

Pacific Northwest CORNISH Society

Volume 11 Number 1

SPRING 2009



OCTOBER 2008 PNCS MEETING

There was a smaller than normal turnout at the October meeting in Vancouver due to several people having conflicts. It still was a good meeting and we all had fun.

With our new format of having a social hour first everyone had a chance to catch up on what was new. Robert Hocking, member # 95 of Chilliwack, BC was there and brought a friend, Marilyn Wright from Portland. They are planning to come to the March meeting, and Marilyn is bringing the Mousehole Cat video.

Dot Hosking-Huntley, who had just returned from her third trip to Cornwall, presented a delightful slide show of her trip. These slides included the activities of the Dehwhelans 2008 Gathering in Looe. Dot brought back many items to sell in the Country Store and you can see them on the website or at the meeting coming up in March. There are some wonderful items, so be sure to check them out.

Bonnie La Doe presented her Kessell family tree in a scrapbook power point presentation. It was very interesting and everyone enjoyed it.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the last meeting in October there was a discussion regarding the dues and it was suggested we increase the individual dues to \$15 a year, a couple to \$25, and Lifetime to \$150. After a quick review of the bylaws it was agreed that this could be done by Board approval and did not require a vote. We will have a discussion again at the March meeting when more members are present.

Laminated and embossed name tags were suggested. These would be available to all members who want one, however, due to the cost, those members who want one will be asked to pay a small amount. Dot is working on a proposed design and will notify the membership by e-mail what the cost might be and what the name tag will look like.

A hard copy of the latest Newsletter created by Joan Huston was displayed at the meeting and everyone agreed that it was very professionally done and Joan was commended for that.

Big plans are in the making for our March 7th meeting and Celebration of St. Piran's Day. In addition to our normal agenda we will be presenting the Story of St. Piran and his journey to Cornwall to become the Cornish Patron Saint, and we will sing Cornish songs accompanied by Bob Bruce on the piano. We will also have a video showing of the "Mousehole Cat."

The meeting will be March 7th at the First Presbyterian Church 412 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, WA. We will be starting at 11:00 am with a Social Hour; Potluck Lunch at Noon; followed by the Business Meeting; St. Piran Presentation, and showing of the "Mousehole Cat" video.

At the Business meeting we will discuss a project suggested by Shirley Ewart for a book about our Cornish Ancestors. As you all know, Shirley is the author of several Cornish books including the very popular "Highly Respectable Families, The Cornish of Grass Valley California 1854-1954." Shirley wants to interview each member and write a book about our families, so please come prepared to discuss this idea with her so we can figure out how to get the interviews set up.

I would also like to get some input from members on what kind of program to plan for the Annual Meeting in July. Our July meeting will be held July 25th at Fort Borst Park in Centralia. This meeting conflicts with the Gathering at Grass Valley, however many of us will not be able to attend the Gathering and so we will proceed with our annual meeting as previously planned. I would like to have a meeting that includes a Genealogy Speaker as many people are interested in that and we have not had one for awhile. Please come prepared to offer suggestions and or volunteer to work on that.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Alene

Beatles get the Cornish treatment

A band from Cornwall is combining its love of Cornish and the music of The Beatles by translating some of the Fab Four's songs.

The band Skwardya, made up of Matthew Clarke and Dave Miller, has translated four songs including "She Loves You" (Hi a'th kar) and "Something" (Neppyth).

Mr. Clarke said they were also planning to translate two more. Cornish, or Kernewek, is the sister language of Welsh and Breton and was formally recognised by the EU in 2002.

The number of people who speak fluent Cornish is thought to be between 300 and 400 and the Cornish Language Fellowship estimates that more than 5,000 people have some knowledge of the language. Mr Clarke, from Camborne, has been speaking Cornish since 1990 and said translating the songs was "a bit of fun. We're just trying to expand the amount of stuff in Cornish that's out there," he said. "It's good to have some other things rather than just folk songs and the odd hymn."

The band is also planning to translate a version of "All My Loving". Dr Ken George, who has published several dictionaries of Cornish, is currently working on a translation of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand".

Chorus of 'Something (Neppyth)' in Cornish

Ny vynnar hy gasa mann

Ha ny'm beus na fella hwans



Dave Miller and Matthew Clarke recorded the songs "for fun"

MARCH MEETING

Date: March 7, 2009

Time: 11 AM

Place: First Presbyterian Church 412 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, WA.

Social hour at 11 a.m. followed by potluck lunch at noon (please bring something to share and your own table service) and Business Meeting; St. Piran presentation and showing of the "Mousehole Cat" video.

Come to the 15th Gathering of
Cornish Cousins



Grass Valley of Nevada City

July 17-19, 2009

CALIFORNIA



Coming from around the Cornish World

Biennial gatherings of Cornish Cousins preserve the continuing heritage of descendants of Cornish immigrants and strengthen ties with Cornwall and people around the world. The 15th gathering will highlight the tradition of Cornish singing as it has been preserved in Cornwall and in Nevada County. It will focus attention on the Cornish around the Pacific, with special attention to our cousins from Australia and New Zealand.

The Marizion-Apollo Male Voice Choir, directed by Tim Hosken, will come from Cornwall to join in the gathering, bringing song and restoring Cornish accents to the streets of Grass Valley. Hosken also directs the Penzance Choral Society and Penzance Light Opera. The Grass Valley Male Voice Choir, directed by Eleanor Kentizer, will host the Marizion-Apollo men and combine voices with them at a Pub Night sing-along, at a public concert and for worship on Sunday morning. GVMVC gives annual charity concerts in Nevada County, has toured Cornwall and performed at the 13th Cornish Cousins gathering in North Carolina in 2005. Their CD-set "When Miners Sang" is available in Grass Valley.

At Pub Night the combined male voice choirs will be joined by the Grass Valley Cornish Carol Choir which performs every December in hospitals and churches and on Mill Street at Grass Valley's annual street fair, Cornish Christmas. At the Saturday night concert the male voice choirs will perform with singer-songwriter, recording artist Heather Dale, who has delighted popular audiences and Cornish Cousins in Canada, Britain and the United States. She records for Amphisbaena Music in Toronto.

The Cornish On the Pacific

The 2009 gathering draws attention to the unique Cornish pattern of settlement in the Far West. Building on the 2007 theme of "far from 'ome," the 2009 gathering shifts the focus. From the Atlantic, the immigrants' "cup of tears," we move to the Pacific, the ocean of uncharted possibilities, whose shores invited permanence.

Cornish folk who ventured as far as California, Australia or New Zealand found lands sufficiently rich to sustain them for generations. They found inviting climates and plentiful opportunities.

Adaptation meant helping to build new communities and new nations. It meant citizenship and commitment. It meant becoming leaders, school board presidents, mayors, legislators and even governors. It also included sustaining the heritage that is valued by the descendants of those settlers to this day.

Come to Nevada County in 2009 to celebrate the achievement of the Cornish settlers and see their heritage alive today in the golden foothills of California, on the Comstock Lode of Nevada and in the American West. Join your Cousins from the homeland, from across America and around the Pacific in celebrating the Cousin Jacks and Jennies who ventured so far to contribute so much.

Fly to Sacramento and San Francisco, CA or Reno, NV. Take Amtrak to Sacramento, CA. Book your accommodations early – lodging is not included in your registration for the events. For information on your destination and updates on the event visit www.cornishgathering.org.

Several PNCS Members are planning to attend: Doug Wolford & his wife, Jean Timmermeister, Heather Pierce, Shirley Ewart, Dot Huntley, Joan Huston, and Jim Faull & his wife.

Digging for tin miners in Cornwall by Dorothy Hosking Huntley

In 1866 my great grandfather, William Henry HOSKING, emigrated from St Just in Penwith to Sugar Notch, Luzerne, Pennsylvania to be a supervisor in a coal mine. His wife, Mary Ann OATES, and 7-year-old son, William Henry, Jr., soon followed with other members of her family. She died within a year of arriving in Pennsylvania. Soon after, Grandpa William married a young Irish lass and he and Mary NEIL had 3 boys that survived past childhood. (Mary had 13 children and only the 3 boys survived at the time of the 1900 census).

Their lives in Cornwall have always held a fascination for me and so about 6 years ago I decided to take the plunge and travel to Great Britain to see where they had lived. A girlfriend and I set off at the end of May 2003 with high hopes, my family tree, and too many clothes. After a week in Scotland seeing the Isle of Skye (where my dad's mother's family was from), Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and 3 days in York, we ended up in Redruth, staying with a couple that let rooms only to genealogists. What a stroke of luck that was. Marion and Ian bent over backwards to be sure that I was able to dig up as much as possible at the Cornish Family History Society and the County Record Office in Truro. Judy and I then spent several days in St Just walking, walking, walking; taking pictures; and talking to people. I didn't find any family but I did find the terrace on Pleasant Row where my great grandfather and his wife and son lived. We toured Geever Mine and took the Wheal Mexico tour. Very enlightening!! My great grandfather's father and grandfather had also been sextons at the local parish church in addition to mining tin, so I attended services there in hopes of connecting with a ghost or two! No such luck.

In 2006 I again crossed the pond to see what I could see. This time I rented a car and stayed only a day or two with Marion and Ian. Ian and I ended up entertaining ourselves, because Marion was at the CFHS and the CRO doing more research for and without me. She said I slowed her down. She was able to trace my family back to Rowe HOSKEN, born about 1540. I was so excited and I just knew everyone else would be as excited as I was. Hah!!

I attended services again at the parish church in St Just and after the service I approached the Vicar with the news that my ggg grandfathers had been the church sextons. Well, he was not impressed. He looked at me and said, "Well, you know that sextons are only gravediggers," then turned to talk to someone else. So much for any donations I might have had in mind to make to his church!

On both trips I took pictures galore and posted those on my MySpace page for the rest of the family and interested friends to enjoy. Anytime anyone showed any curiosity at all about my travels, out came the computer and projector.

I started my research about 1989, just before the internet began to make it easy. I entered and lost my data twice, so by the time I entered it again in 1995, I knew what little I had almost by heart. Then came Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org and I was off and running. I remember the day I saw my great grandfather's marriage certificate with his very own signature on the LDS film at the local Family History Center. Again,

I was sure that everyone in that little library was as excited as I was. To their credit, I couldn't have asked for a better response.

My grandfather was the family wanderer and left Tacoma for Coos Bay about 1900 so I had very little contact with the Washington Hoskings. In the '40s and '50s it was not easy or cost efficient to travel with 3 kids to Washington, just to meet with cousins and aunts and uncles, so I grew up not knowing very much about my grandfather's siblings. But one of Dad's brothers, Uncle Don, shared a lot with his children and they've been extremely helpful in getting me started.

I've been to Wilkeson and seen what's left of the coke ovens and the machinery for the coal mine. One of my next genealogy trips will be to Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to get the flavor of what their life was like there before they moved to Wilkeson, Washington, about 1891.



Nankervis, Cornwall 2006



Ian and Marion in front of their home in Redruth



Dot & Marion - carrying the PNC banner in the Dewhelans parade at Looe, Sept 2008



On the road to St. Ives

Worldwide Annual St. Piran's Day (taken from our 2nd newsletter Summer 1998!)

A St. Piran's Day for Cornishmen world-wide is the goal of a planning committee working around the globe to annually set aside March 5 to honor the patron saint of tin miners and to honor all Cornishmen. Judy Locy of Lake-of-the-Hills, Illinois, and the North American representative of the Cornish World Magazine, is heading up the committee which includes Marcia Rothman and Jean Timmermeister. PNCS voted (at the annual meeting at the July 1998 picnic) to support this venture. Representatives in New Zealand, England, Canada and Cornwall, as well as US committee members, are working to help communities recognize the Cornish and set aside March 5 each year for St. Piran's Day and join with other Celtic communities in the month of March.

The committee is handling the planning via e-mail and plans also to send ideas for celebration suggestions *via snail mail* to those groups not on-line. It is hoped to make available a calendar (with March 5th in prominent position!) as well as note cards.

The world-wide St. Piran's Day celebration was borne out of an idea of a Cornish descendant in South Carolina who thought Americans of Cornish descent should support the day, was carried on by several others in this country and developed from an original "why don't we?" suggestion. From this simple suggestion has come plans to make St. Piran as important as St. Patrick with Cornish displays and booths at Celtic fairs and similar events, public relations releases world-wide, importance on published calendars, etc

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/>

CORNISH PASTIES & ME
By Alene Reaugh

When I was twelve years old, my Grandmother Lorraine made "Cornish pasties" for everyone in the family. She made enough so that we all had some to freeze and cook later. I didn't know what a pasty was but I knew how much I loved them. For years she would make them for the family about once a year.

When I started High School I would hear other people talking about being Irish or English or Scandinavian and it made me wonder what we were. I asked my mother one day and her response was "I don't know. English, I suppose, or maybe Cornish." I suspect she did know but didn't really know what that meant. I know now that if I had asked my grandmother she would have given me quite an extensive history and told me how her mother and father came from Cornwall in 1900 just before she was born. She was the first to be born in this country; there were four children before her, all born in Cornwall.

My grandmother died in 1984 and after that there were no Cornish pasties to be found anywhere. Then something happened, Google came into my life. I Googled "pasty" and I discovered a whole new world. This was the beginning of my quest to find my Cornish roots. I hooked up with a lot of my relatives I had not seen for years and learned things like "grandpa Hosking always dropped his H's and put them where they didn't belong."

On Google I found Ann's Pasty Shop at the Lizard in Cornwall and they had a wonderful book, "The Pasty" which I just had to order. This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship with Hettie Merrick, the author, and her husband Joe who live in Gunwalloe, Helston, Cornwall. After about two years of letter writing and getting to know each other, they said I really must come and stay with them for a visit. I have been there twice and we plan to make another trip back as soon as we can arrange it.

After joining the Cornish American Heritage Society, I was contacted by Dick Colenso wanting to know if I knew there was a group called the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society, this was the final hook and now I am deeply involved in the Cornish Societies, all my newfound cousins both here and abroad and in all of my family history. And now I know I am Cornish, not English.



A member featured each issue! Please send me something autobiographic and a picture so you can be featured, too! Who wants to go next?

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.com
You can place an order by emailing me at
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

PNCS WEB SITE
<http://www.nwcornishsociety.com/>
Webmaster: Mickey Sieracki
Contact the Society
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 or phone 360-613-1718.
Or go to www.archivecdbooks.org and check out all their CDs.

PNCS 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
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:

Send form filled out to:

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society
486 Plat B Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479-9799

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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



- **The cove at Cot Valley at St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall 2006**
- **by Dorothy Hosking Huntley**