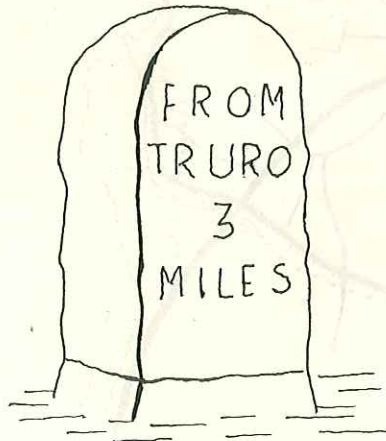


obliterated two farm places and decreased the number of public roads within it.

The Parish roads remained in the care of the Waywardens who now had the advantage of the knowledge acquired from MacAdam and the other Turnpike surveyors who recommended that 2 inch stone be used to surface the roads; these would be rolled solid by the iron bound cart wheels, but would also provide a grip for the horses. The local Magistrates were Mr. J.D. Gilbert of Trellissick and the Rev. T. Phillpotts of Porthgwithden who were very conscious of their obligations and responsibilities and would see that resources were used to the best advantage to produce roads adequate for local needs.

In the 1860's parishes were grouped together into Highway Districts. Feock was probably little affected as it had few 'through roads' shared with other parishes. Truro Turnpike Trust ceased in 1874 and the main road passed into the care of the County Council - a charge on the County - instead of the road users. The two parish roads to King Harry and Feock church acquired milestones, probably about 1890 when they were put in good condition by the parish and handed over to the County Council for upkeep.

Many new roads have recently been made to serve the new housing estates but the old road pattern still remains; mule tracks have been reduced to parish footpaths or farm lanes but the past roads are still visible to those who look.



POPULATION and EMPLOYMENT  
in Feock Parish. 1800 - 1861.

The Census Records show that Feock was a very sparsely populated parish in 1801, there were then 148 houses with a total of 696 inhabitants; by 1831 these figures had almost doubled and continued to rise by approximately 400 people in each decade to 1861. The age composition remained constant, approximately half the population being under 21 years old and 7% having reached the age of 60; today this latter count would be very much higher. (See population graph.)

Housing kept pace with the increase in numbers, not until 1861 is there a record of two families sharing a house, then in three cases a married son with young children shared with his parents and their children. Approximately 6 out of every 10 people had been born in Feock and 27% in parishes within a 10 mile radius. In 1851 out of a total of over 1800 only 50 were not Cornish and these mostly came from Devon, by 1861 this figure had risen to 105 out of over 2200 including a few from various parts of Britain and a few children born in mining areas abroad who were living with grandparents, probably children of sons who had emigrated. Most marriages were between people of the same parish, adjacent parishes on land or 'over the water' i.e. round the Falmouth estuary.

The increase in population was due to the rise in prosperity of the mines in the St. Day and Gwenanap areas and under Restronguet river. Until the 1820's ore was carried by mules and horses from the mines to quays at Pill, Roundwood, Point and Devoran. Some carriers kept large numbers of livestock for this purpose. With the opening of the Redruth and Chacewater Railway in 1826 transport to Devoran and Point became easier; the trucks were horse drawn until after 1850, the horses being hired from farmers and carriers by the Railway until the first engines, Miner and Smelter were bought. The stretch from Devoran to Point was always worked by horses.

As the mines deepened more coal was imported for them and for household use, also timber for mining and housebuilding, wood, including Mahogany, for furniture with lime, guano, sand etc. The Smelting works, Shipping, Railway and Foundry at Perran-arworthal provided work for those people not engaged in agriculture, building or domestic trades such as shopkeepers, innkeepers and servants. One family



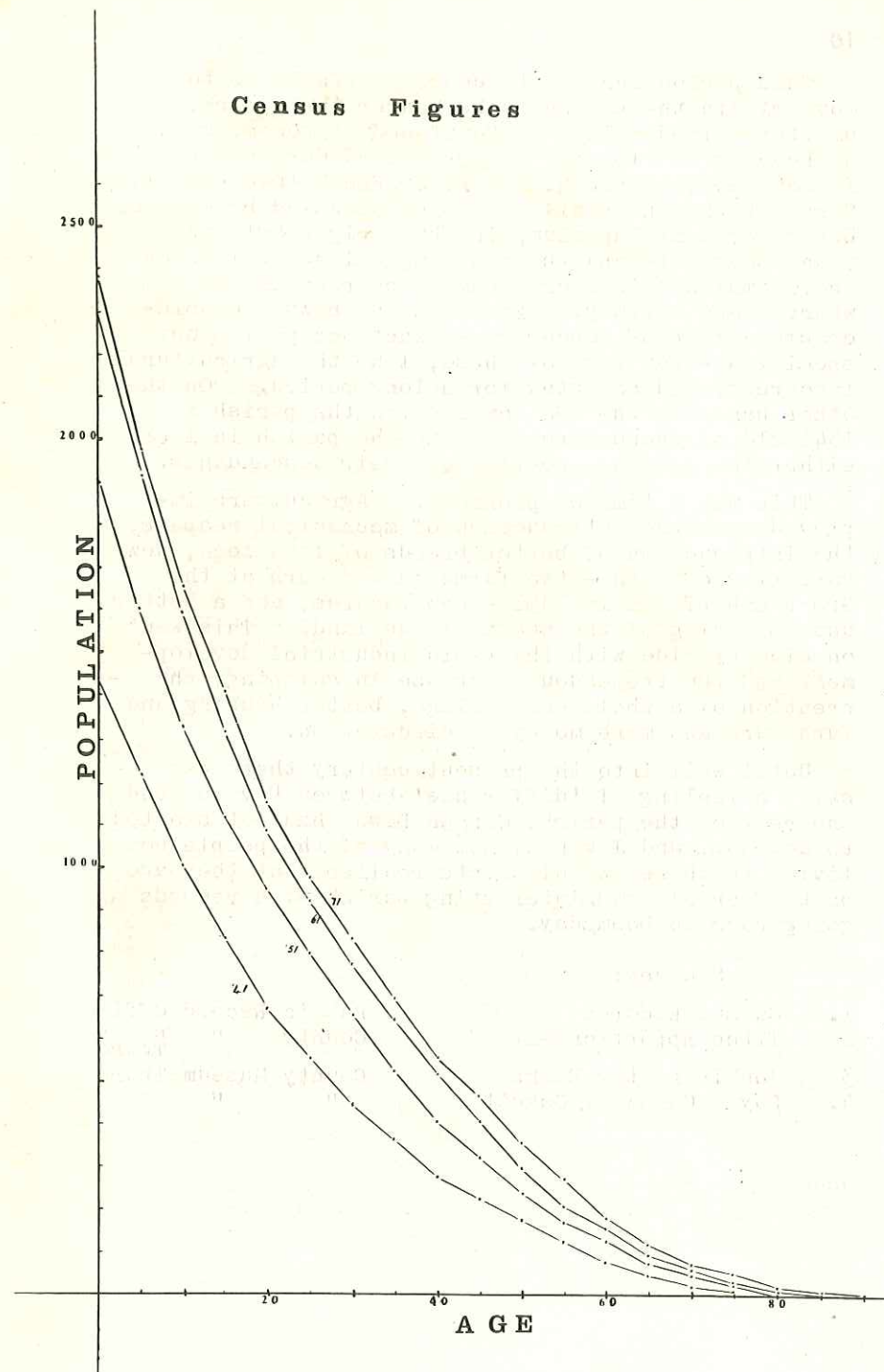
of Lightermen has given its name to Tallacks Creek.

Increased building required more tradesmen, carpenters, masons etc. In 1861 Devoran had a plumber. The better houses attracted more people who held responsible positions, mine agents, shipping agents, and merchants; there was an increased demand for shops and servants. Now for the first time women call themselves charwomen and girls go out as daily servants instead of 'living in' as they had done previously. In very few cases were boys employed under the age of 12 although a number of girls who were the eldest in large families left school early to help at home.

During this whole period there was no resident doctor; a few 'nurses', probably midwives, as they were living in houses where there was a young baby. The total professional population in 1841 was the vicar and a woman teacher. By 1861 Devoran church had been built and the vicar had two curates. There were schools at Feock, Point and Devoran (2), besides 'dame' schools. There were 22 teachers, including 3 men.

Agriculture was always a major occupation. Very few farms were over 100 acres, the average size was 40 acres with many small holdings less than 10. Labour was supplied by the farmers sons and young men living in the farmhouse or in a nearby cottage. Except for those people living in the new village of Devoran most cottages had enough land to grow their own vegetables, keep hens and often a pig. Others rented small plots. Farms were usually let by tender at rack rents based on the expected price of corn, for periods up to 21 years. Following the drop in the price of corn and the potato famine in the 1840's many farmers received rebates of rent from the landlords; some ceased farming and sold up. Around 1850 owners had difficulty in letting farms. According to the names in the Census very few farm labourers stayed in the parish for as long as 10 years. Small holdings and cottages were usually let on 99 year leases on three lives, when one of the named lives died the lease could be renewed and another name introduced on payment of a fine. There was also a certain amount of common grazing land and rights of turbary. As the smallholders often had a regular job a lot of the work must have been done by the women and children.

## Census Figures





This period shows a tendency for families to move within the parish to be nearer their work, smelters lived mainly at Point and Chycoose, salors at Devoran and foundry workers round Carnon Gate. In 1841 most of the N. & N.E. of Feock ('Quenchwell, Carnon Downs, Ringwell etc.) was occupied by miners, but after a mining slump in the early 1840's the young ones left and the older men either relied on their smallholdings or became labourers on the wharves and railway. Each census shows a considerable number of labourers - exact occupation not specified - but most of these, like the agricultural labourers, did not stay for a long period. On the other hand, of the 292 families in the parish in 1841 218 of these were still in the parish in 1861, either the original couple, or their descendants.

This was a time of progress. Agriculture improved with the introduction of mechanical reapers, the introduction of better breeds of livestock, new varieties of corn - two farms showed corn at the Great Exhibition in 1851 - new manures, and a better understanding of the needs of the land. This went on side by side with the rapid industrial development and the tremendous increase in shipping, the creation of a whole new village, better housing and furniture and more money in circulation.

Until well into the present century there was still a feeling of 'difference' between Devoran and the rest of the parish, Carnon Downs had not started to develop, and I wonder how many of the people now living in these two districts realise that they are part of an old and interesting parish with records going back to Doomsday.

#### Sources:

1. Census Records	Public Record Office
2. Tithe Apportionment	County " " Truro
3. Jenkin Letter Books	County Museum, Truro
4. Royal Cornwall Gazette	" " "

#### ANALYSIS OF FEOCK CHURCH MARRIAGE REGISTER between 1837 & 1861

This was an attempt to draw some kind of picture of the life of the parish from a single source - the marriage register. Whilst it is possible to draw information which the Vicar could not have foreseen the method suffers from a number of drawbacks.

- a) At first only certain information was looked for on a purely statistical basis. It was soon realised that all the information recorded was of use.
- b) Information from the marriage register ought to be correlated with that from the christening and burial registers, but to do so needs a vast amount of time and may well be obtained from the census returns.

Given this restricted source the following information can be gleaned:-

- i) The marriages were surprisingly local; bride and groom often coming from households within several hundred yards of each other (column 3 hystogram). In many marriages involving a groom from outside the parish he came by water from points close to Feock.
- ii) Partners were surprisingly mature on marriage, this could be due to economic reasons or to late sexual maturing, or both. It would be interesting to know something about their diets.
- iii) The literacy rate was not high (partners were considered literate if they could sign their name). There is a notable decrease in illiteracy during this period - obviously something of a revolution in education was taking place. There is no significant difference in the figures for males and females.
- iv) The marriage rate tends to increase and we know that the population increased. The 5 year period 1847 - 52 shows an intriguing drop.
- v) Analysis of the occupations of all males shows
  - a) one quarter were labourers, (mine or farm).
  - b) other occupations were concerned with mining, seafaring and farming.
  - c) in minority occupations there were a number of shoemakers (walking being a necessity then) and a large number concerned with alcohol in contrast to the present more populous parish.