



**CORNISH ASSOCIATION
OF
VICTORIA, INC.**

**NEWSLETTER
No. 139**

NOVEMBER 2021

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

CONTENTS

President's Report	pp 1, 3
Notices for Members	p 2
Pasty Drive	p 2
Tribute to Rod Phillips	p 3
Pasty Lunch	p 3
Vale - Glen Bray, Roger Thomas & Rod Phillips	p 4
Congratulations to Ken Peak	p 5
New Committee Members	p 5
Recent Meetings	p 6
Ballarat & Geelong Branches	pp 6-7
Howard Curnow Book	p 7
Tippett Family	pp 8-9
RHSV -Where did they settle?	p 10
Have you ever thought?	p 10
Logan Rock	pp 10-11
R F Lean	pp 11-12
Annie Mavis Webster	p 13
Castlemaine reminiscences	p 14
Research tips	pp 14-15
Assistance with IT	p 15
Cornish Tidbits	pp 15-16



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

Dydh da' ('G'day'),

Your CAV Committee met recently, and we have agreed that the CAV will try to meet physically together again for our Christmas meeting which will be held on **Saturday 11th December**. We will inform our members of the arrangements, which are yet to be finalised.

I am hoping that we can have a Zoom connection at this event as well.

As you all know I am keen for our meetings in the future to include a Zoom component that enables those members not in Melbourne to enjoy our monthly get togethers.

I know so many of you have missed our monthly get togethers although we have been able to meet together successfully on Zoom.

When we do get back together again, hopefully in the new year, there will be a number of new arrangements in place in terms of how we do things.

These new arrangements will be a small price to pay for being able to get back together again in the Covid-normal era.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Rod Phillips. He passed away on 10th October.

As many of us know he was sick for some time.

He was able to come home from hospital to see his family on the Saturday before he passed.

We were able to send some flowers to Gwen Phillips on your behalf.

The Funeral was held on Monday 18th October at Berwick.

We are keen to hold a Memorial Service perhaps later in the year when more people can attend. I will let you know of those arrangements in due course, as many of us will want to be part of that.

As most of you know, Rod was a stalwart of the CAV and served as our Treasurer for thirty years. Rod joined the CAV in 1990 and was appointed Treasurer in 1992, a position he held until July this year.

Those of us who worked with Rod closely knew him as a quiet, unpretentious man of principle and, like his parents, a man who served this association loyally for more than thirty years.

He will be greatly missed.

Vale Rod Phillips.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of CAV members Glen Bray and Roger Thomas.

Glen was a strong supporter of the move of our Library to Castlemaine. I enjoyed chatting to both Glen and Keith on meeting days.

More will be said about these people elsewhere in this Newsletter. (page 4)

Congratulations to Marion Stephens-Cockroft and the Toronto Cornish Association (TCA) who will combine a meeting at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Toronto with a live Zoom connection on December 4th. The Canadians beat us to it by one week!

Brian Rollason and I joined the TCA at their last meeting (on Sunday 17th October at 5.00 am Melbourne time), which featured a live presentation from Cornwall by Roger Radcliffe.

Roger told us about the search for the *'Lady Agnes'*, built at St. Agnes in Cornwall.

It was a great presentation and Brian and I enjoyed it

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Fees:

Annual renewal notices have
been sent to all members.

Membership:

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$60.00

Life Single: \$400.00

Life Family: \$600.00



20th November - Chris Dunkerley from CANSW will share some insights into Cornish Mining and Miners in NSW - this will be a zoom meeting

11th December 2021 - In person gathering - see notice on page 3.

19th February 2022 - TBA



PASTY DRIVE

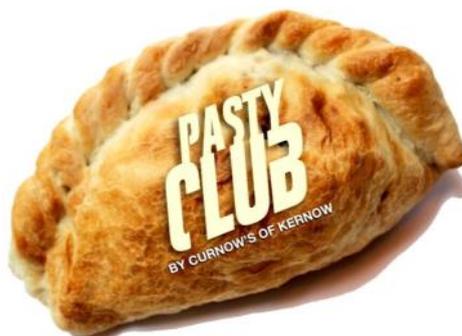
Marcus Curnow is planning to make two pasty deliveries between now and Christmas.

The first will be a home delivery on 26th/ 27th November (closing date Tuesday 23rd November) and the second 11th December (closing date Tuesday 7th December) will be at Oakleigh Baptist Church. Home delivery in Melbourne region will incur a cost of \$11.

You can look at the Aussie Oggie (<https://aussieoggie.com/>) online shopping menu and order there or for a CAV discount for Traditional Cornish Pasties (\$7 rather than \$8) contact Marcus.

If you are interested, please send Marcus a text no later than **Tuesday 23rd November** for first delivery or **Tuesday 7th December** for second delivery.

Marcus's number is: 0421 076 804



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone who is unwell, celebrating a special birthday or just needs a cheery greeting, please let Evelyn Jones know the details so she can be in touch.

Evelyn's details are:

Ph: 0417 160 658

ejo65074@bigpond.net.au

CAV NEWSLETTER

The CAV Newsletter is published in February, May, August & November and distributed via email and in some cases by mail.

If you have an email address, please consider having your newsletter emailed.

For distribution contact
The Secretary.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue:

Saturday 15th January 2022

Articles for inclusion are welcome at any time but **must be received by the deadline date.**

Please use plain text font size 12, without formatting.

Photos and tables should be included separately - not as part of a document.

Acknowledgment of source is required.

The email address for the CAV Newsletter -

robyncoates@hotmail.com

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

immensely.

I have the recording of his presentation and I will try to get it placed on our website.

Speaking of our website, Arthur Coates has placed edited video versions of most of our presentations this year on our website under '*Latest News*'. This is a wonderful innovation, so if you have missed one of the presentations you can catch it up on our website.

Congratulations to Arthur who has overseen this as well as bringing the website up to date.

I am very proud that the CAV has continued to operate during lockdowns. In spite of everything we have had a number of new members join the CAV, which is a fantastic outcome.

Our program, delivered via Zoom, has been varied and interesting.

In June Ted and Beryl spoke to us about '*The Four Seasons of Cornwall*'.

In July we had a number of members recite their short stories from the '*Agan Kernow*' book, whilst in August we had Helen Morgan talk to us about the '*Blewett's of Penzance*'.

In September Robyn Coates spoke to us about '*A Cornish Doctor in Rural Australia - Dr Adoniah Vallack*' followed by Professor Cate Frieman (ANU) who spoke about "*The Southeast Kernow Archaeological Survey: new insights into Cornish later prehistory*" in October.

We look forward to our speaker at our November meeting, Chris Dunkerley, who will tell us all about Cornish miners in NSW, especially around Cobar.

Planning is underway for a varied and interesting Cornish focussed program for 2022 under the watchful eye of Program Coordinator Helen Morgan. Helen is doing a great job.

A special call out to former CAV Secretary, June Whiffin, who is back home from a stint in hospital as a result of a bulging disc in her back.

I was able to visit with June recently and I can report that she is in good spirits as she continues her recovery.

We wish her all the best

'Oll an Gwella'

Ken Peak

President

Cornish Association of Victoria

A Tribute to Rod Phillips

Rod joined Gwen & Bill as a member of the Cornish Association of Victoria on 12th June 1990 and in July 1992 took on the position of Treasurer.

Being Secretary, Rod and I worked closely together for 20 years. We've shared many a laugh, some groans and a lot of "scratching of the head" working through countless issues.

Rod diligently managed the Associations finances and investments for almost 30 years.

He was an honest, trustworthy guardian.

Always looking out for the best interest rate achievable and thoroughly researching the most suitable cost-effective insurance deal.

In committee meetings Rod didn't say much but when he did the others listened attentively.

Rod was rewarded for all his hard work by the Gorsedh Kernow in 2009 when they inducted him as a Bard at Saltash, Cornwall.

He chose the Bardic name *Tresoryr* which is Treasurer in the Cornish language.

The name will belong to Rod for eternity as no-one else can use it.

I value our long friendship Rod.

You will be greatly missed by all the members.

June Whiffin

PASTY LUNCH

Saturday 11th December 2021

We are planning to have a Pasty Lunch at 12.00 noon, on Saturday 11th December, at the Oakleigh Baptist Church. The cost will be \$5 and a pasty and a bottle of water/soft drink will be provided.

At this stage, it is planned that this will be held outdoors, so if you have a folding chair, please bring it, plus wear a hat and sunscreen. We hope to provide some shelter by way of gazebos and umbrellas. This may change and we may meet inside. You will need to provide evidence of double vaccination on a phone/certificate and check in with a QR code/record your name and contact details. You will also need to sign in to meet CAV Insurance requirements.

Please let Robyn Coates know if you are attending robyncoates@hotmail.com or

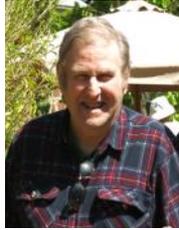
0419 551 320 by

Saturday 4th December 2021



VALE

Maxwell Glen Bray (6/10 /1946 - 5/9/ 2021)



Glen Bray was a very regular attendee at Ballarat until his move to Elsternwick to live with his partner, Keith Stodden, where they both attended meetings in Oakleigh, before going into care at Graceland Manor, Elsternwick.

Glen was born in Ballarat and went to Sebastopol State School and then Ballarat North Tech. He was apprenticed as a welder/boiler maker and worked at Thompson's foundry in Castlemaine; he worked in Western Australia for a time, later returning to work in Ballarat.

Glen joined the Association, in Ballarat, in 2004 and was a regular participant in Festivals in Victoria and also at Kernewek Lowender in South Australia.

Glen enjoyed travel and he and Keith travelled to China, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and the UK. In 2012, Glenn and Keith travelled to Cornwall with the CAV group touring Cornwall.

Glen's family was descended from William Bray and his wife Catherine Thorn, from Launcells, in Cornwall, (not far from Bude/Stratton) and they arrived in Australia, in 1854.



Roger John Thomas (6/5/41 - 27/9/2021)



Although living in NSW, Roger was a life member of the Cornish Association of Victoria and he and his wife Sue were regular participants in Festivals across Australia.

Roger was born in the NSW mining city of Broken Hill, in 1941, son of a miner - his Thomas ancestors were miners from the Illogan, Redruth and Camborne areas who had arrived in South Australia in 1852.

He was a founding member of CANSW and was for many years its President.

Roger was involved in the establishment of the

Standing Stones at Glen Innes and was a Life Guardian of the Stones.

Roger was made a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow in 1992, *Palores an Dyghow* (Chough of the South), at Perran Round, Perranzabuloe.

(Photo - Chris Dunkerley CANSW)



Roderick William Phillips (30/12/1954 - 10/10/2021)



Rod was born in Melbourne, to Gwen and Bill Phillips, the eldest of four children, and after studying for qualifications in Accounting, worked in various financial positions in the mining, engineering, IT and pharmaceutical industries, retiring in 2016.

Rod travelled extensively and enjoyed exploring new places including many areas in Cornwall, Europe, Asia, and the USA, often including World Heritage areas and visits to an area of outstanding natural beauty.

He was interested in military history and in his travels he tried to visit as many aircraft museums as possible.

Rod inherited his parents' interest in his Cornish ancestry, with both Bill and Gwen being of Cornish descent and both having been made Cornish Bards.

He joined the Cornish Association in 1990 and was appointed Treasurer in 1992 - a position he held just prior to his death. He was meticulous in this role and offered good financial advice to the CAV and was diligent in his preparation of reports and the management of CAV funds.

Rod was actively involved in the CAV's activities and its effort to promote the Cornish Heritage of Australia and attended many Festivals in Victoria.

In 2009, at Saltash, Rod was made a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow (for services to Cornwall) and took the name *Tresoryer* (Treasurer) - each Bardic name being unique.

We extend our Sympathy to family and friends of Glen, Roger and Rod.



On behalf of the Bards of Gorsedh Kernow resident in Victoria, I wish to congratulate CAV

President Ken Peak on becoming a Bard.

Ken chose as his Bardic name 'Gwithyas Hwedhlow' which means 'Keeper of Stories' in English.

This was a most appropriate choice, given that Ken undertook the significant task of gathering many stories and memories from CAV members and the wider Cornish diaspora to compile and produce a book about 'Our Cornwall'.

Ken has most ably led the CAV through an extremely difficult two-year period due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

He has ensured the on-going relevance of the Association by maintaining regular monthly meetings via 'Zoom'.

This has had the added advantage of involving many more of our members, especially those who cannot attend our meetings in Melbourne.

Another major achievement was overseeing the successful move of the CAV Library to its new home with the Castlemaine Historical Association.

Again, well done Ken.

Derek Trewarne
Chairperson, Victorian Bards

CAV Treasurer

As you will be aware, we have a vacancy at this stage for the position of CAV Treasurer.

If you have a penchant for keeping track of money (or are good at spending it), please contact me for more information:

Ken Peak: 0400 309 469
pkicons29@bigpond.com

New Committee Members

Helen Morgan

I am a researcher, writer, archivist and historian.

I joined the Cornish Association of Victoria in 2017 after starting research into my father's paternal family and discovering my Cornish ancestry, courtesy of the Blewetts of Penzance.



When I was working on my book, *Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamps*, I joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, both to access their library and learn more about philatelists.

I joined CAV for similar reasons, to help my research and to meet people as enamoured of

Cornwall as I had become since visiting Penzance and walking in my ancestors' footsteps.

My women's history interests have broadened into family history, and as a family historian, like many I suspect, I'm interested in surfacing stories, going beyond dates, and learning about life and lives. I have written the first draft of what I hope becomes my second book, telling a story of nineteenth century Melbourne through the lives of my Cornish ancestors.

My other interests have taken a battering during the pandemic – hopefully back on track in 2022, particularly swimming. I am a great knitter, and when I have something on the needles, take it with me wherever I go, including CAV meetings!

I regularly re-read the Harry Potter series and the novels of Georgette Heyer, but my absolute favourite books are more grim: Damon Galgut's *In a Strange Room* and Nevil Shute's *On The Beach*.

In my younger days I was a Taekwondo black belt and I barrack for St Kilda, which may explain my tendency toward grim narrative!

<https://www.helenmorgan.net/>

Ronald Hawken

The following is a brief resume of me - Ronald Hawken, not his real name.

His Cornish Great Grandfather had his name inadvertently changed from Hocken, or may be Hockin by his Stepfather: but that is another (soon to be published) story.



Moving on, before any Hocking reads the above and stakes a claim, to his ancestry, young Ron, as generally called by friends, family and the CAV, was raised in Pascoe Vale South, attended Coburg West Primary School and then the totally demolished Coburg Tech, before studying Civil Engineering at RMIT.

Today, he is still a Melbourne Uni student, caught up with the big question – Is a Seniors discount or Student discount the way to go if one has a choice?

In the interim he has designed a number of bridges for the CRB, mainly found in East Gippsland, a few freeway sections for the RCA, mainly along the Western Ring Road, and did a number of planning studies for VicRoads including EastLink and Yarra Glen Bypass, with his last and most recent design being the ribbon wall at the Ravenswood

Interchange on the Calder Freeway.

Biggest engineering achievement was that he bent the Ted Whitten Bridge.

Gave up working in 2018, with his last task being the smuggling out of the West Gate Bridge collapse report to the State Library, a fiendish plot exposed at a CAV meeting a couple of years ago.

Other interests include tennis, (and at one time judo), stamps, guitar, Spanish and family history research.

Travel was also well up there until COVID, with most recent ventures being French Polynesia and South America.

Family includes wife Jannette, three sons and partners, one border collie, five fish and a very destructive galah.

Recent CAV Meetings

Summaries, and more recently, recordings of our monthly presentations can be found on CAV's latest news web page (<http://www.cornishvic.org.au/latenews.html>).

Since our last newsletter we've been treated to presentations from two CAV members, Helen Morgan and Robyn Coates, and a guest speaker from the Australian National University, Associate Professor Cate Frieman – all held via Zoom due to Covid restrictions in Victoria.

At our August meeting Helen Morgan discussed her (relatively newfound) sense of Cornish identity and focused on her stonemason ancestors from Penzance, the Blewetts, who came to Melbourne in three waves from 1853 to 1859.

Helen provided insight into her research methods, charted the successes and tragedies of the Blewetts as builders in the 1850s and 1860s, and examined the loss of the old Wesleyan school rooms building in Fitzroy, demolished despite National Trust classification in the 1970s.

Helen's presentation can be viewed online at https://youtu.be/1h6MDI_JLA4

Inspired by a Cornish name she recognised in the Ballarat Historical Society's newsletter in 2020, Robyn Coates began researching Dr Adoniah Vallack (1813-1872), who practiced throughout rural New South Wales and in Ballarat, Victoria in the nineteenth century.

Robyn helpfully detailed how she conducted this research online during lockdown (very encouraging!).

There is a detailed account of Robyn's research in the CAV Ballarat Branch August 2021 newsletter (recent CAV newsletters can be downloaded from our newsletter web page (<http://www.cornishvic.org.au/newslet.html>)).

Robyn's September presentation on Adoniah Vallack can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/EftSbchx-Po>

In October, our focus moved to Cornwall itself in a detailed presentation from Associate Professor Cate Frieman, co-director of the Southeast Kernow Archeological Survey since 2012.

Starting with a fascinating map of the genetic profile of the British Isles (showing that the Cornish basically marry other Cornish people – always unique and different!) and details about how her interest in Cornwall developed, Cate looked at Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures and Bronze Age barrows near the village of Pelynt.

Cate's presentation can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/G7MtjVWS0YEE>



Helen Morgan



We are always on the lookout for interesting speakers who can present on Cornwall and things, places and people Cornish, including stories of the Cornish in Victoria and Australia.

If you have something you'd like to present, or can recommend a speaker, please get in touch with CAV committee member Helen Morgan at helen@helenmorgan.net or 0401 873 385.

Helen Morgan

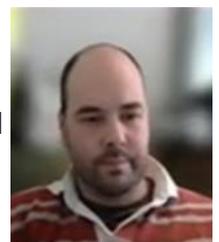
Ballarat

Whilst not being able to meet in person, the Ballarat members have enjoyed two Zoom presentations during the recent lockdown.

With restrictions easing, members are hopeful of soon meeting again in person.

In August, Austell Lanyon, a Ballarat gold mining engineer, who has worked at the Stawell Gold Mines and Gecko in Ballarat, talked about the techniques used to find possible gold mining sites and modern methods of mining and metal extraction.

His talk centred on exploration and geological techniques; underground mining process, equipment



and practises; and processing techniques.

Using photos, maps, illustrations and short videos, it was fascinating to members who had little or no idea of how gold was extracted in the 21st Century.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfYckWXQrms&t=198s>

In October, Val D'Angri, a Ballarat member, detailed her involvement in the restoration of the 'Stawell Miners' Banner' between 1984 and 1990.

The banner was made in the early 1900s.



In 1927, many mining records at Stawell were discarded and thrown out, but thankfully the banner was rescued and in 1981 was returned to the Stawell Town Hall, where in 1983, an archivist from the University of Melbourne, Andrew Reeves, thought it should be preserved as it was a significant part of the Stawell Union history. The banner was forwarded to the Galleries and Museums Conservation centre in Ballarat and following its closure was housed in the Ballarat School of Mines where restoration of the fragile banner was undertaken.

Val worked for over 400 hours in restoring the banner which was unveiled in 1990 at the Stawell Town Hall.

The work entailed dismantling the banner, re-dying and painting sections of fabric, weaving new fringes, unpicking and rewinding cording and then re-assembling all sections.

You can learn more about the restoration by looking at the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YolFSIAJum4&t=11s>

Geelong Branch

Our regular branch meetings are held at the Uniting Church, Ormond Road, East Geelong at 1.30pm. on the third Wednesday of the odd months.

Visitors and guests welcome.

Neil Thomas.

Chairman Geelong Branch of the CAV.

Hints for watching youtube links

If you hover your mouse over the link and press the control button a hand appears, just click your mouse and it will take you to youtube - then you just need to click play.

Welcome to new members

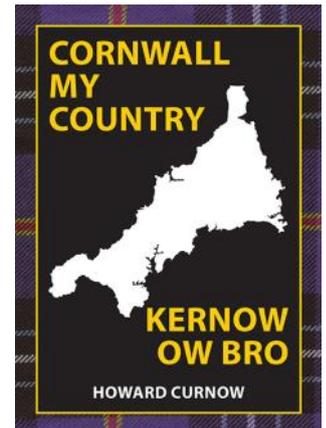
*Darralyn Cusack from Kilsyth whose interests are CLEAR from Veryan, Cornwall pre 1840 and Maryborough Victoria and WILLIAMS from Veryan, Cornwall pre 1860

*Lucy Hamilton from Red Cliffs whose interests are Peak, Roberts, James, Rowe, Lanyon and Williams and Blake, Wills, Colman, Colling, Petherwith and Taylor from the St Minver area.

Cornwall my Country - Howard Curnow

At the age of seven, Howard Curnow hit the local Cornish headlines when he fell under a one ton steel roller in a field on his father's dairy farm. Since then he has never been completely happy when any further from Cornish soil.

Howard tells the story of his remarkable life from his early days as one of seven children on the farm in West Cornwall, to his many visits to the USA, Canada, Australia and Cuba, to meet many native members of the Curnow family and to promote Cornwall.



This is part of the cover of the book advertising the late Howard Curnow's autobiography which was recently published.

If you are interested the book is available from <https://www.thecornishstore.co.uk/>

For those interested in things Cornish you might look to browse the site as there are quite a few goodies to be had - to me the selection of children's picture books look very attractive. One book mentioned is 'The Mousehole Cat' which currently is one of our young grandson's favourite books - he loves the adventures of Tom Bawcock and his faithful cat Mowzer.

SBS - Devon and Cornwall with Michael Portillo

If you missed episodes two, three and four of this programme, they are still available until 18th December on SBS on demand

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/devon-and-cornwall-with-michael-portillo>

A Cornish Miner in Ballarat
By Ian Penrose, August 2021
ianpenrose1949@gmail.com

My wife's great-great-grandfather, Reuben Tippet, migrated to Australia in 1866 with his wife Elizabeth (nee Eddy) and their four young children.



Their lives remained a mystery until recent research revealed the following story of Reuben's broad experience in mining, and his family's mixed fortunes in Ballarat.

Born in 1832 in St Columb Minor, a village near Newquay on the north-west coast of Cornwall, Reuben was the fourth of six children.

His father George was a stone mason.(1)
When Reuben was a boy, his family moved 22 miles south to Ramsgate, a small hamlet south of Camborne. (2)

Camborne was then a centre of the Cornish mining industry, and 18-year-old Reuben worked at a nearby copper mine. (3)

But foreign competition was starting to impact the local industry, and in 1854 he joined many Cornish miners in migrating to the US, to work in the new and booming anthracite coal ("stone coal") mines in north-eastern Pennsylvania. (4)

There he fell in love with a Cornish lass, Elizabeth Eddy who had migrated as a young child from St Austell when her father, a miner like Reuben, had joined the mass migration to Pennsylvania. (5)

Reuben TIPPETT in Ballarat.

Reuben and Elizabeth married in 1857, and Elizabeth gave birth to four children in quick succession. (7)

Then in 1865, when their youngest, John, was less than one month old, the family sailed back to Liverpool, where they boarded the Black Ball clipper, *True Briton*, as steerage passengers bound for Australia. (8)

Sadly baby John died shortly after disembarking in Melbourne.

Reuben's eldest brother Cornelius, a stonemason like their father, had migrated to Australia a decade earlier. He had established a successful business in Ballarat as a construction contractor responsible for many civil projects in the growing city, including forming new streets and footpaths, and building dams and water channels. (9)

News of Cornelius's success, and opportunities to work in the gold mines would have encouraged Reuben, and later their younger brother Joseph, to join him in Ballarat.

The gold industry was then much changed from its early years. The sight of single miners digging shallow deposits with shovels, windlasses and cradles was now replaced by capital-intensive mining companies employing labourers and machinery to work the gold veins embedded in deep rock. (10)

Shortly after their arrival, Reuben and Elizabeth settled into a house in South Street, Ballarat West, and Reuben, drawing upon his experience, found work in the underground mines.

He probably shifted jobs several times as new gold leads were found, and records show that in 1875, he was an employee-shareholder in Smith's Freehold Mining Company's deep mine on the western edge of Yarrowee River. (11)

In their South Street home, Elizabeth gave birth to another eight children. The family then moved into a timber house in Bond Street in Ballarat East. (12)
Aged in her mid-fifties, Elizabeth was one of the 30,000 women who signed the Women's Suffrage Petition in 1891 which advocated that '*women should vote on equal terms with men*'. (13)

Reuben and Elizabeth had altogether twelve children, seven boys and five girls. Their eldest, George, was initially a tailor working in partnership with Edward Clemence on the south-east corner of Sturt and Albert Streets. Two of his younger brothers, Joseph and John, were also tailors and probably worked with him.

After his tailoring business faltered, George formed the partnership of Jordan & Tippet, with premises near the City Hall in Armstrong Street.

They were successful undertakers – and perhaps that was an omen of the family's fortunes, as early death was all too common amongst the Tippet menfolk.

Both of Reuben's brothers who had settled in Ballarat died before their time. Cornelius, the successful contractor, drowned while swimming near Geelong, aged 49: and brother Joseph died of miner's disease (TB), aged 55.

Furthermore, none of Reuben and Elizabeth's sons lived into old age. Three died in infancy; one just a week after his five-year-old sister had died and a day before another sister was born. That would have been a stressful time for the family! Their eldest son, George the undertaker, died of a stroke at age

54 while on an around-the-world holiday. His two tailoring brothers, Joseph and John, died in their twenties. Their other brother, Reuben, died aged forty.

The Tippett daughters, the four who survived childhood, fared much better. All married and had families of their own. But only one, the eldest daughter Mary, remained in Ballarat. Daughter Elizabeth married a Salvation Army officer and settled in New Zealand. Emma married a tailor and moved to Western Australia. And Annie married a carpenter and emigrated to California.

In February 1905, Reuben died at home. He was in his early seventies. His newspaper obituary read: *Mr. Reuben Tippett, a well-known resident of Ballarat East, died on 10th inst. Deceased, who succumbed to rheumatism, contracted while mining in wet ground in the early days, was a native of Cornwall, and arrived at Ballarat in 1866. He was prominently connected with the total abstinence movement, and was a leading member of the Methodist Church.* (14)

Widow Elizabeth remained in their Bond Street home where her daughter, Mary with her family joined her. Then in 1910 she sold the property and moved with them to Richmond in Melbourne. (15)

When she died five years later, aged 78, Elizabeth had outlived eight of her twelve children. (16) She was buried alongside Reuben in the family grave in Ballarat's Old Cemetery. (17)

1 Cornish Parish Registers, St Columb Minor, 18 Nov 1832

2 England 1841 Census and 1861 Census

3 England 1851 Census

4 New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891

5 England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, St Austell, Cornwall, Holy Trinity Church, 5 Feb 1837. Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1882.

6 Photo taken by S. Fisher Johnson, corner of Sturt and Camp Streets, Ballarat. Source: MyHeritage.com [online database]. Lehi, UT, USA: MyHeritage (USA) Inc. <https://records.myheritagelibraryedition.com/research/collection-4/myheritage-photos-docs> viewed 8 Jan 2019.

7 Marriages in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey, U.S., Church and Town Records, 1669-2013 for St James Episcopal Church, Schuylkill.

8 Public Records Office Victoria, Unassisted Migrant Passenger List, fiche 254, page 4, vessel True Briton (Black Ball Line) sailed from Liverpool 9 November 1865, arriving Hobsons Bay, Melbourne 27 February 1866. The Age "Shipping" 9 Feb 1866, page 4.

9 Victorian Assisted Migrants records, on board Conway, and Ballarat Star, 1863-66, and Victorian Directories. The Argus, 25 Dec 1868, 20 Mar 1875

10 William Bramwell Withers, History of Ballarat – from the first pastoral settlement to the present time, 2nd edition 1887, Ch VII, <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks13/1304971h.html>

11 Victorian Government Gazette, Mining Co Shareholder list, 1 Jun 1875. Geological Survey of Victoria, Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, Map No 6, Ballarat, 1991, re Henry Loch/Smith's Freehold mine.

12 Their address was originally 68 Bond Street, renumbered in about 1906 to #45, and again in 1960s to #623. Sources: Victorian Directories. Town of Ballarat East valuation rate books.

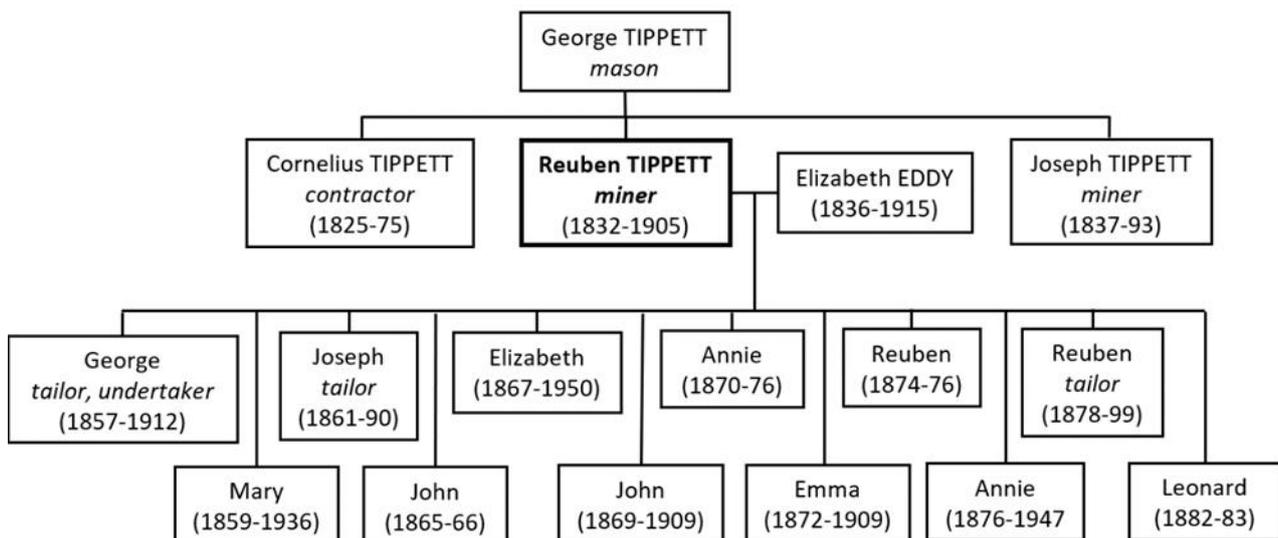
13 Women's Suffrage Petition, 1891, <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/static/WomensPetition/pdfs/413.pdf>

14 Leader newspaper, Melbourne, 18 Feb 1905

15 Town of Ballarat East valuation rate book, 1910-11, page 145

16 Four children who died as infants are buried together in Ballarat Old Cemetery, Area WN, Sect 5, Loc 23R1.

17 Ballarat Star, 8 Jan 1915. The Tippett family grave is in Ballarat Old Cemetery, Area AVE, Sect 5, Loc 14R2



Two CAV Members have sent me this information from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria newsletter.

It maybe of interest to some of our members.

Where did they settle?

Our February issue of *History News* will focus on, 'where did they settle and what impact did they have?'

Since 1788 people from other countries have come to make this country their home. Their decisions to do so have been based on a wide range of events in their lives and in their home countries.

Some of those events, such as wars or famine, have forced large groups of immigrants to arrive from one country and settle together in a particular region of Victoria their home. Evidence of those initial settlements, such a suburb and street names or cuisines, remain after descendants move on. For instance, in Boroondara where I am, there is Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Chatham, Middlesex and Essex Roads as the areas first settlers were mostly English.

Victoria has had settlers from many, many countries: Scotland, Germany, Netherlands and Vietnam, to name but a few.

The deadline for that issue will be 2nd January 2022.

We welcome articles about specific regions within Victoria that have been home to groups of specific national or cultural groups of immigrants.

Who were they? Where did they settle? And especially, what impact did they have on physical and cultural aspects of the region that they made their home.

Remember, the deadline is 2nd January for these pieces, and submissions before deadlines very welcome.

Sharon Betridge RHSV
sbetridge@outlook.com

Have you ever thought?

from Lyne McGregor, of the Narre Warren and District Family History Group and used with permission

Have you ever thought, when searching for your family, that you might end up with a connection to someone or something famous?



When I first started looking or verifying "old wives tales" with my paternal grandfather, I got told about the Pirates along the Cornish coast and the play "Pirates of Penzance" was written from old folklore.

When Pa started talking about Pirates, I thought my fascination with them and sailing ships had a family connection, little did I know.

After Pa had searched through some old paperwork, I was given a copy of some papers that had been left behind in the family bible.

The Logan Rock (1) - Quaint Bill of Costs for replacing it had been printed off and left with a copy of the verse *The Logan Rock* that lyrically told the story of Lieutenant Goldsmith and a band of men who pushed Logan Rock off its pivot.



(1) Summary of the accounts of replacing Logan Rock preserved by the Goldsmith family held in the Penzance (Morrab Gardens) Library dated Nov 2nd 1824

At Lands End, the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel meet and hit the granite cliffs. A castle Treryn laid fort there and Logan Rock was to prevent pirates entering the coastline.

Lieut Goldsmith was employed to keep them away but was known to join them if things were quiet. The verse indicates crow bars and rope were used to overthrow with a thund'rous tone..... the rock went crashing down the slope.

The Geographical Society found out Lieut Goldsmith orchestrated the tip over so he alone must pay but he didn't have funds so a collection by the Society began.

The stone weighed over 60 tonnes and took from early September 1824 to November 2nd 1824 to be replaced.

A series of skilled tradesmen and labourers were used. There were carts and horses; there was the crew of the HMS Nimble, timber and lodging for the men, all were part of the costs to replace Logan Rock.

Fortunately on the Quaint Bill of Costs some of the men are listed and my great, great, great grandfather Methuselah Matthews and great, great, great grandfather Henry Harvey's names appear there. Methuselah would have been 25 or 26 at the time so in the prime of his life and hopefully health. As the name suggests he did live for a long time; he was 87 when he died in 1885.

Methuselah married Grace and they were to have five children. Son Joseph and his elder sister Mary left Cornwall and came to Australia long after the gold rush in 1889.

Joseph's daughter Mary Anne had married and she, with her new husband, George Williams, were coming to Sebastopol to start a new life. Joseph with his wife and four children came out as the farming on their farm named *Roskesta* wasn't bringing in enough to live on.

The property was part of the Duchy of Cornwall and was on a 99 year lease. When Joseph left Cornwall his "in-laws" the Williams took over the lease. A visit by my Mum and Dad in 1989 to the property discovered the Williams family were still on the farm.

So, we weren't pirates or smugglers but we did get our name recorded which helps with knowing where the family was and what they had done before coming out to Australia.

Now I go back to looking for a Pirate connection.

From our Lithgow reporter

During 2020-2021 CAV member Jill Beard has been in Lithgow NSW and sent this article for the newsletter regarding a prominent Lithgow man who hailed from Cornwall. A great Australian.

Lithgow Mercury (NSW : 1898 - 1954), Monday 5 July 1943, page 2 (from NLA TROVE)

MR. R. F. LEAN DEATH OF RESPECTED CITIZEN AFTER A LONG AND FULL LIFE

The death took place at his residence in Hassan's Walls-road after a very short, illness, of Mr. Richard Francis Lean, one of the most respected best known and loved residents of the town and district.



Mr. Lean had only been ill a few days, indeed he was at the garage on Monday last, but the severity of the attack took a quick toll and death occurred on Friday night.

The late Mr. Lean was one of nature's gentlemen, a man who lived a life of service to the community and who probably never made, nor did he deserve, an enemy.

His good deeds were many, and in anything for the welfare of the town he was always to the fore with finance and, in his earlier days, with service. His good works were always done in a most unobtrusive manner; indeed, this was a prominent, trait of his whole character.

In business he was the soul of probity.

His word was his bond, and he never had a harsh word for anyone.

Lithgow has indeed lost a citizen it can ill spare and one who made it a home for himself and his family, its interests and development, being one of the aims of his life.

As a member of the Baptist Church he was its greatest stalwart, and he often used to say that, he thanked God he was permitted to be able to render it, and the work of Christianity generally, financial help. He was church organist, in the earlier days, superintendent, of the Sunday School, a life deacon, in fact in all church activities he was most prominent. It is here that he will be most missed.

Mrs Lean predeceased him by five years, and since then he had the companionship of his niece, Miss Vera Marshall, whose devotion to her uncle has been marked.

The late Mr Lean is survived by three sons - Bertram, Alfred and Eric - and four grandchildren, John and Marie (children of Mr. and Mrs. B. V. Lean), Richard and Daphne (children of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Lean), for whose interests he had a loving care. He frequently mentioned that he was looking forward to a long talk with Grandson John, who is in the Navy and has recently visited the birthplace of his grandfather. For home life and family association indeed he had a keen love.

The late Mr. Lean was born in the tin mining town of Twelveheads, near the capital city of Truro, Cornwall - so named because of that number of stampers with which it was surrounded - in 1865.

This was also the birthplace of the celebrated Cornish preacher, Billy Bray, whose quaint sayings have become proverbial in evangelical circles.

Early in life he manifested a keen interest, in mechanics and although he started work at the early age of eight around the mines, later he became apprenticed to the engineering trade under the late Richard Northey, grandfather of Mr. Richard Northey, of Lithgow.

Incidentally the two became firm, boyhood friends and this friendship has endured throughout the years.

Mr. Lean's father came to Australia when his son was only a lad and, after he had settled here, sent for his family.

From then on began a long association by the late Mr. Lean with this district - Napoleon's Reef, the Paddy Lackey mine at Sunny Corner (he was its first and only engineer), Oakey Park colliery, the S.A.F. (he was its first millwright), Commonwealth Oil corporation - he supervised the erection of the pumping plants and sawmills from Wolgan to Dean's Siding and, with Mr. William Allen, of Hayley-Street drove the first locomotive over the line - Yanco Irrigation area, where he erected various plants, until finally he established, over 30 years ago, the well-known motor and engineering firm now known as R. F. Lean and Sons.

Mr. Lean had the distinction of building the first motor car to be seen on Australian roads.

The work occupied three years from the year 1899, and when it made its appearance, it caused

a furore. The car was powered by an engine which Mr Lean bought from Mr. Beard, a Lithgow chemist of those days, and which he had imported from the De Dion Bouton Co., France.

This car was certainly well constructed, and its speed for those days was regarded as amazing.

It was this achievement that really decided Mr. Lean to ultimately open his Lithgow establishment where his three sons have all been trained.



The first car, in Macarthur, Lithgow. Mr. B. V. Lean is at the "steer" and the other passengers are his brothers.



The first building occupied by the firm, with two cars used for the hire service.

Vale a splendid citizen, husband and father. To the bereaved very sincere sympathy will be extended.

THE FUNERAL

The Baptist Church, held a capacity congregation on Sunday afternoon, when citizens representing every section of the community assembled to pay their sympathetic respect to the late Mr. Lean, prior to the funeral proceeding to the Bowenfels cemetery. The Rev, J. B. Wilson conducted a funeral service, during which favorite hymns of the deceased were sung, his eldest son, Mr. B. V. Lean, being at the organ and playing appropriate music.

The coffin was surrounded by a profusion of floral, emblems.

Referring to the deceased's career, Mr. Wilson said the church had lost a member and officer of whom they were all justly proud.

The same could be said of Mr. Lean as a citizen and business man. It could truthfully be said of him that he was one of God's men, whose daily life was an exemplification of a deep sense of the spirit of Christ whom he served with humility and sincerity.

He had been, and was at the time of his death, a deacon of the church for 30 years; his good deeds were many, while his liberality for the advancement of God's work and other deserving causes were without ostentation.

As a husband and father, the late Mr. Lean stood as a pattern citizen, while his Christian example was indicated by the high moral standing and respect in which his three sons were held by the community. To those and other members of the family the sympathy of church members and citizens generally was extended.

The ceremony at the graveside was continued by the Rev. J. B. Wilson, assisted by church officers. These were Messrs. Hayward, Pearman, Wilkins and Pym.

The final hymn was "Rock of Ages."

The pallbearers were Messrs. T. Hopkins, F. Emery, R. Pearman and H. Astill.

Among the profusion of wreaths placed on the grave were two of a permanent type - one from the family, the other from the Baptist Church.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. Matthews and Lemon.

Annie Mavis Webster

Annie Mavis Webster was born on 25th May 1914, the daughter of Edwin Arthur Webster (born 1875 Bendigo, Victoria) and Annie nee Nancarrow (born 1878 in Victoria). She died 8th April 2000.

Annie, the mother was of Cornish descent with both her mother and father born Cornwall – Richard John Nancarrow and Elizabeth Jane nee Rodda.

Annie Mavis Webster was always known locally as Mavis Webster.

Bendigo Chorale, a community choir was formed in the 1957 by Mavis Webster. This choir sang under the name of Benola Singers for 40 years and then changed its name to Bendigo Chorale at the time of Mavis' retirement.

During the years of Mavis' leadership the choir not only performed fine choral performances within the City of Bendigo, but won significant awards in Australia wide choral competitions.

Mavis was also a very well renowned teacher of singing and taught in many Bendigo schools including St Mary's College and Girton College. She also ran a very successful private singing class. At the time of her death the Bendigo Chorale established an annual singing prize in her memory and it is awarded to a senior secondary school student who shows vocal potential.

Mavis Webster MBE taught singing in Bendigo for more than 50 years. She was unable to continue studies overseas because of the outbreak of World War II.

1966 Bendigo's award winning choir, 'The Benola Choristers', was successful in many Eisteddfods, both in Victoria and interstate, including the Adelaide Choral Contest of 1965, in which the choir was awarded first place taking home 1000

pounds prize money.

In the photo below:

Back row: Jerry Cronin, John Logan, Vic Knox, John Stephens, unknown, Jim Tomlins, Dave Sleeman, unknown, Lyall Shepherd, Geoff Barnes and Jack Werry.

Fourth row: Alan McLay, Vic Sommerville, Perc Reed, Alan Sandow, Gerrard Van Emmerik, Bill Van Emmerik, Bill Clark, Charles Jones, John Burtonclay, Bob Mellis, Don Speedy and Reg Boromeo.

Third row: Clark Jeffrey, unknown, unknown, Anne Fraser, Lorraine Jones, Yvonne Gillies, Bev Davies (Smith), unknown, Pat Lyon, Gwen Jeffrey, Dorothy Lockett, Beryl Hayes.

Second row: Edith Glenn, Kathie Veitch, Valda Young, Helen Hercus, Muriel Sparkman, Dorothy Pittaway, Betty Cowling, Annette Trewartha, Rhonda Osborne, Norma Cowling, Valerie McCracken and Anne Hamilton (Fleuren).

Front row: Mavis Webster (Director), Glenis Granger, Marjory Johnson (Grenfell), Barbara Mamouney, Margaret Watters, Hilary Wilcock, Patricia McCracken, Leonie Bissell, Judith Sandow, Kathy Paxton, Joan Thomas, Natalie Munro, Joan Mellis and Irene Gill (Accompanist).

Source - Bendigo Advertiser Way We Were

In the Supplement to the London Gazette, 3rd June 1978.

British Empire Medal - Civil

Miss Annie Mavis Webster, of Bendigo, Victoria.

For service to music and musical education.

Leanne Lloyd

Addendum - Mavis Webster was the Sun Aria winner in 1939 having been the runner-up in 1938.



Castlemaine reminiscences

The book 'Reminiscences of the Castlemaine Pioneers' contains the recollections of the experiences of many of the early settlers on the Mount Alexander goldfields and Castlemaine. This is an extract from the recollections of Thomas Carter:

At the time I write of, there must have been over 5,000 diggers on Moonlight and the shouting and yelling after nightfall, together with the firing of revolvers and guns made some noise. To show the insecurity of a man's claim amongst this motley crew, I may mention as an instance that he might leave his claim overnight to find it "jumped" next morning, and the hole, which had been a round one, metamorphosed [sic] into a square one, thus rendering it difficult to recognise his own claim. I was never served this trick but a friend of mine assured me that it actually happened to him. There were generally one or more fights daily among the Tipperary Boys and the Cornishmen. The latter, as soon as they had bottomed, would drive like rats and undermine the Irishmen's claim and remove the washdirt. The ground being wet enabled the Cornishmen, who were expert miners, to excel all others in driving. The Tipperary Boy would suddenly drop through with a yell into the drive of a Cornishman and be up to his neck in water. A crowd would gather, and woe betide the Cornishman if he were caught. He would, perhaps, pop his head up some distance off, covered with mud from head to foot, and if the course was clear, would run for his life.

The book gives wonderful descriptions of life in the early days in Victoria, particularly on the goldfields, and coming from those who lived through those days, makes them even more interesting.

Gail White



From a Recent Post on Facebook

A reminder from Stephen Treseder if you are searching for lost relatives in Parish Registers.

If you are a newcomer to Family History, remember the following facts about PARISH REGISTERS:

1538 – Introduction of parish registers in England & Wales

1558 – Start date of many older registers

1598 – Registers to be written on parchment &

Bishops' Transcripts introduced

1642-1660 – Civil War & Interregnum led to many registers being incomplete but 'late' entries can be found after 1660

1695-1706 – Fees charged for baptisms, marriages & burials. At the end of this period, there was often a rush of baptisms

1752 – England & Wales change from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar

1754 – Hardwicke's Marriage Act meant all marriages, except for Jews & Quakers, had to take place in a Church of England. A set format was introduced for the registers and stricter rules applied to the reading of banns

1777-1812 – Dade registers introduced in Diocese of York

1783 – The Stamp Act was another attempt to charge for entries in parish registers and lasted 10 years

1812 – Rose's Act resulted in a set format for baptism and burial registers

Looking for register entries before 1538 is unrealistic. Don't expect every register to have survived or be complete.

The Protestation Rolls are a useful 17th century source for researchers. The returns were the result of an order that all men had to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant religion.

The Cornwall Online Parish Clerk (OPC) website has a search facility.

<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/extra-searches/protestation-returns/>

The article below is from its website and provides very helpful information which may help your 17th century research.

The Protestation Oath of 1641

During the spring of 1641 there was great unrest in Parliament with discord between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and plots and sub-plots against both the King and Parliament itself. In May 1641 Parliament agreed upon the following Protestation Oath

"I, ?--- ?--- do in the presence of Almighty God, promise, vow and protest to maintain and defend, as far as lawfully I may, with my Life, Power and Estate, the true reformed Protestant Religion, Expressed in the Doctrines of the Church of England, against all Popery and Popish Innovations, within this Realm, contrary to the same Doctrines, and according to

the Duty of my Allegiance, His Majesties Royal Person, Honour and Estate, as also the Power and Privileges of Parliaments, the Lawful Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and every person that maketh this Protestation. in whatsoever he shall do in the lawful Pursuance of the same; and to my power. and as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose and by all good ways and means endeavour to bring to condign punishment all such as shall, either by Force, Practice, Counsels, Plots,, Conspiracies, or otherwise, do any Thing to the contrary of any Thing in this present Protestation contained; and further, that I shall in all just and honourable ways, endeavour to preserve the Union and Peace betwixt the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland; and neither for Hope, Fear nor any other Respect shall relinquish this Promise, Vow and Protestation."

On 6th May 1641 a Bill was introduced in the House of Commons imposing the signing of the Protestation on all Englishmen of 18 years and above. All who refused to sign were deemed unfit to hold office in Church or Commonwealth.

At the end of February or the beginning of March 1641 incumbents read out the Protestation in the parish churches. The parishioners then signed or made their mark before him and the other officials present, who testified that the oath had been taken, or refused. Many women took the Protestation Oath. Many Roman Catholics refused.

The only safe assumption as to whether a man could or could not write is where it says he made his mark. Many incumbents wrote the whole list of names. In many family groups every name was written by one person. Do not assume that a man could write even if it does not say he marked. This work is a transcription of a transcription and is therefore open to human error. As always the original documents should be consulted. The original Protestation Returns are held in the Parliamentary Archive in the House of Lords Library.

Source: "Cornwall Protestation Returns 1641" from a transcript (circa 1914) by Reginald Morshead Glencross, additional material by H L Douch, edited and published by T L Stoate 1974

<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/extra-searches/protestation-returns/protestation-oath-of-1641/>

CAV Information Technology Group

At the CAV Annual General Meeting, I foreshadowed the establishment of a group of interested members to assist the Association with our IT.

At the moment our IT knowledge is held by one person, our Webmaster Arthur Coates.

Arthur and I want to spread the understandings of how our IT works including how the website works. If we can get four or five members together at Oakleigh, then Arthur can begin the process of explaining how things work.

All you will need to do is to be able to work on a computer; no special skills in IT are required. Please contact either Ken or Arthur if you are interested.

Arthur Coates: arthurcoates@netspace.net.au

Ken Peak: pkicons29@bigpond.com

CORNISH tidbits

Eden Project: Geothermal heat project 'promising'

A three mile-deep (4.8km) borehole has shown "promising" prospects for a geothermal heat plant in Cornwall.

Drilling started in May on the borehole at the Eden Project.

The eco attraction hopes that it will lead to a geothermal heat plant, unlocking heat for Eden and nearby industries.

If successful, the scheme would use steam created from hot water found deep underground to power turbines and produce electricity.

Eden estimates that the heat produced will be the equivalent of heating more than 35,000 homes.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall>

New rugby league team

Cornwall will have a professional rugby league team in League One from 2022 and it will be based at Penryn's Memorial Ground.

They will have full membership of the Rugby Football League, having taken on Hemel Stags' licence with the governing body.

The division Cornwall are joining is far more diversely spread than the Championship and Super League, where most sides are based in the north of England.

There are two Welsh clubs, West Wales Raiders and North Wales, while London Skolars, Coventry Bears and Doncaster are also outside the traditional M62 belt. Oldham, Swinton, Rochdale, Keighley and Hunslet complete the make-up of the league.

Expansion of an invasive Pacific oyster

Pacific oysters were brought to the UK from the US and Canada and farmed during the 1960s and 1970s, but now they are damaging protected estuaries. More than 150 000 oysters have been recently culled in a bid to control the species in Devon and Cornwall.

Natural England data showed hotspots such as at Wilcove in Torpoint where up to 396 Pacific oysters were counted per metre square, with a similar number in the Fowey Estuary.

The report, released in September, said the oysters had injured dogs' paws, burst paddleboards, damaged boats and one woman had needed stitches to her hand and arm when she slipped on an oyster reef. The oysters tend to grow vertically creating a hazard to people and animals.

The bivalve molluscs grow quickly - in a couple of years they can reach maturity.

When the oysters were brought to the UK, scientists believed the waters were too inhospitable for the oysters to breed in any numbers.

A project to train citizen scientists to monitor and cull the oysters has been deemed a success by the report. To cull them, the volunteers strike the shells with a hammer until it breaks.

Unlike the native oysters, the Pacific oysters attach to rocks and slipways.

Across Cornwall and south Devon, between 2019 and 2020, 16 volunteer groups have been trained, culling a total of 150 387 Pacific oysters.

Uses for the shells, include trials in the construction industry for cement, replacement of limestone in neoprene manufacturing and as a garden fertiliser.

Cornwall Council welcomes decision to scrap 'Devonwall' proposal

Cornwall Council has welcomed news that proposals for revised parliamentary boundaries will keep the six parliamentary constituencies wholly within Cornwall.

A previous Boundary Review which proposed a cross-Tamar parliamentary seat, dubbed 'Devonwall', prompted an outcry from residents on both sides of the Tamar, has now been dropped.

The previous review had sought to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600, but this review keeps the number at 650. It means that Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has an entitlement to 5.97 seats – which has allowed the Boundary Commission to 'Keep Cornwall Whole' with six constituencies.

Transformative plans to regenerate four town centres to become a reality

Ambitious regeneration projects to boost the local economy and opportunities for residents in

Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro are set to become a reality following successful bids to the Government's Town Deal fund.

It paves the way for plans developed by local communities to bring about lasting change – projects to transform high streets, improve transport and digital connectivity, and develop skills and culture.

The four areas were invited by the Government in September 2019 to each form a Town Deal board to bid for up to £25m each from the Town Deal fund. Working with Cornwall Council and the Cornwall Local Enterprise Partnership, the boards developed ambitious, yet realistic Town Investment Plans to support their bids. The Town Deal boards will receive:

- Camborne - £23.7m
- Penzance - £21.5m
- St Ives - £19.9m
- Truro - £23.6m

Penzance will also receive a further £10.4m from the Government's Future High Streets Fund to regenerate the high street, by bringing back vacant retail units into use, providing town-wide WiFi and delivering new homes and workspace.

River Tamar allowed to flood farmland to help wildlife and climate

The project is to allow river water from the River Tamar back on to land that was turned into farmland in Victorian times.

As well as being good for flora and fauna, the rich marshy land that is being created will lock in carbon, help clean the river by trapping sediment and alleviate flooding when storms sweep in from the Atlantic.

The £250 000 project, at the National Trust's Cotehele Quay, is the first of three planned along the banks of the river.

Earlier this year the National Trust, supported by the Environment Agency, Natural England and Plymouth University, carved out three channels into the farmland, then in October made a 15-metre-wide breach in the embankment to let water flow in at high tide.

The team was pleased that within days herons, egrets and mallard ducks were spotted.

Over the years reed beds should form and other birds that are expected to turn up in time include shelducks, redshanks, wigeons and teal.

Salmon fry and elvers may find shelter in the creeks as well as otters and other small mammals.

Cornish Tid Bits are sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, CornwallLive,