

INNS and BEERHOUSES  
in the Parish of Feock in the  
19th Century

There were many Inns and Beerhouses in Feock parish in the 19th century, due no doubt to the numerous industries, the shipping and the railway running down to Devoran, all employing numbers of men, for whom these places of refreshment would cater. Many of these establishments have now disappeared and even the memory of some has virtually vanished. The following is a summary of the evidence which survives. It has been gained from Directories, from contemporary newspapers and from the memories of the old people of the district, together with information supplied by Mr. H.L. Douch of the County Museum, Truro.

Pill Creek

There was an Inn at the end cottage near the quay. In the early part of the 19th century this was very prosperous, due to the increasing coasting trade carried on there by different companies.

Feock Village

There was a Beerhouse opposite the Post Office and one in the thatched cottage attached to the General Stores. The Red, White and Blue, situated on Higher Road, was a popular Inn. Pig clubs were held here and much favoured by the railwaymen from Devoran who used to go by boat to Yard Beach and then over the fields to Feock, where at the local shoemaker their working boots were made, calling at the R.W.B., as it was known, for some home-brewed beer before embarking for Devoran. The name was later changed to the New Inn. The innkeeper, Mr. J. Green, who also farmed, moved to the Punchbowl and Ladle, at Lenelewey, out of the parish, and the New Inn was closed towards the end of the century.

Penpol and Point

A small "Kiddleywink", or Beerhouse, existed at Penpol near the bridge. At Point, or Daniel's Point, was the Bell Inn, situated on the upper part of the Green. It may have derived its name from a bell rung to summon the boatman from across the water.

Point was by reputation a smuggling area and no doubt unauthorised supplies of liquor came the way of its publicans, as the following passage from the

Gazette of June 8 and 15, 1822, suggests: "Reward £20. Custom House, Truro. Mr. John Tippet, Collector of the Port of Truro, on the morning of the 20th April, siezed 50 kegs of foreign spirits in a barn at Point, and about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day four of the said kegs were rescued by persons unknown out of the custody of Charles Pascoe who was left in charge of the kegs". The young daughter of John Bridger, Innkeeper of the "Bell" was involved with other people in an incident at Point concerning Customs Officers and the missing kegs of Contraband Spirits. Also at Point was a Beerhouse in one of the cottages near the quay.

Devoran

The Commercial Inn at Devoran was much used by travellers and the stables are still there at the rear of the Inn. It was much frequented by seamen from the nearby docks. At one time the Innkeeper was also a ropemaker.

The Crown and Anchor, Devoran quay, was opened in the early part of the century. A prosperous and fair-sized Inn, at one time it employed a porter and two servants. Redruth Brewery had an interest in this Inn, which closed somewhere around 1902.

The Robartes Arms, Lemon Street, was named after the founders of Devoran. It was there the first cottage stands at the foot of Market Street. At one time it was kept by a Mrs. Gilbert, better known as Mother Gilbert, very strict but well liked. She made those of her customers who swore put money in a box for the Royal Infirmary. If she thought anyone had consumed enough liquor, she would tell him to go home to his wife and children. At this Inn, as at some others in the neighbourhood, the beer was home-brewed.

Carnon Downs

Carnon House Inn, at Carnon Gate, was situated near Lower Carnon Turnpike and adjoining the railway. It was opened about 1830 and owned by the Redruth Brewery. A Beerhouse once existed at Pine Tree Cottage, Carnon Downs. It had a skittle alley for the entertainment of patrons, and a stable for their horses. The proprietor was involved in a dispute with the police on one occasion and although he refused to admit them he was fined for keeping late hours. Another Beerhouse or "kiddleywink"

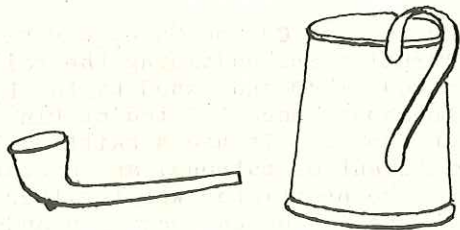
also stood at the corner of Tregye Road. At one time a family of the name of Mitchell lived here, not only running the kiddleywink but also acting as carriers. The storu goes that the wife used to walk behind the horses carrying the ore to Point and return with bottles of contraband spirits tied to her waist under her voluminous skirts. Irish labourers frequented this Beerhouse. It is said that the home-brewed beer was often heated in a tin bath and sugar added to it.

#### King Harry Passage

King Harry Passage House was later known as King Henry Passage House. In 1816 when it was put up for sale the property included gardens, boats and the ferry itself; the landlord at that time was a Robert Watkins. In 1843 a "survey" - the local term for an auction - was advertised as being at the house of Thomas Crowle, landlord of the King Harry Passage Inn.

With the decrease of industry and shipping and later the closure of the Redruth and Chacewater Railway, came the gradual disappearance of many of the Inns and Beerhouses in the parish and a chapter in the busy and prosperous life of the district also came to a close.

Note: A "Kiddleywink" was the Cornish name for a type of Beerhouse, of which many existed in the mining and industrial areas of the county. One explanation of the name, undoubtedly apocryphal, is that smuggled brandy was often kept in a kettle in these houses to deceive Customs Officers, and that those in the know would give a wink at the kettle - or kiddley - when they wanted a drop.



#### THE PARISH AS REVEALED BY THE TITHE MAP

Tithe maps were drawn up for parishes in England and Wales to accompany a schedule of owners, lessees and occupiers to apportion the rent-charge in lieu of tithes in kind which were due on each holding. The Feock apportionment is dated 1841 with minor corrections in 1845 and the map is dated 1842. The parish copies are in the keeping of the County Records Office.

The map overleaf shows the pattern of holdings and differentiates owners, lessees and occupiers by means of different forms of letter. The four large landowners' lands are indicated by an initial letter except where the owner is also occupier. There were in addition a few substantial estates, some owner-occupied as that of John Magor at Tregew, John Phillpotts overlooking the Fal at Porthgidden and Thomas Messer Simmons at Killiganoon, but here much of the land was occupied by Walter Hearle. Juliana Penrose owned Tregie but Daniel Retallack was in occupancy. The Hugo sisters of Tresithick owned land. John Vivian and Rev. Molesworth St. Aubyn had a few acres, at Chycoose and on the northern slopes towards Cowlands Creek was a small group of smallholder owners at Lobbs Tenement. Mount George and Brickmoor (sic) had owner occupiers and Pigmoor was owned but not occupied by James Crowle.

The larger holdings were in the main on the higher flatter land but in the northwest were a large number of smaller holdings whose occupants were in many cases employed in the mining district beyond the western boundary of the parish. There were small nucleated farm settlements with scattered and interlocking fields at Chycoose-Chypit, at Trevilla and at La Feock and Church Town and the slopes to Restronguet Creek near Harcourt had a pattern of small fields in varied ownership. Here the Cornish Copper Company held leases and at Devoran itself, where the planned development of 1823 had made only small progress, the lease of the short terrace of new houses was held by the English Copper Company. Robert Michell and Son and the Penpoll Smelting Works Company occupied land by the creek and the Redruth and Chacewater Railway Company owned house and weighing office on the route.