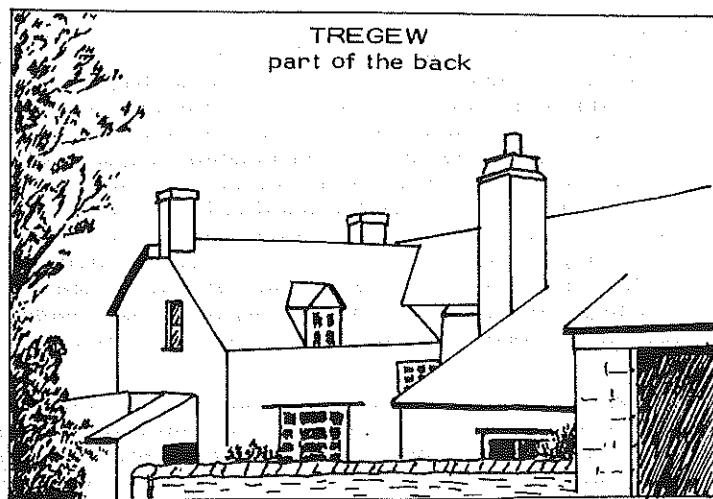


one part, whilst in the other portion lived Stephen Clyma, aged 50, a son and two daughters all in their teens and a housekeeper aged 50.

Later as living conditions improved, the cottages were remodelled, with a central front door and a staircase between the kitchen and 'front room' leading up to two bedrooms. In the last 50 years many cottages have become freehold, and with the advent of mains water, electricity, better roads and motor transport they have been radically modernised. In the past many had no through ventilation so, having been condemned, they have only survived by being drastically altered; a few have disappeared completely and some are in use as sheds.

To complete this study, a few typical features are listed. Floors downstairs were originally of beaten earth or 'lime ash' which gave a surface superior to the cement which often replaced it. The height of the ceilings varies from six to seven feet, the boards laid over the beams to form the downstairs ceiling and bedroom floor varying in width. The oldest of these are wide, not tongued and grooved, sometimes covered with narrower boards laid at right angles. The narrow, steep stairs, with little room at the top or bottom, make it difficult to get furniture up or down and it is not unusual to find a series of boards forming a trap door resting firmly on the beams in one bedroom, and often called a 'coffin shoot'. Old partitions between rooms were wide boards placed upright with the joins covered with wooden slats, referred to as 'plank and post'.



TREGEW

The name Tregew (or Tregew as it was once spelt) may be derived from "the farm on the goodland" or "the farm of the javelin" - both descriptive of its position on the fertile land to the east of the parish of Feock and adjacent to the ancient Camp at Roundwood. During the early years of the 17th century the Edmonds, who came originally from Middlesex, transformed the farmstead into a gentleman's residence and it is shown as such in Martyn's map of 1748. "It still has the appearance of a gentleman's seat" said Charles Henderson, writing only some fifty years ago, "with its park-like surroundings interspersed here and there with rows of stately elms".

As a farmstead, Tregew had already been there for many generations and the site is thought to be the oldest in the parish. In 1304, Inquisitions Post Mortem record: "Tregew held of Nicholas Boscawen as of his manor of Trevilla, value 16s.". In 1315 Tregew was mentioned in the Taxation of the Vicarage of Feock, when the Vicar was assigned its Garb Tithe, and in 1327 the Lay Subsidy Rolls referred to John Tregew, with a valuation of 3s. - the second highest in the parish.

It seems that at about this time Tregew became the property of the Gregor family, remaining so for some 300 years. Although the historian C. S. Gilbert said that Tregew became their property subsequent to the Reformation, according to Canon Jennings, the Gregors settled there at the time of Edward III and records confirm this claim. In 1342 John Gregor granted lands in Tregew, given to him by his father, Gregory de Tregew, to his daughter Joan and her husband John Colman of Fowey as a marriage gift. Some years later, their son Robert Colman was the plaintiff in a suit against Thomas Bryant and Joan his wife claiming lands in Tregew and alleging that Elena (John Gregor's second daughter and co-heiress) had died without issue.

17th Century - the Edmonds

During the reign of James I, according to Jennings, the Gregor family left Tregew for Truro (and later Trewarthenick), selling the farmstead to a Mr Edmonds. In his history of Feock, written about a hundred years later, William Hals said: "Mr Edmonds, a person well qualified for the purpose, was sent from London by the Company of Pewterers to inspect and try Cornish tin, then corrupted by the blowers thereof, before it was coined, that so the bad metal might be examined and tallied before it was coined proportionable to its badness. In which assay-master's office he thrived so well that at length

he became a tin factor himself, grew rich and bought this place and the other lands near, as also the Manor of Truro* of Sir Bevill Grenville, Kt.". But, Hals continued: "Mr Edmonds, unable to pay the consideration money, was cast into prison where he died without further satisfaction to his said creditors, notwithstanding which those lands descended to his heir now in possession thereof". This Everard Edmonds, merchant and burgess of Truro, married Jenephor, daughter of Michael Avery of Truro and Dionesia Glanville of Tavistock. They had three sons, Henry, who lived at Tregew, Edward, a draper in Truro, and Hugh, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margerie.

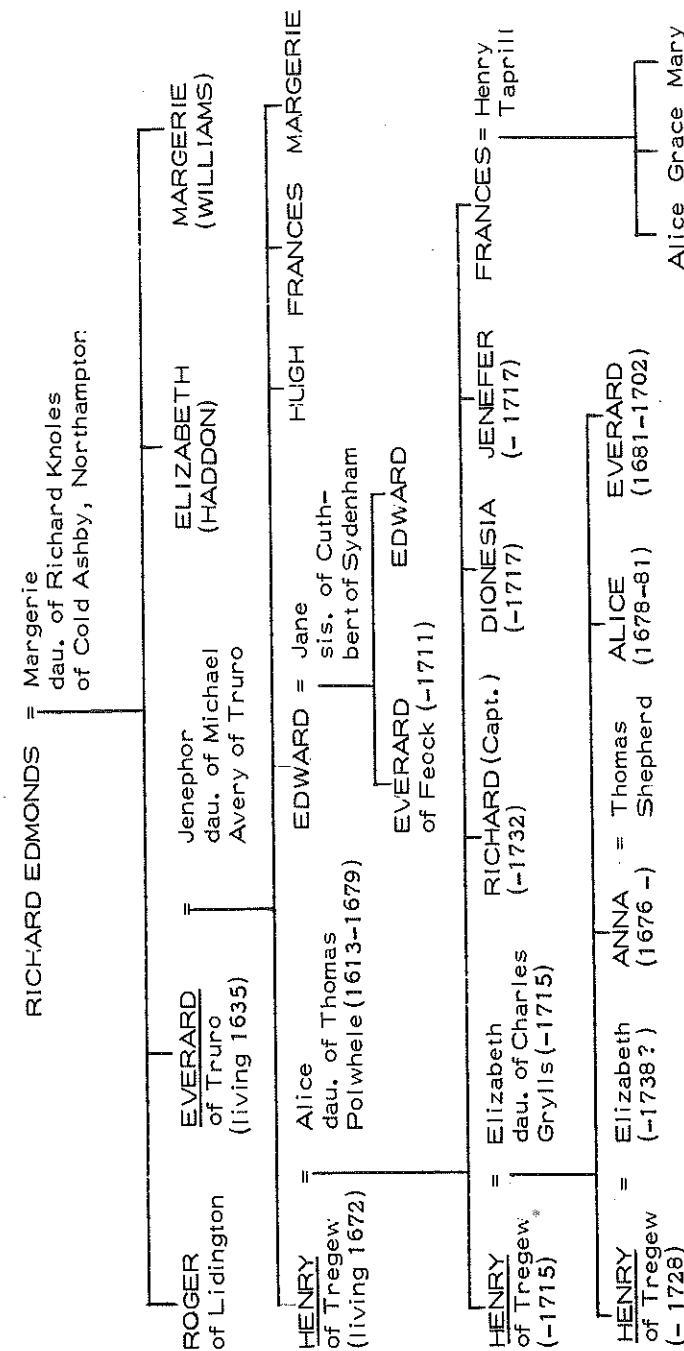
More than once the Barton of Tregew and the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro were to be assigned or mortgaged by the Edmonds to benefit creditors. In 1635, in consequence of the marriage between Henry and Alice, eldest daughter of Thomas Polwhele of Treworgan, and a portion of £500, these lands were assigned by Everard Edmonds to Thomas Polwhele and Richard Hill of Truro. Again in 1672, when Henry's son, also named Henry, was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Grylls of Lanreath, for a portion of £700, they were conveyed to Charles Grylls and others by Henry, Tregew being subjected to a rent of £80 to his daughter-in-law Elizabeth for her life and all the lands entailed on the issue of the marriage, with remainder to the grantor's eight heirs. In that same year, Henry sold Tregew and his Manor to his son Henry with the provision that the latter should provide for his parents "sufficient meat, drink, apparel, firing, lodging, candlelight and attendance for the rest of their lives".

In 1701, the second Henry and his son, the third Henry, assigned Tregew and the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro to John and Richard Polwhele and others in order to pay the father's debts and provide portions for his younger children, Everard and Anna. And, in their turn, "Henry Edmonds senior and Elizabeth his wife shall enjoy his room with the chamber in which Anna his daughter now lodgeth and shall be allowed by the said Henry Edmonds junior sufficient meat and drink there and an annuity of £20". The schedule of debts included £550 to Charles Trevanion of Caerhays, £267 to his brother Richard Edmonds, £202 to his sister Dionesia Edmonds and £160 to another sister Jenefer. In her will dated 26th June 1716, Jenefer Edmonds left, among other bequests, 20s. to her brother Richard and 20s. to her nephew Henry "to buy a ring in remembrance of me".

In 1706 the Manor of Kenwyn and Truro was bought by Samuel Enys (grandson of Henry Gregor of Truro) for £2,146 from father and son: other bidders in the sale included Mr Thomas Shepherd, husband of Anna, who offered £1,500.

* Bought in 1624

EDMONDS OF TREGEW



Twice in its history, Tregew has been associated with the Society of Friends. In 1684, when the Friends and indeed the whole Puritan movement were under bitter attack, "on information of Henry Edmonds of a conventicle at the house of Walter Stevens of Feock" the Justices imposed fines on Walter Stevens and others for being present and for absenting from public worship for three Sundays. The second time was in the 19th century, through the Magor family then living at Tregew.

18th Century - the Allens

After the third Henry Edmond's death in 1728, Tregew appears to have passed into the hands of the Allen family, for an Elizabeth Edmonds, presumably Henry's wife, was living in Truro at the time of her death ten years later. Although the name Allen is not uncommon in Cornwall, this branch is the only one in the neighbouring area whose members are described as "gentlemen". The Allens also owned other property in nearby parishes and, unlike the Edmonds, they chose to rent out Tregew and live elsewhere. When John Allen of Kea died in 1730, he left £110 to his son Alexander, smaller sums to his daughters and their children and the residue of his estate to another son, Michael. (Writing in 1817, C. S. Gilbert refers to Saveock House, about 4 miles west of Truro, as the seat of Michael Allen). Since John Allen left only money to Alexander, it seems reasonable to suppose that Alexander had already acquired Tregew, either as a gift or as a purchase, before his father's death, perhaps at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Lawrence of Feock, seven years earlier.

Alexander Allen died only three years after his father and in his will, dated 25th July 1733, he left property at Tregew, Penelewey and Mellingey, in the parishes of Feock, Kea and Perran-ar-worthal, to his son, also named Alexander and at that time a minor. Elizabeth, appointed co-guardian of the young Alexander with his uncle Michael Allen, received an annuity of £30 to be paid out of these estates. In his will, Alexander was described as "of Hewgos" in the parish of Kea (now Hugus, about three miles to the west of Truro and not far from Saveock).

Less is known of the tenants of Tregew at this time. In 1754, however, the Feock parish register records a marriage between Thomas Nicholls of Feock and Margery Phillips, a servant to Mr William Laskey of Tregew. William Laskey died in 1789 in Perran-ar-worthal, his estate being administered by his son William Laskey of Trevalga and daughter Anne, wife of Richard Lawrence of Feock. It is probable that William Laskey senior's father was William Laskey of Perran-ar-worthal, the co-administrator with the second Henry Edmonds of the estate of his younger son Everard Edmonds who died

intestate in 1702. If so, this would provide an interesting earlier link between the Laskeys and Tregew.

Thomas Nicholls was the son of a tinner, also named Thomas, who lived at Little Tregew, a small farm adjoining. In his will made in 1736, Thomas senior directed that his mother-in-law should live at Little Tregew, with his children for one year after his death and "to have her maintenance with them". His daughter Jane was left Little Tregew when 21 or married: Thomas, also a minor, was appointed sole executor and inherited "all my estates". The inventory at the time of Thomas senior's death amounted to £257. 10. 0d.

The second Alexander Allen married Mary Tippett in 1753 and their son, the third Alexander, was born seven years later. Alexander and his wife Mary were named as deforciant in a dispute as to title concerning the estate of Tregew brought before the Courts in 1778 by Francis Cole, clerk.

The surnames Nicholls and Tippett (though with only one 't') occur again in 1786 when the Barton of Tregew was advertised for sale in the Sherborne Mercury of the 17th July: "to be sold on 31st July next at the Red Lion, Truro, all that Freehold and Lease-hold Estate in Tregew now in the several tenures of John Snell, Peter Tippett, Esq., John Bullen, Elizabeth Burley, Thomas Cooke, Robert Nicholls, William Solomon, James Harris and William Burley", consisting of the mansion-house, several farm-houses, with barns and other buildings and about 221 acres of good meadow, arable, orchard and pasture land. It is interesting to note that it was still regarded as a mansion house and, though tenanted, had not lost status. Included in this sale were the houses and buildings at Roundwood, originally used for smelting and refining copper, and the wharves and quay there.

The third Alexander married Mary Clarke of St Clements in 1786 and was presumably the Alexander Allen named as the proprietor of Tregew and assessed at £8. 13s in the Land Tax Assessment made about 1800. The occupier at that time was named as Mr Edward Rogers.

Early 19th Century

Tregew was sold within a year or so, however, and the Amendment to the Tax Assessment made around 1804 gives the new owner as R. A. Daniell, of Trelissick. Ralph Allen Daniell's father, Thomas Daniell, born in Truro in 1715, was the protege, business associate and finally successor of William Lemon. His wife, who he married in 1754, was Elizabeth Eliot of Truro, niece of Ralph Allen of Prior Park, Bath, a notable Cornishman on whom the character of "Allworthy" in Fielding's "Tom Jones" was based. He was

born in St Blazey in 1694, the son of a country inn-keeper. By the age of 10 he was helping his grand-mother, the post-mistress of St Columb, and at 16 he had joined the Bath Post Office – an early experience which doubtless led to his becoming in later life the first great reformer of the British Post Office. Ralph Allen was the owner of the Bath stone quarries (he gave the stone used in the Mansion House in Truro, built for Thomas Daniell after his marriage) and he was a man of considerable wealth. It was his generosity that enabled Thomas to take over William Lemon's large mercantile firm on his death in 1760 and when he himself died nine years later, Ralph Allen left £500,000 and extensive property in the West Country. Despite his name, however, there appears to be no relationship between Ralph Allen and the Allens who had owned Tregew.

Ralph Allen Daniell, great-nephew and name-sake, was born in 1762. With vast wealth behind him, he may have become careless of money, for he exchanged trade for politics, became M.P. for the Rotten Borough of West Looe, and died, comparatively poor and intestate, in 1823. His property passed to his son Thomas, eldest of his 12 surviving children. Thomas, unsparing of expenditure at Trelissick and in maintaining his position in the County, particularly during his term of office as High Sherriff, was before long in financial difficulties, was declared bankrupt in 1835 and forced to flee to France where he died thirty years later.

Daniell's misfortunes were reflected in the story of Tregew. In 1837, presumably in an effort to raise money, parts of the Trelissick estate were offered for sale by the Assignees of Thomas Daniell. In June, the West Briton carried the following notice: "Sale of Freehold Property: Eligible Building Ground" in which the Tregew estate was described as containing about 225 acres of productive orchard, meadow, arable and wood land, several residences fronting on the Roundwood and Falmouth creeks, together with the Quay at Roundwood "... the whole being exceedingly picturesque and well adapted for villa residence". A week before the date set for the auction, however, another notice appeared in the West Briton, inserted by solicitors acting for Lord Falmouth, informing would-be purchasers that the Earl was "in possession of such Estate and had a lien thereon amounting to the full estimated value thereof or upwards" and would "retain possession of such Estate until the same shall have been fully satisfied and discharged".

During all these years, Tregew, as part of the Trelissick estate, was leased to tenant farmers. It is not known for how long Mr Edward Rogers remained there after 1800, but records show that a subsequent tenant, for over

twenty years, was Peter Oliver, with his wife Margaret. In 1819 their daughter Mary Anne was born at Tregew whereas their elder daughter, Grace Elizabeth, had been born two years earlier, in St Clement whilst they were "of Lameer". In 1823 Charles Oliver died at Tregew, aged 96, followed a year later by Grace Oliver, aged 80. In 1840, her namesake and Peter's daughter, Grace Elizabeth, was married from Tregew and the family were certainly still there at the time of the 1841 Census. Peter, then aged 55, was described as a farmer, his wife, as aged 50. There were two sons and five younger daughters, and two servants and two "independents" were also named.

Though Census returns and Directories name occupants, ownership of Tregew during these years has been difficult to establish so precisely. At some time between the proposed auction in 1837 and the preparation of the 1842 Tithe Apportionment Map, Tregew and its estate became the property of John Magor, for his name appears thereon as both owner and occupier. The remainder of the Trelissick estate was, it seems, mortgaged to Lord Falmouth until, in 1844, it was sold to John Davies Gilbert, son of the famous Davies Gilbert. The Tregew estate was certainly not included in that sale as there is no reference to it in the Abstract of Title. Roundwood is included however, and it would appear that the estate acquired by John Magor was smaller than that advertised in 1837. This is confirmed by the 1851 Census in which John Magor, as occupier, is described as a farmer of 170 acres, not 225 acres. (The Abstract contained a reference to Peter Oliver as the tenant of Nancassic and part of Penhale).

Tregew and the Magor Family

The Magors had lived at Trethowell, a neighbouring farm, for many years and it is thought that John's father, John Magor senior (1775–1851) may have bought Tregew from the Trelissick estate for his eldest son John – possibly on his marriage. In John senior's will, made in 1844, John, though named with two younger sons, Richard and William as co-executor, was not otherwise mentioned. The farm at Trethowell was left jointly to Richard and William, and Little Tregew to a fourth son, Martin: their mother Prudence was to receive an annuity, the house, garden, household goods, wine and liqueurs at Trethowell and, like Richard, William and Martin, a sum of money.

John Magor junior lived at Tregew with his family for over forty years until, a few years before his death at Stanley Villas, Truro, in 1895, the farm passed into the hands of his second son Richard. At some time, possibly as early as 1846, John Magor sold Tregew to John Davies Gilbert in order to raise money for the purchase of Trevaster as an "off-farm" to

Tregew, which once again became part of the Trelissick estate. He remained at Tregew as lessee. John Davies Gilbert died suddenly in 1854, but the Hon. Mrs Gilbert continued to manage the estate on behalf of her son, Carew Davies Gilbert, born posthumously.

In the 1861 Census John Magor is described as a farmer of 150 acres. Apparently Mr Magor also leased land at this time from another neighbouring land-owner, the Hon. Anna Maria Agar, one of the principal land-owners in the parish, who owned woodlands to the north of Lamouth Creek. In a letter to her son (soon to be created Baron Robartes of Lanhydrock and Truro) written in April 1860, the family's agent, Alfred Jenkin, wrote: "There are in that part of the tenement of Tregew in Feock, which belongs entirely to thy mother, some trees, principally scrubby oak in the hedges, which ought to be taken down. At the request of the Tenant, John Magor, I have been there and marked the trees in question, and I also mentioned the matter to Messrs Gilbert, Rodd, and Cornish, they inform me that Mrs Gilbert is much obliged by having been consulted and has no objection to the trees being cut down. There are 81 Oaks, 13 Elms and 4 Ash, some of the Elms are good sticks apparently but past their primes and injuring some juvenile neighbours. The Oaks are neither useful nor ornamental".

John and Catherine Oliver Magor* had seven sons, John, William H., Richard, Edmund and three who died in infancy, and four daughters, Eliza, Fanny, Edith and Laura, born between the years 1844 and 1864. Miss L. L. Northey, Laura's daughter, and Miss Constance Hearle, Richard's granddaughter, are still living in the neighbourhood and have both provided much helpful family history which is most gratefully acknowledged.

At the time of the 1851 Census, when the family consisted only of John then aged 6, Eliza, 3 and William H., 2 months, there were also at Tregew a house servant, a children's nurse and an agricultural labourer. Ten years later, when there were four more children, there were a governess, a house servant, a dairymaid and a shepherd. In 1871, when their youngest child Laura was six, the household had one servant, Ann Cummins, and a housemaid, Elizabeth J. Hall.

The family was closely associated for some years with the Quakers and the Friends' Meeting House at Come-to-Good. Still to be seen there are headstones commemorating the deaths of John Magor senior, who died on 30th June 1851, aged 76 years, his wife Prudence, who died, aged 84, on 5th February 1865, and their 26-year old daughter Thomasine, who died in

*Despite her name and the fact that she was born in St Clements, there appears to be no relationship between Catherine and Peter Oliver, her predecessor at Tregew.

1841. A book of Burial Notes relating to Come-to-Good for the years 1839-1849 contains a record not only of Thomasine's death but also of the three infant children of John and Catherine Oliver Magor - George, who died aged about one week in 1847, William Henry who died aged about 5½ months in March 1850, and Martin, who died in August 1856 at the age of 1 year. All three were described as "not a member". The William H. recorded in the 1851 Census as a baby of 2 months was born not long after the death of the baby William Henry and it seems that the custom of naming a child after a dead brother or sister, common in the 16th and 17th centuries, was continued by John and Catherine Magor on this occasion.

In his later years, John Magor became a Wesleyan and was something of a public figure - a judge at local agricultural shows and a member and sometime Chairman of the West Powder Highway Board during the 1880s. Three of his sons left home, John to live in Creed, William H. at Bonallack and Edmund in Nebraska, U.S.A. Richard remained at Tregew, taking over the farm a few years before his father's death in 1895.

Richard Magor, born in 1852, married Emma Williams of Wadebridge and lived at Tregew until the end of the First World War. Mr and Mrs Magor are still remembered by Mrs Emmy Ferris of Penpol, whose father, Jim Hooper, was employed on the farm at Tregew. Mrs Ferris remembers Mrs Gilbert calling on Mrs Magor in her pony-cart and recalls how her father, who was in charge of the farm during Mr Magor's absence, once drove a herd of bullocks to Grampound with only the help of his dog. Mrs Ferris herself lived at Tregew as a young girl, starting house-work at 6.30 in the morning, baking in the cloam oven and preparing breakfast on a brandis. Her off-duty hours were between 6 and 9 p.m. on Friday evenings, though she attended a sewing class on Tuesday evenings.

Labourers' wages were then normally regulated by the rates paid to the roadmen by the County, but Mr Magor ensured the best labour and plentiful help at harvest-time by paying 2/- a week above this rate. It is said that other farmers, headed by the Hon. John Boscawen, sent Mr Magor a letter of protest to which he replied that "after due consideration" he had "decided to pay 3/- a week above the usual rate". Mr Magor also gave a bonus of £1 for every year of service if a man left or retired, the widow receiving the sum if a man died.

A notice in the Royal Cornwall Gazette in 1899 reported that Mr Magor had had his foot trapped when a tree was being felled: he had received medical attention, and was progressing favourably.

The Post-War Years

Carew Davies Gilbert died in 1913 but Tregew was not among the twelve "excellent farms" included in the sale of the Trelissick estate by his Trustees seven years later. In 1919 Mr Edward Penna, who farmed at Nance on the Tehidy estate in Illogan, bought Tregew from the Trustees, and as his sons were still boys, leased the farm to Mr William James Downing and his two sons, who were identical twins. When Mrs Downing died shortly after, the three men continued to live at Tregew, looked after by an old lady who used to come each day from Penelewey in a donkey-cart. Mr Downing was a local preacher at the Feock Methodist Chapel.

The Downings left when their 14-year lease expired and by 1935 Mr Edward Penna was joined at Tregew by Mr William John Peters. In 1948 Mr Penna's son, Mr E. P. Penna, having become part-owner on his father's death, bought his brother's share of the farm. On Mr E. P. Penna's death in 1957, the property passed to his wife, Mrs E. E. Penna (Mr Peter's daughter) who now farms the estate in partnership with her son John. Our special thanks are due to Mrs Penna for her kindness in showing us Tregew and her help in our research.

The House

Charles Henderson, writing in the 1920s, said that the greater part of the mansion was still standing though it had been altered considerably. "The front of the house is original but the windows are late 18th century insertions and have superseded the more picturesque Elizabethan windows with granite mullions". To-day, two windows still retain their ancient moulded lintel, but, as Charles Henderson pointed out, all else is modern. "A well-carved sill acts as a step in a stile near the house and others may be seen in humble positions on the premises. There is a fine old chimney of elvan with a carved granite cap at the back of the house and various other interesting features may be seen. A stone measure lies outside the porch, and there are four others in the garden - all of which were recently brought from Wadebridge".

Since the house is now shared by Mrs Penna and her married son, it has been modernised and converted into two homes. Two fireplaces in ground floor rooms (probably originally the hall and parlour) have heavy granite frames with moulding and stops usually associated in Cornwall with an early 17th century date, and there is a well-worn flagged passage-way between the front and back doors, with steps leading to the court-yard which may well date from the mansion's earliest days.

The farm has hardly changed in size. South Devons replaced Ayrshires about 25 years ago and the milking herd was sold some 12 years ago: now there are sheep and cereals in their place. Fields named at the time of the Tithe Apportionment include Silver Close, Park Mullet, Fox Park and Bedlam Wood; three, Park Kestle, North and South Kestle - or "castle" - reflect their proximity to the Iron Age Camp at Roundwood, the outer ditch and vallum of which crossed this land.

In recent years access to the house has been from the road at its rear and what was once the carriage drive leading to the front has reverted to grass. It requires little imagination, however, to visualise the faint track as it must once have been, an impressive approach to this "gentleman's seat".

MAIN SOURCES

- Wills and Documents relating to the Society of Friends (County Record Office)
- Land Tax Assessment, c. 1800, with Amendments (C.R.O.)
- Tithe Apportionment Schedule (C.R.O.)
- Census Records and Parish Registers
- Kelly's Directories
- Files of The Royal Cornwall Gazette, West Briton and The Sherborne Mercury (Royal Institution of Cornwall and County Library)
- Charles Henderson's Cornish Mss. (R. I. C.)
- Jenkin Letter Book (R. I. C.)
- C. S. Gilbert, "Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall" (1817-20)
- Canon Peter Jennings' Mss.
- William Hals, "Parochial History of Cornwall"