



Volume 3 Number 2

Spring 2001

## 11th Gathering of Cornish Cousins

September 27-30, 2001

Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Join other Cousin Jacks and Jennies with four days of celebration in a relaxing atmosphere. Come discover your Cornish heritage and culture for a four-day celebration hosted by *The Southwest Cornish Society*.

For additional information please contact:

**Cornish American Heritage Society**  
3438 Penroyal Rd  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

PNCS will report any additional information on this event as we receive it



### PNCS Returning to Family Roots Fair in Bellevue for 2nd Time, March 10th

Eastside Genealogical group's Family Roots-Fair will be held at Crossroads Mall in Bellevue beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, March 10th. Pacific Northwest Cornish Society will once again be represented with a display table. PNCS will join many genealogical and ethnic groups both large and small. It's a really busy shopping mall, and PNCS will be able to introduce the crowd to Cornwall and we can brag about being Cornish.



### Invite the Family and Invite Friends! St. Piran's Day Meeting, March 3

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chehalis, Washington, is the venue selected for the celebration of St Piran's Day by Pacific Northwest Cornish Society members and guests. The meeting will be Saturday, March 3rd.

We'll start after lunch at 1 pm with Program Chairman Mary Sisson in charge of the event. We especially wish to have an extra fine display of Cornish books, materials, pictures, etc., at this time. We will have a light tea and coffee break and ask that you make a special effort to bring some Cornish biscuits (cookies), saffron bread or cake, Cornish Fairings, etc., which can be served to members and guests.

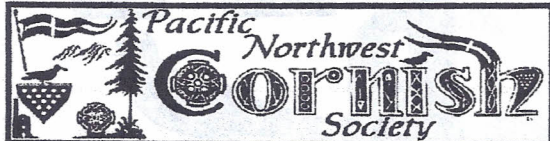
**Directions to meeting place:** Head North or South on Interstate 5. Take the Pe Ell exit and head East. Turn Left on Market Boulevard (near center of town of Chehalis). Westminster Presbyterian Church will be on your Right.



## T-SHIRTS and SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE!

PNCS Sweatshirts and T-shirts are available for sale at every meeting (black PNCS logo on white) in various sizes. Can be mailed (\$3.95 for shipping, via Priority Mail).

Contact Treasurer Joan Huston. Price is \$ \_\_\_\_ for T-shirt or \$ \_\_\_\_ for Sweatshirts via e-mail PNCS123@aol.com



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CONTACT JOAN HUSTON 360-613-1718 or email [jhuston@sincom.com](mailto:jhuston@sincom.com)

## ADDITION TO THE PNCS LIBRARY



We have now a collection videos of the series "POLDARK" in our possession, Part 1 through 4 on 8 cassettes. We also have Cornwall on Camera narrated by Adrian Webster. Our thanks to Ron Lake member # 049 for his generosity!!!!

ATTENTION!! Our library is growing so please everyone keep in mind we need a place to store all our wonderful books and tapes, SO if ANYONE knows of a a public building where we might be able house our growing collection, please let me know, this should be in the right location so everyone could have easy access!!

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS OR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR LIBRARY!!

## PNCS Meetings Four Times a Year

The four meetings of PNCS, of necessity, cannot be in private homes and our annual meeting as well as the St Piran's Day meeting were set expressly to be as near as possible to most of the members (approximately midway between Seattle and Portland) but our small annual dues would not allow us to rent most facilities for *all* meetings.

PNCS meets to celebrate the Cornish patron saint's day: St Piran's Day as near to March 5th as possible in which we learn about Cornishness. A May meeting was voted to be for Cornish genealogy, followed by an annual meeting in July which is a picnic as well, and then, in early autumn, a meeting with a general program.

The officers would appreciate information on free meeting places south of Seattle/Tacoma and north of Portland. The location must be in close proximity to the Interstate for obvious reasons. Let an officer know specifics if you have a place in mind.

## OUR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Second week in January

Second week in May

Second week in August

Second week in November

Send articles, pictures, ads, notices, whatever, to:

[Marci@whidbey.com](mailto:Marci@whidbey.com) or [jhuston@sincom.com](mailto:jhuston@sincom.com)

Or mail to: PNCS

10116 Stoli Lane NW

Silverdale, WA 98383

Make sure they get to us prior to the above deadlines to be included in the next newsletter.

## PNCS Web Site

[www2.whidbey.net/kernow/pnCS/pnCS.html](http://www2.whidbey.net/kernow/pnCS/pnCS.html)

e-mail [PNCS123@aol.com](mailto:PNCS123@aol.com)

## QUERIES and MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Please send me your queries to put in the next newsletter Marcia Rothman PO 43, Langley, WA, 98260 USA or E-MAIL [roots@whidbey.com](mailto:roots@whidbey.com)



## jottings from jean .....

Dear PNCS members and friends:

**Celebrate our 'patron saint's' day on Saturday, March 3rd when PNCS has its annual St Piran's Day event.** The Irish and Welsh have nothing on us! It is *our* month, too. Be at this coming meeting and bring family and friends along. And, bring your family tree, share some Cornish music, tell us about your Cornish family then. Again, we have planned this meeting for you by arranging the venue midway between the population centers of Portland and Seattle to serve the most PNCS members. One pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Chehalis.

Members will be excited to hear about the publicity we have had in recent months: *Cornish Forefathers Society* quarterly journal (Oct. 2000 issue) featured an article on Pacific Northwest Cornish Society. From that article, guess what? **The *Western Morning News* paper wrote an article on PNCS!**

I am waiting for a 'cutting' of that one from Pam Drake, editor of the *Cornish Forefathers* journal who saw the paper. I had joined the *Cornish Forefathers* and Mrs. Drake asked me to tell her about PNCS but neither of us ever guessed the newspaper would pick up a story on our Society!

Likewise I have been working on some more articles but I can tell you that we had a nice one in the London Cornish Association publication (also October 2000). *Cornish World* magazine has often included PNCS in its issues: we always appreciate that.

**And now it is time for each of you to tell others about PNCS ..... to share your Cornishness with others of like kind and to get more members.** Let's plan to reach 100 by annual meeting this summer. It means we need the help of many members, not just a few. Let's ask each 1 to bring 1 .... each PNCS member must know of at least one more of Cornish ancestry that might be invited to join with us. I was judging an international photographic slide competition in November in Arizona. Upon quizzing a friend learned that she was Cornish and knew virtually nothing about her ancestry. We welcome Nancy (Coad) Sams to PNCS.

**Won't you help share Cornish ancestry and build our organization?**

Jean Richards Timmermeister,  
PNCS #003

## Columbia River Branch Celebrates Holidays

The Columbia River Branch, those PNCS folks who live in the Portland-Vancouver area, gathered December 9 at the Sisson home for pasties, singing and sharing our Cornish heritage with the next generations.

Our own local bard, John King, brought his guitar and led us in Cornish folk songs. He told the story behind "Camborne Hill," about Trevithick's steam engine, and his son, Gowan, added details. He was a wealth of information as questions about Cornwall and Cornishness arose (and he made great pasties).

While we lacked a Yule log, we were not lacking in the warmth of the season. Jim and Bonnie Faull, Bev Conway, Bonnie LaDoe, Mary Sisson and Vern Varcoe were joined by Bruce Bolitho, a Welshman from Butte, and his wife, Helen; and by children and grandchildren—about 20 people in all.

Hello to all my fellow PNCS members.

The celebration of St Piran's Day for PNCS members and friends will be Saturday, March 3 (can't quite have it on the exact St Piran's day, but close enough!).

We will have publicity in area newspapers: we want to introduce Cornishness, Cornish music, Cornish books, magazines, etc., to our visitors.

I am planning a speaker for us and we want to see lots of special Cornish things on display. Gay Knutson will share excerpts from a diary, dated 1864 to 1919, from Hayle to Wisconsin. Expect some singing and some sharing and some learning about the land we all come from.

We need to know what YOU will share with others at this special event. Please co-address an e-mail to Mary

sisson@worldaccessnet.com

and

LJRT@tenforward.com

in order that we can have a good idea. Please tell us by February 1st what you will sing, bring, dance, tell!

We will get the press releases out and hope for 50 or more visitors.

Likewise, please plan to bring some Cornish finger-foods that day. Let us know what you will bring to share.

Mary Sisson

We hear that Charter Member Betty Read Scott is off again to Cornwall and will be at Helston Flora Day (Furry Day) on May 8th.



### **New Society Formed**

A new Cornish Society was formed in the Okanagon of British Columbia last year. Royston Brunst (who was president of the Vancouver Cornish group at the time) was one of the instigators of the group and became its first president. Wife Mary Brunst then became president of Vancouver Cornish!

### **The New Banner**

Special thanks to Judy Berg who has been working hard to get the banner production underway. For months we've been 'going steady' on e-mail, trying to get the PNCS banner done in time for the March 3rd meeting and the March 10th genealogy fair. Alas, just about everything has gone sour and we haven't a finished banner at this writing. Special thanks, too, to Gay Knutson who has had experience with banners: her ideas have always kept things going and we may yet use her suggestion for another kind of colorful banner. We WILL have a new banner, but maybe not quite on schedule. We will use the original black and white vinyl one outside, on buildings, etc., when we have our annual meeting or such but the new colorful one we want to have when members go to the bi-annual Gathering of Cornish Cousins (this year in Wisconsin in September), at our table at the genealogy fair, etc.

JT

Wishing everyone well from Southern California where we are enjoying the warm weather and blue skies. But, we did have rain for two days...almost like home!

Here's wishing the PNCS St Piran's Day gathering is a great success.

Jim....and Bonnie

### **"21 SONGS of CORNWALL!"**

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The FIRST & BEST Recorded Album of Traditional Cornish Folksongs.

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By means of multi-tracking, Ian Marshall has created intriguing and entertaining arrangements of the songs, singing and playing all parts. Some are heard with guitar or the traditional sounds of accordion, flute, drums, etc. Some are unaccompanied, some heard in 3-4 parts of vocal harmony.

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Order Direct from  
Ian Marshall  
24, Trevecca, Liskeard,  
Cornwall PL14 6RH  
Tel: 01579 346284

### **Cornish American Heritage Society**

Many years ago, the first Cornish Society in North America was formed with the help of Mrs. Dorothy Sweet, who came from Cornwall to various places in the US. (Dorothy, now of Victoria BC, stayed with me in Seattle for several days. She is also a founding member of the Cornwall Family History Society.) The organization was centered in the mid-west and I was member #12, joining up with the group right away.

PNCS members may wish to join the Cornish American Heritage Society for just \$10 annually and receive Tam Kernewek, the newsletter. Several of us do belong and PNCS is an affiliate society of CAHS. It is CAHS which promotes the biennial Gathering of Cornish Cousins.

In 1991, Dorothy Sweet chaired the Gathering on the campus of University of Victoria (BC) where PNCS member Vern Varcoe and I met. I gave a presentation on Cornish genealogy at that time.

Send check for \$10 to treasurer,

**William J. Curnow, Jr.**  
3438 Pennyroyal RD  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

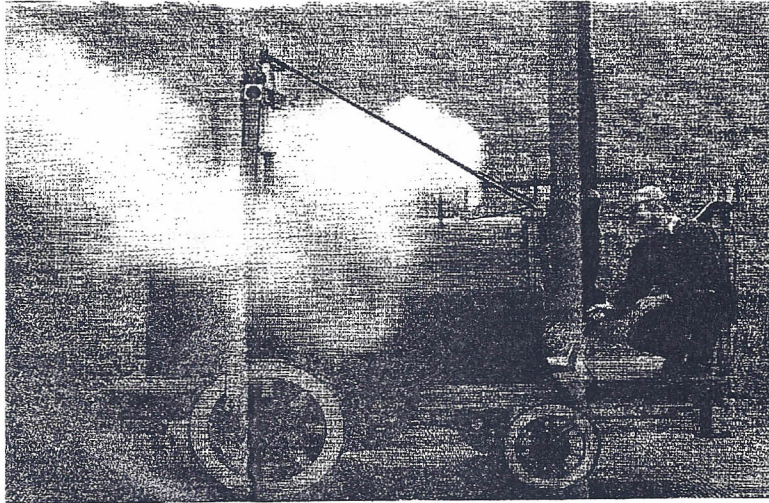
Send names of your Cornish ancestors and their parishes, if known.

I think you would enjoy keeping up with North American Cornish information and Cornish culture.

JT



## NEWS FROM CORNWALL



### “Puffing Devil” steams out into the daylight

A frightened woman who saw the terrible machine coming towards her 200 years ago is said to shrieked out: “Tis like a Puffing Devil.”

The “Devil” is now out of the bag and should be puffing down the streets of a Cornish town, where it has been skillfully constructed for the past two years, at a major commemoration next year. The replica of the world’s first car—one of the most important invention of the Cornish engineering genius Richard Trevithick—has now been completed, and came out into the daylight for the first time December 6, 2000. The wheels are on, the steering is in place, and the Trevithick replica was shown to some of the people who had worked on her. The vehicle is now almost ready to move under its own steam. But a little more work has to be done before she is capable of, like the original in the famous Cornish song, “Going Up Camborne Hill.” Trevithick built and operated the original steam vehicle to carry passengers on Christmas Eve, 1801. He followed this with the first self-propelled vehicle to run on London’s streets, and then by locomotives on rails, a quarter of a century before Stephenson’s Rocket.

Project engineer John Sawle proudly steamed up the replica at the Compare Holman Works at Camborne. Eventually the replica should thunder along the streets of Camborne at a rickety four miles an hour. She has wooden block brakes to arrest her progress, and fuel consumption is a fairly hefty eight miles to the hundred-weight. This equates to about 1 lb. a mile—not bad for the short drive around Camborne which will be her maiden public journey on Trevithick Day, Saturday, April 28, 2001, and the following day. It will be the Trevithick steam car’s first journey through her native town for 200 years; and it has been made possible by the work of a band of enthusiasts who have raised the money needed and also put in hours of skilled work to design the vehicle, build the parts and put them together.

The Trevithick Society embarked on the project in 1996. Grants and donations were received from the European Regional Development Fund, Kerrier District Council, the Tanner Trust, the West of England Traction Engine Society, Camborne Town Council, Mr Frank Trevithick Okuno and others. Design and engineering drawing was undertaken by John Sawle, a traction engine owner. The design was evolved by Trevithick Society engineers based on an impression of his father’s locomotive by Francis Trevithick. “She is running at atmospheric pressure today, and we have the safety valves open,” Mr Sawle said. “We will test-drive her before hand, but she won’t be on the road until Trevithick Day.”

**NOTE:** 1801—Richard Trevithick constructed the first passenger-carrying steam engine known locally as the puffing devil at Penydaren; his engine was the first to run on rails and carry passengers, it carried ten tons of iron, seventy men and five wagons a distance of nine and a half miles at 5 mph. His circular railway ran on the site of the future Euston station during 1808 where rides were offered for one shilling a head during July and August. The high pressure principle indicated in the patent of 1802 dates to the era of the locomotive. His marine interests included work in 1808 on a ship’s propeller and iron tanks for ships; in 1809 iron docks, ships masts and spars, buoys, other inventions included a surface condenser and the first central heating system for rooms.



# THE BEAST OF BODMIN MOOR

from Fran Anderson PNCS Member 014

I was prompted to transcribe this in March after viewing a TV report on the Beast of Bodmin Moor, about large wild cats on the moor. Perhaps the beast that my g-g-great uncle saw before 1800 was an ancestor of the recently sighted beasts. The attached account is from pages 36-39 of the Biography of Samuel Drew, published 1834. At the time of the incident (circa 1780), Samuel Drew was apprenticed to a shoemaker named Baker, at Tregrehan mill, in the parish of St. Blazey, and about three miles from St. Austell town.

Smuggling, at the time of Mr. Drew's apprenticeship, was more common in Cornwall than it is in the present day. Very few esteemed it a breach of moral duty; and to engage in it was not considered dishonourable. The ingenuity frequently displayed, in baffling pursuit, and evading detection, gained the applause of the public, who regarded the officers of the revenue as enemies of the common good. This was an occupation quite congenial with Samuel's adventurous spirit, and it pleased his excited fancy after reading 'Paul Jones.' He had formed an acquaintance with some persons who were in the habit of assisting smugglers; and, without his master's knowledge or consent, was frequently absent on their nocturnal expeditions. It was while engaged in a smuggling or poaching affair, not far from his master's house, that an incident occurred, which he frequently related, as having made a very deep impression on his memory.

"There were several of us, boys and men, out about twelve o'clock, on a bright moonlight night. What we were engaged about, I do not exactly remember. I think we were poaching; but it was something that would not bear investigation. The party were in a field, adjoining the road leading from my master's to St. Austell, and I was stationed outside the hedge, to watch and give the alarm, if any intruder should appear. While thus occupied, I heard what appeared to be the sound of a horse, approaching from the town, and I gave a signal. My companions paused, and came to the hedge where I was, to see the passenger. They looked through the bushes, and I drew myself close to the hedge, that I might not be observed. The sound increased, and the supposed horseman seemed drawing near. The clatter of the hoofs became more and more distinct. We all looked to see who and what it was; and I was seized with a strange, indefinable feeling of dread, when, instead of a horse, there appeared coming towards us, at an easy pace, but with the same sound which first caught my ear, a creature, about the height of a large dog. It went close by me; and, as it passed, it turned upon me and my companions huge fiery eyes, that struck terror to all our hearts. The road where I stood, branched off in two directions, in one of which there was a gate across. Towards this gate it moved; and, without any apparent obstruction, went on at its regular trot, which we heard several minutes after it had disappeared. Whatever it was, it put an end to our occupation, and we made the best of our way home.

(Continued in the next issue of PNCS.)

## Oatey family reunion

More than 60 members of an old Cornish family who can trace their roots back 350 years came from all over the world to Cornwall for a special reunion.

The Oatey family have researched their family tree and found it goes back to the 1600s, when Peter Othy, a Huguenot, settled in Cornwall to escape persecution from the Catholics.

Since then, while most of his descendants have stayed on Cornish soil, many have scattered to the four corners of the earth.

Peter and Eileen Oatey, of St Austell, were keen to catch up with all their relatives and so organised an Oatey family reunion in Falmouth.

Among those who made their way to Cornwall for the event was 83-year-old Jack, who travelled from California to meet his relatives. Australian Oateys Joshua and Natalie were also there, as was Kathryn who travelled with five of her family to Cornwall from Seattle.

Linda and Jennifer, also from Washington State, were at Falmouth at the weekend and were amazed to learn Kathryn and her family live just 40 miles away from them back home.

Organisers Peter and Eileen gave out questionnaires on the day to spot possible family traits. Of the 65, five were special needs teachers, and several were vicars, police officers, and members of the services.

The next Oatey family get-together is planned for 2005 and anyone who can add information to the family tree can contact Nigel Oatey at [oatey@stone10.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:oatey@stone10.freeserve.co.uk), or on 01569 763950.

April 20, 2000

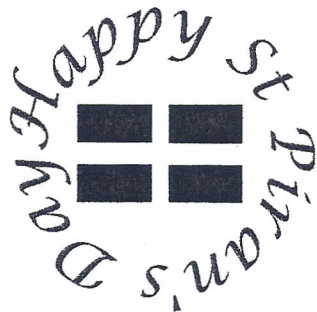
## ST PIRAN DAY CARD and POSTER

The following two pages I put together in hopes you will use them to wish others a Happy St Piran's Day and also spread the word about March 5th.

There is a card to fold in half and in half again and send to someone, and there is a poster to post in a public place for others to learn from.

**GOOD IDEA!!!** Make many copies of them to send and post to your heart's content.... Marcie





# March 5th St Piran's Day

St. Piran is the patron saint of the Cornish tanners. It is said that he sailed to Cornwall on a millstone from Ireland. The stone had originally been tied around his neck by people that were jealous of St. Piran's power to heal and work miracles. So they cast into the Atlantic to rid of him.

As he was being thrown off the cliff there was a bolt of lightning and a terrible crash of thunder. When St. Piran reached the sea, the storm mysteriously stopped and the sun came out. When the people looked in the water for St. Piran, amazingly they saw him seated peacefully on the millstone which was now floating on the surface of the water. The millstone bore him safely across the water where he landed safely in Cornwall between Newquay and Perranporth at Perran Beach, to which he gave his name.

Piran built himself a small chapel in Penhale sands and his first disciples were said to be a badger, a fox and a bear. He lived a good and useful life, surviving to the old age of 206!



Would you like to know more about St Piran, Cornwall, the Cornish, Pacific Northwest Cornish Society or International Saint Piran Organizing Committee?  
please contact:

Jean (360) 681-7059 or [ljrt@tenforward.com](mailto:ljrt@tenforward.com)

Joan (360) 613-1718 or [jhuston@sincom.com](mailto:jhuston@sincom.com)

Marcie (360) 321-9392 or [marci@whidbey.com](mailto:marci@whidbey.com)

or visit our website

<http://www2.whidbey.net/kernow/pncs/pncs.html>



Fly the  flag

## ***PNCS Officers***

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Silverdale, WA 98383  
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jhuston@sincom.com

*The purpose of this society, organized as a non-profit Corporation, shall be educational. It shall be devoted to furthering Cornish heritage genealogical research in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.*

**MEMBERSHIP:** Individual Membership: \$10.00  
Dual Membership: \$15.00  
Lifetime Membership: a one-time payment of dues 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  
10116 Stoli Lane NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

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