

cease sleeping in the same bedroom as she was embarrassed when Mr H. came to the room and kissed the wife. The ship returned from China in December 1895 and the P.O. returned to Feock in February 1896. Alas, it could not have been a happy reunion, for on the 14th May 1895 a child had been born to the wife. Divorce proceedings followed, the costs being charged to the co-respondent.

THE OLD VICARAGE

In February 1974 the new Feock church hall was opened; it is built on the site of the old hall which, in its turn, replaced the old vicarage burnt down in 1896; this was reported in the Royal Cornwall Gazette on March 5th. 'A fire of a very serious nature broke out this morning about 2.30. A messenger was at once despatched to Truro and the Fire Brigade was summoned....and by 4.30 were ready to start with their engine, but through some cause or other, the coachman was not called. This caused a delay of over half an hour and it was after 5 before the Brigade could get away. When they got to Feock they found that it was too late to render any service, everything by this time being burnt to the ground owing to the very strong wind that was raging. Great fears were entertained as to the safety of one of the children of the vicar but happily he was rescued uninjured. In less than half an hour from the time the fire was found out, the roof had fallen in. Mr Mermagen's valuable library of 2000 volumes, the collection of a lifetime, was completely destroyed.'

At the next meeting of the Truro Fire Brigade Committee it was decided to connect the telephone to the house of the driver at a cost of 42/- and to purchase 600 feet of hose for £24. 4. 0, which would make the Fire Brigade 'very efficient'. Later in the year Feock Post Office was connected to the Telegraph system and in 1897 the present vicarage was built.

The old vicarage is fully described in the Terriers, which were lists of the property owned by the church in the parish, sent at intervals to the Bishop. In 1726 it was built mostly of stone but with a 'linney' and part of the back wall of 'clobb', the roof was of thatch. On the ground floor there were a kitchen and hall, both with lime ash floors, a parlour which was 'planned' and a cellar with 'no floor but the country'; in the linney were a dairy, a pantry, a little cellar and a staircase leading to a small gallery which gave access to 'three little chambers all planned and ceiled'.

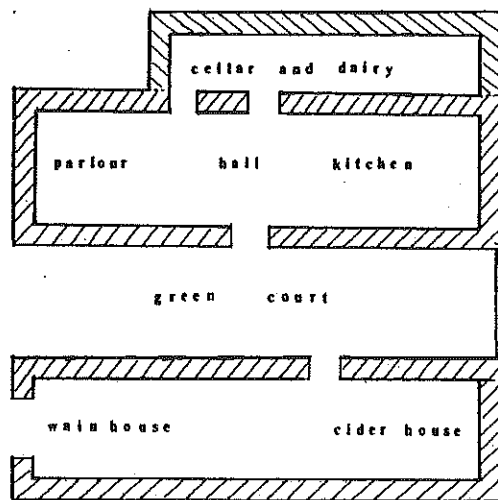
By 1744 the kitchen had been floored with stone, part of the roof had been 'covered over with tiling stones' and one room

THE GROWTH OF CARNON DOWNS

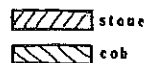
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had been made into a small study. The length of the dwelling house is given as 54 feet and its breadth 26 feet; there were also two outhouses, a wainhouse and a ciderhouse, each 16 feet broad and 20 feet long. Both terriers mention a barn and stable at the end of the house built of cobb and 'on the fore side of the house' a green court and a little garden.

The house was probably considerably changed during the years, but the measurements given in 1744 were similar to those of the old parish hall which was demolished in 1973, and it seems likely that this was rebuilt on the original foundations, possibly using the old stonework. 'Cobb' or 'cob', which is a mixture of mud and chopped straw, makes an excellent wall as long as it is kept dry, but can disintegrate rapidly if the roof is removed, so the barn and stable have disappeared, and the ground on which they stood is now used to park the modern steed, the car.



POSSIBLE PLAN OF
OLD VICARAGE



Scale $\xrightarrow{\hspace{2cm}}$ 20 ft

The fact that there are still traces of three tumuli and of an old fort (the Gear) south of Tregye Road suggests that this area was inhabited in prehistoric times. A flint arrowhead was dug up in one of the gardens in Tregye Road about six years ago.

When the name Carnon Downs was first used is uncertain. Martin's map of 1748 gives Haleginick (now Algarnick), Killiganoon, Tresithick, Ringwell and Lower Carnon. Map 1 is a sketch from the tithe map of 1842; reference to the census of 1841 shows that some of these buildings were groups of houses. There were four landowners: Lord Falmouth, Sir Charles Lemon of Carclew, Anna Maria Agar of Lanhydrock and the Hugos who owned Tresithick. Except for Tresithick very little freehold was sold until about 1920.

South of the Truro-Falmouth road, where the land is more fertile there were 5 sizeable farms in 1841: Higher Devoran (formerly called Dinnis's) farmed by W. Williams who also had Carnon Crease, Carnon Treliever and cottages at Chycoose; Tregoose covering 150 acres and keeping the same boundaries until it was sold in 1972; Tregye occupied by Juliana Penrose who sublet the farmland; Tresithick, also sublet and Killiganoon where Thomas Simmons lived and let a part of the estate to W. Hearle.

On the poor land north of this road there were a number of small holdings, most being between five and eight acres, which had been broken in from the open moor during the 18th century. Leases in the County Record Office show that it was customary to let the land for 99 years on three named lives at a low rent, the lessee cleared, cultivated and fenced the land, built a house, was not usually allowed to cut timber and in some cases could be inspected by the agent. If one of the named lives died the new lease was given on payment of a fine. Earlier leases show that prior to these enclosures the nearby farmers had rights of turbarry, grazing and furze cutting on these lands.

The small holders were poor men so they and their sons were obliged to have other work; this was found in the mines