



Kenderwi Kernewek *(Cornish Cousins)*

Newsletter of the California Cornish Cousins

Volume 34 • Number 4 • Gwenton (Spring) 2026

Greetings, Cousins!



Co-President
Pete Edwards

I hope you are all doing well and are making plans to come to Grass Valley for our Cornish Cousins gathering on May 16th.

Last October when we gathered at Doug and Rosemary's house for our pasty lunch, we obtained the pasties from a new source and they were really good. Dorothy Hoskins and her family traveled from Oregon to attend the event. Dorothy is also active with the Cornish Cousins in Oregon. I gave a talk on growing up during WWII in Cornwall and the rationing there until 1950 when we came to America.

My most recent trip to Cornwall was in October 2024. I took a part of my family with me. When the train got into Cornwall, it stopped in Par and to our surprise my cousin came on the train with a fresh pasty for us, what a great welcome. She got off at the next stop in St Austell. We continued on to Penzance where we spent a few days.

I was born in Pendeen, seven miles from Penzance, so the next day we went to Geevor Mine and took a tour where my dad had worked for several years. They have excellent restaurant there and serve local pasties which are also excellent — "Proper Job!"

That afternoon Jeannette and my cousin had set up a big surprise for me. We met with my cousin at the Pendeen Watch Lighthouse where the maintenance man for four light houses met us and took us on a tour of the light house. What a thrill that was be-



Geevor Mine

cause this is where my Great Grandfather had worked in the late 1800's.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Grass Valley on May 16th. Grass Valley is the most Cornish town in America so come and enjoy.

'Boy from Home'



Pendeen Watch

Photos: Pendeen, Rosemary Gamblin; Geevor, Meandering Mind

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33rd ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CALIFORNIA COUSINS



Friday May 15 - Saturday May 16, 2026 Grass Valley, Ca.

Friday, May 15th

No-Host Registration & Pub Night 5-7:00 pm Round Table Pizza,

686 Sutton Way, Grass Valley



Saturday May 16th

Noon Pasty Luncheon

Empire Mine State Park Picnic Area

followed by the Business Meeting



Saturday Afternoon - Your Choice

Empire Mine State Park

~or~

Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum

5 Kidder Ct., Nevada City (30 Minute Railbus Ride)

~or~

Northstar Powerhouse Mining Museum, 900 Allison Rd., Grass Valley



Saturday Night Dinner 6:00pm

Tofanelli's Gold Country Bistro, 302 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Pasty Lunch, Afternoon Tour & Saturday Dinner Included in Registration

RSVP BY APR, 24, 2026

-----CLIP AND MAIL WITH CHECK-----

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

_____ X \$85.00 EA = \$ _____ ENC # _____ BEEF PASTY # _____ VEGGIE PASTY

**MAIL CHECK TO CALIFORNIA CORNISH COUSINS % YVONNE BOWERS
392 E. NAPA ST., SONOMA, CA. 95476**

Grass Valley St. Piran's Day



Clockwise from top left: Town Crier; Kitty Quayle and Yvonne Bowers (note handcrafts on table, made by CCC member Karrie Misley — pasty earrings, pasty and St. Piran flag mini-pillows and Nearly 'ome Trees plaques); Eleanor Kenitzer acknowledging all those who worked with her in the GV Male Voice Choir and Carol Choir; Eleanor directs one last time.



Photos: Yvonne Bowers

Mary Ann Neil Hosking

by Dorothy Hosking

Some 162 years ago, an Irish lass named **Mary Ann Neil** left Ballyhackett, County Derry, Ireland, at just 16 or 17 years old and made her way to Plains, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. We do not know how she crossed the Atlantic or who traveled with her, but somehow, she met my great-grandfather, **William Henry Hosking**, a tin miner who had emigrated only a few years earlier from St Just in Penwith, Cornwall.

William, a mine boss with the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, first arrived on 29 May 1865. His wife, **Mary Oats Hosking**, and their three children followed a year later. Sadly, Mary Oats died within a year of arriving, leaving William to raise their children alone. Between 1867 and 1868, William married Mary Ann. Together they raised four boys. The names Mary Ann chose for her

sons—**Tait, Marvin, and Melrose**—were not from the Hosking line, hinting at her own family story.

Mary Ann ultimately had nine children, six of whom died between birth and four years of age. Two of William's three boys from his first marriage also died, at ages four and six. William's first daughter had died earlier in Cornwall at age three. The sheer number of losses speaks to the fragility of life in that era.

For over thirty years, I searched for Mary Ann's family. All I knew was that she was born around 1850, that her father was possibly from Scotland or Ireland, and that her mother was Irish. DNA testing offered only small clues, including a distant connection to the **Tait** family in Australia—something I did not pursue at the time.

Then, in early 2025, just before my May trip to Great Britain, everything changed. One sleepless night I once again searched "Hosking" on newspapers.com. Suddenly—bingo! A two-line article appeared: *Mr. and Mrs. John Bridle of Teasdale visiting her sister, Mrs. W. H. Hosking*. That was my breakthrough. Mary Ann had a sister—**Rachael Neil**. Through Rachael's marriage record, I finally learned their parents' names: **John Neil and Mary Tait of Ballyhackett, County Derry, Ireland**.

With this discovery in hand, I traveled to Ireland with my friend Jean Ellis. Although my research plans at Belfast's PRONI were derailed by a bank holiday, we hired a guide who took us to Ballyhackett near Coleraine. We walked the green countryside, visited the church in Coleraine where Rachael was married, and St. Paul's Parish Church in Arti-



Mary Ann Neil Hosking, cont'd.

clave. Standing there, I felt a powerful connection to the place where my great-grandmother had once lived.

Since then, I have connected with several 3×1 cousins, whose DNA has revealed additional aunts, uncles, and siblings for Mary Ann and Rachael. I have also found church and legal records that further document this family's life. Mary Ann had been my great brick wall—and now that wall has fallen. It means every-

thing to me that my children and other family members will know who came before them. I feel a deep sense of completion knowing that I can leave them this history.

I still get goosebumps thinking about that day. What began with a sleepless night and a tiny two-line newspaper notice unlocked an entirely new chapter of our family story. Now I have real names, real places, and real people—not just for myself, but for

future generations.

This journey has reminded me that family history is built on small clues, persistence, and a little luck. For me, it has been deeply fulfilling to finally piece together the story of **Mary Ann Neil**, the Irish lass who became my great-grandmother.

Dorothy Hosking
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Ballyhackett area

Cornish folk d'tend to look back onto the "good old days, when there was money to be made by anyone what wasn't scard to pitch up his sleeves, when the bays were full of pilchers and tall ships, when the harbours were crowded with sail and the fish markets abuzz with activity. When the long Winters brought wreck and salvage, and the murky nights secret cargoes of spirits and baccy. When the first days of Spring ushered a blaze of daffodil and violet onto the cliffside meadows what were rushed down to the station and up to London. When the mines rang with activity and tin ore poured out of the county like water from a pump.

Nowadays he looks about him and all he sees is the hoards of furriners, that choke up the roads with their shiny new cars, that litter and spoil and moan about the weather, and the wind and the rain. Moan that the "clotted" cream is "high cholesterol" and that the "Cornish" pasties be too fattening, and that the village shop has a "very poor wine selection." And no pine nuts. That the bottled water is expensive and their holiday lets are too small, and that there's "simply nowhere to park." And the pubs are too smoky and too dark and too crowded. And that the "locals" are stupid as owls, unfriendly and "standoffish." Damn little wonder.

From How to be Proper Cornish by Penrose.

Pasties Fit for a King (or Duke)

William Discovers Gold on the Lizard
submitted by Kitty Quayle



A Prince Among Pasties

On a recent visit to the Duchy, Prince William, Duke of Cornwall, stopped in at Gear Farm Pasty Company.

William helped the staff assemble pasties (he had trouble with the crimping, though), took phone orders and worked the window.

Proper Job!



Bits & Bobs

A bit of Cornwall

If your ancestry is from Cornwall
 The land beside the Celtic sea
 No matter where you now abide
 It's Cornish you will be

For I am sure that always
 When from this land you part
 You take a trace of Cornwall
 Within your Cornish heart

No matter where you settle
 No matter where you roam
 That little trace of Cornwall
 Will always call you home.

By Harry Glasson



Dues Are Due May 1st
 Annual dues are US \$25.00.

Two ways to Pay:

- * **Mail a check payable to California Cornish Cousins** to Yvonne Bowers, 392 E. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476 or
- * **On our website:** califcornishcousins.org
 Scroll down to "Join the Cousins: [Click here to Join or Renew your Membership.](#)"



Farewell

Longtime CCC member
 Jan Paull
 died in January 2026
 at age 99.

The All New Mammoth Cornwall Quiz Book by Margaret Caine and Alan Gorton

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Where is Cornwall's largest ancient earthworks?
 A. the Iron Age Castle an Dinas.
 B. The Bulwark, a 2000 ft. bank and ditch on Dodman point.
 C. Chysauster Ancient Village.</p> | <p>2. Which Cornish moorland area contains the highest number of standing stones in Europe?
 A. Bodmin Moor, near Minions
 B. Boscawen-Un, near St. Buryan
 C. The West Penwith moors</p> |
|---|---|

Answers: 1-B, 2-C



The California Cornish Cousins

c/o Rosemary Gamblin, Newsletter Editor

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Address Correction Requested

The California Cornish Cousins

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- *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.*
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Register Now! — Gathering 2026 — Grass Valley, May 15—17