

# Pacific Northwest CORNISH Society

Volume 10 Number 3

FALL 2008

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CORNISH SOCIETY 11TH ANNUAL PICNIC AT FT. BORST STATE PARK ON JULY 26TH, 2008



The Pacific Northwest Cornish Society celebrated its 11th annual picnic at Fort Borst State Park in Centralia, Washington. We had a social hour while we chatted with each other and got to peruse the Cornish Country Store and other displays of Cornish paraphernalia. We then shared a delicious potluck of all kinds of yummy food brought by the various members. After eating we were entertained by our illustrious Secretary, Craig Pedlar. He spoke of his Cornish ancestors and passed around old postcards and other interesting material he's gathered about his family. We all had a great time eating, visiting, "being Cornish."



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



We had a good meeting at Ft Borst Park for our annual Picnic. We tried something new at this meeting, we had a social hour first where everyone could talk to each other and catch up, look at the library books and the country store, then we had a wonderful potluck lunch. After lunch we got down to business and had a very productive meeting with a lot of participation by everyone. My theory is that more business can be conducted when our desire for food has been satisfied.

During the meeting we re-elected the current Board members and under our new by-laws this term is for two years. I am confident that in 2010 we will need to elect a new Board and that there will be people ready to serve.

We will have our next meeting in Vancouver, WA at the Clark County Genealogy Center. They have a very nice meeting room and this will be our third time there. The meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2008 again with the Social Hour at 11:am; Lunch at noon followed by our meeting. Hope to see everyone there. Your President, Alene

### *Amazon.com*

*There is a feature on our website that most of you may not know about. Mickey has added a link to AMAZON.com for our use. If you are planning on using Amazon for buying books or other products, just go to our website and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page. By accessing AMAZON.com thru our website you are benefiting our society. For every purchase you make this way, PNCS will get a donation.*

<http://www.nwcornishsociety.org/>

### CLUB DONATION

PNCS Charter Member Jean Timmermeister has graciously donated some valuable resources to our group. Included are back issues of the Cornwall Family History Journal, Tam Kernewek, Cornish World, and the Cornish Forefathers Society, as well as various newsletters from other Cornish societies throughout the U.S.A.

Thank you, Jean, for your valuable donation. It's at my house right now, but I'll get it to the Fall meeting if possible.

Doug Wolford

## A Special Cornwall Visit By Nancy Clark

In the summer of 2006 I was able to visit Cornwall with my son David. A 5th cousin from Camborne had told us that the home of my 4th great grandparents, William and Ann Hocking Smith was still standing in Beacon in Camborne. In arranging a tour of Cornwall I told the tour guide that I would like to see their house and the man said he knew exactly where it was! So on our tour he took us by. David and I were taking pictures of the house when a lady came out of the house and asked us if she could help us. I told her we were taking pictures because the house had been my 4th great grandparents' house. She said that she had just rented it but if we would come back the next day she would show us in! How exciting that was! We did go back, went in the house, rooms were small ceiling low, interesting to imagine them living there, so special! The attached small loafing shed was interesting too.

And while we were there the daughter of the owner of the house came by and invited us to her home as she said her mum would love to meet us. What a delightful visit! The lady and daughter were so willing to share information with us about the house. The lady's mother had purchased the property from some Smiths. Were they descendants of my 4th great grandparents? I do not know. My 4th great grandparents were tenant farmers I am sure, but apparently in 1917 these farms went into private ownership. Maybe it had remained in my Smith family. I might add that my 4th great grandparents were grandparents of John Harris, the Cornish poet. His mother and my 3rd great grandmother were sisters.

I so appreciated the lady and daughter's willingness to share information with us but I wished we had known more about my ancestors for their information. It was a special visit, they were very gracious and hospitable, even gave us two pieces of pasty, which they said were the best in Camborne. They were delicious! They suggested we visit Godrevy Park overlooking the ocean and lighthouse, a beautiful spot so we did and ate our pasties overlooking that beautiful view.

### OCTOBER MEETING

Date: October 18, 2008

Time: 11 AM

Place: Clark County Genealogical Society Library, between Mill Plain & Evergreen Blvd at 715 Grand Ave, Vancouver, WA

Social hour at 11 a.m. followed by potluck lunch at noon (please bring something to share and your own table service) and meeting to follow.

## OBLITERATION of the CORNISH IDENTITY

Massive levels of indignation and disgust are felt and being expressed the length and breadth of Cornwall as the greatest attack on Cornish identity in the past 500 years is revealed by the Super Council of the new **'One Cornwall'**.

The plan is to replace the ancient, well-known Cornwall crest with six multi-coloured, flame-style, waving strands. This will be displayed on vehicles, buildings, documents and paper, on all means of communicating with the outside world (outside the Council buildings that is).

The traditional crest with the miner and fisherman standing either side of the shield with fifteen bezants, or balls, with that proud symbol of Cornwall, the Cornish chough, perched on the top, whilst beneath is the logo **'Onen hag Ol'** (One and All) will be relegated, *"for use on ceremonial occasions."*

The replacement is, *"a positive, dynamic logo which brings a modern feel to the best of Cornish tradition,"* according to Mr. Whalley, the leader of the new **One Cornwall** authority.

One of his colleagues admitted that it looked more suitable for a utility company, adding that it had been produced by their in-house design team and had only been shown to a few employees for their comments (apparently this was cheaper than public consultation).

Airwaves, newsprint and websites have been jammed with outraged Cornish men and women expressing their utter amazement and sense of shame that centuries of Cornish history are, at best, being confined to the archives and at worst seen to be another political attempt to suppress and convert Cornwall into a typical English county.

At the very moment in history when the recognition that has been ours worldwide for centuries is being recognized not only by the European Community but by the parliament in London (**World Heritage Site** status for the mining communities, funding to teach the Cornish language in the schools, dual-language signs on our roads ...), at this seminal moment when Cornwall and the Cornish are seen to be rising from the problems of past centuries, at this great historic moment at the start of the 21st century when the Grand Bard of the Gorsyth Kernow, Vanessa Beeman, writes (to Mr. Whalley) that, *"... any marquee for the new Council should embody a very strong sense of the civic and constitutional identity of Cornwall, as well as an evocation of culture and heritage. It should be able to evoke pride and recognition amongst Cornish folk in Cornwall and amongst lovers, customers, colleagues, ex-pats and descendants around the world."* This is the moment when the existing symbol, recognized worldwide as being of Cornwall, by (the people of) Cornwall and for Cornwall, this proud symbol is destined for the trash can.



## Cornish Cousins Attend Family Reunion

Bonnie La Doe and Carole Lower, members of PNCS, whose great-grandfather, William Carlyon Kessell, is their Cornish Connection attended a Four Family, Smalley, Upton, Kessell, Olmsted, Reunion, August 10, 2008, at the Rosburg Community Hall in Rosburg, WA. About 170 people attended.

Bonnie LaDoe not only helped organize the Reunion; she made displays of family photos and information, as well as created a slide show of the various families and their connections. A Potluck dinner was served. Barbara Rose, a Smalley cousin, and her three daughters, did all the kitchen work. There was more than enough food, from start to desserts to finish. Leroy Maki, also a Kessell cousin, has collected the genealogy of all four families into book form. He had books for each of the four families available for sale. Special guests in attendance were Carlton Appleo, Wahkiakum County historian, Glenrose Hedlund and Jennie Pearson, long time residents of the area.



# Gold on Grays River

by Bonnie LaDoe

In 1996, Carlton Appelo, the historian for Wahkiakum County Washington received a letter which included an article from the August 6, 1897 "Cathlamet Gazette". Carlton was kind enough to forward it to me because it is about my Cornish Great Grandfather, William Kessell. William Kessell homesteaded in Grays River, Washington from 1892 until he left the area in the 1920's. Below is the article as I received it:

(Source: Cathlamet Gazette, August 6, 1897, p. 3)

## Gold on Grays River

### That Section of the County to be Thoroughly Prospected Soon

County Commissioner Kessel of Grays River, is in attendance on the board of equalization. Mr. Kessell says some fine specimens of gold bearing float rock has been picked up on the right fork of Grays River. Some 30 years ago a party headed by a gentleman named Denison of New York, went up Grays River, a distance of 12 miles above tide water, and did considerable prospecting. George Gory of Deep River was a member of the party. The ore discovered assayed in gold \$15 to \$25. The country was an unbroken wilderness at that time, without even the semblance of a trail or a habitation, and the expedition was abandoned. Some ten years ago Capt. Raefeld and Mr. Kessell did some prospecting and discovered some rich float, which assayed from \$4 to \$84 to the ton. The ledge from which the float rock came was never located. Mr. Kessell states he found a number of the tools left by the Denison party, including a pick and handle which had been struck (*illegible*) hemlock. The tree had grown in the 20 years intervening to be almost eighteen inches in diameter, and the handle of the pick, which was just within reach, was in an excellent state of preservation. Drills and powder cans were also found, but no indications of prospecting could be seen. Mr. Kessell expects to go up the latter part of this month and thoroughly prospect the headwater of Grays River, accompanied by some prominent Astoria parties, where a thorough investigation will be made.

Mr. Kessell is an old Cornish miner and has mined in the silver mining belt of Nevada, Utah and Montana, and is of the opinion that we will have a Klondyke near home. Mr. Kessell says there are some good indications of oil, and he believes the time is now near at hand when some large deposits of oil will be struck. Our readers will be kept fully informed of what developments are in progress through the courtesy of Mr. Kessell.

Unfortunately, neither the gold nor oil materialized in sufficient quantities to make their extraction cost effective. If they had, I'd be writing this from my villa on the Riviera instead of a small bungalow in Portland, Oregon!

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2008, 11:20 PM

This note is to a group of you so I'll omit the personal side I otherwise would do with each of you. But most of you have been aware of the illness of our oldest daughter, Judie (Raether).

Early this morning Judie carried out that biblical promise given to those who believe, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (Jesus)." Louise and I share that Truth and have spent most of our adult life involved with its proclamation.

In early October of 2007 she was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia and after every treatment and almost remission leading to a stem cell transplant contracted a fungus that eventually spread to her lungs and other organs. Without any immune system she was never able to clear that fungus, even with the best of medical treatment for it.

Judie was 5 days away from her 57 birthday and 6 weeks from the birth of her first grandchild. After 3 natural children she and husband Mark began adopting "unadoptable" infant kids as their service to their Lord and ultimately brought five into their lives. The oldest graduated from High School less than 2 weeks ago and the youngest is 14. She did not get to fulfill her dream of raising them all the way but did give us 5 great grandkids we otherwise would not have known and those kids received a life they each appreciate as a gift of love.

Many of you have shared with us during these 8+ months, and we deeply thank you. It only seemed fair to let you know the battle is over.

Our love to you,

Dick & Louise Colenso



From left: Becky (14); Michael (15); Judie; "Mom" Louise; and Owen (16)

## I Didn't Know I was Cornish

by Bonnie LaDoe

Expo '86. That's what the world's fair in Vancouver, BC was called that year. I went with a bunch of gals and we had a great time. The last day of the fair, I was elected to go down to the lobby and pay our bill. While waiting at the counter, I overheard a lady say, with a very British sounding accent, "I'm from Lands End". Wow, I thought. All I knew then about my great grandfather William Kessell was that he was English and from Lands End. So, being the brazen American I am, I said, "my great grandfather was from Lands End. Where is it?"



That was the beginning of a 20 year pen pal relationship and my education about Cornwall. Along with a cousin in Laramie, we have, over the years, put together a lot of Kessell genealogy. But my love of Cornwall came after I joined the Cornish-L. Through that e-mail list, I began to realize what being Cornish was all about even though I had never been exposed to the culture. The warmth and generosity of the people on the list opened up a whole new world to me.

In about 1998, Jean Timmermeister was on the Cornish-L and contacted me about joining the new club she and others were putting together called the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society. So that's how I became charter member #37. And now cousins Mark Upton and wife Judith and Carole Lower have joined and seem to enjoy the camaraderie as much as I do. With the many friends I've made over the years, I can't imagine not being a member now.

So I feel I've come a long way toward "being Cornish." I now know that Cornish is not a hen, that pasties don't belong on exotic dancers, and that you had best not call a Cornishman "English." Well, we all had to start somewhere. Zackly.

A member featured each issue! Please send me something autobiographic and a picture so you can be featured too! Thank you Bonnie for going first! 8



**CORNISH COUNTRY STORE IS OPEN**  
**WE HAVE A GOOD VARIETY OF ITEMS THAT**  
**YOUR CORNISH COUSINS WILL LOVE.**  
**Please check the website to see pictures of all**  
**of these items [www.nwcornishsociety.org](http://www.nwcornishsociety.org)**  
**You can place an order by emailing me at**  
**[softwalk2@yahoo.com](mailto:softwalk2@yahoo.com) .**

**PNCS LIBRARY**  
*The PNCS Library is housed with the President. The PNCS Library will always welcome donated books about the Cornish. If you have a Cornish book you would like to donate to the PNCS library you can bring it to one of the meetings or contact Alene Reaugh at (503) 775-9653 or email her at [softwalk2@yahoo.com](mailto:softwalk2@yahoo.com)*

**PNCS WEB SITE**  
<http://www.nwcornishsociety.org/>  
 Webmaster: Mickey Sieracki  
 Contact the Society  
[softwalk2@yahoo.com](mailto:softwalk2@yahoo.com)

**HISTORY OF CORNWALL on CD**  
 We have copies of the Parochial History of the County of Cornwall, a four volume set of books with lots and lots of information on old Cornish families. This set of books was donated to us from our Cornish member, Ron Lake, and we had them put on CD, so that all our members could enjoy them! They are available to borrow or purchase. Contact Joan Huston if interested in obtaining a copy! [Tregarthen@gmail.com](mailto:Tregarthen@gmail.com) or phone 360-613-1718.  
 Or go to [www.archivecdbooks.org](http://www.archivecdbooks.org) and check out all their CDs.

**PNCS ANNUAL MEETINGS**  
**First Saturday in March, in the North**  
**To celebrate St. Piran's Day**  
**Fourth Saturday in July, Central location**  
**Annual Cornish Picnic**  
**Third Saturday in October, in the South**

**OUR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**  
**First week in February**  
**First week in June**  
**First week in September**  
 Send articles, pictures, ads, notices, whatever, to:  
[Tregarthen@gmail.com](mailto:Tregarthen@gmail.com)  
 Or mail to: **Joan Huston, 10116 Stoli Lane NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.** Make sure they get to me prior to the above deadlines to be included in the next newsletter.

**Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership**

Name:  
 Address:  
 City: State/Province: Zip:  
 Phone: Email address:  
 Webpage:

\$10 Individual member \$15 Dual Membership

List Cornish names and areas or Parishes interested in?

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 Send form filled out to:  
 Pacific Northwest Cornish Society  
 4335 NE 69TH AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97218

## ***PNCS Officers***

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*The purpose of this society, organized as a non-profit corporation, shall be educational as provided in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall be devoted to furthering Cornish identity, relationships, heritage, and genealogical research for the members.*

**MEMBERSHIP:** Individual Membership: \$10.00  
Dual Membership: \$15.00  
Lifetime Membership: a one-time payment equal to fifteen (15) times the current annual dues.  
Annual dues are payable as of 1 July.  
Send dues payable to: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society  
Address: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society, 486 Plat B Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479-9799

