

THE GREATER KANSAS CITY CORNISH CONNECTION

A newsletter relating to Cornish history, culture and events of interest to the Cornish of Missouri & Kansas

HAPPY NEW YEAR...!!!

Oh, yea...I know. The New Year got started some time ago; but this is the first opportunity for the editor to pass along good wishes to all for 2007...!

This is a **BIG** year for the Cornish. The 14th biennial CAHS Gathering of Cornish Cousins will occur at Calumet, Michigan in July; and it is the beginning of the 13th year for the Greater Kansas City Cornish Society. Let's all celebrate those events in every way we can! A good place to start is St. Piran's Day, which falls on Monday in 2007—March 5th. Look for or sponsor some kind of a celebration in honor of our Patron Saint—if it's nothing more than treating your neighbor to a pasty! Spread the word about St. Piran...!

There is a surprising note in the winter edition of *Tam Kernewek*. Three of the leading officers in CAHS who attended last year's Cornish Festival in Mineral Point, WI reported a significant number of attendees they spoke with were unaware of the Cornish American Heritage Society's (CAHS) existence. **Ouch!**

By that evidence, we are called to do something to change such things. Are you a member of CAHS? If not, why not? --pass the word.

A Normandy Beach ...then & now

Brittany...southernmost of the six Celtic nations gave a full week's enjoyment to Don and Marge in October! And on the way, they stopped briefly in Normandy to visit the WWII Invasion Beaches that are major locations in American history.

It is the area where the brother of two charter members of the Kansas City Cornish Society, **Lila Hudgins and Doris Purpus**, lost his life during the invasion of France.

The top photograph shows the first house on French soil liberated D-Day, June 6, with masses of troops passing as they move inland. The bottom photo is that same house as it appears today.

These are somber and emotional grounds to walk....



11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 3, 2007

COME, YE CORNISH! – CELEBRATE!
ST. PIRAN'S DAY AT CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

52ND and Oak Streets, Kansas City, Missouri

With a traditional Pasty Luncheon and land of St. Piran-connected program, don't miss it! The Greater Kansas City Cornish Society is going all-out to make this a 'fun' event for you to learn more about Cornwall and your heritage of Cornish genes. It's a celebration for Cornwall's patron saint, St. Piran.

Reservations are needed. See page 6 for all the details on this Gathering.

Cornish Societies

...a poem by Dick Baker

We members are growing older
Losing our stamina and growing weak
Who will carry St. Piran's banner?
Who will reach the goal we seek?

Step forth now you strong and willing
It's no job for the meek
Who will grab the torch we carry
For the recognition of our land?
We will pass it, oh, so gratefully
Into your strong and willing hands

Hear us now Oh Sons and Daughters
Tho you may have little Cornish blood
A bit of Cornwall is inside you
Don't let it drown in life's flood

(Dick Baker, a Cornish Bard, lives at Reedsburg, Wisconsin. He is a long-time Cornish activist, and presently serves as the CAHS Historian. See him; meet him working hard at most Cornish gatherings.)

News of Cornish Research Sources

(From *Tam Kernewek*, CAHS, Winter 2006) Everyone with an interest in Cornish research materials should be aware of the large resource deposits (including the CAHS collection) now located in the SW Wisconsin Room at the UW-Platteville Library, and supervised by Archivist James Hibbard. Materials held there are both Primary and Secondary Sources.

Included are such things as government records, manuscripts of personal, business and organizational records, oral history interviews, photographs, and map and plat books—also, books, magazines and newspapers.

The geographical scope of materials is largely one of six counties in SW Wisconsin plus Jo Davis County, IL and Dubuque County, IA. The CAHS collection, however, is a much broader geographical scope.

Because of the rarity and fragility of many items, most must be used in the SW Wisconsin Room. Photocopying is available—but materials must be used with care. Research must be done in person or one may request the library personnel to do the research. Contact for more information about the use. The address, etc. is:

Southwest Wisconsin Room, Karmann Library
University of Wisconsin—Platteville
One University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818
Telephone: 608-342-1719
E-mail: swwis@uwplatt.edu

Understand Cornish Dialect...eh?

Francis Dunstan, who, along with his friend, Kath, gave Don & Marge a most gracious welcome to London upon their arrival in late September, has written a delightful article on Cornish Dialect for the London Cornish newsletter. Here is his example of just how misunderstandings come about: He recalls something he overheard while waiting for a carnival in Camborne. Two farmers were talking...

"Here! Yesday I bot a "erse"

"Diddee shure nuff?"

"Ess"

"What colour is uh?"

"Well, brown," e said.

(I thought, "why would anybody buy a brown hearse?")

Then he said

"Well ee's a brer erse, ees about 18 'ands"

Then the penny dropped..."He'd bought a *Horse!*"
(Francis' writing taken from *Tam Kernewek*, Winter 2006)

New Pasty to Celebrate Mining Heritage

A Cornish cultural icon moved into the 21st century during an event at Paddington Station in London. An alternative Cornish pasty created by chefs at Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Cornwall restaurant was unveiled to commuters in the capital.

No information in the news release told any details of what constitutes 'alternative' in this case (do you suppose they added carrots?).

The new pasty recipe was revealed at the same time as 12 massive hoardings (*English: A large board on which advertisements are posted*) were unveiled telling people how Cornish mining shaped the world. [This is Cornwall & Tam Kernewek]

Go for it! <http://www.cornwallcam.co.uk/>



GREATER KANSAS CITY CORNISH SOCIETY

Established 1994

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Cornish Mining gets World Heritage Status

The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1972, provides for identification, protection and conservation of natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value. There are more than 800 such sites across the world, and these include 628 cultural, 160 natural and 24 mixed properties in 137 countries. Cultural examples include the Taj Mahal, the Tower of London, the Great Wall of China—and now, **Cornish Mining**.

This gives recognition to 'Cornish Mining's' excellence as a world class cultural and heritage site and recognizes the importance of 'Cornish Mining's' historic landscapes and outstanding buildings in addition to its important role in technological innovation and scientific research worldwide. Many distinctive reminders of this important period of Cornwall's history remain on the landscape to this day—including engine houses and mine sites, foundry and other mining-related buildings, along with industrial harbors and tramways. The industry also created towns and villages, giving rise to innumerable sites of socially and economically related structures remaining in use today throughout Cornwall.

The World Heritage Committee did not limit their study to Cornwall, though it certainly is the center of all that occurred. The influence of Cornish mining is strongly felt throughout the world, and it is the migratory links that made it so. Of the thirty-three points made to support Cornwall's World Heritage Site status, twenty-four contain a reference to its 'world' influence. Many points about the deepest mines or the largest engines are in an international context as well.

Today, the mining scene with World Heritage status in Cornwall and West Devon has links to 175 Cornish mining locations worldwide and some six million Cornish descendants of those intrepid emigrants who sailed off into the unknown to ply their skills as the finest miners and engineers in the world. Let us cherish every Cornish gene we possess, and vow to learn more about our heritage. Start with the web site www.cornishmining.org.uk

Following is the list of points made in support of Cornwall's earned World Heritage status:

- Cornwall has an extraordinary suite of minerals: 450 species have been recognized, which represents some 50 per cent of the UK total.
- Cornwall, scientifically, has one of the world's most important ore fields: Cornish mineral specimens may be found in virtually every major natural history museum in the world.

- Cornwall has a pivotal place in the historical development of the science of mineralogy: By and through the discovery and description of more than 40 new mineral species and the founding, in 1814, of the second oldest geological society in the world in Penzance—the *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall*.
- Cornwall was the focus of a revolution in steam and mining technology: The need for efficient means for pumping water from deep mine workings prompted the development and refinement of the steam beam engine by noted engineers such as Richard Trevithick.
- Trevithick was the first in the world to develop a high pressure steam engine and boiler: His genius contributed greatly to the industrial revolution and helped define modern society. In the 19th century there were more steam-powered beam engines in use in Cornwall than anywhere else in the world.
- Trevithick also developed the world's first steam road locomotive in 1801: Three years later, he developed the first steam railway locomotive; and in 1812, the world's first agricultural steam engine.
- Trevithick erected Cornish beam engines at the Cerro de Pasco mines in Peru in 1818: That event marked the start of the transatlantic migration of the industrial revolution in metal mining and steam technology.
- In the century from 1815 to 1915, between a quarter-million and a half-million people migrated from Cornwall and West Devon: And with that, came the transfer of mining practices and traditions that gave the Cornish mining industrial region a global significance.
- Cornish miner supervision: Their knowledge, skill and customs led the development of many well-known and important mines of the world—in the Americas, Africa, Australia and India. They were the founders of the mineral industry in Australia.
- Cornish mining terminology: It contributed in a significant way to the international language of mining practice.
- The Cornish Pasty: This truly was a convenience food of the Cornish miner; and, through migration it became a staple in the mining fields across the world. Today, in places such as Pachuca in Mexico and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the U.S., it has become a popular and recognizably distinctive 'regional' food in homes and restaurants.
- Pachuca is known as the 'Cradle of Mexican Football: The first team was formed by Cornish miners working for the *Compañia Real del Monte de Pachuca*, in 1901.
- Place names in the USA: There is a Devon in Montana, a Tavistock in New Jersey, and a Truro in Iowa.

- In Ontario (Canada): There is a Cornwall, a Camborne, New Liskeard and a Tavistock.
- In Australia: There is a Charlestown (New South Wales), a Callington, Truro and a St. Agnes.
- In the 1820's, Gwennap Parish produced over 30 per cent of the world's copper, with Consolidated and United Mines being the world's largest: Copper was then used to sheath the hulls of British naval and merchant vessels and, as a constituent of brass, enabled the manufacture of steam engines for pumping and marine propulsion—and the production of munitions and special trading goods.
- Great Wheal Vor: This was the largest and richest tin mine in the world during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- Continuous operation: Nowhere else in the world have steam engines worked on mines continuously for an incredible 245 years between c.1710, when the first Newcomen atmospheric engine is said to have been erected at Wheal Vor, and 1955 when the last Cornish pumping engine was stopped at Robinson's Shaft, South Crofty.
- The steam pumping capacity of Cornish mine never equaled: At the Clifford Amalgamated Mines, the largest 7 of its 28 engines pumped 7.5 million gallons of water per day from a depth of 1,200 ft. Nowhere else in the world has that been exceeded.
- Biggest pumping engine: Until 1872, no mine in the world had a larger steam pumping engine than the 100-inch one at Wheal Vor.
- Pump engine builder: The great Cornish foundries of Harvey's of Hayle and Williams Perran at Perranarworthal produced the largest steam beam pumping engines ever built.
- Other mining gear: During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Cornish manufacturers of rock drills and compressed-air equipment were amongst the most advanced in the world.
- Distinctive Cornish-style engine houses remain: To this day, they may be seen in South Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, the British Virgin Islands, Spain, and in the mining fields of Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and, of course, Cornwall.
- Gas lighting: William Murdoch, a steam engine erector for Boulton & Watt based in Redruth, developed the first reliable domestic gas lighting there in 1792.
- Miner's safety lamp: Sir Humphry Davy of Penzance, a chemist of world renown and foremost experimental scientist of his day, is credited with the invention of the miners' safety lamp in 1815.
- Miners' safety fuse: Invented by William Bickford, the first miners' safety fuse was first used in 1831, and Tuckingmill became the world center for fuse making for more than 50 years.



C'mon, now—pay attention to this...!!

Far from 'ome... **The 14th Gathering of Cornish Cousins...**

...is coming up before we know it—July 25-29, 2007—at Calumet, on the beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, home of many, many early Cornish immigrant experiences in one of America's (if not the...) greatest copper country ever. Take a look at these web sites to learn more about it: www.keweenawkernelnewek.org & www.keweenaw.info.

Some GKCCS members can easily trace their family to the Upper Peninsula, where the early immigrants came in great numbers by ship, and later by railroad, to the place where Pre-Cambrian rock formations held native copper deposits in unbelievable amounts—and to incredible depths. A museum displays advertising posters sent to Cornwall that read, "**WANTED—500 Cornish Miners,**" and offering to provide passage to Michigan for those who accepted.

Mandated by law to maintain local archival and museum collections, the Keweenaw National Historical Park is now actively collecting materials and documenting the history of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. It is opening a reading room in the former Calumet and Hecla Public Library building, renamed the *Keweenaw History Center*; and, it has added a full-time archivist to the park staff.

The park has an active oral history program, documenting first-person experiences of everyday life as well as anecdotal history of the Keweenaw. One focus of the park's collection is family and personal paper, including photographs, correspondence, and other papers that document the lives of Copper County residents. The park hopes to continue building this aspect of their collections through donations of additional family papers.

Research inquiries and questions concerning donations to the Keweenaw History Center should be directed to the park's archivist, Jeremiah Mason, who can be reached by mail at Keweenaw NHP, P.O. Box 471, Calumet, MI 49913, or e-mail at jeremiah_mason@nps.gov.

NEW! And a first...Beginning with this issue of the Kansas City Cornish Newsletter is a message from our President, Frank Siegle. The intent is to make this addition a permanent feature of the publication. Give it a whirl...!

Hou oll! (Hi everyone)

We're instituting a president's column with this issue.

The above is a proper salutation. I THINK. The usual hello in Cornish is "Dydh da," which translates as "Good Day" really and who knows when you will receive the newsletter or when you will read it.

Our St. Piran's luncheon kind of kicks off our year. The pasties are always there and some other good things and it's a great time to get together and have fellowship.

We need to get cracking and come up with programs for the coming year and we're open to ideas. In fact we're eager for them. What are you interested in? What do you have to share?

This is not exactly a new experience for me. I was president of the St. Piran's society of Minnesota for a while. What is new is the commute. Living in the Twin Cities it was all right there, except for getting together with the Iron Range folks in the summer for a picnic *upp nort' dere, doncha know, among da pines and da mines, yew betcha*. Now it's around 120 miles one way from Manhattan for Mary and me. It's a little hard to keep a sense of community connection. But we're working at it. The board is starting to have meetings prior to events to chew the fat and probably more than that. Maybe we could come up with a project or two to propose, like the one with the book on Cornwall history for kids that we did a few years ago. We have some new (and younger) members. Maybe it's time to get a bit ambitious.

One thing we have done that I'm really very happy about is that we've begun connecting once in a while with our Welsh brethren (and sistren.) Some of us, like Mary and I, belong to both groups and we've had some good joint events, the latest of which was a banquet sponsored by the St. David's society at which a video on King Arthur was shown. It's not so much that "genuine" Britons are "cousins;" rather they're "siblings" along with the Bretons, but the three went along rather divergent paths. It's the Gaels who are close "cousins."

One other thing I'm thinking about doing in these pages is an occasional author or book review. I'm a voracious reader and I've come across some books with Cornish connections in our local library in Manhattan and, surprisingly, in my own mother's library. For her they were just good reads and any Cornish connection was only a blip on the screen, if that, for her.

So, I guess that'll do it for now. See you March 3rd.

Kernow bys vyken.

Frank

(With the addition of this new feature, the idea of a 'Letters to the Editor' column emerges as well. Such a thing would open the door for membership and reader expressions and suggestions to help make our organization wiser and more active. How about it, any ideas to share? -DW)

A VISIT TO PORTHLEVEN

At long-last, opportunity came for the editor and spouse to visit Porthleven for a few days—many thanks to a Curnow descendent, Beatrice, and her spouse, County Councilman Neil Plummer. It was a most delightful visit!



This view of the entrance to Porthleven Harbor was taken from the street in front of Beatrice's and Neil's place.

From the history of Porthleven comes this story, as taken from the Keweenaw Kernewek, November 2006.

January 4, 1817: The Brig Resolution, homeward bound for London, with a cargo of wines and oranges from Oporto (now Portugal's second-largest city), was driven onto the beach at Porthleven. The tinnars and fishermen, together with most of the population from Porthleven to Prussia Cove, raided the cargo and within an hour there was a regular riot. The troops arrived, but could not stop the looting (maybe even joined in?). Many died of alcoholic poisoning or drowned. It is said the wine found its way into the cellars of the local gentry, and births and marriages were toasted in 'Old Resolution' for many years.

It is rare to find a Cornish harbor which faces southwest, directly into the prevailing winds, and Porthleven's development as a port was always hampered by its orientation. Porthleven might have remained a small fishing inlet had there not been an overriding need, in the early nineteenth century, for a harbor of refuge along this lee shore to which ships could run in times of distress.

The construction of the harbor, which was completed in 1825, had been hugely problematical and, although a large drifter fleet was soon engaged in the mackerel and pilchard fisheries, Porthleven remained a dangerous and difficult harbor. Major improvements were carried out in the 1850s, after the port was taken over by Harvey & Co. of Hayle, and the handsome, massively-built harbor seen today dates from that time.

ST. PIRAN'S DAY PASTY LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

11:00 a.m. Saturday, 3 March 2007
Central Methodist Church, 52nd and Oak Streets,
Kansas City, Missouri

LUNCHEON: Traditional Cornish Pasties, coleslaw, desserts.



Pasties baking in the oven at a previous St. Piran's Day Luncheon held at Central Methodist Church.

Reservations required: In order to set-up and plan for sufficient food and tables, we must know in advance how many to expect. Advance payment is preferred, but pay at the door is accepted. Either way, reservations are necessary. The charge for each lunch is \$6.50. *(Extra Pasties may be ordered in advance for take home at \$5.00 each. They will be baked and frozen, so you'll only need to thaw, heat and serve them. Place order for extras when you make your reservations for the luncheon.)*

Please telephone Don Whitman or Marge Roberts at 816-361-1956 with your reservations **NOT LATER THAN** Thursday, 22 February (lead time is needed for pasty supply). Or, mail your reservation and check (payable to *Greater Kansas City Cornish Society*) in time to reach Don by that date. Send to: 24 East 68th Street, Kansas City, MO 64113.

PROGRAM: Cornish Songs, St. Piran Reading, Video of Cornwall

A couple of Cornish songs played and sung by our President, Frank Siegle; A reading by Eleanor Symons to give us more sense of appreciation for St. Piran ; and the presentation of a video about Cornwall will entertain and enlighten our minds after the satisfaction of pasties for lunch. Who could ask for more...?

HOW ABOUT: Bringing guests to introduce Cornish awareness?

Passing the knowledge and awareness of Cornish history and heritage is up to us! Our generation is accountable for ensuring that the interest and understanding of Cornwall culture gets passed along to those who follow. Please review Dick Baker's poem on page 2, then invite one or two people to be your guest at this St. Piran's Day event in Kansas City. We gotta spread the word! We are the messengers. See you there....and a HAPPY ST. PIRAN'S DAY TO ALL.