



Volume 4 Number 2

Spring 2002

## NEXT PNCS MEETING MARCH 2, 2002

On March 2, 2002, we will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Olympia LDS Church at 1116 Yew Ave. NE. We will be given a tour of the Family History Center and a presentation by Connie Bailey on "How to Do Effective Family Research."

### Directions to the church:

From the North: Take exit 105-B off I-5. Plum Ave. will take you into Olympia. 4th St. will be a light. Turn Right on the one-way street. Go thru the first light, stay in the left lane, and turn left on the next street (Puget). Cross the one-way street coming into Olympia. Go 4 blocks to Yew St. The church is on your left.

From the South: Take exit 105. Turn left and follow the above directions on Plum Ave.

## Happy St Piran Day!!!

Piran was born in Ireland where he is said to have performed many miracles such as raising from the dead soldiers slain in battle and hounds killed whilst hunting wild boar and deer. The kings of Ireland (of which there were many - kings ruled over areas and not countries) were not impressed and maybe just a little jealous. They condemned Piran to be thrown into the sea. He was shackled to a millstone and thrown over the cliffs into stormy waters. At this very moment the sun broke through the storm and a beam of sunlight struck the millstone. The waters became still and hundreds watching were immediately converted to Christianity. Piran, still on his millstone, eventually landed at Perranporth (Piran's Port) in Cornwall on the 5th March - and is still celebrated today as Saint Piran's Day.

(Continued on page 4)

## The Why and Ways of the Cornish Dialect

by Joy Stevenson

Dialect sayings are interesting, and above all facetious, often going completely over the head of many people. In complaining to a friend about the weather I was told, "*Tiz awnly a bit av Crofthandy dry drizzle.*" Well I know Crofthandy is near St. Day, but "dry drizzle", now that is a Cornish enigma and probably an example of the Cornish ability to make the best of everything and not complain. "*Who do ee think iz goin stop their orse und cart ta look at you*" was often the reply to a young girl wanting another new coat.

(Continued on page 6)

Message from Mary.....

Pacific Northwest Cornish Society is not a closed club. Our doors (wherever they are at any given meeting) are wide open to anyone with a drop of Cornish blood, a love of Cornwall, or a love of a Cornish person (such as my husband and sister-in-law).

With just a few years behind us, we are still in the growing stage — as we always should be. We need to continue to recruit new members, because new members bring in fresh ideas and energy. They carry on what we're about. They bring in other new members. They pay dues and might even be willing to take an office or chair a committee.

We, of course, would hope to offer to them the chance to learn the history of our Cornish people, both at 'ome and in North America; to connect with other Cornish people and gain friends and maybe even family; to learn Cornish culture and language and music; to find links to their family trees as they trace their genealogy.

The next meeting, our St. Piran's celebration in Olympia March 2, gives us the perfect opportunity to expand our circle. Do you know someone of Cornish descent who doesn't know about us? Ask that person to join you! It's more fun to carpool, anyway.

Maybe you can't think of anyone offhand. But if you let it be known you're in a Cornish Society, it's amazing the Cousin Jacks and Jennys you'll find. In the last year I've met fellow Cornish folk at our high school booster club, a quilter's group, church, and a tea party. In some cases it came up in conversation; in others I noticed the Cornish last name and told them about PNCS. Yowann Byghan walked into an office wearing his Cornish flag lapel pin and walked out with a new member. All these people have been invited to our Columbia River branch pot luck as well as the March 2 meeting.

So keep your eyes open for folks with Tre-, Ros-, Pol-, Lan-, Car- and Pen- names as well as the Varcoes and Pascoes and Colensos and Curnows and other common Cornish surnames. There's a whole list at <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~kevrenor/csnames.htm>. Put a Cornish flag on your car. Read Cornish World while waiting for an appointment. Eat pasties in public. Look for Cornish people and let others know where your roots are.

I will have more PNCS brochures to pass out at the March 2 meeting. Please think of where you could leave a stack — British gift shops, tea shops, pubs, or genealogical societies, for example. Keep some in your glove box or purse just in case you meet a Couch or a Trevithick or a Rowe. We may not have the historical concentration of Cornish folk you'll find in Wisconsin or Pennsylvania, but in this great corner of the U.S. we still have plenty of room to grow our society.

On a personal note, our family tree will add another link in April when our son and his wife have their firstborn. You can bet she will know she's Cornish if this grandma has anything to do with it!

See you March 2, and don't forget our campout August 2-4 in Joyce on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula — even if you camp in a motel!

## EARLY TRANSPORTATION IN CORNWALL

(From The Cornish Crier, Cornish Heritage Society East)

According to Ms Richmond, walking was the basic means of transportation in Cornwall. Men walked to work in the mines and men, women and children walked to church, chapel and other social occasions because, to quote Ms Richmond, "There was no other way to get there...".

Other than walking, other means of getting from here to there would be by horse or ponies, which were used either for riding or pulling small carts and wagons. \*

This article described one such vehicle, the Jersey Wagon. This conveyance was an open wagon designed to seat a crowd of people. Twenty to thirty passengers could fit in the wagon, which was drawn by two or more horses. Of course, there was no protection from the elements, so the passengers were at the mercy of the weather.

Another vehicle in use during this era was called a "Horse Bus". It looked something like the stagecoaches in the United States except that it carried many more passengers. There were several seats inside the carriage and others outside on top. Sometimes the outside seats were arranged in steps allowing passengers in the back a good view as well. It took three or four horses to pull this type of conveyance.

Horse drawn wagons were used extensively by many businesses and were designed for a specific purpose. Examples of these vehicles would have those used by milkmen, butchers, hot chip sellers, hansom cabs, and porters to carry luggage and trunks to and from the railroad.

By the turn of the century, bicycle travel became popular and was a faster way of traveling about. With the addition of a sidecar basket, a passenger could ride along.

Around 1912, motorbikes became available, providing a faster way of traveling about. With the addition of a sidecar basket, a passenger could ride along.

In 1902, in the Camborne-Redruth area, the Camborne-Redruth Tramway came into being. The Tramway was powered by electricity from the Camborne-Redruth Electric Works, and was in existence until about 1927. This means of transportation was unique because it was the only tramway in Cornwall and one of few in England.

The development of the steam engine and motorcar slowly changed transportations in early Cornwall. Circa 1905-1910, some businesses had steam wagons, which were used for the delivery of their products to customers.

Early in the twentieth century motorbuses, sometimes called "charabancs" were in use in Cornwall. Most of them carried 20-30 passengers and were open to the weather. Some of the buses were partly enclosed for passengers, with the driver sitting outside in front in all types of weather.

The railroads also were a major means of transportation early on in Cornwall. The thousands of miners and others who emigrated to foreign lands as a rule traveled by train to the various ports of embarkation. Trains were widely used by the Cornish to travel around the country for work, visits, and family and church excursions. Many of the railroad stations in Cornwall are very old. For example, the Redruth Railroad Station, which was built in 1843-44, is still in use today, although it has been enlarged and expanded over the years.

\* My Cornish cousin called it a Donkey Shay.

*St Piran cont. from page 1*

St. Piran's oratory is now buried beneath the sands but there are many crosses to the Saint. The Cornish flag, the Flag of St. Piran (white cross on a black background) represents white tin flowing from black rock or good overcoming evil

The dates of Piran are debatable, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (1894) says he was born in Cape Cleer, converted to Christianity, went to Rome where he was baptised and ordained and returned to Ireland in 402 after 20 years absence. Meyrick 1982 in 'A Pilgrims Guide to the Holy Wells of Cornwall' gives a date of 460 with the church at Perranporth dated as 6th Century. However, it is alleged that Piran lived to be 206 and died about 560 (he got drunk and fell down a well - hence Saint Piran's Well).

Follow up to the legend. Either the millstones were very light, or some sort of boat was used. This could have been a coracle (same shape as a millstone) with possibly a flat stone used as ballast or carrying an altar stone. This is pure conjecture. St Piran's oratory near Perranporth has been covered by sand more than once. He is one of the Patron Saints of Cornwall, the others being St Michael and St Petroc. Michael is associated with St Michael's Mount and Petroc with Padstow (Petroc's Stow, stow=church) The St Michael is not the St Michael the Archangel, associated with slaying the devil, Coventry Cathedral and Michaelmas on September 29th.

Our St Michael enjoys his own feast day celebrated at Truro Diocese on May 8th as 'St Michael, Protector of Cornwall'. St Piran has March 5th, 'St Piran of Cornwall, Abbot', and St Petroc has June 4th 'St Petroc of Cornwall, Abbot'. These last two dedications say something about the multitude of Saints to be found in Cornwall. Saints could be heads of orders, parish priests, hermits, monks, the exact status of many not being known. There were female saints as well, St Keyne having a well near Looe and St Ia, having floated from Ireland on a leaf founded St Ives.

Taken from John & Sandy Colby Website

<http://www.btinternet.com/~johnandsandy.colby/index.html>

**FIRST PNCS CAMPOUT Aug. 2-4**

**The annual meeting and picnic will take a new twist this year: it will be a campout on the northern Olympic Peninsula. Gay Knutson and her husband, Craig, have opened up their farmlette in Joyce for the first-ever Pacific Northwest Cornish Society campout. There's camping nearby at Salt Creek County Park, or those for whom camping is a motel room will find options in Port Angeles. A full-service trailer/campground is less than a mile from Gay's place.**

**The annual meeting will take place Saturday afternoon. Having a whole weekend opens up possibilities for workshops or activities beyond what we can usually do at one meeting. Anyone willing to organize food, workshops, fun, or logistics? Please contact Mary Sisson — (360) 695-9148, or [sissonrm@qwest.net](mailto:sissonrm@qwest.net).**

**During the weekend Bard Yowann Byghan will perform a house naming ceremony at the Knutsons' farm, officially making the farm's name reveth an Dowrlam, meaning homestead on the waterfall.**

**Plan to come, and bring everyone and anyone who loves Cornwall.**

## Humphry Davy

**Humphry Davy**, a woodcarver's son, was born in Penzance in 1778. After being educated in Truro, Davy was apprenticed to a Penzance surgeon. In 1797 he took up chemistry and was taken on by **Thomas Beddoes**, as an assistant at his Medical Pneumatic Institution in Bristol. Here he experimented with various new gases and discovered the anesthetic effect of laughing gas (nitrous oxide).

Davy published details of his research in his book *Researches, Chemical and Philosophical* (1799). This led to Davy being appointed as a lecturer at the Royal Institution. He was a talented teacher and his lectures attracted large audiences.



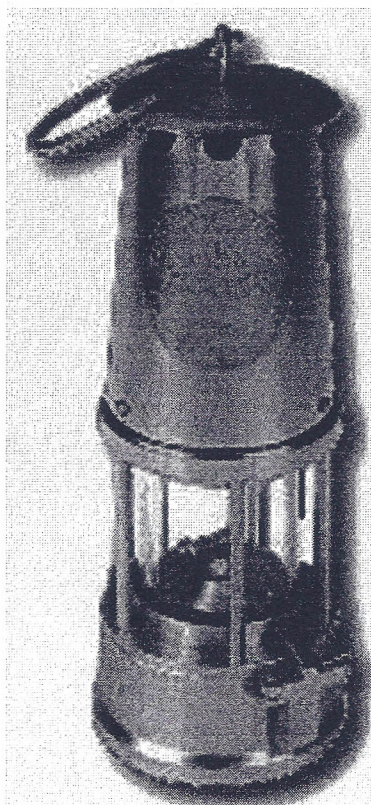
In 1806 Davy published *On Some Chemical Agencies of Electricity*. The following year he discovered that the alkalis and alkaline earths are compound substances formed by oxygen united with

metallic bases. He also used electrolysis to discover new metals such as potassium, sodium, barium, strontium, calcium and magnesium.

Davy was now considered to be Britain's leading scientist and in 1812 was knighted by George III. With his assistant, Michael Faraday, Davy travelled abroad investigating his theory of volcanic action.

In 1815 **Humphry Davy** invented a safety lamp for use in gassy coalmines, allowing deep coal seams to be mined despite the presence of firedamp (methane). This led to some controversy as George Stephenson, working in a colliery near Newcastle, also produced a safety lamp that year. Both men claimed that they were first to come up with this invention.

One of Davy's most important contributions to history was that he encouraged manufacturers to take a scientific approach to production. His discoveries in chemistry helped to improve several industries including agriculture, mining and tanning. **Sir Humphry Davy** died in 1829.



To describe anyone who is big and fat there is the saying "*she's like a geat oss marine*". I am not sure where that comes from. But to say "*she's like tha end av a owse*" describes the end of a Cornish house where the cloam oven was built in, so sticks out big and round (broad in the beam).

With so many local preachers years ago who preached in our chapels in broad dialect it is no surprise to hear that if the Bible was translated into our dialect, "Verily, verily I say unto you" would become "*Sure nuff, sure nuff, ark ta me my andsums*".

The Cornish have always had hard times and the saying "*weem penny laikun*" and the ability for the Cornish to manage on very little money very well comes out in the old saying "*well, we da push away dawn't us?*" For someone in dire straits we say "*eeze angun from tha auvuss be iz tawnails*", auvuss being the eaves of a house.

Most Cornish women "*wet up a few buns each week*", and anyone rolling out pastry for their pasties will know the irritation of the pastry being awkward, as my neighbour said to me "*tha pastry wuz clidged up ta tha rawlun pin*", clidgy being sticky like toffee. I remember years ago old people pouring tea from their cup into the saucer to drink from, I never understood why unless it got cooler more quickly. It was certainly frowned upon by my mother. I remember the story of Granny who would insist on putting her tea in her saucer and was told not to do it as her grand-daughter's boyfrind was coming to tea. Halfway through the tea Granny had had enough and said, "*Aw guss on, chap or know chap, I'm goin saucer me tay.*"

My mother always called people who were two faced "*Jan jansy*". I doubt if she knew much about the classics or the fact that the saying must have come from the Roman Janus the two faced god of doors.

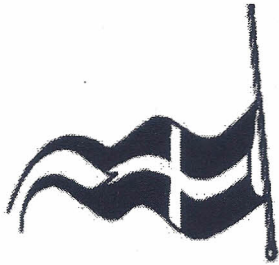
Cornish men love "*ta git ee goin*", and quite deliberately say things which leave people looking "*maazed*". A visitor in a house I was in dropped and broke a mug. The Cornishman quick as lightening said, "*There, youm brawke un in three halves.*" Still the laughter that brought forth eased an awkward situation.

Mind you we are not slow in complaining and most Cornish like a strong "*cup tay*". Weak tea is "*tay begrudged und waturr bewitched*".

Cornish women love to bake and put on a good table, and this all goes with a bit of Cornish gass.

*Ere, draw yurr cheer up ta tha slab  
pour outa a cuppa tay,  
I gawt a pasty in tha clawm  
Ee'l be out bout appast three.  
Til then we'll av a bit av gass  
while I da put me daw ta plum,  
my gar I'm chacked und leary  
bin goin since day begun.  
Ere, I gawt a bit av nicey  
in me fuggunjar,  
tiz sum fairuns I ba-aked Monday  
we'll clunk they down my gar.  
Ere, eap um on yurr platchette  
you kent beat a bit av awme ma-ade  
they'm sweet und crisp und fitty,  
you waint find know betturr tra-ade.*

St. Piran's Day



March 5th

### The Legend of St. Piran

Legend tells us that St. Piran, the patron saint of the tanners, was cast into the Atlantic with a millstone tied to his neck by people jealous of his powers to heal & work miracles.

A bolt of lightning & a terrible crash of thunder came as they tossed him into the sea. The storm stopped & the sun came out & St. Piran could be seen safely sitting on the millstone as it floated him safely across to Cornwall.

Piran built a small chapel in Penhale and his first disciples was a badger, a fox and a bear.

He lived a good and useful life, surviving to the old age of 206!

*Celebrate*  
*St. Piran's Day*

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11

12

13



Happy St  
Piran's Day



## 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 Pirans power to heal and work miracles. So they cast him into the Atlantic to be 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 they amazingly 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 connect:

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

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

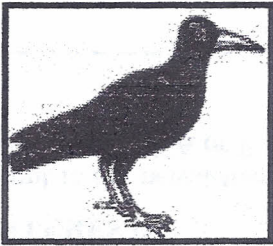
or visit our website <http://www2.whidbey.net/kernow/pncs/pncs.html>



Fly the  flag



**Only a Few Left!!! We need a new source! HELP!**  
**SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE! T-Shirts all gone!**  
 PNCS Sweatshirts 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 Yowann Byghan. Price is \$20.



**BUMPER STICKERS FOR YOUR CAR OR.....?**  
**AVAILABLE NOW! \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00**

Contact Joan Huston at [joan@tregarthen.com](mailto:joan@tregarthen.com) or call 360-613-1718, or mail money to 10116 Stoli Lane NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.

**THE PNCS LIBRARY**

**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 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!



**PNCS ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Members unanimously voted to conduct three meetings each year. The normal schedule will be for a meeting in March (St Piran's Day recognition); July (Annual meeting for election of officers); and October. For planning purposes, the July meeting will normally be at Ft Borst Park and the March and October meetings will be divided between a location in the Olympic Peninsula area for members located in the northwestern parts of the state and the Puyallup-Olympia area for those in the southern locations.

**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 [joan@tregarthen.com](mailto:joan@tregarthen.com)  
 Or mail to: PNCS  
 10116 Stoli Lane NW  
 Silverdale, WA 98383

**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)

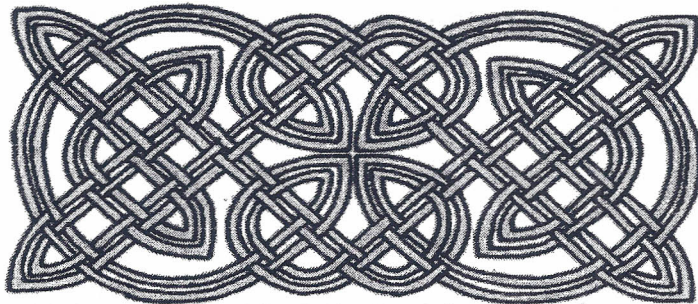
**QUERIES and MEMBER'S INTERESTS**

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

**ST PIRAN DAY CARD and POSTER**

Inserted in the this issue is a St. Pirans Day Card and Poster for you to use to help promote St Pirans Day. Fold the card in half and in half again, slip into an envelope and send it to your friends. Take the poster in a public place and help spread the word about St Piran and St Piran's Day.

Make many copies of the card and poster on a copy machine, for more cards and posters to send and post .... Marcie



**BURIED IN WOOLEN**

By Trixie Gilham

During part of the reign of Charles II (1630-1685) one had to be buried in wool, a legal form had to be signed by the officiating clergy and a witness, to this effect, The reason for this custom was that the wool industry was the chief source of wealth in Britain, people were encouraged to use wool in every possible way.

In 1660 it was against the law to export wool, but ways and means of smuggling it across the channel made it a hopeless task.

Later the law was altered and by 1750 the export of wool accounted for a third of the entire value of English exports. Cloth was woven in many village cottages and was one of the oldest most useful crafts.

**Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership**

**MAIL TO:** Pacific Northwest Cornish Society 9009 NE 22nd Circle Vancouver, WA 98664

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip:

Phone:

Email address:

Webpage:

\$10 Individual member \$15 Dual Membership

## ***PNCS Officers***

**President** *Mary Sisson*  
*Vancouver, WA*  
*(360) 695-9148*  
*sissonrm@qwest.net*

**Secretary:** *Jim Faull*  
*Vancouver, WA*  
*(360) 254-0461*  
*jimfaull@juno.com*

**Newsletter & Webpage:**  
*Marcia Allen Rothman*  
*Langley, WA*  
*marci@whidbey.com*

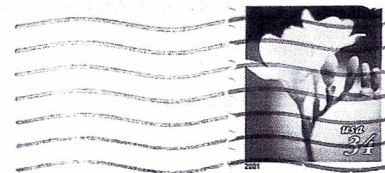
**Vice-President** *Gay Knutson*  
*Port Angeles, WA*  
*(360) 928-2607*  
*cknutson@olympus.net*

**Treasurer & Membership** *Yowann Byghan*  
*Vancouver, WA*  
*(360) 256-3718*  
*yowannbyghan@attbi.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  
9009 NE 22nd Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98664

*Pacific Northwest Cornish Society*  
*10116 Stoli Lane NW*  
*Silverdale, WA 98383-8826*



#37  
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