlivery called Polhorden. Unlike Polharmon no such place is shown on either the first Ordnance Survey map or a recent one. It is stated that *Pen-* "hill" and *Pol-* "pool" were sometimes interchanged in placenames, their very different meanings notwithstanding, so that Polhorden was originally Penhorden. The name therefore means *hill that is a long ridge*. By the same token Polharmon could mean *long narrow hill*. These meanings are virtually identical whether or not the places are the same and they describe the location of Polharmon very well. There could have been no natural pool there.

## SMALL-WORLD DEPARTMENT

I was recently given the job of summarising an old newspaper account for my wife's Wagstaff Society newaletter. It reported that on a snowy February evening in 1860 five people were returning by cart from Doncaster market to Haxey in North-West Lincolnshire, a journey of about 12 miles. Haxey is surrounded by marshland in which there is an extensive drainage system. As well as the horse between the shafts there was another secured at the side. The travellers had been fortifying themselves at inns on the way and the now drunken driver carelessly struck the second horse his whip. It shied pulling the cart and its passengers into an open water-filled drain. Three died, one a Wagstaff. The account stated that the accident occurred close to Engine House.

Engine House was a pumping station in the parish of Wroot which adjoins Haxey. It was about four years after the accident that James Trethewey became the resident engineer. As reported in *Newsletter 10* he was a member of a Cornish family of engineers (*Group 9*), the most prominent being his uncle Samuel, also a water engineer, who spent many years in Derbyshire and who probably encouraged relatives to find work in the North.

James may have found a reminder of Cornwall in Haxey. The Haxey Hood Game has several similarities to the Padstow Hobby Horse celebration. Both are occasions for heavy drinking and they doubtless share a common origin in a fertility rite of the Ancient Britons. The reason for the name is that towards the end of the festivities the merry-makers struggle for possession of the "Hood," a phallic symbol carried by the "Fool" who corresponds to the man decked out as the Hobby Horse. The winner takes it to his preferred inn and gives it to the landlord who has the honour of keeping it for a year and who provides free drinks.

My mother's family came from this part of Lincolnshire. Several of my ancestors lived in Haxey and in neighbouring parishes and some must have taken part in the game. But a gr-gr-gr-uncle on my father's side who lived near Padstow, the teetotal Bible-Christian Thomas Tregaskis, tried to put a stop to the Hobby Horse carousal by offering in its place a bullock for roasting. He was laughed out of town.

### A TRETHEWEY MOTTO

**There's a right way and a wrong way and a Trethewey.**

This was the advice or warning given to Jenny Farnham of Colorado, joint member no. 102, by the family of her mother-in-law, born Patricia Trethewey (*Group 11*), at the time of her marriage.

The "motto" lacks rhyme or wit unless *Trethewey* is pronounced "Treth-uh-way" with stress on the final syllable. Jenny tells me that this is the way in which it is pronounced in Patricia's family. With this pronunciation it is often spelt *Tretheway* and sometimes *Trethaway*, especially outside Cornwall.

I first encountered the name *Trethewy* when I found the marriage of my great great grandparents Nicholas Kent and Loveday Trethewy. I then pronounced it "Treth-you-i" giving it the intrusive y that established itself in such situations in most parts of the country during the 18th century. But on meeting Cornish people I learned that "Treth-oo-i" was better. The usual early spelling, *Trethewy*, could scarcely have represented a stressed final syllable, nor could *Trethewie* as adopted by one branch around 1800.

The form *Trethewey* occurs in earlier texts but its widespread replacement of *Trethewy* in the 18th and 19th centuries was perhaps intended to add a touch of distinction. The patrician line, of

which Henry the agriculturalist was a member, found no need for such cosmetic adornment and has used the form *Trethewey* into the present century. One of the less beneficial effects of teaching the masses to read and write has been to encourage them to pronounce words as they see them, or as they think they see them written. Thus *waistcoat* is now usually pronounced as written even though "weskut" had become acceptable, and likewise for *forehead*, once always "forr-ed." The letters *ey* are pronounced "ay" in *why* and other words and this shows how *Trethewey* could have been read as "Tretheway." This would have been mainly outside Cornwall by people unfamiliar with the name. (The name can be a puzzle - John the royalist of the Commonwealth period was once called Mr Treeworthy.)

As if to give the lie to all this, John de Tredeway witnessed a document concerning Tywardreath Priory in the mid 13th century and he was probably on the ancestral line.

Has the motto been encountered in other Trethewey/ay lines?

### JOHN ALVIN TRETHEWEY, 1916-1994.

John Alvin Trethewey, known as Jack, was the father of Patricia Farnham mentioned in the previous item. He wrote an account of his early life in which he mentioned his father and grandfather.

John was a member of *Group 11* so that his ancestry can be traced via *Group 1* to James of the Visitation pedigree. Thomas at the head of *Group 11* was a prosperous farmer who held two farms at the time of his death in 1743, St Morish in St Stephen's valued at £20 and Gothers in St Dennis at £5. His second son, also Thomas, acquired the latter. This Thomas was thus less well placed than his father. Nevertheless his family continued to farm at Gothers and other places in the locality for several generations. But he had 7 grandsons by his sons so there was no room for them all on the farms. His grandson John by his son Thomas, born 1780, was a china clay labourer and by 1851 he and his wife were on parish relief.



1939

This John's son James was born in St Stephen's and he married Jane Wallish there in 1840. They emigrated to Port Hope on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario in about 1851. Their son, known as John Wallace Trethewey, was born there in 1859: his second name doubtless started out as Wallish, being replaced by the more familiar variant\*. Jack's account starts with John who was his grandfather.

John moved to Marquette beside Lake Superior in Michigan where he married Margaret Libbey in 1881. He is said to have been a ship's engineer and according to Jack he was the skipper of an ore boat. The boat was lost in a storm and two of his brother's were drowned. Jack does not name them but known brothers who survived infancy were Thomas Henry 1841-1918, Christopher "Kit" 1844, James Edward 1851-1927 and George 1855-1919. Christopher was a possible victim therefore but the other remains a puzzle.

\**Wallish* is a variant of the name *Wallis* which was more common in Cornwall. These names as well as *Wallace* and several others are believed to be derived from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "foreign" and more specifically "Welsh." This word is seen in *Wales* and in the final element of *Cornwall*, while *walnut* denotes a foreign nut. *Walloon* and *Walachia* represent related continental words.

Because of the accident Margaret, who "ruled the roost," made the family move to Denver in Colorado, where John became a millwright. There were five boys and two girls in the family. One of the boys was William Demond "Will" Trethewey. The records suggest that the final *d* of *Demond* was, unfortunately, somewhat volatile.

Will, who went to a mining school, and his four brothers joined their father in his millwright business first in Denver and then in Globe, Arizona, where Will caught malaria. He then married "Birdy" Hansen, the daughter of the doctor who had looked after him. Dr Hansen helped them to start ranching in Western Nebraska but this failed and so Will and his father built houses in Manville and later at Douglas in Wyoming, following a local oil boom. There were three children, Beth born 1913, Jack himself 1916 and Bob 1919. Jack had no memory of his mother who walked out soon after Bob's birth. Will's parents then helped in raising the family. Will had another go at ranching, helped by his family, and later returned to housebuilding.

While Jack was at school he excelled in drawing and singing. On one occasion he left the class, climbed onto the roof and sat by the school bell refusing to come down until it rang. His father was called and suggested that the bell be rung there and then, whereupon he came down. When he was 6 and his sister 9 a 6-year-old playmate killed his own 2-year-old sister with a .22 rifle. Knowing all about guns they disarmed him. At the age of about 9 Jack decided that he was old enough to drive so he drove his father's car down the street without releasing the handbrake. The car was moving slowly and producing smoke when he passed his father who jumped on the running board saying "If you are going to drive this thing let me show you how."

At about this time Will met and married a graduate school teacher Iva Layton who accepted and was accepted by the family and who acted as a real mother.

As a halloween prank Jack, Bob and some friends tipped over two outhouses and were caught by the sheriff who put them in jail and told their parents. Their friends had been collected by midnight but the brothers had to wait until the morning. On complaining to their father that he had not collected them earlier he replied "We knew where you were and we wouldn't have to worry about you, so we went to bed." At the age of 16 he entered a school to prepare for a naval career but after about a week he and a friend broke bounds to watch a boxing match which as it turned out lasted for 26 seconds. They were caught on their return and expelled.

Jack later spent 4 years at a naval academy where he studied electrical and mechanical engineering and went in for boxing. At the end however he could not bring himself to "accept a life watching sailors scrub decks, shoot at targets and then come into port and lay around an officer club." He therefore declined the offered commission and joined the Shell Oil Company, working in many parts of the world. In Washington he met his wife Hope Lamson whom he married in 1938. His account finishes at this point though in a postscript he states that he was in charge of important civil engineering projects at Cape Kennedy at the time of the Moon landings.

Jack died 16th August 1994 at Loveland, Colorado, his father Will on 31st May 1972 at Douglas, Wyoming, and his grandfather John on 22nd July 1936 at the same place.

Thanks to Jenny Farnham M102, Patricia's daughter-in-law, for providing a copy of John's account and to Frank Thraen M62, a great grandson of John and Margaret, for additional information about the family.

## ALMROTH CORNWALL '99

I was pleased to meet several members at Falmouth in May, some for the first time. Bradford Trethewey, whose name has been on one of my trees for many years, came with his wife and his daughter Jocelyn Brookfield. Bradford and Jocelyn joined as joint members no. 104.

## EMIGRANTS RETURN

An unusual family recorded in the 1881 census for St Austell was that of Ellen Trethewey, a 48-year-old widow born in Redruth, and her children John 11, Ellen 9, Annie 7 and Caleb 5. The three elder children were born in America, presumably the USA, but were nevertheless British subjects.\* Caleb was born in St Austell. It only required Caleb's easily obtained birth certificate to identify the father and so, probably, to determine where the family fitted in.

The certificate showed that Caleb was born at Carthew in St Austell parish, about two miles north of the town of St Austell, on the 10th October 1876. He was the son of Caleb, an iron miner, and Ellen née Temby. There was only one Caleb in my database, almost certainly the right one. He was born at St Dennis, the son of John and Ann née Bennet. The family thus formed part of *Group 11*, the St Dennis-based branch of *Group 1*. The elder Caleb named his children after himself, his wife and his own parents, the latter helping to confirm that he was the right Caleb.

Earlier censuses show that the elder Caleb was born in about 1846, so that he was some 13 years younger than his wife. His younger brothers Joshua and Gideon also had Old-Testament names. His eldest brother William emigrated to Australia and became the ancestor of M26, Anita Hayes. It is not known why Caleb and his family returned from America.

## WILLIAM THOMAS TRETHEWEY

An account of the work of the New Zealand sculptor, *Newsletter 24*, can be found following an Internet search for his name.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS & DUES

I am still receiving cheques and drafts made out to the "Trethewey Society." Please note that these are unacceptable as the Society cannot afford the charges that would be incurred by a separate bank account. Please have them made out to me.

Cheques and drafts made out by overseas banks should carry the name and address of a bank in Britain. Cheques from Commonwealth banks can be expensive. Local genealogical societies may be able to help, the Genealogical Society of Victoria for example.

Canadian postal orders made out for sterling amounts are accepted by the British post office.

It was reported that Ruesch International of the USA would no longer make out cheques to private persons, but this appears to have been a clerk's error: later cheques have been received.

\*How refreshing to see the traditional "British subject" once again! Nowadays we have the nonsensical "British citizen" introduced, no doubt for reasons of political correctness, by our mindless legislators, oblivious of the fact that Britain, unlike ancient Rome which had genuine citizens including St Paul, is not a city.



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