

Next Meeting: July 18, Woodburn, OR



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One of several Google images of a sea monster in Cornish waters



Photograph of a 1976 Sighting?

Morgawr: Fact or figment of a drunken sailor's imagination?

It looked like an elephant waving its trunk as it rose out of the sea near Falmouth, Cornwall. The Falmouth Packet ran a photo of the sea monster, along with a description by the photographer.

"It had a long neck with a small head at the end, like a snake's head," reported Mary, last name unknown, of the strange creature. "The animal frightened me. I would not like to see it any closer. I do not like the way it moved when swimming."

That was in 1976. Mary was not the first to report seeing Morgawr,

which means "sea giant" in Cornish. It's been reported since 1876. A Google map shows sightings from Knightsbridge to Land's End and around to the north of Newquay.

President ShaSha Alsdorf brought to the March PNCS meeting a picture of a strange creature attacking a sailing ship. It looked to be much older than the earliest purported sighting of sea monster, and quite different from the one in the fuzzy photograph in the Falmouth Packet (which has been the subject of debate and ridicule).

ShaSha had no answers, just questions ... Is it real? Is it an unidentified new species? Is it a figment of a drunken sailor's imagination?

Some suggest that it's surviving species of Plesiosaurus, a dinosaur believed to have gone extinct millions of years ago. Others suggest it's a hoax. Think Sasquatch, UFOs or the Loch Ness Monster.

Much has been written about Morgawr and other sea monsters. It's on the World Wide Web. You can believe it ... or not.

Ann Holiday

Why Shirley qualifies as Cornish

Editor's Note: Shirley Ewart is an honorary member of the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society. She is the compiler of a book about the Cornish families of Grass Valley, California, and had proposed such a book for PNCS. Stories are still being collected, although Shirley has relinquished that project. Here she tells why she feels Cornish:

No - I'm not Cornish, but several extended periods in the Duchy should at least qualify me for "naturalized" status!

During the 1930s, holidays in Cornwall were rare treats for London families such as mine. Fortunately, our grandmother, Eliza Turner, managed the Pedn-Olva Hotel in St. Ives which gave us a good reason to stay down there for a week or so during the Christmas school holidays. In the summer, we rented "Trezion," a lovely little house in town.

Winter at Pedn-Olva was really special. There were rarely any guests and the often rough waves beat against the windows of the downstairs bedrooms. It was such fun, snuggling in bed, listening to wild waters outside.

During the daytime, we children could play on the beach, always hearing, but not always paying attention to, the adults' warnings against going near the waters. Remembering that in those were prewashing machine days, all clothes had to be rinsed out by hand, so it is no wonder that no one was enchanted with children in wet, salt-soaked clothing!

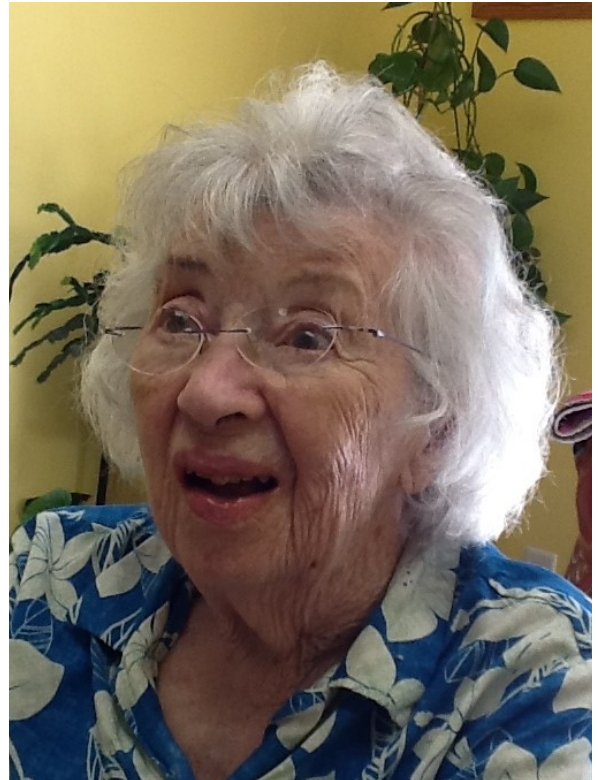
In the summer, of course Pedn-Olva was off limits to us, so we rented Trezion, in the center of St. Ives.

I remember the garden rich with marigolds, and the cobblestones of what was St. Ives' principal thoroughfare. And how, in this warm season, the sea was delightfully cool and the air warm. Of we children, three out of four would soon sport spectacular sun tans; the fourth, poor lamb, would be lobster red and would stay that way for our entire summer!

World War II broke out when I was a teenager and I did not even think of going down to Cornwall. But, the British Army had plans for me, and soon after Basic Training, I received orders to report to Trelassick, on the River Fal.

This was a different Duchy! Gentler, greener, with a placid river instead of a pounding shoreline. The time was just before the invasion and several American ships were tied up on the Fal awaiting orders. So as not to alert the enemy as to their presence, they could not use their anti-aircraft guns, instead relying on the British batteries for protection. Those batteries were manned by A.T.S. (Auxiliary Territorial Service) women, and I had been posted to the headquarters of the anti-aircraft unit as Medical Orderly.

This was indeed a different Duchy. A cozier, greener, more intimate country. I especially enjoyed the vast number and many kinds of flowers: daffodils and narcissus in February when I first arrived. Later there would be camellias, gardenias and other semitropical delights.



With little motorized traffic to worry about, hiking on the narrow country lanes was sheer delight. Or, of course, one could always hike or hitch-hike into Truro for a restaurant meal or to enjoy a movie.

Compared with the turmoil of constant air raids in my London home, the few times we were raided seemed very mild. Too, our social lives were busy, as the nice young Americans on the anchored LST discovered the pretty young A. T. S. girls, and the young women discovered the good looking boys from Massachusetts and Wisconsin and the Far West.

Mine was not the only wedding celebrated between members of the two crews. And, I am sure, mine were not the only half-American children to be brought back to Cornwall to see where Mom and Dad first met.

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society

Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 2015

Woodburn Estates & Golf Club House

1776 Country Club Road

Woodburn, OR

Social time 11-11:30; lunch 11:30 (bring something to share); business meeting at noon,

Program: Sharing Time—Come prepared to share information about your family history in Cornwall, trips to Cornwall or anything else you would like to share about your Cornish roots.

Motions on moving highlight meeting

The March 7, 2015, meeting of the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society was called to order at 12:15 p.m. at Puyallup First Presbyterian Church by president ShaSha Alsdorf

Under New Business was an announcement of the California Cornish Cousins meeting in the Grass Valley, California, area, as described in the Winter 2015 newsletter.

The main discussion centered around how, where and when PNCS should meet. Since many members and a number of prospective members live south of Portland, and the southernmost meeting is in Vancouver, Dot Huntley moved that the July meeting be moved to Portland or south of there. The motion was approved, with two opposed and one abstention. Dot will cancel the reservations at Fort Borst Park in Centralia and scout out a place for this annual meeting.

The membership voted 12-4 that the spring meeting, customarily held in Puyallup, be moved to the Centralia-Chehalis area.

Discussion on adding a fourth

meeting, strictly social, was tabled until the October meeting in Vancouver.

Volunteers were solicited to staff the PNCS booth at various Celtic games. The schedule was listed in the Winter 2015 newsletter.

Dot and ShaSha are trying to make a game or quiz to be given to junior high and high school students who attend the festivals. ShaSha noted that it is important to engage that age crowd and get them interested in their Cornish heritage. Prizes would be offered. E-mail ShaSha with suggestions for the form of the game and questions.

Joyce Fetterby contacted ShaSha asking that anyone with a Thomas in the family tree share any information. Fetterby is writing a book to be called "One Cornishman's Children" about her Thomas relatives, and she's looking for others.

Treasurer Dot Hosking Huntley reported a balance of \$2,153.81, about \$40 less than this time last year. This is because PNCS was represented at more Celtic festivals last

summer than in previous years. Dot will put a budget together for next year. She reported the Society has 52 members, and hall rentals and speaker fees are the major expenditures. The treasurer's report was approved.

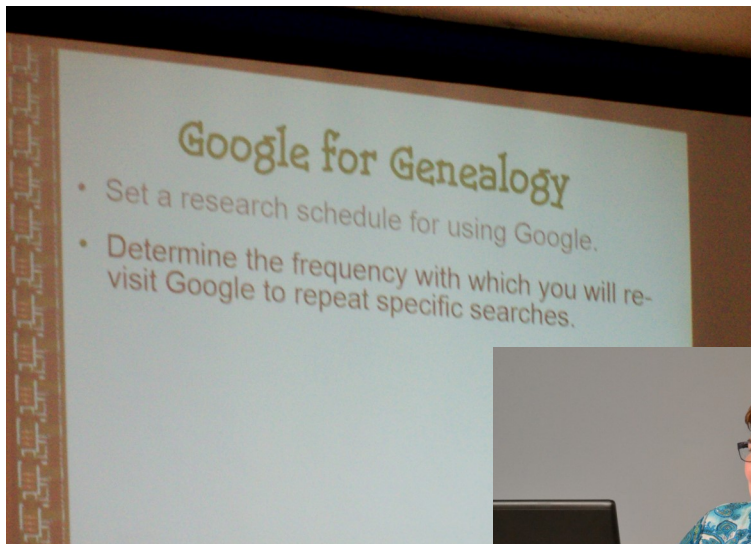
Past president Alene Reaugh suggested that anyone planning a trip to Cornwall who would like to shop for items to sell at the Cornish Country Store let Dot know and she'll give a budget for reimbursement.

Alene showed a looseleaf draft of her book about her great-aunt, who came over between 1914 and 1918, met a man on the train, married him after three weeks, and that was the last anyone ever heard from her. This man married 25 women for their money, many in the Pacific Northwest area, and he murdered at least half of them. He died in San Quentin.

The minutes of the October meeting, as printed in the Winter 2015 newsletter, were not discussed or put up for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Scenes from the March meeting



Nearly 20 members and guests attended the March meeting of the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society in Puyallup. Highlight of the meeting was a talk by Cyndi Ingle, founder of Cyndi's List, a compendium of things genealogical.

Her site can be accessed at <http://www.CyndisList.com>

Advanced Googling for your Grandma

Cyndi Ingles, creator of Cyndi's List, had some words of wisdom on using the Internet to do genealogical research.

She used Google as an example, starting with a basic outline of the search engine's functions.

And she had some helpful hints. For example,

- Set a schedule to determine the frequency with which you will search and the amount of time you will spend on each session.
- Keep a log of your search terms so as not to repeat. Date each entry because what isn't returned today might come up next week.
- List the hits by URL and date.
- Don't assume anything; look for everything.
- Repeat the search with different terms. Tighten and expand your searches.
- Translate some terms into the

language of the ancestor's native country. Google Translate and some web sites will do this for you.

- Look for common misspellings and synonyms of words.
- Use Boolean search operators:
 - "And" for all keywords
 - "Or" to return anything with any of the keywords.
 - "Not" to exclude certain keywords.
- Quotation marks around phrases to return results with that exact phrase.
- Elipses (two dots, no spaces) to indicate date ranges (1861..1865).
- "Daterange:" limits the search to terms indexed by Google during a certain period, such as since your last search.

- * to stand for one word (such as a middle initial).
- "AROUND(n), where n is a number in parentheses, no space, to tell the search engine you want results with words or phrases within (n) words of each other.
- To find genealogy websites, try several different spellings of "genealogy."



Dot Huntley and ShaSha Alsdorf cast their votes at the winter meeting.

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society

Officers

President: Craig Pedlar, ccpedlar@comcast.net
Vice President: ShaSha Alsdorf, CambridgeCt@live.com
Secretary: Ann Holiday, aholiday@seanet.com
Treasurer: Dot Hosking Huntley, Dot@HoaReserves.com
Newsletter editor: Ann Holiday, aholiday@seanet.com

Web site:

www.nwcornishsociety.com

PNCS Meetings

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

Cornish Country Store

Our Cornish Country Store is open 24 hours on line and three times a year live at our meetings. We have a good variety of items your Cornish cousins will love. Please check the website to see pictures of all these items:

www.nwcornishsociety.com/Country%20store.htm

You can place an order by emailing Alene Reaugh at Softwalk2@yahoo.com Sweatshirts and T-shirts can be ordered directly from Café Press at <http://cafepress.com/pnwcs>. In addition, PNCS gets a commission on sales made through the website connection to Amazon.com.

PNCS Library

The PNCS Library is housed with Past President Alene Reaugh. The library welcomes donated books about the Cornish. You can bring donations to one of the meetings or contact Alene at (503) 775-9653 or email her at softwalk2@yahoo.com.

History of Cornwall on CD-ROM

The Parochial History of the County of Cornwall, a four-volume set of books with lots of information on old Cornish families, was donated to us by our Cornish member, Ron Lake, and we had them put on CD-ROM. They are available to borrow or purchase. Contact Joan Huston if interested in obtaining a copy. Tregarthen@gmail.com or phone (360) 613-1718.

Visit Pacific Northwest Cornish Society on Facebook for information on Cornish happenings!

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Webpage: _____

\$15 Individual Member \$25 Dual Membership Amount Enclosed: _____

List Cornish names and areas or parishes of interest:

Send form filled out with check payable to:

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

Cornish Connections

This is a highly arbitrary list. Feel free to suggest other Cornish Connections by e-mailing the Editor

Cornish Global Migration Programme

Collects information about Cornishmen and women who emigrated to England or elsewhere.

www.cornishmigration.org.uk

Cornish Heritage Organizations

Federation of Old Cornwall Societies

<http://oldcornwall.org>

The Cornish-American Heritage Foundation

www.cousinjack.org

New Zealand Cornish Association

www.busby.net/nzca/

The California Cornish Cousins

www.califcornishcousins.org

Cornish Association of Victoria (Australia)

www.cornishvic.org.au

Festivals and Events

Newport Celtic Festival and Highland Games

169 SW Coast Highway

Newport, Oregon 97365

www.newportcelticfestival.com

Cornish Websites

Cornwall Connections

A collection of links to all things Cornish.

www.cornwallconnections.peeple.com

Cornish Global Migration Programme

Collects information about Cornishmen and women who emigrated to England or elsewhere.

www.cornishmigration.org.uk

myCornwall.tv

myCornwall magazine (formerly Cornish World)

Video and print resources seek to make a difference to Cornwall by creating entertaining, educational and thought-provoking content.

<http://www.mycornwall.tv>

West Penwith Resources

Links to resources concerning the far west end of Cornwall.

<http://west-penwith.org.uk/index.htm>

General Genealogy

Washington State Archives

Has 94 million records preserved, 29 million of which are searchable online.

www.digitalarchives.wa.gov

Oregon State Archives

Search for Oregon records on line.

<http://genealogy.state.or.us>

Cyndi's List

More than 290,000 links to genealogy sites. The founder spoke at the March 2011 PNCS meeting.

www.cyndislist.com

FamilySearch

Information from Salt Lake City and elsewhere, plus videos on how to get started on your genealogy.

www.familysearch.org

Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation

Look up your ancestors who came through New York between 1892 and 1924, free.

www.ellisland.org

Bureau of Land Management

Search for land patent records by name and state.

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society

Meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through May at Bates Technical College, 1101 South Yakima Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98405

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~watpcgs/

BYU Idaho Special Collections

Western states marriage records, oral histories and more from Brigham Young University Idaho.

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/>