

came to this part soon after 1800 and had two sons, William and Thomas, who remained in the parish; one was a gardener and the other a shipwright, and between them they had 17 children. Miss Brabyn, the last to bear the family name, lived at Laundry Cottage, Restronquet and died in 1972.

The only inn was at Lane End, La Feock. This was kept by John Green, son of John Green who was living in this district by 1827 (C). The Inn was carried on by the same family until about 1914 and they are now living at Penelewey.

The first public transport was started in the early 1900s by J. H. Trenhail, farmer at Feathercock, who ran a waggonette to Truro on Wednesdays and Saturdays; by 1930 he was running a daily omnibus to Truro; this was continued by Mr Richards until the Western National took over.

There were many living in the district in the 19th century whose livelihood depended on the sea; fishermen, barge-men and sailors. As the sea-going trade from Devoran and Point increased, more young men from here went to sea. There were also profitable oyster beds in the creeks, but, largely owing to overfishing, this industry declined after 1861 and only a few older men carried on. When a cottage at Yard was sold in 1919, the rights to fish certain oyster beds were included in the deeds.

This part of Feock seems to have been a self-sufficient little community; the roads remained the same as they were on Martin's map of 1748. Life centred around the church, chapels at Goonpiper and Penpol, the Reading Room built in 1894, the school and later the village hall. Many of the descendants of the old families, of whom I have only mentioned a few, are still here. In spite of the influx of 'foreigners' during the past twenty years, there is still a friendly village atmosphere.

#### REFERENCES

1. Report of the meeting of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 20th July, 1873
2. Mining Journals, 1835 and 1852
3. Census returns, 1841-1871 (C)
4. Kelly's Directories, at the Royal Institution of Cornwall Library, Truro (K)
5. Royal Cornwall Gazette (G)
6. Parish Registers for the late 17th and early 18th century, by kind permission of the Vicar

#### METHODISM IN PENPOL

The centenary of the erection of the present Methodist chapel was observed in 1962, the building having been opened for public worship on Thursday, January 30th 1862. Unfortunately, at the time of the celebration very few contemporary details of the earlier occasion were then available, and, indeed, none at all in respect of the origin of the church itself; but despite this handicap, a very interesting and otherwise informative brochure was very kindly prepared by the then Assistant County Archivist, Mr Richard Potts, B. A.

Within recent years, however, the discovery of some old class tickets, some manuscript notes, and the account book of the period, has afforded a small but useful amount of information regarding the earlier history of the Methodist society in Penpoll.

It is known that in 1841 the short-lived Perranwell Circuit was formed from Truro, surviving as a separate unit until about the year 1852, when, with one or two exceptions, all its chapels were added to the Gwennap Circuit. The Truro Circuit Quarterly Meeting Minute recommending the formation of the Perranwell Circuit, (quoted by Theodore Hawken in one of his series of articles in the West Briton, and published in the issue of the 1st May, 1913), makes no mention of Penpoll in the list of chapels composing the new Circuit, but it does appear to have been one of the societies transferred to Gwennap in 1852. It would therefore appear that the Penpoll Methodist Society was founded sometime during the eleven years from 1841 to 1852, an assumption which finds support from both a single class ticket which has survived, and a reference in one of the title deeds of the property. The class ticket is one of admission to Wesleyan membership issued in June 1847 to one Elisabeth Pascoe, its Circuit of origin being that of Perranwell. There are good grounds for the belief that this lady was at that time associated with the Methodist cause at Penpoll, and that the ticket indicates that she had now become a member there. The title deeds reference is to an Indenture of Lease, dated the 29th September 1856, by which "John Samuel Enys, Esq., and Charles Glynn Prideaux Brune, Esq., Trustees under the Will of John Davies Gilbert, Esq., deceased; the Hon. Anne Dorothea Gilbert, Widow and Relict of the said John Davies Gilbert, granted to Richard Harris, ... all that plot ... of ground situate at Penpole, Feock, containing about six poles, together with a Building then or then lately used as a Meetinghouse or Chapel erected and built thereon. (Penpoll is correctly spelt on the title-page of the document.)

The fact that a previous meeting-house existed on the present site implies the still earlier existence of an established group of worshippers, and it is by no means impossible that Elisabeth Pascoe was one of the first members of that particular group. It is of interest also to note that in an address at a Sunday School gathering at Penpoll some years ago, the late Miss Marian Chegwyn mentioned that her great-grandmother was at one time the leader of the Bible Class "for the young men of the neighbourhood", the class "probably connected with the meeting-house that was here before this chapel was built," and that when failing health prevented her from attending the meeting-house, its members came to her in her home, - the same cottage in which Miss Chegwyn was then residing. Marian Chegwyn, for many years a devoted member and church worker, a Sunday School teacher, and a Trustee, was very proud of the fact that she was a Methodist of the fourth generation, and that so many members of her family had been so deeply attached to the chapel at Penpoll.

No record has as yet been found by which the date of the erection of this earlier chapel might be known, but the fact that within a period of less than twenty years it was replaced by the present chapel, gives some ground for believing that in Penpoll we have, perhaps, an instance of Methodism taking over from another denomination, and succeeding to the occupancy of its property. This could easily have been the case, since, according to Hawken, (West Briton, 27 March 1913) a congregation of Calvinistic Baptists in the early eighteen-twenties gave up their place of meeting at La Feock, and 'migrated' to Penpoll. There is no further information concerning this community, and it seems very probable that within a few years they had ceased to exist as such. It is also known that the early nineteenth century Register of Meeting House Licences of the Bishop's Registry, Exeter, contains an entry which almost certainly relates to Penpoll. This entry records that at the request of James Heath, Samuel Stephens, James Heath, Jun. and James Trenery, made by letter dated February 20th, 1807, a house in the village of DINPOLL was licensed for worship on June 20th, 1807. The assumption is, of course, that "Dinpoll" is simply a misspelling of the place-name, although it has to be admitted that nothing is as yet known of any of the four signatories named; nor, indeed, of the actual site in Penpoll to which this registration refers. Nevertheless, it is by no means impossible, and indeed, almost tempting to conjecture, that the present site is indicated in both these instances; that the 1807 group of a now unknown denominational label, erected the earlier building; that they were succeeded in the same premises, in the 1820s, by the Calvinistic Baptists of La Feock; and that in the early 1840s these in turn were succeeded by the first Methodists of

Penpoll.

With the legal documents, and the contemporary accounts of the Trust now available, we are, of course historically on much safer ground. The first of the legal documents is, as already stated, the lease granted to Richard Harris in 1856. This was for 99 years, subject to the lives of himself (at the age of 45 years), and his children, Catherine and Edwin, then aged 25 years and 19 years respectively. But it was not until 1862 that a Trust deed was actually prepared, the deed itself possibly affording a clue to the reason for the delay. On January 27th of the year, just three days before the present chapel was opened, Richard Harris assigned the premises to himself and eight others, as Trustees, "for the use of the People called Methodists," for the residue of the period of the initial grant, subject to the lives stated, to the covenants under the original lease, the payment of a rent to the freeholders, and an indemnifying covenant in respect of Richard Harris. The Trusts were to be those of the Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of 1832, the Church's assent being signified by the signature of the then Superintendent of the Gwennap Circuit, the Rev. James Mitchell. The first Trustees are named as: Richard Harris, (carpenter), William Maunder (tin smelter), William Plummer (millwright), Edwin Harris (builder), Thomas Martin (sawyer), John Treneale, Jun. (tin smelter), Thomas White (school master), Robert Sampson (tin smelter), and William Williams (yeoman), all of Feock. Edwin Harris is probably the son mentioned in the 1856 Deed, at that time not eligible for appointment as a Trustee, and his father's hope that he might become one, could account for the delay in the assignment of the Lease. Of the nine Trustees, only the tin smelters and the yeoman indicate their assent with an "x".

High above the chapel doorway may be seen the date, 1861, which probably is intended to indicate the year in which building operations commenced. The earliest account book now in the possession of the Trustees opens with the finances associated with the initial "Effort", held on Good Friday of that year, in aid of the New Building Fund, and commences with a list of subscribers whose contributions range from one shilling to ten shillings, and totalling just over £6. Captain Nettle, a name associated with the Penpoll Smelting Works, subscribed two shillings, as did also Mr William Daniell. We note that Mr Williams, presumably the yeoman Trustee, subscribed ten shillings, with, in addition, the milk for the public tea, free of cost! We note also that Mr and Mrs William Chellev contributed ten shillings, a further five shillings being subscribed by "Mr Wm. Chellev's servants". The public tea is referred to as "the Tea Meeting", its proceeds amounting

to £3. 17. 6, the collection at the evening meeting realising £2. 11. 2½, a total of £12. 6. 4½ for the day. But they were sadly lacking in the ability to make a profit, the cost of the tea almost equalling the income derived from it. Even so, their first effort established the Fund with an initial £8. 8. 7, encouraging them to borrow, according to the next recorded item, the sum of £150 from a Mr J. Coyne, Jr., at an annual interest of 5%.

Thomas White, the schoolmaster, had been appointed the Treasurer, and his entries are set out in excellent order, and in an attractive hand. He was evidently the leader in all matters affecting the clerical and business side of the enterprise.

Presumably, this "Effort" was held in the old chapel premises, though these must soon after have been pulled down since obviously building preparations must already have been put in hand. These involved an enlargement of the site, necessitating the blasting away of rock in the hillside, an account of later date revealing that for this fourteen pounds of "blasting powder" had been used, at a cost of 8d per pound.

The opening services on Thursday, January 30th, 1862, commenced with morning worship, followed by dinner, tea, and evening meeting, the afternoon being taken up by a Bazaar, which raised £18. 6. 7½. Collections on the opening day were: morning £2. 5. 1½, evening £2. 7. 5. Meals, at probably only a few pence per person, brought in £6, this being also the amount received from the collections on the following Sunday, the first Sunday of the new chapel. The week-end's expenses of over £9 included "11/8 to Mr Tonkin, Truro, for beef."

The first payment in respect of the actual erection of the chapel was made early in 1862 to the Trustee, Richard Harris, who evidently had been entrusted with much of the work. His account was for £200. 17. 5d, of which £20 was for the site. A mason, Charles Pengilly, was also paid the sum of £62. 7. 1d for labour, but his separate item for "building the gateway, and fixing the doorstep, etc.", amounted to only £1. 5. 0.

By midsummer and autumn, 1862, bills for an assortment of items in connection with the work were being received, including safety-fuse at a few shillings, 875 bricks costing £1. 7. 0., and £10. 6. 0. "to Mr Lidgey, for the centre-piece and cornice." William Mellens, Sen., received one shilling and sixpence for the service of his horse and cart, but the time involved is not stated. A number of labourers received payment - apparently at the rate of two shillings per day - but much of the work was done gratuitously, its value being estimated at £40, making a total cost of the erection a paper charge of £395. 11. 5½d, the actual cash payment being

£355. 11. 5½d. During the year, however, slightly less than £60 had been raised: £41. 12. 6 in subscriptions, and £15. 14. 0d seat rent proceeds for six months, which at perhaps just a shilling, or at most, two shillings per quarter per seat, indicates something of the amount of public support the newly-erected church in Penpoll was receiving.

In 1862, a few months after the opening of the chapel, the Trustees required further financial assistance and secured a loan of £120 from a Mr James Hearle, of Gwarder, in the parish of St Gluvias, repaying him £20 per year during the next three years, although no capital repayment was made in the case of the loan by Mr Goyne. In 1865, however, the amount of the Goyne loan of £150 was taken over by Mr Hearle under a legal agreement, and at a legal charge to the Trustees of twelve shillings, the total debt now being £210. Repayment contributions continued to be made from time to time, but the amounts being comparatively small, and made at such irregular intervals, another forty-three years were to elapse before the debt was finally extinguished in 1908. Family incomes were limited in those days, and the limitation was reflected in the church's income. Nevertheless, a schoolroom was built at the rear of the chapel in 1869-70, and this apparently without any addition having to be made to the then existing debt - a situation suggesting that if money was in short supply, voluntary labour was plentifully available. Indeed, this latter feature has happily been in evidence throughout the history of Penpoll Chapel down to the present day, when perhaps the financial aspect is in some ways a little less disturbing than in former days.

In 1848 the proprietors of the Feock Lead Smelting Works established a Day School, presumably initially, for the children of their employees, conducted on the 'British' model, and its sessions held at Rope House. This in turn seems to have inspired the founding of a Sunday School in the same building, and at that time under the same auspices. This Sunday School, although not officially Wesleyan, was very closely linked with the Gwennap Circuit of which Penpoll at that time formed a part, and when the schoolroom was opened in 1870, the school had already thrown in its lot with the Methodists of Penpoll, at once transferring both its sessions and its equipment to the new building.

In terms solely of cash, the schoolroom had been erected at the cost of a mere £38, and towards this sum, as showing their personal interest and pleasure, the pupils of the Lead Works School contributed five shillings and sevenpence.

The Sunday School banner, probably obtained within a short period of the change-over, and which for many years

afterwards was proudly carried at the head of the annual procession on tea-treat days, bore the wording, worked in blue and gold lettering on a cream background, "Penpoll Wesleyan Sunday School. Established in 1869", but in tribute to the first Methodists in Penpoll, it should be remembered that the school had, in fact, already been in existence for a number of years under the name, "Feock Lead Works Sunday Schools", its actual date of origin, like that of the Society itself, now being unknown. At the time of the transfer, the school consisted of 111 scholars, and 33 teachers. The Methodist premises at Penpoll must have seemed uncomfortably crowded in those days!

The schoolroom of 1870 continued in use until 1960, when it was demolished and the present larger and more attractive building was erected on the site. Its cost inevitably far exceeding that of both the previous erections, would have been much larger still, had it not been for the very considerable amount of voluntary labour given once again so readily and gladly. The dedication of this building took place on April 22nd, 1961, the opening ceremony being performed by Mrs Simmons of Saltash. Later a generous gift to the Trustees of a plot of land adjoining the new schoolroom made possible the provision of both kitchen and toilet accommodation.

The property is now held on freehold tenure, the Trustees securing that interest under a generous offer by the then owners. The cost of the transaction only was to be regarded as the purchase-price, and this amounting only to the sum of £15, the freehold interest became virtually a gift to the Methodist Church. The Conveyance is dated 12th March, 1921.

Renewal of the Trust, following this acquisition, took place on March 7th, 1930, when for the first time in the history of the chapel, women were appointed Trustees, a precedent which quite properly in an enlightened age, set the pattern for all future appointments!

As a village community, the Church is proud of its premises, its members' devotion being shown in their use of these in worship, in service to the community, and in the care by which they are so well maintained.

## BARGES

Until the second World War, there were a number of barges based on Restrouguet and often crewed by men who lived in Feock and Devoran. These barges were used mainly for carrying stone from the quarries at St Keverne, but they also loaded a great deal of sand from Restrouguet Creek and were employed in general cargo work as required. For instance, they often carried corn or bricks. They frequently worked up to Truro, Tresillian, Penryn, Point, Perran-ar-worthal, Gweek, and Ruan. Usually the crew consisted of two men who normally had to discharge the cargo and sometimes to load it as well, so the work was extremely hard.

In those days ships used to work up to Devoran and it was necessary to keep the channel clear, so the barges were usually moored under Harcourt or under Tregunwith Wood. At that time there was much more water in the creek and Mr W. Trebilcock says that in his grandfather's time, the Norwegian timber ships could lie afloat off Marblehead. There were two pilots based on Devoran and, when a ship was due to come up the river at night, they would row down and place a lantern on each of the posts that marked the channel.

There were two classes of barges; the 'outside barges', which were fully decked and had bulwarks, and the 'inside barges' which had no bulwarks. Some of the latter were completely undecked and some had narrow coamings. The 'outside barges' carried mainsail, staysail, jib and topsail with a standing topmast and crosstrees. The 'inside barges' carried only mainsail and jib and only one of them carried a small bowsprit, the jib being taken to the stemhead.

Some of the best known barges were the following:

### Outside Barges

Eve	Built at Plymouth Owned by Pierce of Falmouth Captain R. Phillips
William & John	Built at Penryn Owned by H. T. P. Rebuilt by W. Dunstan at Chyoose Captain W. Dunstan (not the same man) Carried corn to and from Plymouth
H. T. P.	Carried corn from Truro to Falmouth
Dorothy	Captain E. Burley and J. Lewarne