# Kenderwi Kerneweb *(Cornish Cousins)*

**Newsletter of the California Cornish Cousins**

**Volume 34 ● Number 3 ● Gwav (Winter) 2026**

## Greetings, Cousins!

**Co-President**
*Kitty Quayle*

Bledhen Noweth Da, Cousins one and all,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season, though it seems to get longer every year! I've heard it called "HallowThanksMas", but I wish us all health and happiness in 2026 and freedom from the strife that seems to keep increasing.

We've had 23" of rainfall here in the Mother Lode since the rains began in Autumn and good snowfall up the hill, I do love a rainy day and a hot cuppa. I'm putting the "stay indoors" days to use by getting to work on the plans for the Gathering in May. Pete is working on setting up a narrow gauge train trip and pasty lunch for Saturday, while I am setting up the Friday and Saturday dinners. Grass Valley is such an excellent place for our Gatherings, so full of our history and Cornishness. Please save the dates of May 15-17 and join us in the "most Cornish place in America". Reservation form and details will be in the next KK, out in April. Be there or be square!

With the winter celebrations behind us, our thoughts often turn towards the coming of Spring and the arrival of the daffodils and bluebells lushly blooming. One of the most well-known Cornish Spring festivals is Flora Day (not Floral Day) held in the historic stannary town of Helston. It's an ancient pagan Celtic festival celebrating the victory of Spring over Winter with music, dance, pageants and beautiful floral decorations gracing every doorway and window with greenery, bluebells and Lily of the Valley (the official flower of Flora Day). When Rosemary and I attended a few years ago, we were fortunate enough to have as our guide Ann Muller (of Ann's Pasties fame), a distant cousin on our Lory side. As a Helston-born maid, she danced in the

→

Steam Locomotive, Nevada County Railway Museum

Photo: Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railway Museum

**In this Issue:** **Page**

# President's Message, cont'd.

Main Dance for years (one has to be Helston-born to be allowed in the dance) and showed us all the best places to view the dancers as they wound through the homes and gardens, streets and lanes, dressed in their gowns and cutaways, accompanied by the Helston Town Band. Such an amazing and joyful experience.

Padstow has its own famous May Day festival which draws thousands of folks, a pre-christian fertility celebration, involving a bizarre horse-headed caped creature called the 'Obby 'Oss, who parades through the town to music and dancing, attempting to capture young women in his cape as symbolic mates. The celebration culminates in a Maypole dance.

Among our favorite places to enjoy Cornish Springtime is the Enys Estate near Penryn, renowned for the vast sweeps of sweetly-scented bluebells, a veritable carpet of glorious color and fragrance. Also the bluebell wood at the Godolphin House Estate, near our Harry family home of Godolphin Cross in Breage, is a splendor.

So sad to hear about the carnage caused recently by the powerful Storm Goretti; Michael's Mount lost 80% of its trees, felled by winds of approximately 120 mph. So much damage across the Duchy. But Cornish folk are resilient and will come back as strong as ever. Kernow bys vykken!

Sowenna, **Kitty**


Godolphin Woods


Enys Estate

Photos: Kitty Quayle


Flora Day

**Welcome New Members**

**John Glenn & Judy Scoble**

PO Box 144
Teton, ID 83451

Phone (657) 502-9101

jjscoble@sbcglobal.net

| Surnames | Towns |
|---|---|
| Glenn | Arizona |
| Scoble | Grass Valley |
| Cornish | Grass Valley |

# St. Piran's Day Pasty Luncheon and Concert Celebrates Eleanor Kenitzer's Retirement as Director of the Grass Valley Cornish Carol Choir

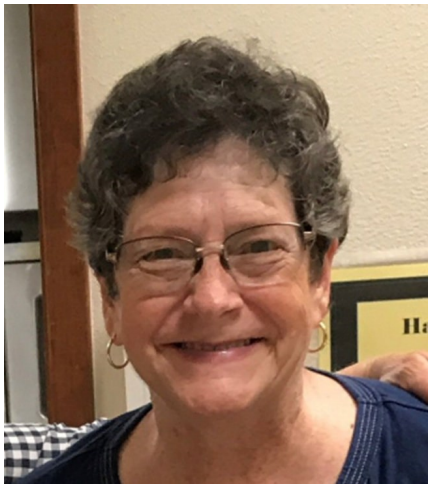
Singer Rita Hosking and the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir will headline a luncheon concert in honor of Eleanor Kentizer's retirement as director of the Grass Valley Cornish Carol Choir on St. Piran's Day, Saturday, March 7, noon, at the United Methodist Church.

Adding her voice to the celebration will be singer-songwriter Anna Anise, who flies in from Cornwall especially for the concert.

Eleanor revived the Christmas choir in 1990 after it had gone quiet in the 1970s and '80s. She directed the choir for 36 years and conducted its definitive recordings.

For 150 years the carol choir, once comprised entirely of miners and their sons, has been the voice of Grass Valley. In the mid-20th century the choir performed across the region and even across the world on NBC, CBS, BBC and Armed Forces radio networks.

The Cornish Carol Choir performs every season and especially at downtown Grass Valley's Cornish Christmas celebrations. The GV Male Voice Choir, founded by Eleanor in 1997, performs throughout the year under the direction of George Husaruk.




Eleanor brought the carol choir and Grass Valley to prominence when she led the carols on Huell Howser's "California Gold" television show and on tours to Cornwall. Eleanor's work has prompted a revival of Cornish carols in other communities where the Cornish settled as far away as Australia and even in Cornwall itself.

The luncheon will add to Grass Valley's St. Piran's Day festivities which begin earlier in the morning.

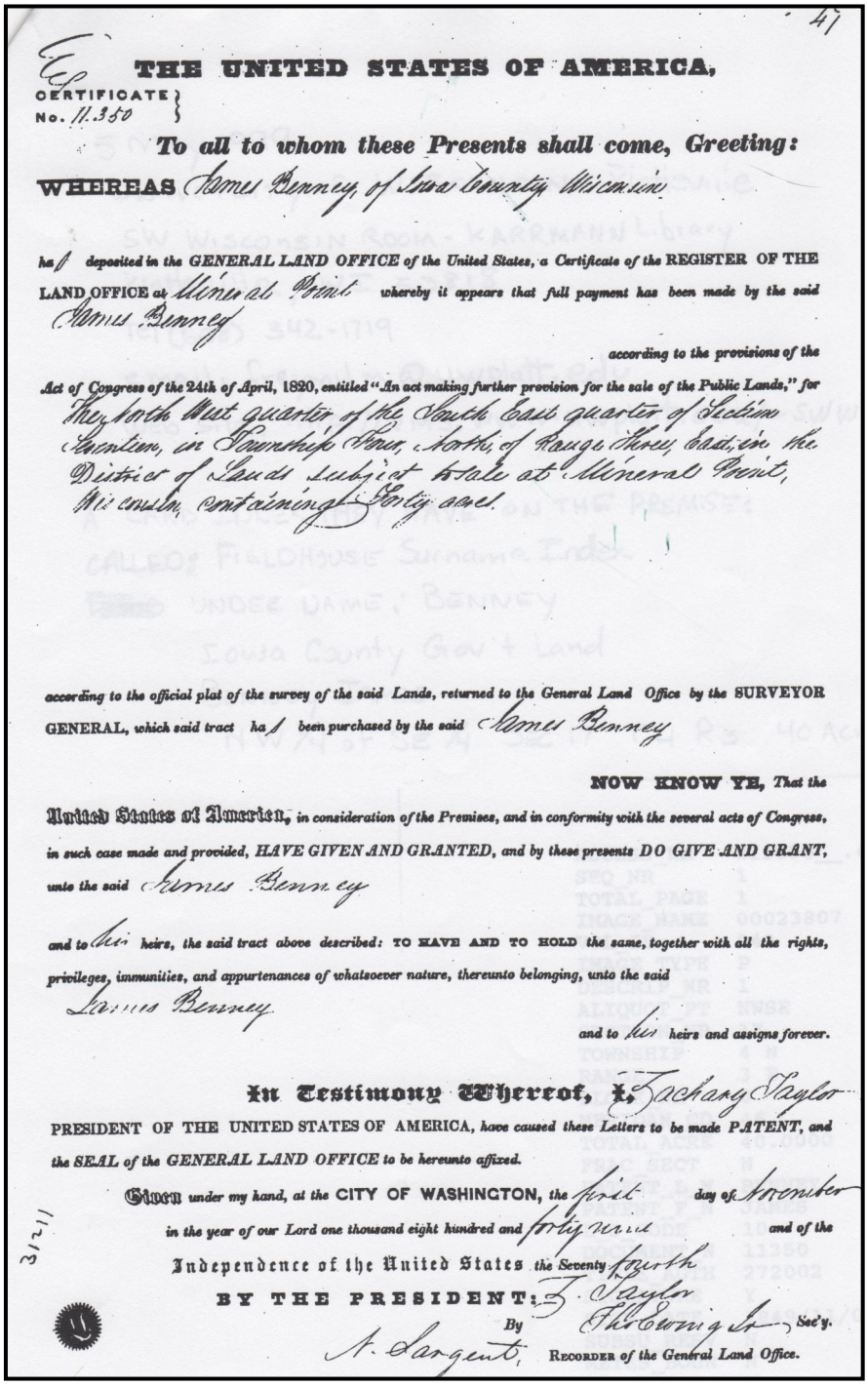
Mayor Hilary Hodge will recognize Eleanor on behalf of the city, pasties will be served and then the concert will begin. At the end, all past and present members of the Cornish Carol Choir will be invited to join in singing "Diadem" a last time under Eleanor's direction.

Tickets are $15 for lunch and the concert and are available from the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce at 530/273-4667. Order tickets in advance to assure a seat: specify beef or veg pasty and mention that you are with the California Cornish Cousins.

# James Benney, My First Cornish Emigrant

by Yvonne Oliver Bowers

Although I am a fourth generation Californian, I am proud to have a direct connection to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, a very "Cornish" town in the southwestern part of the state and home to many Cornish in the 19th century. My great-great-grandparents, James and Elizabeth (Bennetts) Benney settled there in 1848.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CERTIFICATE No. 11,350

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS James Benney, of Iowa County Wisconsin

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Mineral Point whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said James Benney according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Seventeen, in Township Four, North of Range Three, East, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, containing Forty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said James Benney

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said James Benney and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said James Benney and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Zachary Taylor PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty nine and of the Independence of the United States the Seventy fourth

BY THE PRESIDENT: Z. Taylor By Thos Ewing Jr Sec'y.

A. Sargent, Recorder of the General Land Office.

James Benney was born in St. Germans, Cornwall on July 8, 1810. The Benney family has been traced back to my eighth great-grandfather Nicholas with at least seven generations in St. Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall. I've visited St. Cleer and stood in the beautiful church where so many generations were baptized, married and buried.

James married Elizabeth Bennetts (born 1814 in St. Ewe) on January 11, 1840 in St. Cleer. I've always been proud that Elizabeth could read and write and signed her own name on the marriage record. The couple had five children between 1840 and 1847. After the fifth, Catherine Lyne Benney, was born in February 1847, the family emigrated to the United States, settling in Mineral Point.

James obtained a U.S. Land Grant for property in Mineral Point. Per the U.S. Land Grant program signed by President Zachary Taylor and approved by Congress April 24, 1820, he received forty acres for $50 with the proviso that he hold and improve the land for at least five years. The receipt for the land sale was dated June 23, 1848 and noted "Northwest Corner of Southeast Quarter of Section Seventeen in Township No. Four South of Range No. Three East" which is today on Suthers Road off Ferndale Road southwest of town. I had the pleasure of visiting in 2012. James was a miner (copper in the 1841 U.K. census) as were his forbears and no doubt worked in one of the many mines around Mineral Point at the time. I often wonder what they did with their land. Did they live on it? Did they farm? Was it simply an investment?

Continuing to assimilate, James submitted his Declaration of Intention (to become a citizen of the United

→

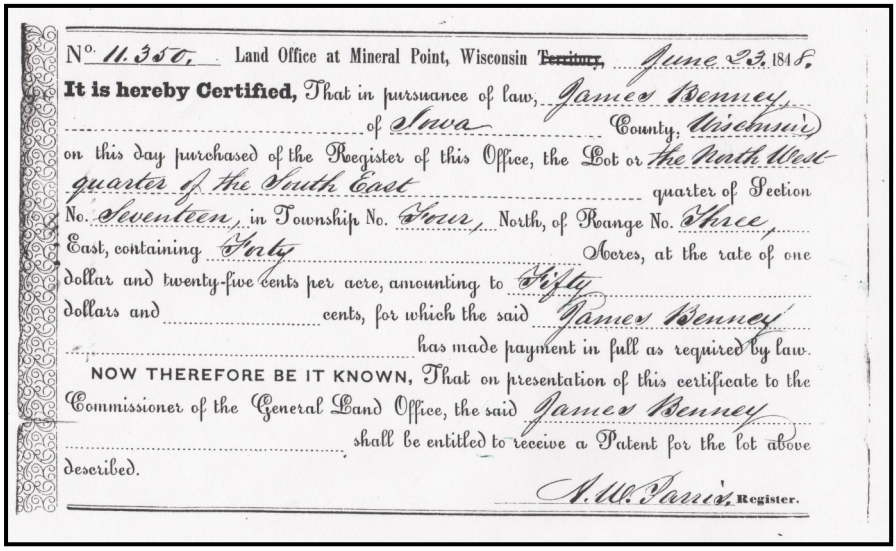
# James Benney, cont'd.

States) on December 7, 1850 in Iowa County. He was officially naturalized on Nov. 3, 1856 in Sacramento County, California.

Elizabeth and James welcomed their sixth child, James Joseph Benney, on April 3, 1851 in Mineral Point. James J. was the first child born in the U.S. I have never found a birth record as Wisconsin didn't require registration of birth until 1852.

Of course in 1851 the California Gold Rush was on! James traveled to California in 1852 aboard the ship "Golden Gate" to have a look. He was still in Placer County, California on August 7, 1854 when Elizabeth, acting as James' Attorney-in-Fact. (Microfilm # 1479347, Register of Deeds 1837-1947 Iowa County Vol. U -W, 1854-1855 Vol U, page 365 letter authorizing his wife to act as his attorney in selling their property) sold the property in Mineral Point to John Goulden for $140.

James returned to Mineral Point before November 1854 when Elizabeth became pregnant with her seventh child - my great-grandmother, Ellen. The whole family said goodbye to Mineral point and their first American home and traveled to California arriving in February 1855 on the ship "Uncle Sam." By July, the family was living in a mining camp, Michigan Bar, on the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County when Ellen was born on July 15, 1855.



No. 11,356, Land Office at Mineral Point, Wisconsin ~~Territory~~, June 23, 1848.

**It is hereby Certified,** That in pursuance of law, James Benney of Iowa County, Wisconsin on this day purchased of the Register of this Office, the Lot or the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section No. Seventeen, in Township No. Four, North, of Range No. Three, East, containing Forty Acres, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, amounting to Fifty dollars and ..... cents, for which the said James Benney has made payment in full as required by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, That on presentation of this certificate to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the said James Benney shall be entitled to receive a Patent for the lot above described.

A. W. Parris, Register.

The Great Flood of 1862 was the largest flood in the recorded history of California, Oregon, and Nevada, inundating the Western United States and portions of British Columbia and Mexico. It was preceded by weeks of continuous rains and snows that began in Oregon in November 1861 and continued into January 1862. Sacramento had gotten 34" of rain over two months. Sadly, James died in January on the American River during the Great Flood. His body was never found but his death was noted in the Sacramento "Bee" on April 12, 1863 in Negro Hill (one of the old mining camps in El Dorado County) As a widow, Elizabeth became a laundress in the mining camp supporting herself and her children until she remarried in 1870. She, her new husband William Parry, and her children lived out their days in New Almaden, Gold Hill (Storey Co., NV), Amador and finally Grass Valley where Elizabeth died in 1886.

## A Curious Excerpt from How to be Proper Cornish by Penrose

A Cornish man can always be told by his clothes. Shiny suits, white shirts, stiff collars and ties are rarely detected, and only then on serious occasions like feast and chapel days, weddings and funerals. One suit will do for all occasions and will be of a good strong black colour and with the newness worn well off it. Day to day wear will consist of practical, hardwearing wind and waterproof garments such as tarred canvas smocks, moleskin trews, Rhino shirts and red spotty 'kerchiefs. It should be observed that 'kerchiefs should be lashed around the neck and not used to receive nasal excrement. . . as the old line puts it "the difference betwixt the rich and the poor is that the posh do carry their blawins' in their pockets." In the headgear department, a well used Sou'wester is as good as any, but a knitted wooly hat is seen oftentimes on a particular cold day. Earrings are to be seen sometimes worn by fishermen; this is regarded by some as common.

# Cornwall is not England

by Nigel Pengelly, former editor of CORNOVIA,
and Craig Weatherhill, historian and Cornish Bard.

A great many arguments and counter --arguments have raged regarding the true status of Cornwall. A status that is certainly unique within Great Britain. Why is it unique?
Nigel Pengelly asks historian Craig Weatherhill what is the real and verifiable truth that lies behind Cornwall's claims?

**Is it true that Cornwall was a kingdom?**
Absolutely true, and accepted by all historians. Originally it was part of the kingdom of Dumnonia that may well predate the Roman occupation. This covered the whole of the south-western peninsula as far as a north-south line linking the Rivers Axe and Parrett. The advance of the Wessex Saxons caused the border to retreat westward until, by the 8th century only Cornwall was left. It must be remembered, though, that even then and until the 10th century, Cornwall extended to the Exe.

**Do we know anything about the kings?**
Some of them, although details of most are scanty at best. Fragments of a king-list survive, naming those who reigned from about 450 AD to around 650 AD and who would have been associated with the royal citadel at Tintagel, roughly dated to 450-700 AD. The earliest of these was **Gurvor**, then **Tudwal**. His successor was **Cynvor**, who flourished in the early to mid-6th century. Could he be the *Cunomorus* named on Fowey's Tristan Stone (Cunomorus is a Latinised form of the Celtic name Cynvor), the lettering of which is dated to 530-570 AD? Could he also be the man mentioned in the 9th century Breton monk Wrmonoc's *Life of St Paul Aurelian* as the king Quonomorius, also called Marcus? Was he, therefore, the famous King Mark of Cornwall?

The next king, **Constantine**, was king when the monk Gildas wrote around 540 AD. He castigated five contemporary British (Celtic) kings and called Constantine: "the tyrannical whelp of the unclean lioness of Dumnonia". Welsh records refer to him as *Custennin Gorneu* ("of Cornwall" – an early reference to the native name Kernow). He is said to have abdicated when elderly and gone into the Church. He was succeeded by **Erbin**, another name which crops up in Welsh tradition as does the name of the next king, **Gerent I**.
He might have been the *Gerent rac Deheu* ("Gerent for the south") who fought against the English at *Catraeth* (Catterick, Yorkshire) in 598. The next king was **Cado**, remembered by Geoffrey of Monmouth as Cador of Cornwall. After him come **Peredur** and **Theudu**.
The king list fizzles out at this point but we know of **Gerent II**, possibly Theudu's successor. In 705, the Synod of Wessex wrote to "*Gerontius Rex*", demanding that the Celtic (Columban) Church in Cornwall conform to the doctrines of Rome. That demand was never fulfilled.
After Gerent II is a huge gap of 170 years before we find records of another Cornish king, **Donyarth**, recorded by the *Annales Cambriae* as having drowned in 878 AD.
The *Annales* refer to him as "*rex Cerniu*" ("king of Cornwall"). Fifty years later, we find another one, **Huwal**, called by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles "king of the West Welsh", a term exclusively used to describe the British Celts of Dumnonia and Cornwall (this was **not** Hywel Dda of South Wales). He was one of several kings who signed a treaty with Aethelstan of Wessex in 928 at Egmont Bridge, following which (and after he'd forced the Cornish from Exeter), Aethelstan fixed the border between Cornwall and Wessex at the east bank of the Tamar – exactly where it remains today in constitutional law (in spite of the unlawful alterations to it by the Boundary Commission and the Ordnance Survey).

**So, was Huwal the last Cornish king?**
We don't know, but it appears that at the time of the Norman Conquest a man named Cadoc, described as the last of the Cornish royal line, became the first Earl. After him, the Norman authorities cleverly appointed Celtic-speaking Bretons to the Earldom; men like Count Brian, Robert of Mortain and Count Alan. There are indications that, under this system, the Cornish regarded the Normans as allies.

**Are you saying that Cornwall was not conquered by the English and absorbed into Wessex?**
No, it wasn't. If it had been, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles would not have failed to shout it. Instead, there's not a word, not in any record and the fact that some "historians" assume – even insist upon – its conquest by, and inclusion in, Wessex reflects ra-

→

# Cornwall is Not England, cont'd.

ther badly upon their own integrity. Cornwall's continued independence is strongly supported by the fact that it has enjoyed special status, as Earldom and Duchy, ever since.

**So, you don't believe that Cornwall is part of England?**

No, and for many reasons. First of all, Cornwall was portrayed on numerous maps, including the famous *Mappa Mundi*, as separate from England right up until the mid 16th century. Henry VIII even listed England and Cornwall separately in the list of his realms given in his coronation address and, interestingly, Elizabeth I stated that she did not rule Cornwall (but Cornish was among the languages she was reputed to speak). 1549 changed many things. No longer do we find *Anglia et Cornubia* in official documents; the British Sea suddenly became the English Channel and Cornwall as a separate entity was omitted from the maps. No record exists of any formal annexation of Cornwall to England, nor were we party to the Act of Union in 1707. More reasons will crop up later.

**So the Cornish people are not English?**

No, they can be no more English than the Welsh are, and for precisely the same reason. Modern archaeology now admits that the Cornish and Welsh of today are the remnants of an ancient race native to these islands since at least the Neolithic period, between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago. They also now believe that the Celtic language came into being during that same period as a common language of sea trading communities along the Atlantic coasts of Europe from Spain to the Hebrides. Cornish is a direct descendant of that early language. All in all, a heritage to be truly proud of even though officialdom seeks to erase it by dubbing monuments of those periods "English" Heritage. The English peoples, on the other hand, hail from what is now Germany and the Low Countries and did not begin to migrate into Britain until the mid 5th century AD. They had little or no contact with Cornwall until the 8th century. In 1937, Bartholomew published a Map of European Ethnicity prepared by the Edinburgh Institute of Geography which featured "Cornish Celtic".

**I note that you never refer to Cornwall as a "county".**

It's officially a Duchy and that's the title recommended by the Kilbrandon Report back in 1973 to be used instead of "county". The imposition of official county status imposed on Cornwall in 1889 (a year after the rest of the country) was not lawful. Interestingly, the Duchy Charters and other documents refer to the old Cornish Hundreds as "shires" and "counties". Now, how can any county contain counties?

**The name Kernow, you say, is old?**

Very old. The Ravenna Cosmography, compiled c700 AD from Roman material 300 years older, lists a route running westward into Cornwall. On this route is a place then called *Durocornovio* (Latinised from British Celtic *duno-Cornouio -n* – "fortress of the Cornish"). This has been identified as Tintagel (long before Earl Richard built his castle there) and in the Cornish of today would be rendered as *Dyn Kernowyon*. In 878, the drowned king Donyarth is recorded in Welsh annals as *rex Cerniu*, and you will find the present spelling – **Kernow** – as early as 1400. Remember that there was no such entity as England until just before the year 900 when it first appears on record (as *Englaland*). So the invading Romans did not occupy England, as too many TV presenters state – how could they, unless they had a time machine that could jump 850 years into their future?

**What about Cornwall's much-vaunted Parliament? Surely that's just a joke?**

Far from it. Even in King John's day, Cornwall's Stannary Parliament was believed to stretch back into antiquity – no one knows how far back it goes. After Cornwall's brief war with England in 1497, part of the cause of which was due to the English king suspending the Stannaries, Henry VII relented and in 1508 restored it under the Charter of Pardon (for a price – the greedy king demanded and got £1,000). This gave the Stannary Parliament additional powers, still valid to this day. The Stannary has power of veto over any Statute or Act of Parliament. People think that the Stannary Parliament applied only to tinners but the terms of the Charter include the words, "their heirs and successors". You don't have to be a tinner to be an heir or successor. The terms of the Charter apply to the entire Cornish people.

**Yes, but 1508 was a long time ago.**

Sure it was, but there are extant English laws that date back even further. In 1977, in answer to a question from Plaid Cymru, the then Attorney General, Lord Elwyn Jones, confirmed that the powers of the Stannary remained intact at law. At a later date the Hansard Library also confirmed that the Charter of Pardon can only be repealed by the Cornish people themselves (as contrasted with "the people of Cornwall").

**That's not very democratic.**

Depends on how you look at it. The Charter of Pardon was meant for the Cornish people alone. I don't see that it's any different from the present situation in Andorra where Andorrans only make up about 40% of the population but only they are allowed to vote in its elections.

**So why haven't we got that Parliament and its right of veto?**

Because the establishment in London doesn't want it. In fact, it took only

→

# Cornwall is not England, cont'd.

41 years for London to trample all over the Charter with the forcible imposition of their state religion and language. It is not often mentioned that this contempt for the Charter and the Cornish people was a major reason for the war in 1549 (not 'rebellion' – you can only rebel against a legitimate authority). The attitude persists to this day. During that war, the Cornish took Plymouth without a shot being fired, then laid siege to Exeter for 5 weeks. We fought five of the biggest and bloodiest battles ever fought on British soil. Thousands died, including 900 unarmed Cornish prisoners (figure from Edward VI's own chronicler, John Hayward), and yet 'English' Heritage refuses to recognise the battle sites and enter them on the Register of British Battlefields. For that organisation, as it told visitors to Restormel Castle 6 years ago, there was no war – just "wicked rebels" opposing a "good king". Sadly, we came second but I still think that our general, Sir Humphrey Arundell, should be placed alongside Josef an Gof as the greatest of our heroes.

**What about the Duchy? Is it true that it is just a collection of private estates?**

That's what we are told and Duchy representatives have been very liberal with the truth in that respect. The real and lasting truth lies in the successful submission by the Duchy's Attorney General, Sir George Harrison, in the late 1850s in a spat with the Crown over the latter's greedy attempt to land-grab Cornwall's foreshore. Harrison's submission stated plain fact, describing Cornwall as a Palatine state that had always been held apart from England and that the entire jurisdiction of the Crown within Cornish borders was held by the Duke. In other words – and uniquely in Britain – the reigning monarch's writ does not extend to Cornwall. Here, the Duke is the ruler. This is why Henry VIII listed England and Cornwall separately in the list of his realms given in his coronation address. He ruled England as King, and Cornwall as Duke. In fact, the title Duke of Cornwall is vastly senior to that of Prince of Wales. As Duke, the incumbent is a ruling sovereign; as Prince of Wales he is merely a figurehead. Under Duchy Charters, the Duke appoints the Sherriff: elsewhere in Britain, including Wales, this appointment is made by the monarch.

Harrison also pointed out that, irrespective of external land holdings, the Duchy covered the entire area of Cornwall – including the bed and waters of the Tamar. This confirms the ancient boundary fixed by Aethelstan 900 years previously as, indeed, does the Tamar Bridge Act 1998 that also confirms the power of the Duke. This truth has not been altered since by change or amendment of any Act. It can be tested. If you die intestate on Cornish soil, your estate will pass to the Duchy. The entire foreshore of Cornwall belongs to the Duchy. If a sturgeon is caught in Cornish waters, it must be offered to the Duke, who also enjoys right of wreck in Cornish waters. All four examples are unique in Great Britain – elsewhere these are rights of the Crown – and I must mention one other stipulation of the Duchy Creation Charter that remains law today: no agent of the Crown can even set foot on Cornish soil to carry out Crown duties unless with the express permission of both the Duke and the Cornish parliament.

**Whoops – that opens a can of worms!**

Yes, doesn't it just. It explains exactly why Cornwall's rights have been deliberately ignored for 450 years, and why the ongoing stream of official untruths. Just look at the organisations that operate in Cornwall in direct breach of the Duchy Charters: HM Inspector of Taxes, the Crown Prosecution Service, Crown Courts and even the quangos created by recent governments: English Heritage, English Nature, English Estates. The Government, acting in the name of the Crown, does not allow Cornish children to be taught their own heritage.

It even teaches them they are "English" and there have been recent complaints against teaching staff who have punished or humiliated Cornish children for insisting upon their true Cornish identity. London would be the first to condemn any other nation that was treating a legitimate minority in this way – and this situation has only been achieved, ever since 1549, by the exertion of "might is right". One day, this may well be challenged, perhaps in Europe or to another international court – up to now, Cornwall hasn't had the money to do it – and the London establishment can never win such a case.

The evidence against it is overwhelming. Westminster has operated in complete contempt of its own law for ages and to undo what it has done will create utter chaos – but whose fault is that? Not ours!

https://cornovia.wordpress.com/cornwall-is-not-england/?fbclid=IwAR04djfk6QpnxOm0TeRU6aF3--tbH7ae7cddKJTfPR-pREy0wYjj3tpzSj9s&fs=e&s=cl

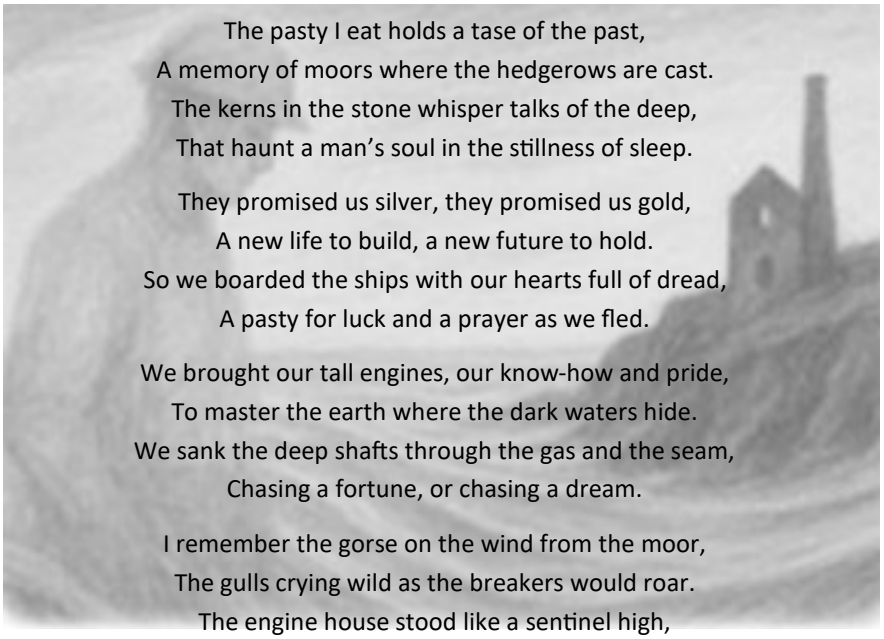
# I'm Just a Cornish Jack

from CornishJacksWorld.com

(thanks to Jan Davis)

I'm just a Cousin Jack in a land far away,
Where the sun bakes the clay, not the soft Cornish grey.
I follow the lode 'neath a foreign, hard rock,
To the clang of the shift bell, not Lamorna's dock.

I'm just a Cousin Jack, and I carry the load,
My heart's back in Cornwall, though far I have roved.



The pasty I eat holds a tase of the past,
A memory of moors where the hedgerows are cast.
The kerns in the stone whisper talks of the deep,
That haunt a man's soul in the stillness of sleep.

They promised us silver, they promised us gold,
A new life to build, a new future to hold.
So we boarded the ships with our hearts full of dread,
A pasty for luck and a prayer as we fled.

We brought our tall engines, our know-how and pride,
To master the earth where the dark waters hide.
We sank the deep shafts through the gas and the seam,
Chasing a fortune, or chasing a dream.

I remember the gorse on the wind from the moor,
The gulls crying wild as the breakers would roar.
The engine house stood like a sentinel high,
A ghost on the skyline, a tear in the eye.

Some found their fortune, and some found their grave,
In the dust-laden dark 'neath the continent's wave.
We built little Cornwalls with chapels and song
To remember the place where our hearts still belong.

Now weary and old, when my last shift is done,
I'll look to the west, where the sea meets the sun.
Let my spirit ride home on the Gulf Stream's track,
To the cliffs of Penwith . . . just a Cousin Jack.

*I'm just a Cousin Jack, and I carry the load,*
*But Cornwall will claim me at the end of the road.*

-- John Robert Rouse

**The California Cornish Cousins**
c/o Rosemary Gamblin, Newsletter Editor
23 Maxwell Street, Lodi CA 95240
*Address Correction Requested*

## The California Cornish Cousins 2025 - 2026 Officers

- **Co-Presidents, Pete Edwards** *peteedwards1939@gmail.com*
  **Kitty Quayle** *celtickitty@sbcglobal.net*
- **Past President, Robyn Houts** *scfalpacas04@yahoo.com*
- **Historian, Gage McKinney** *gagemckinney@sbcglobal.net*
- **Secretary, Pat Carson** *damawynnpat@gmail.com*
- **Treasurer & Membership, Yvonne Bowers** *treasurer@califcornishcousins.org*
- **Newsletter Editor, Rosemary Gamblin** *rgamblin@alpha-ent.net*
- **Webmanager, Yvonne Bowers** *webmanager@califcornishcousins.org*
- *Membership in the California Cornish Cousins runs from May 1 to April 30 (of the following year). Annual dues are US$25.00. Mail dues to 392 E. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476.*
- *Kenderwi Kernewek is published quarterly for members of The California Cornish Cousins. When reprinting articles, please credit "Kenderwi Kernewek, Newsletter of The California Cornish Cousins."*
- *Website: http:/www.califcornishcousins.org.*

SAVE THE DATE — Gathering 2026 — Grass Valley, May 15—17