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The TCA Quarterly

Crowdy Crawn & More

Welcome to the Winter 2019 edition of the Toronto Cornish Association quarterly newsletter. We invite you to enjoy the stories, connections and tidbits that you and your fellow TCA members have shared over the last few months that go beyond the TCA monthly meeting minutes. As always, we invite you to continue to share information, stories, pictures and website links that highlight your interests in the County of Cornwall and/or relates to your Cornish genealogical research for future TCA quarterly newsletters.

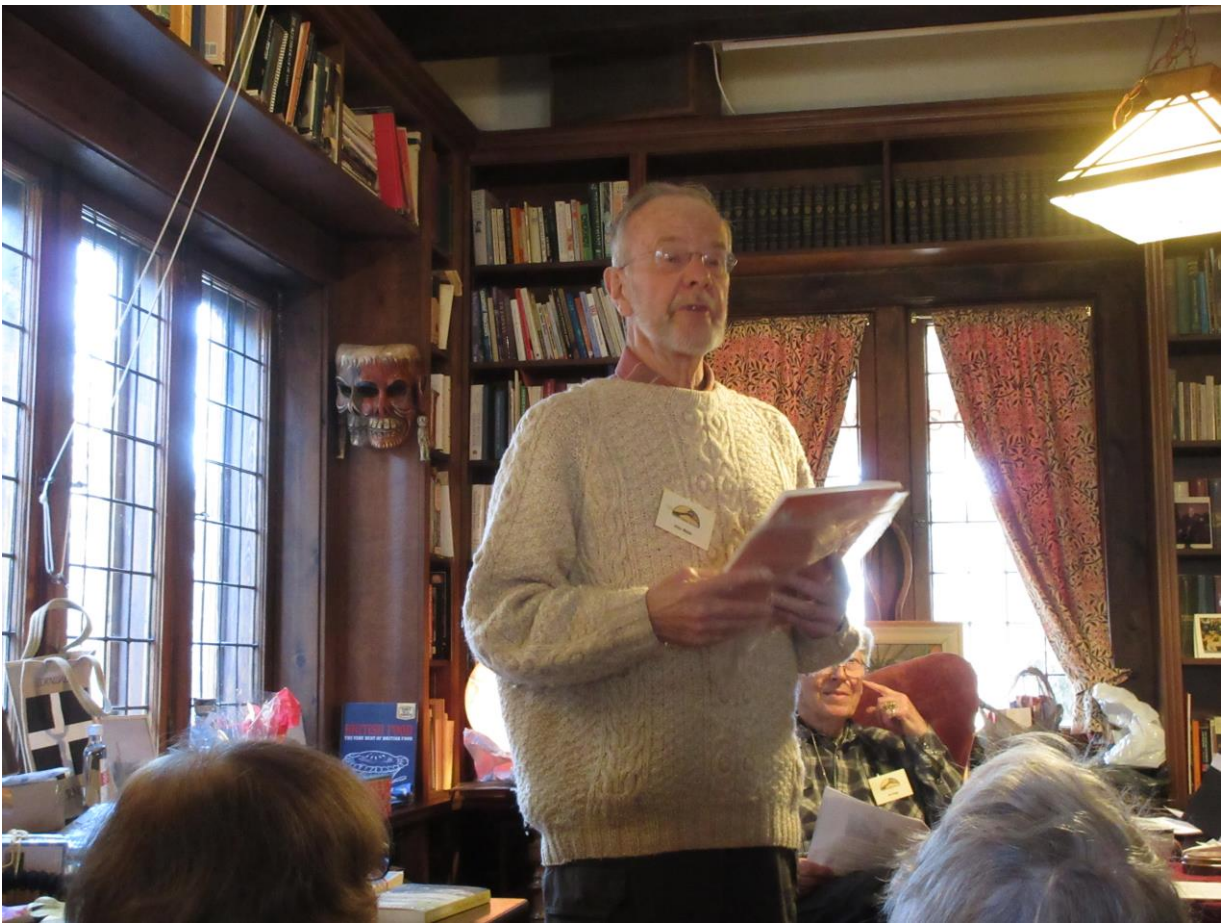


TCA Christmas Party – December 2018

The Tradition Continues

The annual TCA Christmas party was held on December 8 this year, once again at the lovely home of Ann Crichton-Harris and John Senders. This has been a tradition for many years and we continue to appreciate John and Ann's generous hospitality. A lovely, very large, poinsettia plant was presented to Ann from the TCA as a token of thanks. Food was in abundance with at least five members providing mouth-watering pasties. They did not last very long. Tea, coffee and of course, Sleeman's beer was on offer as it is at all our meetings (thank-you John Sleeman). John Webb provided a challenging quiz once again, with Barbara Gardner-Bray and Moyra Pyne being the winners. After 25 years, this was a first-time win for Barbara and she was thrilled. John's many efforts on behalf of the TCA were recognized with a bottle of champagne from us all. Ann Burke regaled us with one of her entertaining Cornish tales as she does every year. Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without our annual raffle. Marianne Gichard was once again our ticket seller and everyone went home with a lovely raffle present in their possession. The afternoon festivities was wrapped up with a rollicking version of Trelawney by all who attended.





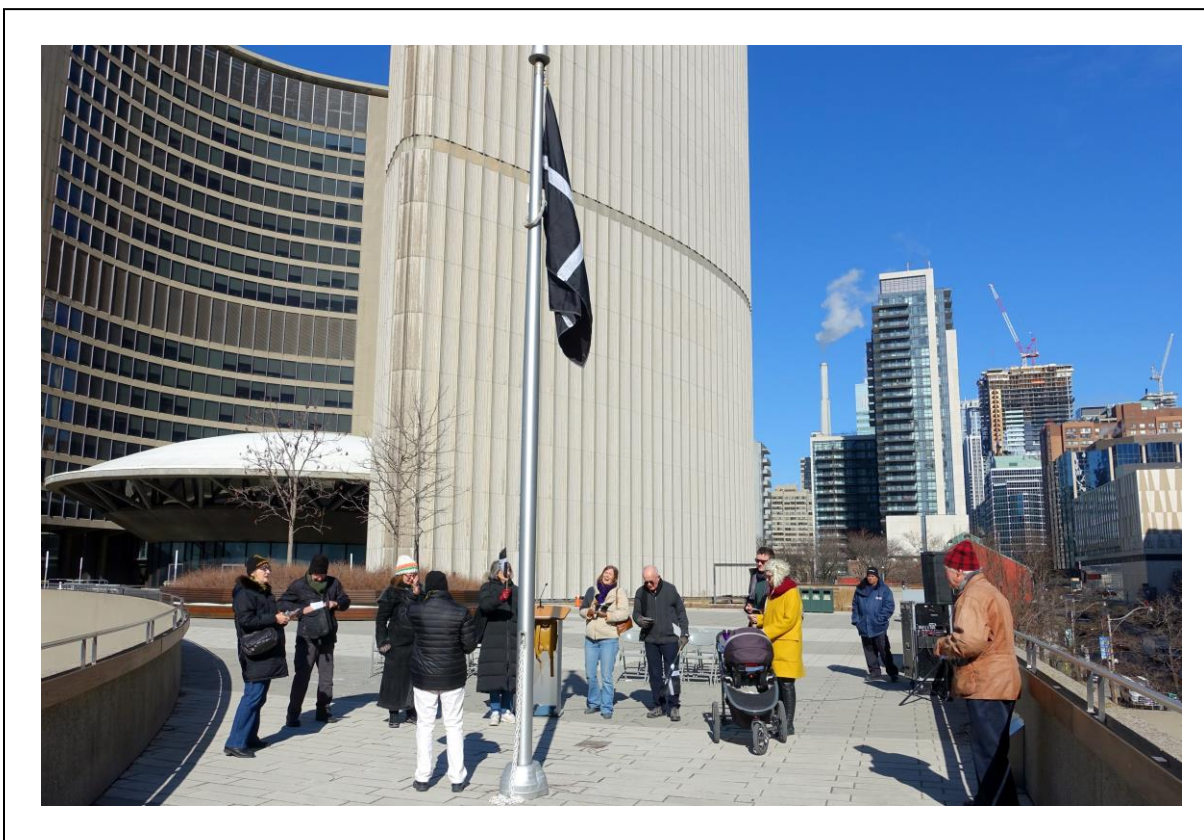


The Toronto Cornish Association turns Twenty-Five

This year marks **the *25th Anniversary of the current TCA***, a significant milestone in our history. There have been many changes and challenges as well as achievements over the years. We have been on trips and outings of Cornish significance, hosted the Trelawney Male Voice Choir from Cornwall on its tour of Canada, and joined an international knitting project that was a Cornish initiative, just to name a few activities. We have also produced two wonderful volumes of our book, **“Cornish Emigrants to Ontario”**. These are just a few highlights over the past 25 years. We have much to celebrate! How will we celebrate our 25th year?

1. Flag Raising at Toronto City Hall

The Toronto Cornish Association first raised the Cornish flag at Toronto City Hall on March 5th (St. Piran’s Day) in 1995 and we’ve been raising it every year since. At that first flag raising, we were thrilled to have Barbara Hall, Toronto’s Mayor, in attendance. This year, we are pleased to announce that the well-respected British Consul General, Toronto, and Director General, Department for International Trade in Canada, Mr. Kevin McGurgan, will be in attendance. Mr. McGurgan has Cornish roots and has offered to spread the word via social media to attract more people to the event. Our current Mayor, John Tory, has ancestors on his mother’s side who are Cornish as well, and we are hoping that he might attend this special flag raising.



2. Our Gala Banquet

On **April 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.** we will **gather together with our family members and special guests**, for cocktails in the main ballroom of the Faculty Club, University of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto, followed by a celebration banquet and programme. ***Please note: This gala evening will replace our usual monthly meeting for April. The Faculty Club was originally called the Cosmopolitan Society when founded in 1907. It later became the Primrose Club until 1959 when this Georgian Revival-style building was acquired by the University of Toronto for its new Faculty Club. Accessible parking can be found at the following link - <http://map.utoronto.ca/access/parking-lots> Public transportation is also close by.***

Our main speaker for the evening is the TCA's first President (1994-1996), co-editor of our two publications and current Membership Secretary, Barbara Gardner-Bray, who will speak on "The Toronto Cornish Association 1994 – 2019 – The first 25 Years". A wide variety of dinner choices will be available and you will have a wonderful keepsake/memento to take home with you. You won't want to miss this wonderful celebration. Invitations will be going out shortly to our membership. Please encourage friends and relatives to come along. All are welcome.

******Special Member Request from Barbara Gardner-Bray for her presentation******

Barbara Gardner-Bray has asked that any members who have a specific special memory from the last 25 years of the TCA that could be included in her talk on our group (1994-2019) at the 25th anniversary banquet, or photos (especially our first Christmas party in 1994 at Barbara's house), can you please get in touch with her at bjgardner@sympatico.ca. There is no guarantee that it will be included, but Barbara does feel that the TCA belongs to us all and should include memories from us all, and not just Barbara. If she can include it, she will, time permitting.



TCA meetings and related events 2019

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Speaker/etc
January	No meeting			
February	23rd	Liz and Bob's Condo Room	Cornwall in the Movies	Lyn Rowett
March	3 rd (TBC)	Clarington	Cornish Heritage Day	Sher Leetooze
	5 th Tuesday	Toronto City Hall & Duke of Cornwall Pub	St Piran's Day Flag Raising	All
	16 th	Swansea Town Hall	Show and Tell	All
April	26 th	U of T Faculty Club	25 th Anniversary Dinner	Jim and Committee
May	25th	Eldad Church in Solina	Early Cornish settlement in Clarington	Deborah and the Clarington Cornish

John Senders – We have lost our honourary Cornishman

John Senders passed away on February 12, 2019 after a short illness, just two weeks shy of his 99th birthday. He was our “Honourary Cornishman” for many years, participating in our yearly Christmas parties with good spirits and was an expert “ticket drawer” for our annual raffle. A unique individual who forged his own path through life and not someone else's. With wife, Ann Crichton-Harris, by his side, they were a formidable team. He will be missed, most especially by his immediate family, but also by his extended Cornish family. Our thoughts are with Ann and Family at this very sad time.



Travels to Australia to visit Cornish family – From TCA member Marion Stephens-Cockroft

James and I were down under in Australia visiting family (my youngest brother, sister-in-law and their sons and families) for three weeks from mid October 2018. We had a wonderful time catching up with them all.

My brother Jim, now semi-retired, enjoys cooking and wants to do more. He asked me to teach him how to make pasties. I thought this might be of interest to our Cornish cousins here. Here are some pictures of our pasty making session for the newsletter. Pictures were taken by James (Cockroft).



Pictures from a Visit to Cornwall – From TCA member Patricia Petersen

We spent eight days in Penzance at the Beachfield Hotel right on Mount's Bay. We walked to Mousehole and to Marazion along the path...spent time walking the tidal flats and collecting pebbles which we had to leave there. It is illegal to take pebbles from the beach. We made some new friends who kindly drove us to Zennor and environs one day. Of course, we ate pasties, fish (in beer batter...nothing better than beer batter) and scones with clotted cream, remembering to put the jam on first. Met some relatives at the Lanhydrock Golf Club in Bodmin - more fish and chips and Cornish beer. Now I know why my ancestors were a bit on the beefy side.

We had beautiful weather and no tourists...beginning of October was a great time to go.



The first photo (previous page) is from the Tinner pub in Zennor; the second picture (below) is looking up from Penzance harbour toward St. Mary's Church.



The next two pictures were taken on the west coast near Botalack where Poldark is filmed. They were actually filming the day we were there, but we did not see any of it.



The Philps pasties are suppose to be the best...according to the Guardian. Will they ship to Toronto? I must admit, it was tasty. The second picture was taken on the southwest coastal trail near Marazion. The coffee was at place that rented surfing gear. There were several people wind-surfing the day we were there - October 8? It was sunny and warm (18).

Connections to Cadgwith – From TCA members Robert and Catherine Roskrow

My family and I used to live in a little fishing village called Cadgwith. My husband and I emigrated from Cornwall in 1992 to Ontario. The link I am sending, is a tv documentary done in the 1980's of the Cadgwith fishermen - most of whom were friends of me and my family and my father was very good friends of the Hewar - Sharkey. At the time it was aired I recorded it on my video recorder and brought the video over to play at times when I felt a little homesick! This link was posted on the Cornwall Facebook page. Thought it might be of interest to some.

<https://www.facebook.com/gazro/videos/10218151926768740/>

Cornwall's Railways: The Early Years - By Marion Stephens

Engineer George Stephenson was called the “Father of the Railway” but this title is not entirely accurate. There were several other engineers involved in the development of railway systems and included a Cornishman and son of a mining captain, Richard Trevithick. Richard pioneered the use of high-pressure steam and worked on building and modifying steam engines.

In 1801 he launched “the Puffing Devil” a full-sized steam road locomotive on a site near the present day Fore Street, Cambourne. This event, was the inspiration for the popular song “Goin ‘ up Cambourne Hill”

Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down.

Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down.

The 'osses stood still, the wheels went aroun',

Gawn' up Camberne 'ill, comin' down.

It was mining and quarrying that stimulated the building of railways in Cornwall. All the early lines ran to and from the coast to either bring goods, such as coal into the county, or to send goods such as china clay, tin, copper, further afield. These early railways used horses to pull the wagons.

The main mode of transporting people at the beginning of the 19th century was the horse, either on horseback or by stagecoach. Stagecoaches proved to be inefficient and expensive. They were slow, and tired horses needed to be changed frequently. The working life of a stagecoach horse was a mere four years. Transport by horseback remained the prerogative of only the wealthy for many years. Most people had to walk; therefore people did not travel very far outside of their immediate location.



The building of the early railway lines in Cornwall was initiated and funded by local mine or landowners and merchants. The Poldice to Portreath tramroad, is one example of a line built by a mine owner. Construction began 1809 (Source: Cornwall's Railways –Tony Fairclough). This line was constructed to link the harbour at Portreath on the north coast to various copper mines in the area. The Bodmin Wadebridge Railway was built in 1883, by landowner Sir William Molesworth to transport sea sand from Wadebridge inland. Farmers worked sand into the land, most likely to lighten the clay soil. There seems to have been considerable scheming and forward planning among the more powerful railway companies. According to Tony Fairclough in his little book, *Cornwall's Railways*, in 1846 to keep the Cornwall Railway at bay, the London & South Western Railway bought the Bodmin Wadebridge. At that time this line was 200 miles from the parent railway system.

From my research it is not clear when the Cornwall Railway Company was formed but in 1846 they had formulated plans to link key centres - Plymouth with Truro and Falmouth. Cornwall Railway was constantly running into trouble, mostly financial, and was unable to continue with the construction of these new lines. They were forced to sell their existing lines to the Great Western Railway in the late 1800's.

Based on the movement of the sun across Britain, there were large differences in local times in the early days of travel. Cornwall & Devon were almost 15 minutes behind London until in 1840 when the Great Western Railway introduced London (or standard) time at all stations. (Source: G.W.R website)

Early GWR trains offered passengers a choice of first or second-class carriages. Later this choice was extended and passengers could travel on the slow goods trains in what became third-class. In 1844 it became a legal requirement that the Great Western Railway, along with all other British railways, had to serve each station with trains which included third-class accommodation at a fare of not more than one penny per mile and a speed of at least 12 mph (19 km/h). By 1882, third-class carriages were attached to all trains except for the fastest expresses. (Source: Wikipedia)

Railway development had a far-reaching impact in Cornwall. In addition to the movement of goods both in and out of the county, train transportation led to increased mobility of people; families living inland could travel for leisure. Train travel made it possible to go further afield for employment. Trains also paved the way for an increase in the tourist trade. The railway system had a huge, direct impact on jobs. By 1847 there were well over a quarter of a million labourers, navvies, surveyors, engineers and contractors engaged in the construction of railways, railway stations and signal boxes in Britain. (Source: Family Tree Magazine Dec. 2002) Bridges and viaducts were also required to be built.



Toronto Cornish Association member, Kathie Oakden's Cornish ancestors were directly impacted by the railway in Cornwall. Kathie kindly supplied me with the following information about the working life of her Great grandfather, John Olver and two of his brothers. Both brothers were employed by the Great Western Railway. According to the book "Great Western's Last Year" a very important feature of the GWR was their widespread and very well organised St John's Ambulance First Aid movement. John Olver, born in 1861 worked as a signalman at Par Station for over 40 years. He was awarded the GWR gold medal for Ambulance Efficiency.

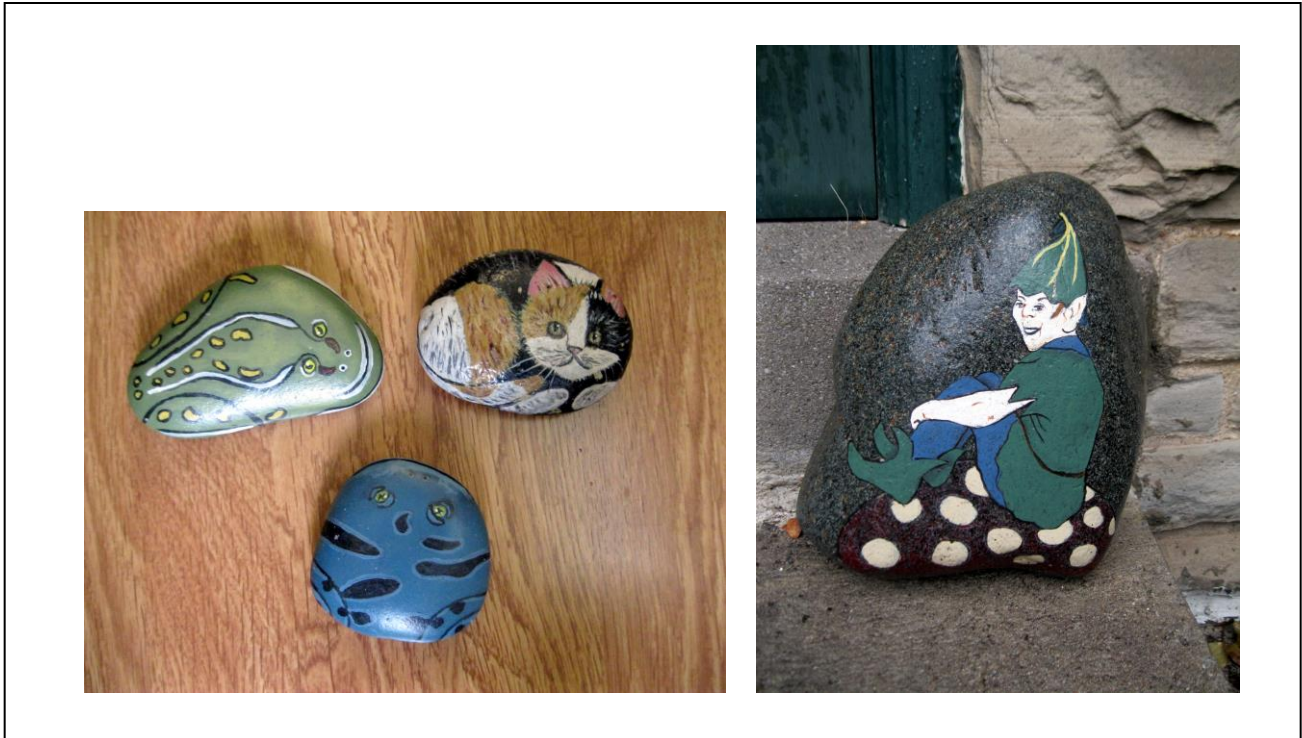
(picture of GWR signalman, John Olver by kind permission of Kathie Oakden)

Next time you travel by train give a thought for Cornishman Richard Trevithick and others who pioneered railway travel, for those like Kathie's Great Grandfather involved in operations. Although train travel today is cleaner, I do miss the smells and the sounds of the steam trains I travelled on as a youngster from Liskeard to London. That is a story for another time!

Painted Rocks – All the Rage - From TCA Member John Webb

There is a craze sweeping Cornwall known as Painted Rocks. At least according to Cornwalllive.com. There are also websites on the topic, such as Kernow Rocks. The rocks below were painted by Mary Webb.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/297165407376259/>



A few Cornish words to practice at your leisure English translation is provided. (Source: *How To Be Proper Cornish*, by Penrose, Headland Printers Ltd., Penzance).

Brae – *Hearty*
Planchen – *Floor Plank*
Cloam – *Earthenware*
Scat – *Break*
Cozing – *Time Wasting*
Stank – *Tread Heavy*
Grizzle – *Grin*
Louster – *Work Hard*
Troytown – *Disorder*
Mazed – *Mad*
Whitneck – *Weasel*
Dinarh – *Welcome*
Deth Da Dhys – *Good Day*
Fat'l Osta – *How are 'E*
Myttyn Da – *Good Morning*
Sowyn – *Goodbye*

A Visit to Cornwall – From TCA member Daphne Blunden

With my visit most recent visit to Cornwall this past September and October, I drove with my daughter Vivien from Cardiff down as far as Launceston or as the locals say Lanson*. This is the place where my father was born. We stayed in a hotel at the foot of the Old Castle, a structure built likely around 1068. I also noted a very interesting Museum close by.

From there, we moved on to Charlestown where they were filming harbour scenes in the Poldark series. We enjoyed some day trips to Mevagissey and to Fowey where we did a Harbour tour by boat. Vivien asked the operator “where would be the best place for my mother to sit as she gets sea sick?” The answer was “on land”.

We then enjoyed a night at Carnon Downs where we attended a Meeting at Perranwell Station (where I started school many years ago) on the World Heritage Sites in Cornwall. There are ten in all and represents the largest group of World Heritage Sites in England.

Our travels then took us to Goldsithney to stay with my cousin. The week was packed with visits to Porthleven, Praa Sands, Penzance, St. Ives and Church yards. We also enjoyed a Family gathering that include a ‘pastyfest’ - my word. We ordered pasties from a local business, sat outside in the fresh air, ate our pasties with our hands and swapped stories - ‘ansome. On our return trip to Cardiff, we stopped in Padstow.

I returned to Canada, was home for a week and then took off for Hawaii. A wonderful holiday, however, the beaches are not as nice as in Cornwall.

* Lanson - LannSteven means, church enclosure of St Steven.