

Some Old Names on Black-More

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It is probable that most Cornishmen of to-day would have difficulty in telling the whereabouts of Black-more, although it was once a famous tin-bearing region constituting one of the four Stannaries of Cornwall. Black-more was the name given to the great track of bleak upland between Bodmin and St Austell which is now the chief field of the China Clay Industry. "White-moor" would be a better name for it now, for the monstrous pyramids of refuse glistening white like snow peaks, have dwarfed or obliterated all the old familiar landmarks. The name Black-more is an old one. In 1283, the Assize Rolls tell us that one Thurstan de Wenthe while riding out of "Bomyne" town by the street called "of the Barre" [now Bore Street] accidentally rode down Marjory, the daughter of Persona, so that she died of her injuries four days later. Thurston fled, and the "Aldermen of the Barre," who were the police of those days, failed to secure him, as he had taken refuge on "Blake more," where he abandoned his horse and escaped through the "profundity" of the moor. It transpired that Thurstan had been intoxicated at the time of the accident, which account, for his flight.

Black More is constantly mentioned in 13th-century documents and is sometimes Latinized into Nigra Mora.

The southern slopes of the moor towards Nanpean were once called Hynde-moor, a name that survives in Henmoor, and Hens-barrow [for Hynde Barrow] the culminating point of Black-more. Hensaviston and Hensafrane [Hensyenvran 1396, Hengyvran 1342], two places near Nanpean, seem also to contain the word Hynde ^[1].

Whether Hynde is Cornish

I was recently looking at a curious old MS account book dealing with the Tin Bounds of the Manor of Branel in the 17th century. The Tanner family, as Lords of Branel, enjoyed the tenth part of all tin broken on the commons, and it was necessary that their boundaries should be constantly reviewed. In 1660, therefore, we find that the Bounds of Mr. Tanner's lands on "Henmoor alias Gunheath alias High Downs " were thus set forth:

The Bounds begin at a stone called Crouse-widen alias White Cross lying by the highway from Cargvalance Venn [now Crugwallons] lane end to Roch Church where the Lord Roberts, Mr Edgcumbe and Mr Tanner do meete. Then to a stone called Careck-an-googe alias the Cuckoe Rock, lying near the said way on the left. Then to a stone called Mene-Flat in Peden Hal-vegan at the head of Halvegan Moor. Then to a pile of stones called Pehel-Carnawhenis alias the Horn, 'awink House on the right hand of the way. Then to a high rock called Mene-Vagar alias the Long Stone on the right hand, and thence to a round Burrow a little north-east in which are nine stones then to a great Poole called Poole-an-abelly alias the Poole where the colts doe drink on the N.E. called Collen-a-poole. Thence to a little pile of stones and so to the head of a spring called Venton Latnene, then to the Poole Bounds, then to a pile of stones in the moor called Tolvogue Rock, then to Gothos Well near the high-way to Roche and so by stone to stone to the head of Venton-Cacorian and so to Nanpean Moor."

These bounds are still there dividing the Parish of St Stephen from St Mewan, Roche and St Dennis. The interest of this recital is in the fact that it shows that the Cornish tongue was still understood on Black-more in the reign of Charles II.

In 1671 from the Court Rolls of Burngullow we learn that the Earl of Radnor had the bounds viewed again, but the marks are given in a less interesting fashion, namely as "White Crosse," "the rock of Carrack-an-goge," half a mile from "White Crosse," the "Flat-rock or stone at Helviggen Head," the "Longstone called Lavagoe-stone," and "the round Burrow with 9 stones where 9 Lord's Lands do meet."

In 1696, a map of Burngullow Manor gives only "White-cross," "Carreck-an-goag," and "Levaga or Longstone." Now-a-days it is probable that only Longstone is known. Whitecross, which is correctly Cornished "Crouse-widen," must have stood at the point where the road from Crugwallons comes up to meet the highway from St. Austell to Nanpean. It would be interesting to discover this monument, of which nothing is known in the locality. The old road to Roche, now a mere track, climbs the hill, leaving Carrack-an-Goge i.e. "the rock of the cuckoo" on the left and approaching the flat rock at the head of Halviggen Moor, or in Cornish mixed with English, Mene [rock], Flat in Pedan [head] Halvegan. Hal is "moor," Vegan is probably the same word as bigan, which occurs in Colbiggan in Roche, once written Kelly-bygyn (1301). 'Kelly is "grove." Is bigan the same as the Welsh brogan, a hobgoblin ?

Peheil-Carna-whenis is translated "the Hornawink (or lapwing) House," implying a desolate and lonely place. "Carnawhenis" in this case would be a corruption of corniwillen [Welsh cornchwiglen], a lapwing.

We must bear in mind that the translations given in the "bounds" are not necessarily the true meanings of the names, but the popular explanation of them at a time when Cornish was fast decaying. Time forms *widen* [for *gwyn*, white] and *pedan* [for *pen*, head] are peculiar to late Cornish (16th and 17th centuries) and are not usually found in the place-names so far east as St. Austell.

Mene [rock] Vagar or Longstone is a fine menhir or longstone, standing 10 feet above ground. The corruption to "Lavagoe Stone" in 1671 and "Levaga" in 1696 shows how necessary it is to get old spellings of Cornish names before attempting to define them.

Poole-an-abelly is evidently the Pool [pol] of the [an] colts [ebilly] as the "Bounds" suggest. Collena-poole is perhaps an error for coltena, the old English plural of "colt."

The round Burrow with stones gives name to the present "Nine-stones Common."

Tolvogue Rock is possibly from *tal*, a brow + *mogh* (mutation *vogh*), a hog.

Gothos, now Gothers, in St. Dennis, was formerly written Guthfos, 1332, and Godvos, 1297. It appears to be the Widewot of Domesday Book 1085. The last syllable is probably *bos*, a house, and Goth-vos may mean "the old house." Hewas, in Ladock and St. Stephens, was formerly Haevos and Hafod, the same as the Welsh *hafod* or "summer-house" on the uplands, to which the cattle were driven in the summer' [2] In the 17th century the word "Hewas" was used at Sancreed for the high crofts above the church, and in 1671 a croft at Trerise in that parish is styled "Hewas-an-Grouse" [i.e., the hewas of the cross] "wherein formerly stood a crosse of stone."

Ruthvos, not far from "Gothvos," anciently Rudfos, is probably the red (*ruth*) house (*bos*).

Arvose in St. Stephens [Arfos 1350] is possibly the house (bos) on the ploughland (ar), while Creg ivose in that Parish [Crucgkeyr vos 1346 and Crukarfos 1358] is perhaps the House of the Burrow [Cruk].

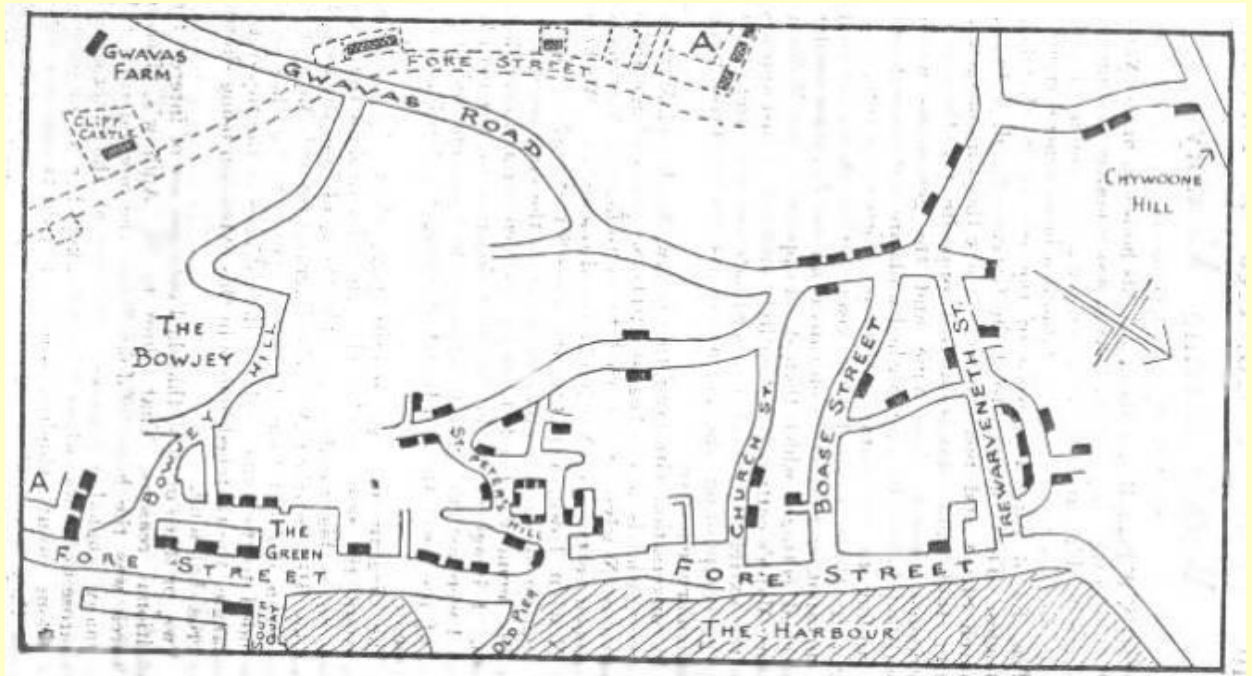
In conclusion, the names of some tin-bounds in Branel Manor in 1685 may be of interest as showing the introduction of whimsical names by the Tinnners-Playne-Dealing Bounds in Stenaguin, Welcome-By, Vincent's Well, Long Sleeve, Little Good Luck, Down-Derry Green, Good Speed, Cassick-well [cask, a mare], Conney Hill, New Audit [i.e. Adit] Fatt-shoad, Perron, Whele-an-Tanker, the Galliar. Fortune-my-Friend, Frvar-Pass-By (at Dowgas, Deugoys—two woods), Lady Beame (Our Lady Beam), The Fat-Work, Narrow Scape, Lowsey Back, Goorl-a-Caurhest (or Cawrest) ; This suggests the "Lurking place (Welsh Godech) of the Giantess," (Welsh cawres)^[3] ; Mana Cart [in a charter of 1400 relating to Trevarth in Gwennap two stagnarie, or tinworks, are named "Monhek-cam," cam, crooked, and "Monek de Nanscorlyes." Monhekis thus used as a substantive for a mine and the same word may occur in Mana Cart. Mwn in Welsh means a Mine or Ore. "Monek" is apparently an adjective from it, like stenak from stet]. Hath-noe-Fellow, Great-Tye, Little-Worth, Drinnick-Guin [drenak gwyn, white thorn-brake] G.mabarne [gon, down] Goverseth [dry brook, govev segh] and Hard-to-come-by.

[1] Alternative meanings are, hensy, "roads," or hen-sy', "old house." En vran would be "of the crow."

[2] [See O.C. No, 4 P 33: "Hewas," a not uncommon name, is evidently the irregular form taken by what would normally be Navas, matching gwavas.—Ed.]

[3] [Another guess might be Welsh codoj euraid, rich, golde i, in Cornish forni codak cures.— Ed.]

Thatched Cottages of Newlyn



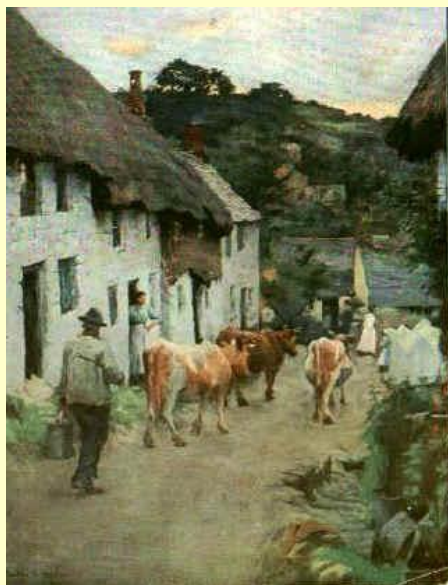
Map showing thatched cottages remembered by Mr. Joseph Marrack Harvey in 1944/

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The Last Thatched Cottage in Newlyn on Church Lane

When William Henry Mann saw his house on fire at Newlyn in the early part of 1938 it was a matter of supreme concern to him and to his grand-daughter who lived with him. The fire was not without a more general significance, for it robbed Newlyn of the last of its thatched cottages which at one time were many. The cottage stood in Church Lane, now known as Gwavas Lane, between Church Street and Boase street almost opposite the present day Primitive Methodist Church. The vine and the geraniums flourished before its white washed walls adding to its charm. Stanhope Forbes's picture "The Evening Hour", painted some years earlier, shows the road at this spot looking downhill towards the top of Trewarveneth Street. It preserves on canvas a record of four similar thatched cottages which then stood opposite but which were pulled down to make room for the building of the 'Prims' in 1927. "Willum 'Enry's" cottage is not entirely omitted; it just appears on the extreme right as a subordinate but very useful part of the composition the portion of its thatched roof being particularly effective.



John J Beckerlegg had a conversation with his father-in-law, Joseph Marrack Harvey, in August 1944. Joseph M. Harvey was born in 1859 and was a native of Newlyn. It occurred to John Beckerlegg that he should try and find out how many other thatched cottages in Newlyn his father-in-law could remember.

Joseph confined his recollections to the cottages in the area of Newlyn Town, as in his early days Street-an-Nowan was a separate community and had not made the same impression on his memory. John J. Beckerlegg acted simply as recorder. He thought there might have been a dozen or so but he was astonished to find that his father-in-law had personal recollections of no fewer than 64 thatched cottages in Newlyn Town alone. So in the lifetime of this 85 year old man 64 of the thatched cottages of Newlyn had gone forever.

The diagram above shows the position of each marked with a black rectangle. To show the main area on as big a scale as possible, the road from the foot of Bowgey Hill (A in diagram) towards Mousehole has been omitted from its correct position. It has been included in the top left-hand corner to the same scale but defined by dotted lines with the thatched cottages marked by cross hatching.



