

March  
2026



## Next meeting March 7, 11 a.m. by Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85003429253?pwd=dvyPktP5cLJYbgVmN8sjtnDKsNfr5E.1>

Meeting ID: 850 0342 9253. Passcode: 480216

One tap mobile +12532158782,,85003429253#,,,,\*480216# US (Tacoma)



## St. Piran's Day: Cornish towns celebrate

Miners may have been the first to celebrate St. Piran — he is their patron saint, after all — but now every town in Cornwall seems to be in on the party.

Parades, featuring music and dance, are planned in Truro, St. Austell, Bodmin, Perranporth, Penzance, Falmouth, Newquay and other communities.

In Launceston, the parade focuses on children, who will move from the castle to the town square. In Newquay a grant allowed the schools to introduce children to songs with a strong Cornish attachment, and St. Michael's Church is organizing a children's ceilidh. The church's services March 1 will be in English and Cornish.

Music will be at the heart of St. Piran's celebrations, from the Pelynt Male Choir in Looe to the Newquay Rowing Club Singers and Harbour Rats. Redruth, with the theme of Gwenton (Cornish for spring), plans time-honored entertainment and live music and market stalls of traditional Cornish goods.

With food central to a cultural celebration, the World Pasty Championship will take place at the Lost Gardens of Heligan near St. Austell, featuring a speed crimping competition, pasty making workshops, and live entertainment.

If Cornwall is too far to travel on March 5, the California Cornish Cousins will have a booth on Mill Street in Grass Valley.



## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS GORD'N PERROTT

Hi Everyone !

Welcome to our spring newsletter. My name is Gord'n Perrott and I am serving as president of our society. I live outside Seattle. I have been to Cornwall many, many times and look forward to retuning next fall.

I have a pair of connections to Cornwall. My mother's mother's parents emigrated from Southern Cornwall in the early 1900s. They lived in Montana where my grandmother was born and then moved to Seattle after WWII. My dad is from Essex in England. His father was very fond of the sea, having grown up in Southampton. My grandparents had a summer house in Lamorna Cove, on the south side of the Penwith Peninsula, west of Penzance. I spent many happy days staying there. When my grandfather retired they sold that house and their house in Essex and bought a house that was more sheltered in the Lamorna valley. This means my ancestral connections do not match my physical connections. Most of my mom's relatives left Cornwall in the early 1900s. We visited one great aunt when I was young. I am taking on learning at least a few words in Cornish. "Cornish Made Easy" is on Facebook and it's quite fun. However you connect with your Cornish people, interests or passions, keep it up!

We would love to hear from you about how you are doing that. Mary Sisson is putting our newsletter together and would love things to put in it. We also have a vacancy for vice president. This is a chance to help our society flourish. Let me know if you are interested. We will have our spring meeting to celebrate St. Piran's Day on March 7<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. It will be at 11 a.m. Pacific time. I hope you can make it. It's always fun to catch up and talk about Cornwall and the Cornish.

All the Best, Gord'n

### Lamorna

So now I'll sing to you  
It's about a maiden fair  
I met her the other evening  
At the corner of the square.  
She had a dark and roving eye  
And her hair was covered over.  
We rode all night in the pale moonlight  
Way down to Lamorna.

### Refrain:

'Twas down in Albert Square  
I never shall forget,  
Her eyes they shone like diamonds And the  
evening it was wet, wet, wet.  
And her hair hung down in curls,  
Her face was covered over.  
We rode all night in the pale moonlight,  
Way down to Lamorna.



As we got in the cab  
I asked her for her name,  
And when she gave it me  
For with mine it was the same. So I lifted up  
her veil  
For her face was covered over; To my surprise  
it was my wife  
I took down to Lamorna.

She said I know you know I  
knew you all along.  
I knew you in the dark, For I did it for a lark;  
And for that lark you'll pay  
For the taking of your donna,  
You'll pay the fare, I do declare  
Way down to Lamorna.

## PNCS Minutes of Oct 11, 2025

Present on Zoom: Bonnie LaDoe, Joan Huston, Pam Perrott, Gord'n Perrott and Greta and Michael Erm. Dot Huntley arrived later.

The notice went out late so few people came, and there was no program.

There was an informal discussion about genealogy. Greta had done a lot on her ancestors. So had Joan. They talked about what they did, what approaches they took, about using ancestors.com, the OPC records, etc. There are lots of records in Penzance. One wrote to the archives in London. Wills are an interesting source, too. Some info can be found in newspaper archives.

Pam thinks a meeting on that topic would be well received. Maybe those two would do a meeting?

Aileen Reaugh has redone her book, *American Bluebeard*, and republished it.

We will meet again on Zoom Saturday, March 7th, near St Piran's Day on March 5. Greta has photos from Penzance on St Piran's Day. Maybe she would show them to us?

We asked who maintains our Facebook page. It is Micki Sieracki, who also does our website.

PNCS started in 1998.

*The Cousin Jacks: The Cornish in America* by A.L. Rowse is a good book. The book series *Life in Cornwall in the xx Century* by Rita Barton is also good.

The VP position is open.

We need to suggest meeting topics, also who might do a meeting talk. Also, Mary Sisson wants material for the newsletter.

*Pamela Perrott, secretary*

# Three Generations visit Cornwall

*By Rebecca McVicker*

As a young child in California, I had a tiny box that held my treasures...coins and whatnot. I realize now it must have been a gift, brought by visiting relatives, for the words “St. Just” were painted on the box, set in my brain from a young age as a special, yet faraway, place. Recently, I was able to, at last, visit that special, faraway place with my mother (Lorene) and my oldest daughter (Evangel).

Lorene had first visited Cornwall in 1966, on a chartered flight through the Los Angeles Cornish Society that her grandmother belonged to. There she stayed with family (Candy and James) in St. Just/Bosavern Valley. A relative took her to Penzance to see the Humphry Davy statue and said there was a family connection to the famous inventor. They drove to see more family near Truro and St. Austell, having to pull over on the side of the road at one point, as Queen Elizabeth II and her entourage drove by. While in the Truro area, she met a second cousin, Alan Penter.

When Lorene, Evangel and I took our multi-generational trip to Cornwall several months ago, there wasn't a chance that Queen Elizabeth II would be in the area. However Cousin Alan and his lovely wife were able to meet us in Penzance. We stayed at an Airbnb with a view of St. Michael's Mount, within walking distance of the train station and the Humphry Davy statue.



Another second cousin, Brian, and his Cornish gal traveled from Wadebridge to meet up with us and we figured out family connections over “Cream Tea.” Evangel was able to share the project she and Lorene have been working on, digitizing the binders of family tree information that my mom (Lorene) inherited from her mother. Over several days, we walked among two cemeteries and saw so many family names! One day we attended a service at Miner's Chapel/Wesleyan Methodist Church where generations of our family had attended and went to “Sunday Roast” afterwards.

To see homes where my ancestors had lived, eat pasties with my mom and daughter and Cornish relatives, created memories that I will treasure the rest of my life. St. Just, Cornwall truly is a special place!

*Lower left, Rebecca, Lorene and Evangel in the town square of St. Just in Penwith. Above right, they're with their Cornish cousins in Cot Valley, outside Porth Nanven.*

# News from Cornish American Heritage Society

## ***Traveling to Cornwall?***

The deadline for the Cornish American Heritage Society's travel grant is Feb. 28. The grant will be awarded to a member dreaming of traveling to Cornwall or to explore Cornishness elsewhere in the globe.

Whether your interests lie in genealogy, landscape, literature, history, or community engagements, this grant is designed to support your own journey homeward. The awardee will be expected to write an article for Tam Kernewek, the CAHS newsletter, before their trip and afterward, and to share in a one-hour Zoom session.

To apply, click [here](#).

## **CAHS wants your input**

The Cornish American Heritage Society is surveying members, and if you're a member of PNCS, that includes you!

So far, of 141 respondents, the vast majority said they've joined because of their Cornish ancestry, with family history and genealogy among the top interests.

Members have also said they value events, shared learning, storytelling, food traditions, holidays and festivals.

There's still time to take the survey. Click this [link](#) and tell our national group what's important to you.

## **Celebrating Cornish Identity: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow** 21st CAHS Gathering Sept. 24-25 in Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Mineral Point is a wonderful place to celebrate the Cornish diaspora in America and the Gathering, sponsored by the Cornish American Heritage Society, is an opportunity to promote Cornwall's strengthening identity now and in the future.

Cornish musicians, talent show, speakers from the Mineral Point area and throughout the Cornish diaspora, movie night, pasty supper, genealogy, a Bardic ceremony and tours of Cornish sites in the area are on the tentative plan. CAHS invites your input! Contact them at [newsletter.cousinjack@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.cousinjack@gmail.com).

The venue will be the Quality Inn in Mineral Point. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate for attendees. Contact them at [WI083@stayatchoice.com](mailto:WI083@stayatchoice.com) and mention "Cornish Gathering."

Mineral Point, founded in 1827, was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. A lot of that history revolves around Cornish miners, who started bringing their hard-rock mining skills to the area in the 1830s. Expert stonemasons, they introduced rock houses to the area, much like their homes in Cornwall.

Some are preserved at Pendarvis historic site, where costumed interpreters offer guided tours through the six restored buildings of the original miners' settlement.



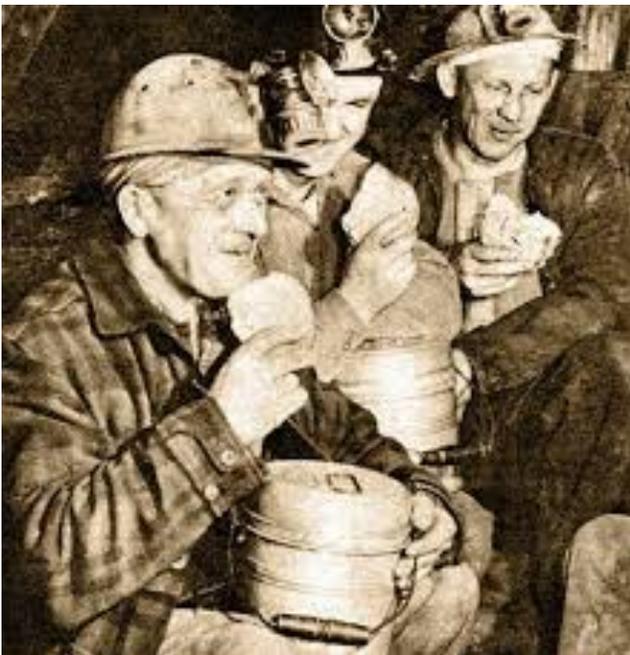
# The History of the Pasty

The Cornish pasty is an identity in an edible lunchbox. So says Ann Howard, a Boston University culinary graduate who has appeared on PBS' "Test Kitchen."

Howard presented a Zoom on the history of the pasty to Cornish American Heritage Society members last fall.

The meat-filled hand pie we think of now would have been rare in Cornwall in the second half of the 19th century, when the mines were becoming tapped out. The crust would encase leftovers, vegetables, potatoes, or whatever the family could scrape together.

As Cornish miners emigrated to mining centers around the world, their experience often placed them as mine bosses. That meant better pay and meat in their pasties. Cornish pasties became the food of the Upper Peninsula in Michigan.



Along came the Finns, who didn't know mining but saw their bosses taking pasties underground. They figured it was an American food and adopted it. Carrots in a pasty? It had to be Finnish. To the Finns, it reminded them of the kalakukko, fish baked inside a loaf of bread.

You couldn't buy pasties in a store in the UP in those days, but they were sold at church fundraisers. Those were usually run by older women, who instructed the younger women on the art of pasty making.

As money from the Cornish diaspora flowed back home to Cornwall, families could afford more meat in their pasties. When the railroad came to Cornwall in 1844, tourists poured in. Wanting to impress the tourists, the Cornish cooks put out their best, including beef in the pasties.

A London cookbook published in 1886, *Handbook of Practical Cookery* by Matilda Lees Dods, spread the idea of the Cornish pasty around England. They began to change in form; the sturdy crust the miner could hold became a more delicate pastry, people ate pasties with a knife and fork, and they started topping them with gravy. Cornish Americans added ketchup or buttermilk. A 19th-century cookbook from Grass Valley, California, featured chili sauce for pasties, made with green peppers, salt, vinegar and tomatoes.

Retail pasty shops opened after World War II, not just in Cornwall but anywhere Cornish people lived. Pasties became part of the tourism industry — and identity — in the UP and other places Cornish people settled.

Miners would often leave a piece of their pasty for the Tommyknockers or Piskies. Perhaps this really did appease these spirits; the practice saved many a miner from eating the lead that transferred from the mine to his hands to the pasty crust.

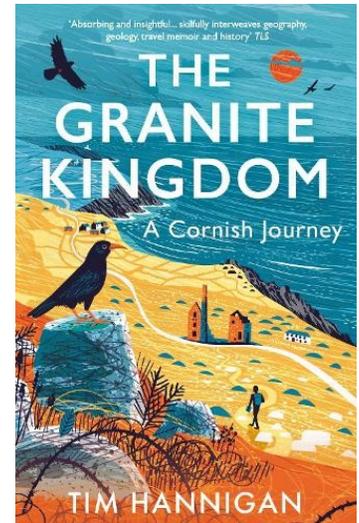
# The Granite Kingdom: A Cornish Journey

Want to travel through Cornwall without leaving your recliner? Travel writer Tim Hannigan takes you on a walking journey, not around the Cornish Coastal Path, but zigzagging from the Atlantic to the English Channel, from the Tamar to his hometown of West Penwith.

Each chapter details a section of his walk and some aspect of Cornish history, geography, language or culture. The book reflects introspection and observation. The 14 pages of notes in the back show a depth of study; Hannigan is not only a travel writer, but an academic, specializing in contemporary travel literature. But far from a dry academic text, the book is deeply personal, with stories of the author's childhood and family woven through the journey.

At the heart of the journey, the question looms: What does it mean to be Cornish? What is the reality and what is the preconceived idea visitors to Cornwall bring with them?

A journey on foot leaves plenty of time to think, and Hannigan's reflections make a good read for anyone who loves Cornwall.



## Relentless winter storms batter Cornwall

With hurricane force winds, Storm Goretta Jan. 8 left more than 40,000 homes without power and left St. Michael's Mount with a loss of 80 percent of its trees.

Still reeling from Goretta, Cornwall was hit hard again Jan. 23 by Storm Ingrid, bringing 105 mph winds at Gwyneth Head and waves over 40 feet. Fallen trees brought down power lines, rail service was disrupted, and seaside landmarks decimated in Penzance, St. Ives and Mousehole, especially. Mousehole saw a wall of water 45 feet high.

And then came Storm Chandra Jan. 26-27, leaving more flooding and devastation.

Cardinham, Cornwall, near Bodmin, endured 42 days of consecutive rain; Camborne logged 39. They were among Great Britain's five wettest spots according to the Met Office, the UK's meteorological service.



*Storm Goretta*



*Penzance hit by waves*

# Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Webpage: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 Individual Member \$30 Family Membership

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

List Cornish names and areas or parishes of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Dorothy Ann Hosking

1451 Spruce Street, #204,

Florence OR 97439

PNCS meetings are held three times a year.

- **ST. PIRAN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Zoom meeting on the first Saturday in March

- **ANNUAL CORNISH PICNIC AT FORT BORST PARK IN PERSON**

Picnic at Fort Borst Park in Centralia the second Saturday in August

- **FALL MEETING**

Zoom meeting the third Saturday in October

Website <http://nwcornishsociety.com>

**President** - Gord'n Perrott, [gordn.perrott@gmail.com](mailto:gordn.perrott@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** - YOUR NAME HERE?

**Secretary** - Pamela Perrott, [pamelaperrott@comcast.net](mailto:pamelaperrott@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** - Dorothy Hosking, [dot97479@gmail.com](mailto:dot97479@gmail.com)

**Membership** - Bonnie LaDoe, [bladoe@aol.com](mailto:bladoe@aol.com)

**Newsletter** - Mary Sisson, [sissonrm@gmail.com](mailto:sissonrm@gmail.com)

**Website** - Mickey Sieracki, [msieracki@msn.com](mailto:msieracki@msn.com)

**Zoom Coordinator** - Pamela Perrott, [pamelaperrott@comcast.net](mailto:pamelaperrott@comcast.net)