



Carnon Downs 1896

KIDDLETWINA

SMITHY, CARPENTER'S SHOP.

SHOEMAKERS SHOP  
J. PENROSE

WATER SELLER  
J. MICHELL

TRECYS  
MARKET CART  
DRIVER  
J. TIPPET.

SHIP OWNERS IN THE PARISH OF FEOCK  
In the 19th century

This note is based on an analysis of the owners of ships built on the Truro river during the 19th century as shown in the Custom House registers. It is therefore incomplete since many people must have not been included. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this preliminary survey will be of interest as it gives some idea of the pattern of ship owning and may serve as a basis which others can expand.

As is well known the ownership of small vessels was divided into 64 shares, and even these shares were sometimes held in partnership. Ships were seldom owned by one man and quite often the number of owners holding shares in a vessel of no more than 90 tons could exceed 20. Shares often changed hands quite frequently and were also used as securities for loans and mortgages. Thus an accurate picture of ownership is sometimes difficult to obtain. In addition, the occupations of the owners are often entered in a somewhat erratic manner and the same man can appear, for example as a carpenter, a master mariner or a shipowner in successive entries.

The system of ownership for new vessels seems to have varied from yard to yard. For instance, ships from John Stephens' yard at Point Yard were usually built for one managing owner with perhaps one or two partners, whereas those from Charles Dyer's yard at Sunny Corner Truro seem to have been ordered for relatively large syndicates of small shareholders, many of them tradesmen from Truro. The owner of the building yard was often a major shareholder in a new vessel and sold his shares soon after launching, presumably to recoup the cost of building. In the same way, sailmakers and shipwrights often had a few shares in a new ship, perhaps in part payment for their work. Ownership of shares in small merchant craft was widely distributed in England in the last century; this tendency is shown in Feock which was well placed for maritime activity. This preliminary study had provided the names of 99 owners who held shares at various times in 107 ships, all built in the Truro river area. These owners came from all walks of life; 50 were connected with shipping, but 49 had less direct links with the maritime world.

Table showing the variety of occupations and the number of people in each who held shares in ships.

<u>Occupation of owner</u>	<u>Number of owners</u>
<u>Maritime</u>	
Total 50	
Shipowners	10
Mariners	10
Master mariners	9
Bargemen	5
Shipbuilders	5
Shipping agents	3
Shipwrights	2
Pilots	2
Shipping clerk	1
Ships chandler	1
Ropemaker	1
Sailmaker	1
<u>Non-maritime</u>	
Total 49	
Farmers	6
Spinsters	6
Widows	3
Lead smelters	3
Innkeepers	3
Labourers	3
Gentlemen	2
Miners	2
Woodmen	2
Smiths	2
Merchants	2
Mechanics	2
Carpenter/joiner	2
Yeoman	1
Coal agent	1
Mason	1
Coachbuilder	1
Boilermaker	1
Grocer	1
Land surveyor	1
Engineer	1
Accountant	1
Miller	1
Clergyman	1

Some numerically important shipowners. The last column shows the number of ships in which each had shares.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>No.</u>
Brown	W.M.	Shipowner	Devoran	8
Brown	Philip J.	Shipownerr	Devoran	
Burley	Jacob	Wood-dealer	Feock	3
Burley	John	Bargemaster	Feock	
Burley	Frederick	Farmer	Feock	
Cock	James	Master mariner	Feock	7
Cock	William	Master mariner	Feock	
Cock	W.R.	Master mariner	Feock	
Chellow	William	Agent	Devoran	10
Gilbert	Richard	Shipowner	Devoran	3
Hitchins	James	Shipbuilder	Pill	2
Hitchins	John	Accountant	Devoran	2
Hodge	William	Shipowner	Devoran	6
Hodge	Wm. Fred.	Master mariner	Feock	
Maunder	William	Smith	Chycoose	4
Maunder	John	Pilot	Feock	
Maunder	John	Shipowner	Devoran	
Mitchell, Sampson, Tregoning		Shipowners	Feock	9
Stephens	Richard F.	Master mariner	Chycoose	7
Stephens	Samuel	Leadsmelter	Chycoose	3
Stephens	William	Shipbuilder	Feock	3
Stephens	W.J.	Yeoman	Feock	1
Stephens	Hugh Eddy	Leadsmelter	Devoran	6
Stephens	John	Shipbuilder	Devoran	14
Tallack	John	Farmer	Devoran	3
Tallack	Ebenezer	Bargeowner	Devoran	
Tallack	Nicholas	Bargeowner	Devoran	
Trethowan	J.	Mason	Devoran	3
Whitburn	Harris	Shipowner	Devoran	3
Whitburn	James	Clerk	Devoran	3
Williams	C.H.	Sailmaker	Devoran	2
Williams	James	Agent	Devoran	1
Williams	John	Mariner	Devoran	1
Williams	Louisa	Spinster	Devoran	1
Williams	W.	Farmer	Penpol	3