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This village features in our presenter Nigel Pengelly's early life and is the current location for one of his most important enterprises. A bottle of his beverage named after the village was of interest to Doctor Jill Biden who took a bottle home to the White House for testing and further analysis. Above is Porthleven, Cornwall in 1956 by Herbert Sankey (Jill Dagg's grandfather).

Toronto Cornish Association

WELCOME TO OUR
FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING





Photographer unknown



Photo: Karen Machmer

(Cornwall in spring)

(pastry photo by Karen Machmer)

Marion Stephens expressed our true thankfulness for being allowed to share the land of the indigenous people who were here long before other cultures were impressed on this part of the world.

Marion then once again cheerfully welcomed the Kernow-connected people and Kernowyon who braved weather, time and distance (many leagues via Zoom) to visit us in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

PROGRAMME

- Welcome, Land Acknowledgement

“Cornwall and the Cornish: A Personal Journey”

- Presented by: Nigel Pengelly

BREAK

- TCA Programme Update

Wrap up



Note: attendees may appear, or not, or twice, but names and most visuals are blurry for security.

Attendance:

Marion Stephens, John Webb, Barbara Gardner-Bray, Jim & Jill Dagg, Bob & Liz Radcliffe, Shirley Symons (Cornwall), Wesley Johnston (California), Peter & Nancy Dale, Rachel Hawes, Geoff & Moyra Pyne, Sue Cox, John White, Gary & Catherine Vivian, Roger Farrow, Deborah Powell-Wells, Michael Gichard, Ann Radcliffe (Italy), Karen Machmer, Maxine McKenzie, Sher Leetooze, Erla Jose, Marion Howard (Bard -*Nightingale of the West*) (Wisconsin), Carol Goodwin (London), Glenda Cook, Tim & Trish Douglass, Jacqueline Tucker, Virginia Rescorla (Elora), Scott Baker, Nicholas Booker (Ohio State University), David Hutcheon, Nigel Pengelly (Cornwall).

John Webb introduced our **Guest Speaker, Nigel Pengelly**, from Cornwall.

Nigel has mentored the TCA Website team (called the Gang of Four: Bob and Liz Radcliffe, Marion Stephens and John Webb) to make the TCA site the accomplishment it is today. Nigel, was editor of *Cornish World* which led him to visit many of the gatherings around the world, including Bowmanville, Ontario. Is this old home week? Nancy and Peter Dale, Barbara Gardner-Bray, Sher Leetooze, and Bob and Liz Radcliffe were also at Bowmanville. Nigel mentioned that he went to Australia, to the gathering at Shoal Haven, back in the day. John remarked that Ken Peak in Victoria, NSW, editor of *Agan Kernow: Stories of Our Cornwall*, had often quoted Nigel in the book. If in Cornwall, John said, we should address him as Councillor and reminded us that Nigel was once Deputy Mayor of Penzance. **Here's Nigel Pengelly !**

“Cornwall and the Cornish: A Personal Journey” ***a scrapbook of videos and pictures that will present a perspective of Cornwall.***

Presented by: Nigel Pengelly

Nigel showed a number of slides on Zoom, and described a few of his many enterprises. When he was editor of *Cornish World*, he came to the Bowmanville, Canada CAHS Gathering in 2003 and Rescorlas kindly let him stay at their home. The cover of the



magazine features his two sons Jago and Joseph (with Cornish names: Jago for James or Jacob, and Joseph for An Gof the 15th century revolutionary). Jago is west Cornwall surf champion and plays football for Cornwall. Joseph passed the entrance exam for Cambridge.

Nigel showed a picture of himself at a St Piran's celebration with Howard Curnow (who died last June).

It was through Howard that Nigel got the job at *Cornish World*.



Nigel and his wife, Serena, have travelled widely with their children, and wherever they were on St Piran's day, they put up the Cornish Flag. The slide (L) is outside a cafe in Goa State, India.



He became a councillor and also Deputy Mayor (R) and along with Mayor Richard Cliffe promoted improving Penzance.

He also has an event hire and marquee company (25 marquee tents, 500 chairs, 100 tables).



Now, in his office since leaving *Cornish World* in 2007, he makes websites, does a lot of writing and some media work.

A visit to a pub with his father was shown in a video with sound. His father told a story about a not too friendly encounter one day with an acquaintance. Nigel bet that most of us could not pick up the Cornish accent too well.

(We think he was correct!)



Most importantly, he makes gin in Porthleven: Porthleven Gin and Mounts Bay Gin. (See the quiz questions and answers at the end of this article to find out how one bottle of Porthleven gin was acquired by a visiting VIP.)



Bottling gin. (More than a hobby, now.)



Porthleven Gin



Mounts Bay Gin

Nigel showed us a slide of a prized possession newly acquired; a copper sign about five and a half



feet long. It was most likely on the side of a hand cart over a century and a half ago, and one of his great-great-great grandfathers was a tea dealer from Penzance. The sign was known



to him for several years and was twice offered, but the price was too high until most recently when he bought the sign. It dates from 1868.

The engraving was at one time filled with coloured enamel and a trace of red is in the letters 't' and 'd' in tea dealer.

Another enterprise was a series of Tuss T-shirts. (A tuss in Cornish is an extended portion of a boy pig or boy bovine - ed note - sensitive ears seem to be everywhere.)

Nigel's company *Cornish Tshirts* (cornishtshirts.co.uk) explains it: "Like English terms of endearment, only better, tuss is used in jest and in scorn. A bit of a tuss is much different to being a damn tuss."



One shirt captioned a politician whose name rhymed with what was on the shirt, but without the 'r' (ha,ha).



He also has a mobile bar
<- handy for events.

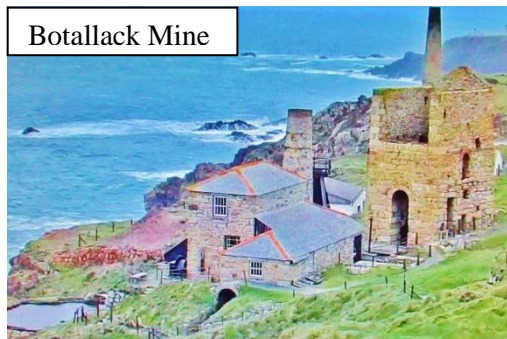
He won a contest to get a budget to create a guide app for all the beaches in Cornwall.





Levant Mine

Nigel showed us Botallack, Levant and Pendeen mining areas. (Open for public tours.) The cliffs and rocky sea coast provide spectacular views. It's proper *Poldark* country where the series was filmed, and is well worth a visit.



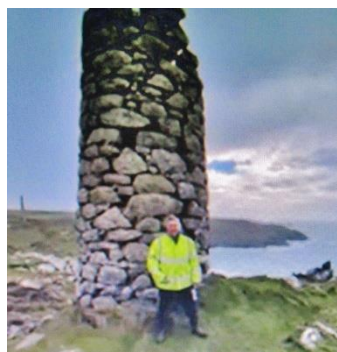
Botallack Mine

Nigel showed a video at the location of a miner's dry



(circular stone stairs down 18 or more steps) leading to a tunnel to the man-engine (a moving vertical rod with steps attached) which lifted people up and down a mine shaft. In 1919 one broke and 37 miners lost their lives. The Levant mine, open to the public for guided tours quite a distance underground, showing what it was like to work there.

Wild horses were introduced to the Levant area, and their grass and gorse chomping prevents over-growth; a fire hazard. People walking in the area need to pay attention to holes in the ground. There are mine stacks everywhere on the horizon, meaning there are a large number of mine tunnels. The holes can be quite deep. On the Pengelly farm, they have had animals go down.



← Here is a picture of Nigel standing by an adit, an air shaft for a mine, this one with a stone stack over it. In the background of the slide is Wheel Edward where at one time pitchblende was available for uranium production. However South Terras in North Cornwall was chosen by the government as the main location.

Nigel, who misses farming when he was younger, showed a slide of a 'round' on his Dad's farm. It's owned by the church, so they are not allowed to plough it. As a child, he often saw people ride horses through there, and once there was a person in white on a horse and he thought it was King Arthur. A mystical place, the round.



The Round at the farm (aerial by Google ed.)



His father, walking two greyhounds on the round, came to the stone style on the path. At the style, the dogs, barking and snarling, wouldn't go over it. He let them off to run around another way to pick up the path. His Dad went over it and looked back and saw a man sitting on the style. The man wore old fashioned work clothes (as in the picture). His Dad called out, 'Awri' what you doin' up yer boy?' The man looked up and faded from sight. (A mystical place, the round.) He didn't tell anyone for ten years, afraid they'd send him off to the asylum.



Nigel had a Quick Quiz of ten questions:

1. The word tuss comes from Kernewek 'tozen' – what does it mean?
2. What British wild mammal makes this noise
(a series of loud high-pitched shrieks).
3. What is this neolithic monument called?
4. Where is this castle?



5. What wild animal in Cornwall makes this call?
(more yips and shrieks).
6. Which town has the biggest population (basic number).
7. Who is the current Duchess of Cornwall?
8. In Penzance, why is Market Jew Street called that? (Cornish name)
9. What vehicle was Nigel's father driving in the video? (All farmers have one.)
10. What is the highest mountain in Cornwall? (First part of the name is a colour.)

A tie: two people had six. They both get a T-shirt. (Guess what kind.)

Nigel's work address:

The Media Runner, The Workbox, Unit One, Wharf Road, Penzance TR18 4FG
telephone: 07811 154439.

The shop: (google this)

www.pengellys-porthleven.co.uk/browse-our-store/

(We must go to Porthleven as soon as we can make the journey across the pond again.
We have our new CDN passports, cheerfully valid for ten years.
I'm 83 and Jill's not sayin'. *Jim Dagg*)

Marion thanked Nigel for the very informative and entertaining talk,
and then Nigel answered a few questions:

- He misses most farming in the past, but now likes doing the marquees.
- Re: the second homes and the proposal to increase the rates for absentee owners, he said the county was possibly going to make second home owners pay double rates if empty and regular rates if rented out. (Avoiding the radical FWA in Wales who damaged second homes.)
- Pengelly Gin in the Whitehouse: When the G7 was at Carbis Bay in 2021, Jill Biden bought a bottle of Porthleven Gin and took it home to Washington, DC, USA.

Quiz answers: (You had to be there.)

1-see the Tuss Tshirt explanation above, 2-rabbit, 3-Trethevy Quoit, 4-Launceston, 5-fox, 6-St Austell, 7-Kate Middleton, 8-Marghas yow (big market) (no reference to Jews), 9-Land Rover, 10-Brown Willy.

A FAMILY HISTORY NOTE FROM SUE COX:
(#2 in a series)

John Haukeridge 1640 - 1708

Honour Meddon about 1648 - 1705

Any respectable genealogist will tell you not to publish things you can't prove, but luckily I am not respectable and so can speculate to my heart's content.

The parish register for Kilkhampton is clear about one thing: *John ye base sonne of Anne Haukeridge 04 Sep 1640*. Who Anne was is a mystery. This is the first mention of the Hockridge name (in any of its varied forms) in the Kilkhampton baptismal records, so it was certain Anne came from somewhere else. Without family in the parish, it is a miracle that she and her child survived – and we must postulate that there was someone, perhaps the child's father, who looked after them financially.

Most illegitimate children of poor mothers died in infancy. Anne's baby lived, and Anne herself lived another thirty years, and died in 1670, which seems to suggest good health and a decent standard of living. She never married.

Another reason to assume there was an anonymous father or relative supporting them is that her son John is noted as a yeoman at the birth of his children – if not a landowner, at least a farmer of some means. The Lord of the Manor – and owner of Illcombe where John farmed – was **Sir Bevil Grenville** of Stowe in Kilkhampton and Bideford, not far north in Devon. But Sir Bevil fathered thirteen children by his long-suffering wife – surely he didn't leave a few others around Kilkhampton and Bideford.

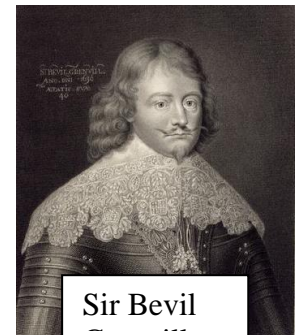
But wait! His brother Richard was alive, and although Bevil's sons inherited Stowe after Bevil was killed in the civil war, **Richard Grenville** was knighted and granted a baronetcy.

Richard was a sadistic wife-beater and sometime prisoner, but he was not in prison in 1640, and neither was he abroad – although he eventually fled there and died there. Richard Grenville (not to be confused with his predecessor the sailor and founder of the lost Roanoke colony) was not a person one would be proud to have as an ancestor, but my suspicious mind has zeroed in on him as the scurrilous father of poor Anne Hockridge's baby boy.

Describing Richard Grenville and his wife, who was a rich Devonshire widow when he married, historian A.L. Rowse says "The pair were not unequally matched; the one was a brute, and the other a vixen, and no better than she should be into the bargain. Needless to say their married life was one prolonged contest ... Grenville was ruined at law by being fined large sums for insulting the family."¹

Absolutely no proof he was John's father, of course! YDNA might possibly turn something up some day. But I must note, too, that there were lots of Hawkeridges and Hockridges in Bideford Devon, where the Grenvilles hung out, as there were throughout the county of Devonshire. That included an Ann Haukeridge, born to father Simon in 1613 – just about the right age.

John married Honour Meddon in January 1664. People have assumed that she was Honour Meddon of Frithelstock in Devon, but I have my doubts. There were Meddons having children in Kilkhampton at that time, include a John Meddon and his wife Margaret who were parents of two boys, baptized in 1645 and 1648. Although the Kilkhampton registers are very good, these were troubled times and there seem to have been gaps in the register, particularly after 1649, and the years of military rule.



Sir Bevil



Sir Richard

¹ *Sir Richard Grenville of the Revenge: An Elizabethan Hero*, 1937. Rowse was, of course, writing about this Richard's heroic ancestor.

Honour and John had married after the restoration of the monarchy, and went on to have at least five children. Honour died in Kilkhampton in June 1705, and John died at Illcombe in December 1708.

The children of John Haukeridge and Honour Meddon were:

- John, April 1665. I believe he must have died young
- Thomas – no birthday for him, but his burial is recorded
- Elizabeth, November 1668. She married into the Ching family – William Ching's second wife.
- Ann, 1670
- Hugh, 1676. He is the ancestor and progenitor off all the later Kilkhampton Hockridges.

One other thing:

John's grandson, also named John, named one of his nine children Granville (the Grenvilles had subsequently changed their name to Granville). That name was passed down, and they seem to have ended up in Canada and the US.

Sue Cox, TCA 2023

A chat with our guest **Nicholas Booker**:

John Webb introduced Nicholas Booker, with whom he has recently corresponded on the subject of Cornwall and music:

Nicholas, a PhD candidate at OSU (Ohio State University, Columbus) is studying the Musical Community and songs which have made their way from Cornwall to North America. Of particular interest is the area around the Great Lakes such as Mineral Point, Wisconsin, places in Michigan and Ontario. Song writers like Harry Glasson are a favourite. He was in a pub in Redruth and heard *Cornwall My Home* sung, and he also likes the Floral Dance song. His ancestry springs from Cornwall (Nichol & Trezona from Probus). He went to the Golowan mid-summer festival in Penzance in 2022 and this year he will attend the Folk Festival in Wadebridge. When he is in Toronto for a U of T music conference (March 17-20th) he looks forward to finding out more about the Toronto Cornish Association.

John and Barbara confirmed the TCA meeting at Swansea Town Hall is March 18th and Nicholas said Marion had extended an invitation. He will see if he can attend.

February wrap-up (John Webb)

Highlighting our Archives, begun by John Tyacke and his enormous collection of books,

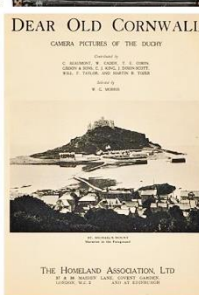
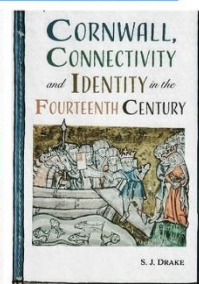
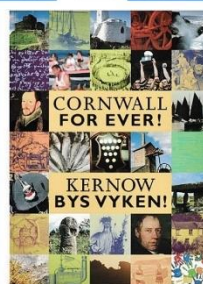
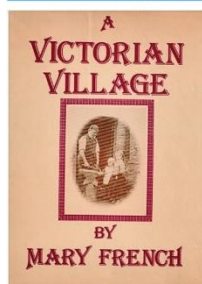
Many of the books were donated to the Kelly Library, St Michael's College, at the University of Toronto and fitted in well with the Celtic Studies group.

A large collection, the remainder of the books are in boxes in J Webb's basement.

See **TCA Website Resources page and link to the TCA Library in a Box and TCA New Accessions.**

Borrow on request. For example, from the late Rosemary Bolitho we have *A Victorian Village* the study of the village of Quethiock, Cornwall, the squire of which was William Coryton of Quethiock. The Corytons were famous for Pentillie Castle (approx. 1.5 km up the River Tamar from Saltash). *Cornwall Forever*, the millennium project, was donated by Bob and Liz Radcliffe to Ann Crichton-Harris in 2001. *Cornwall Connectivity* (Medieval times) is of great interest, of course. *1997* was 500 years after the 1497 march on London - many people did the re-enactment including Len and Carol Snell who gave us the book. (Carol sadly passed away recently.) And lastly, *Dear Old Cornwall* - can't resist this one for many reasons. Any other items you may have, John will accept.

Our Archives The TCA LIBRARY-IN-A-BOX TCA Library-in-a-box. and TCA New Accessions,



St Piran's Day Extravaganza

Friday, 3rd March
at 11.30am

It's (almost) St Piran's Day,
so come and join us at the
Duke of Cornwall for a
celebration lunch

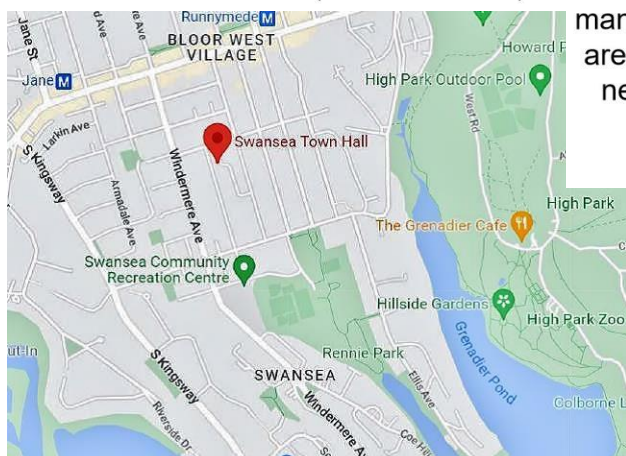


Saturday, 4th March
at 10.30am

We will raise our Flag at City Hall.
Following the celebration, we will
transfer to the Duke of York where
Spiros will provide a true Cornish
welcome



Next meeting
Saturday, March 18th at 2.00pm
At Swansea Town Hall (Bloor and Jane)



For this, our first
in-person meeting for
many a month, members
are invited to bring their
new acquisitions and
stories for a
"Show and Tell".



Currently the TCA is coordinating a venue for **Alex Roche**.

Alex, a classical guitarist since age 17, with a bachelors' degree, first class honours from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and a Trinity Laban Conservatoire first class master's degree has performed solo recitals in the UK and abroad, and as a concerto soloist with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra and others. Alex gave the world premiere performance of a lost work by William Lloyd-Webber (Andrew's father), in 2018.

We will let everyone know when we have set this up.
For more information on Alex, google; www.hellysfestival.co.uk › alexroche

Caroline "Carol" Anne Snell (Brasier) departed this life peacefully with her family by her side on February 15, 2023. Born April 17, 1931 in Toronto, she was raised in Toronto, Grimsby, Hamilton, and Dundas, the eldest daughter to Leonard and Dorothy Brasier. She studied languages at McMaster University, and business administration at Park Business College, then worked at Hamilton Motor Products, before settling into Waterdown with the love of her life, Len Snell, in 1963, where she raised her family, and has lived since.



She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Len, her sister Joan Wallace, her children Heather (and Ron) Stanton, David (and Patti) Snell, Kathy Snell (and Jim Graham), and Robin Snell (and Dr Heather Drummond), grandchildren Morgan, Max, Stephanie, Foster, Kaitlin, Patrick, Jessica, JD, and Jack, and great-grandchildren Josh and Jackson. She was predeceased by her parents, Leonard and Dorothy Brasier and sister Sylvia Rennie.

Carol loved to travel, having visited all ten provinces and the Yukon Territory multiple times, sharing her love of Canada with her children. A lover of history, especially our family's pasts, she and Len visited many locations (Bedfordshire UK, Cornwall UK, London, Mexico City, and Upper Michigan) in search of the clues that unraveled the mysteries of our family's pasts, dating back to the mines of Cornwall in the 1600s. Turns out, we are a family of adventurers and entrepreneurs many generations deep.

Carol also loved art, music and books, extending these passions to her children in concerts and art galleries, art and music lessons, and giving books as gifts, often with personalized messages. She achieved a grade eight level in piano. Deeply devoted to her children and their many pursuits and activities, she attended many events, often showing up in her infamous "furry hat" to ensure that she was visible to her children from a distance.

Carol's community commitments were many and deep. She taught Sunday School at Grace Anglican Church in Waterdown for 20 years, sang in church choirs, volunteered at a baby clinic at the Red Cross, was on the Board of the Flamborough Heritage Society, belonged to the Toronto Cornish Association, and (along with Len) lead a genealogical study group for 15 years.

As we consider the meaning of her life, Carol would want us to appreciate the beauty of nature, enjoy books, music and art, gather for family meals (especially roast beef and Yorkshire pudding), travel, enjoy good chocolate and blue cheese, and raise a glass in her honour. Cheers to a life well lived, Carol, Mum, and Grandmum!

The family would like to extend great thanks to the many people who supported Mum in her latter years, the many PSWs who came to the house, the extraordinary caregivers at Alexander Place, and Terry Neeb, who has helped the family for many years.

Cremation has taken place. Friends visited with the family at KITCHING, STEEPE & LUDWIG FUNERAL HOME, 146 Mill St. N., Waterdown on Monday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A Memorial Service was held at GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH, 157 Mill St. N., Waterdown on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 11 a.m., Reverend Canon Sue-Ann Ward officiating. Reception followed in the funeral home Family Centre. Donations to GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH or the FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy.



TORONTO CORNISH ASSOCIATION REVIEW

Aiming to preserve Cornish heritage,

and stimulate interest in Cornish traditions, local history, genealogy, and culture.

Contributing editor: John Webb, Editor: Barbara Gardner-Bray, Publishing editor: James Dagg