

HEADMASTERS OF DEVORAN NATIONAL SCHOOL

1863 -1893

1863	John Dennis	Certified teacher
1866	Francis Walker	Certified teacher
1868	James Phillips	Certified teacher
1869	George Crook	Certified teacher
1870	Watson Fellowes	Certified teacher
1873	R. Baker	Temporary for 2 months, from Merthyr Tydfil
1784	Henry John Hill	Certified teacher
1875	William John Henry	Certified teacher
1878	J.H. Sansom	Certified teacher
1878-		
1893	Richard John Daniell	Certified teacher
1893	W.R. Cock	Certified teacher

ASSISTANT MISTRESSES

Mrs Mary Hosking
Miss Sarah Penrose
Miss Emily Yeoman
Miss Laura Webber
Miss Rosine Gartrell
Miss Chapman

PUPIL TEACHERS

Indentured for 5 years

James Arnold Clear
(won Queen's
Scholarship)
George Williams
Janie Nicholls
Harry Apps Clear
Thomas Bray
T. Mitchell
Alice Stephens
Meta Michell

TRELISSICK

The gardens, park, woodlands and some farmlands were given to the National Trust by Mrs R. Copeland in 1955, but this is only a remnant of the estate that existed between 1800 and 1920 (see map) and included land beyond the parish of Feock.

A farm has probably existed here from early times; there is a reference in the Assize Rolls of 1280 to 'Trelesyk' (1); 'Matthew Treleset' is mentioned in the Lay subsidy Roll of 1327; in a will of 1632 the premises called Treliissick were held of John Trefusis Esq. 'as the Manor of Trevilla' and worth 6/- yearly. The property later passed to the Lawrence family and is mentioned in the will of Edward Lawrence of 1705.

The first mention of the house that I have seen is in 1838 (3) 'Trelissick is now the most splendid feature of Feock. The house was built about the middle of the last century by Mr John Lawrence, a captain in the County Militia during the Seven Years War' (1756 - 1763), 'still remembered for his good nature, convivial habits and wild eccentricities. It is perhaps deserving of notice that the architect was Mr Davy, grandfather of the celebrated chemist', (Sir Humphrey Davy of Penzance). 'The property became divided at Mr Lawrence's decease.'

1800 - 1832 The Daniells and the formation of the estate.

The date of John Lawrence's death is unknown, but the expense of building had probably overstrained his resources. About 1800 (4) Mrs Lawrence still owned Trelissick, which was rated at £3. 4. 3 and occupied by Francis Pender Esq. She also owned King Harry Quay (£1) let to R.A.Daniell Esq. Mrs Ann Lawrence occupied La Feock (£4. 4. 0), had part of Harket (Harcourt), Trevilla and Nanfellows.

In the Gazette (5) of March 1805 there is a notice: 'To be peremptorily sold. Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery - Daniell and others, Plaintiffs against Lawrence and others, Defendants. Two third parts of the Freehold of the Capital Barton called Trelissick and Rosuggan now in the occupation of Francis Pender Esq. - 37 acres of meadow, three acres of garden and orchard, and seven acres of wood'.

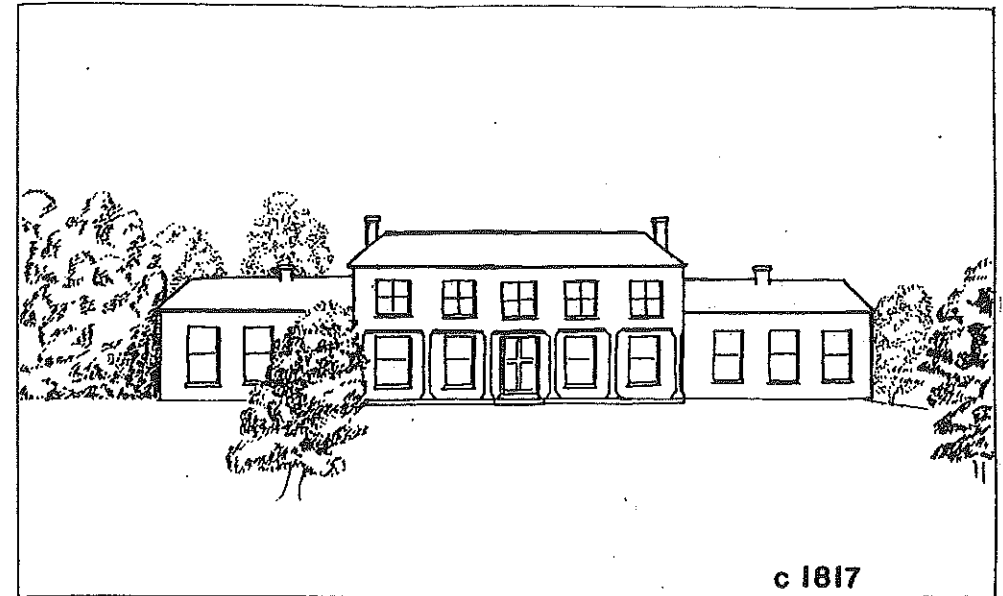
A few years later (4) R.A. Daniell was the proprietor of many holdings including the Barton of Tregew (rated (£8. 13. 0) also Roundwood Quay and others which are difficult to identify because they are listed as 'Hobbs' (identified at Trevilla by an advertisemant in the Gazette, May 29 1823), Rosuggans, Olivers etc.

The Lawrences' new house is described in the Gazette, May 29, 1802, when it was 'to let by Private Contract with the elegant furniture.' It had a 'coach house for 8 horses (hayloft over), poultry yard, large walled garden well clothed with fruit trees, a good orchard behind the house and a handsome lawn in front. The house stands much elevated... and comprises an Entrance Hall, spacious Drawing Room, exceedingly good Dining Parlour, good Bedchambers, with 3 Servants' rooms, Kitchen and Back-kitchen. Wash house, Servants' hall, Butler's pantry, Cellars and 2 chambers over the Dairy. The whole is in good order and repair.' This house is illustrated in 1820 (2) at the top of a grassy, tree-clad slope with Channals Creek in the foreground.

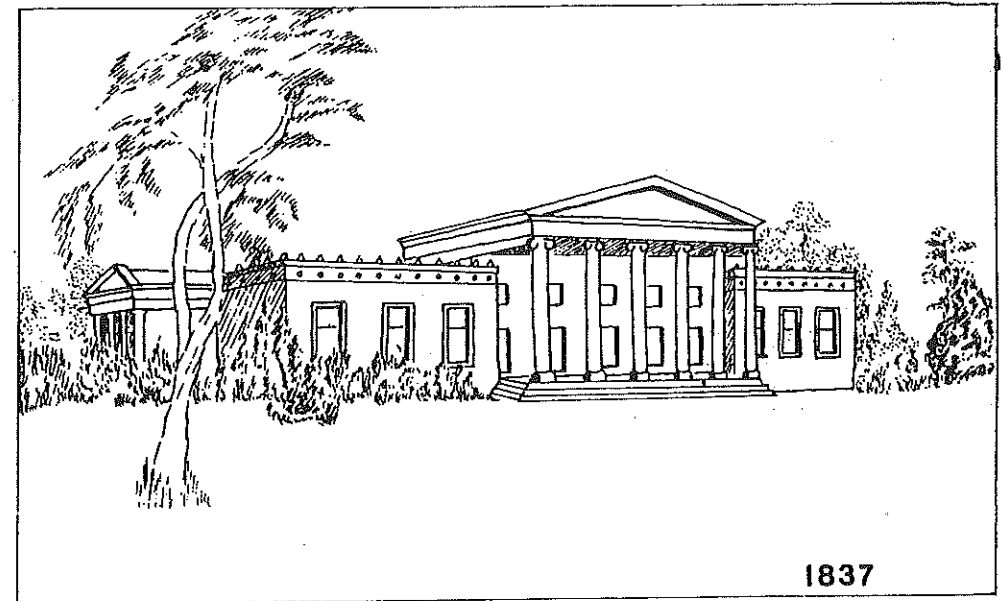
It is not known when it became the property of R.A. Daniell, but it is said that subsequently there were heavy legal expenses over inadequate title deeds.

The Daniell fortune, which enabled Ralph Allen Daniell to create the estate, was made by his father, Thomas, born 1715, and trained by the 'great Mr Lemon' to take full advantage as a merchant and a speculator in the mining development of the period. In 1754 he married the niece of Ralph Allen, Citizen of Bath, from whose quarries he received the Bath stone which faces the Truro Mansion House which he built. When Mr Lemon died in 1760 Thomas took over his business and 'continued throughout his whole life to conduct most extensive concerns as a general merchant, as a tin smelter and above all as a spirited adventurer in mines on the largest scale' (3). His portrait was painted by Opie in 1786 and is now in the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.

Ralph Allen Daniell, his only son, was born in 1762. C.S. Gilbert said that 'he advanced to an extraordinary degree the welfare of a large body of miners and has frequently risked an immense fortune in support of the mining system', and Davies Gilbert (3)



TRELISSICK



wrote that 'he continued most of his father's concerns, adding to them the large smelting works for copper in Glamorganshire, and so successful were his mining speculations that he is said to have gained in the course of a few years about a hundred and fifty thousand from Wheal Towan alone.' He was a highly respected County Magistrate for many years; in 1795 he became High Sheriff; he was M.P. for West Looe 1806 - 1813, and fought expensive elections in this rotten borough in 1806 - 1807. In 1805 he invested in the new Llanelly Copper works (Daniell, Nevil and Co.) (7) and continued his father's interest in tin smelting at Calenick (8). The profit from mining was subject to considerable fluctuations in the price of tin and copper and Daniell, as a speculator and smelter, must have been affected by the depression of 1816 to 1820. Also as a merchant importing leather and timber from Europe his trade must have been made difficult by the Napoleonic wars.

In 1815 the Calenick Smelting house became a company in which he and his son Thomas held only a quarter of the shares. when the company took over his new blowing house at St Austell he kept only a half share. The Consolidated and United Mines went out of production during the depression (7 p.73) and were restarted by John Taylor in the 1820s.

When R.A. Daniell died in 1823, his obituary (6) notice of April 4 said that he was 'a gentleman who was at one time most extensively engaged in merchantile affairs and mining concerns.... but had retired in a great degree from business, until recently he was the principal of the Miner's Bank in Truro'.

His son Thomas, born 1758, the eldest of his 12 surviving children, succeeded to the estate and in 1825 employed P.F. Robinson, the architect described by Alfred Jenkin as 'too grand for Cornwall', to add to the house giving it the porticoes and new roof line shown in the Allom engraving in 1837.

He was High Sheriff in 1826 and in September of that year, steward, with Mr Humphrey Willyams, of the Truro races. After the two-day races there was a 'splendid dinner and a ball at the theatre which was kept up to a late hour with great spirit and attended by the sheriff with his wife and family (Gazette, September 9). His horse, Kitty, won a silver cup in 1825 (Gazette

September 3).

His father had created the estate and started to lay out the woodlands. The first O.S. map of 1813 shows North Wood and South Wood, but the road from Trevilla to the ferry then curved east through Penhale and the farmplace of Namphellows was then half way down the hill above Lamouth Creek. In the next edition (some 20 years later) and on the tithe map of 1842, Namphellows has been replaced by woods; new plantations, Wellington, Exmouth and Boxheater have been made on the west; Pill and Nullas extended the woodland along the river and the Lodge Plantation has appeared. The road from Trevilla was realigned further west to bring the land round Penhale into the park, which had probably been planted with many of the trees shown as mature on the 1880 map. The unfenced roads of 1813 west of Sandoes were hedged and the downs changed into fields, C.S. Giobert (2) in 1817 had suggested that in times of agricultural depression landlords should plant woods and bring poorer land into cultivation as a long term investment to provide immediate employment for those in distress, this seems to have been done by the Daniells who had wealth available from mining.

Financial difficulties were approaching. I have a letter written by Thomas on February 26 1827, in which he says that he has advanced £1100 to a brother to purchase his captaincy in the army... could John Hall repeat his loan of £1000? He adds that there has been frost for 6 weeks. In 1828 the Calenick Tin Smelting Co. took over all his interest in it (8 p.55) and in 1832 there was a mining slump; smelting works in Wales stopped and Cornish mines were advertised for sale. Thomas's last public appearance seems to have been on October 17, 1831 (Gazette) when he took the chair in Truro Town Hall at a meeting for the rejection of the Reform Bill.

1832 - 1844

In an attempt to raise money Tregew seems to have been sold to John Magor and the rest of the estate mortgaged to the Earl of Falmouth. Between 1832 and 1834 farms are advertised to let ('apply to steward at Tregothnan') and also the house, described as having 3 living rooms, bedchambers, offices, stables and walled gardens, 'admirably adapted for a large or moderate sized

family in comfort without superfluous expense' (Gazette September 9 1832). The 1841 census gives only a caretaker, Eliza Ellory, and a girl of 17 in residence.

In July 1835 there is a notice in the Gazette: 'the creditors who have proved their debts under a Fiat of Bankruptcy against Thomas Daniell, formerly of Trelissick,...now in Boulogne, copper smelter, dealer and chapman, are requested to meet in Truro on September 4 to choose a banker for the assignees and also to assent or dissent... to carry on the suit in Equity instituted by the said bankrupt before his bankruptcy against the Rt. Hon. Edward Earl of Falmouth for the purchase from the said bankrupt of an estate called Trelissick', signed by D.S. Brockett of Lincolns Inn Fields.

In January 1837 the Earl and others interested tried to put part of the estate up for auction at the Angel Inn Helston; in June the assignees advertised it as an estate of 25 acres 'exceedingly picturesque and well adapted for villa residences'. This led to a notice 'The Earl of Falmouth has lien thereon amounting to the full estimated value thereof and upwards.'

In September 1839 it was again advertised for sale by order of the assignees and under the authority of the High Court of Chancery. Between 1841 and 1844 the Falmouth estate advertised farms to let: Home Farm 100 acres; Penhale 135 acres; and Pill 76 acres, but the tithe apportionment of 1842 gives the assignees of Sir William Daniell, Thomas Daniell and Edmund Turner as owners.

Eventually after 12 years with the house empty and no resident landlord to care for the upkeep of the estate, it was sold. Thomas Daniell died in Boulogne in 1866, the West Briton (January 23) reported it and added 'A gentleman who at one time occupied a position in the county, having been High Sheriff in 1826. In those days there was more pageantry and expense connected with this office than at the present time and Mr Daniell, unsparing of expenditure, surrounded the Shievalty with more splendour than perhaps any previous or succeeding Sheriff'. He had also been unsparing of his money at Trelissick and like John Lawrence, it had helped to bankrupt him.

In 1844 John Davies Gilbert bought the estate and the list of his purchases still exists, identical with the land held by the assignees in 1842.

He was the only son of Davies Giddy of St Erth who had very considerable talents and did much to encourage and help such inventors and pioneers as Humphrey Davy, Trevithick and the Homblowers. He was M.P. for Helston in 1804 and for Bodmin from 1806 to 1832. In 1808 he married Mary Ann, the heiress of Thomas Gilbert of Eastbourne and took the name and arms of Gilbert which included a squirrel. He edited a number of books, including a Parochial History of Cornwall (1838) based partly on the works of Hals and Tonkin. He died on December 24 1839 and the West Briton on January 3 1840 after listing his many achievements added that he was a 'conversionalist perfectly adapted to his audience'. His wife was interested in agriculture and they had made various improvements on their extensive Eastbourne estates. She published articles in the Agricultural Journals in 1840 and 1842.

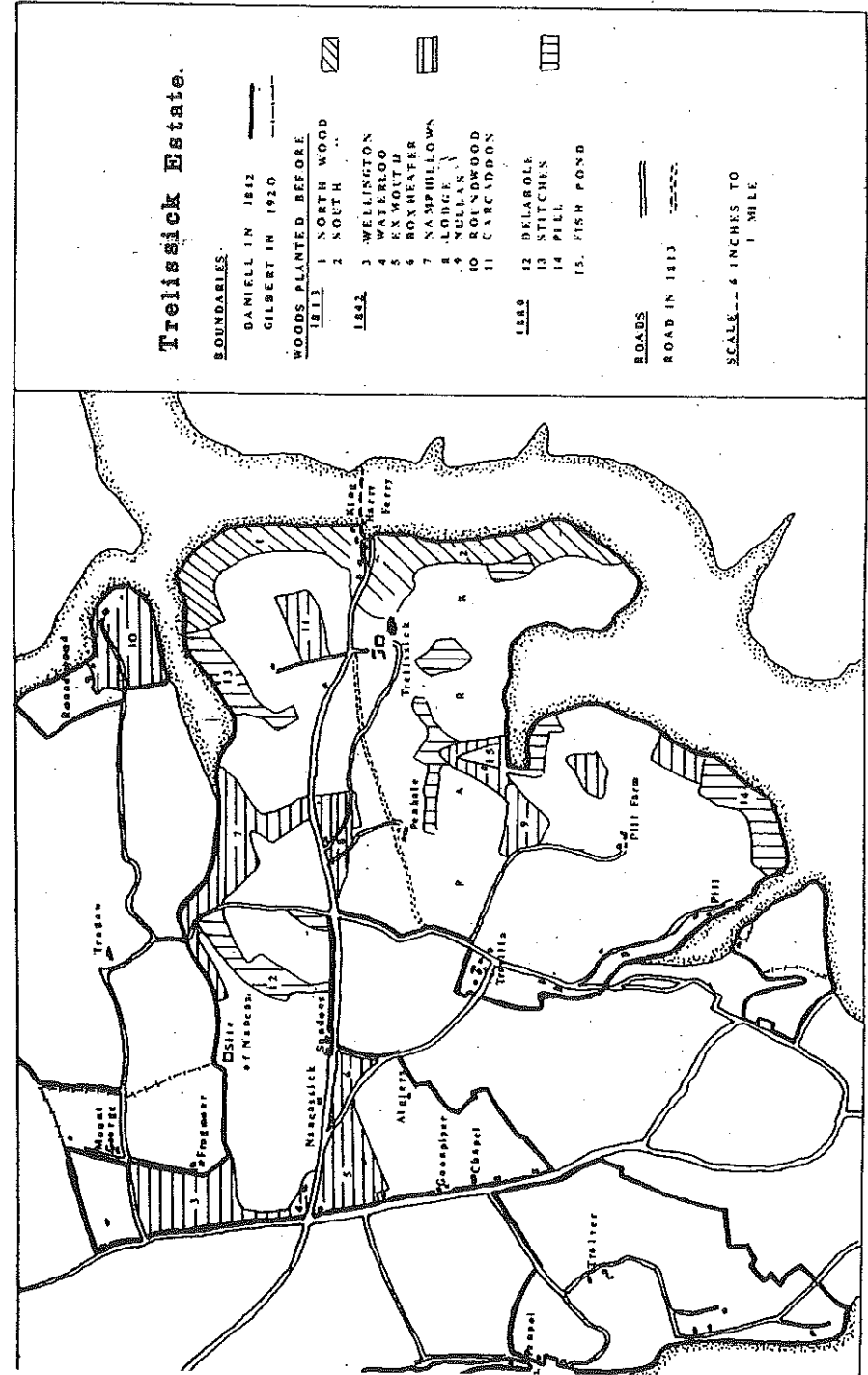
J.D. Gilbert, born 1811, inherited the very considerable wealth of the Manor of Eastbourne. When he came to Trelissick in 1844 he must have found much in need of attention. Nancassick, shown on the maps of 1813 and of the 1830s in the valley, had fallen into ruin and does not appear on the tithe map; it was rebuilt (date unknown) adjacent to the King Harry road west of Sandoes. In 1846 (Gazette January 3) Pill Farm is advertised to let 'with newly created house, barn, stables and outhouses'. In the 1851 census he is described as J.P. and farmer of 386 acres employing 32 men, women and boys. The estate was considerably larger than this but some farms were let. One of his interests must have been corn growing and selecting the best varieties of seed because, at the Crystal Palace exhibition in 1851, he showed Cornish Agricultural Grains - wheat, black barley and skinless barley. Mr Michell of Tregoose showed barley (West Briton June 24 1853). He must also have built up a considerable flock of sheep; when the live and dead stock of the Home Farm was sold in 1858 (Gazette September 10) it included 90 breeding ewes, 180 younger sheep and 2 Leicester rams, as well as a number of ploughs and other equipment; a few cows and pigs.

His work on the estate, his activities as J.P. and his responsibilities at Eastbourne probably took up most of his time; he is seldom mentioned in the local papers except on July 21 1848 (West Briton) when he and Rev. T. Philpotts organized a tea treat for the 500 children of the parish with no distinction of sect or party.

In 1851 he married the Hon. Ann Dorothea, eldest daughter of Lord Carew of Wexford, but in 1854 he died aged 43. The West Briton (April 21) describes him as 'manly and athletic with a sunny temper...brought up at Eastbourne, interested in agriculture, and a J.P. and liberal in politics. He had a long standing disease of the liver; he was at Quarter Sessions (Bodmin) on the 4th and appeared perfectly well; not so well the following day and he died on Easter Sunday at the house of his brother-in-law, Charles Prideaux Brune, Place, Padstow'. He left one son, Carew Davies Gilbert. He was buried in Feock churchyard; his wife lived until 1909 and is buried in the same grave.

Carew started his lifelong interest in riding at an early age; when the Truro council reviewed their water bounds and landed for dinner from the steamer Sydney at 3.30 in Trelissick grounds, he rode up the centre of the tent on a 36" high Indian pony; he was toasted and the party of 64, with the band, conducted him back to the house where 'Welcome Home' was played (Gazette July 17 1857).

For the next 20 years he seems to have been away from Feock, probably at school and later travelling to the Far East and Australia, but the Hon. Mrs Gilbert laid the foundation stone of the rebuilt church in July 1876, and gave the prizes at the day school in July 1878. Because newspaper reporting was more detailed at this period there are many more references to Carew than to any of his predecessors at Trelissick. In spite of his duties as Lord of the Manor of Eastbourne and his interest in sport and politics elsewhere, he was connected with many Feock activities. He was president of the reading room and lectured there on his travels in the autumns of 1870, 1880 and 1881; he was vicar's



warden until 1895 when he declined re-appointment as he expected to be away for a long period; he subscribed to the rebuilding of the church and with Canon Philpotts he was a member of the Truro Cathedral Building committee from 1884. He was an executor of the Canon's will in 1890. He was a keen huntsman and rodé extensively in Cornwall and elsewhere; he was Master of Trelissick Harriers (kennals near Penhale) for some years in the 1880s. He was made Rear Commodore of the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club and president of the Feock Regatta committee; in 189 his yacht 'Little Windflower' was beaten by 6 minutes by Canon Philpott's 'Georgina' on a 14 mile course. He was keenly interested in the Conservative party and attended the National Conference at Oxford in 1887. He married in 1881 and his wife was president of the 'St Feock Habitation of the Primrose League' from 1888. At the meeting to nominate members for the first Feock Parish council in 1894 (150 electors present and 20 names put forward for 11 seats), Mr C. D. Gilbert took the chair. He was also a J.P. and attended many meetings; in one case offering to guarantee the cost of sending the uncontrollable son of one of his tenants to an industrial school.

Farming was among his interests and experiments were made with silage. In 1886 (Gazette December 31) landlords and tenants were invited to the opening of the silo, which had been made by plastering the turnip house walls and filling it, in mid-June, with 40 - 50 tons of grass from the lawns and orchard, together with several loads of comfrey and 20 lbs of salt to the ton; the whole well trodden and covered. When it was opened and offered to the cattle it had a 'mixed reception'; samples were offered to any of the visitors who cared to send a cart for it to try it on their own animals. Mr Magor of Tregew thanked Mr Gilbert and Mr Sangwin, the Home Steward. During periods of farming depression, rent rebates were given; 20% in 1888, 10% in 1889 and 1893.

Trelissick Barn is often mentioned as a centre for village activities; concerts were given to raise money for the Reading Room, the new Vicarage, the first Devoran and Feock Garden Society show in 1893, 'it was unfortunate that there was a lack of light to see the 400 entries properly'. It was also used by the Primrose League and the Temperance Society. Trelissick grounds were opened for fetes and rallies. In 1891 Mrs Gilbert's

house party gave an evening concert there in aid of the Primrose League. In 1885 there was a bazaar to raise money for Cathedral fittings (the 'Ladies of Cornwall' furnished the interior of the new Cathedral), Mrs Gilbert had a fruit and flower stall and her two daughters sold posies and buttonholes; there was a 'Magic Show' in a marquee and the band of H.M.S. Ganges played. Lunch was 2/6 in the dining room and cheaper in the barn. The profits went towards the cost of the Reredos and Organ.

The park was more extensively landscaped; the O.S. map (surveyed 1878 - 1879) shows additional woodland and many groups of farms; the fishpond at the head of Channals Creek was made; it was said that 10,000 waterlilies had been in flower at one time during the summer (Gazette August 26 1897); the drives through the woods were kept gravelled and swept; it is still remembered that Mrs Gilbert used to drive along them in a small pony cart, the public were not allowed to use them. The estate had purchased land at Mount George and Frogmoor and sold Pill Point.

The house was extensively remodelled to make it suitable for house parties and entertaining; when it was sold in 1920 there were 14 principal bedrooms on the first floor, a billiard room designed by Mr St Aubyn and 4 more bedrooms in the attics. These extra rooms were built over the single storey wings on each side of the portico. The conservatory was built before 1800 (Gazette). The whole house had been modernised with an adequate water supply, up to date drainage, two bathrooms, central heating by hot water and a double water supply pumped from Penhale to a 25,000 gallon tank as well as the 7000 gallon tank in the Round Tower over its own well. The house had its own electrical installation, worked by engines, for lighting and pumping.

In addition many of the farm houses and cottages appear to have been rebuilt in stone with slate roofs, but not to any standard plan. Trolver was 'erected in concrete'. Penhale had ceased to be a farm house and is described as an 'attractive marine residence standing in 35 acres of park and pastureage with its own acetylene gas lighting'.

In 1913 Carew Davies Gilbert died and the estate (some 900 acres in Feock) was sold in many lots, some being advertised as

'a Capital Building site'. so it was again reduced; farms and cottages passed to new owners and ceased to be under the estate. Mr D. Cunliffe must have bought in most of the land, he was at Trelissick in 1920 and held the sporting rights over most of the estate; he left it to his niece, Mrs Copeland. Some 300 acres have now passed to the National Trust, so all can enjoy the park and woodland which was created as the prerogative of a few.

References

1. J.E. Gover Place Names (typescript) R.I.C.
2. C.S. Gilbert Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall (1817 - 1820)
3. Davies Gilbert Parochial History of Cornwall
4. Land Tax Assessment c. 1800 with amendments made some years later C.R.O.
5. Royal Cornwall Gazette R.I.C. I
6. West Briton R.I.C.
7. D.B. Barton History of Copper Mining in Devon and Cornwall
8. D.B. Barton History of Tin Mining and Smelting in Cornwall

CORRESPONDENCE

Extracts from a letter received from P.N. Tregoning, Esq., Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (1974):

'I have read with great interest and enjoyment the booklet on Feock in the 19th century.... In regard to pages 34 and 35, the Schooner 'William Henry' was named after William Henry Tregoning who lived at West Trevarth, near Lanner and was the person who got the Redruth and Chasewater Railway to move his house further up Carn Marth when they changed to steam power because he feared the engines would set fire to his thatch.

According to his account book, which still exists, the 'William Henry' was built by Ferris and sons in 1853 and 1854 and his 9/64th share cost him £253. 11. 6.

The 'J.S.T.' was called after his elder brother John Simmons Tregoning; William Henry also had shares in the schooner. The J.S.T. was a particularly fine ship. She went down off Hartland Quay, Devon, in dramatic circumstances in a trrible gale in 1865.

Ferris and Sons also built my family two barges at Point, the 'George' in 1854 and the 'Kate' in 1861

One of the partners of these Tregoning brothers was R.M. Sampson of Park View Devoran.... he managed the 'William Henry' and most of the others. He had a merchanting/shipping company called Sampson and Co. of which William Lidgely was purser.

The Tregoning/Sampsons had shares in 18 vessels altogether.... some traded to North and South America, but some carried tin from the Bissoe smelter to our tinsplate works at Llanelli, returning with coal. I think Devoran was the home of a good many of them.'